A greater manchester ‘structure of feeling’

- Under-bounded core city
- ‘Renaissance’ centre, modern urban assets, modern labour market, southern-facing commuter belt
- Hollowed out inner urban area, industrial-era working class housing, ‘social problems’
- Manchester grabbed Housing Market Renewal and other regen. programmes as tools
- Intense sense of frustration with deprived industrial left-overs, ‘holding back’ economic progress
Changes to the built urban form

Greater Manchester
Generalised age profile
of housing development
Hollowing out

1951 Census - Population density
(Persons per acre by ward)
- 40 to 87 (22)
- 30 to 40 (8)
- 20 to 30 (12)
- 10 to 20 (10)
- 0 to 10 (2)
1961 Census - Population density
(Persons per acre by ward)

- 40 to 87  (16)
- 30 to 40   (8)
- 20 to 30   (16)
- 10 to 20   (13)
- 0 to 10    (1)
2001 Census - Population density
(Persons per acre by ward)

- 40 to 87  (0)
- 30 to 40  (1)
- 20 to 30  (11)
- 10 to 20  (30)
- 0 to 10   (12)
Manchester’s hegemonic (governance) projects

- The ‘Manchester Men’
  - Entrepreneurial turn, 1980s, private sector rapprochement
  - Labour Party stability/Benign dictatorship?
- New Economy, new economistic discourse, outward facing to globalisation, potential to complement London
- Ability to hold together territorial coalition, North-South, old-new economy
- Resilience, flexibility, adaptation to new government and austerity?
Brokerage of physical projects

- Transport: Airport devt, M60 orbital completion, Metrolink (1990s)
- Key sites: Salford Quays, Trafford Park remodelling
- Regeneration: Hulme, Olympic bids and Commonwealth Games: Sport City and E. Mcr
- Post-Bomb reconstruction: MEN arena, shopping centre
- Gmex conference centre, Bridgewater Concert Hall, + mixed use commercial, and apartments
- University merger, BBC relocation, mediacity
How the city region has been (re)constructed

- Abolition of GMCC 1986
- City region aspirations: attempts to land grab foiled, dormant under regionalism
- Post-regionalism: city regionalism by stealth in permissive national context
- Rapid governance reform and institutional development: MAA, CRP, CA
- Will flourish in era of radical localism? Geography of LEPs suggests ‘yes’
City regional governance takes shape

AGMA
ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES

Executive board

Combined Authority
April 2011

Transport for Greater Manchester

new economy
Growth and Prosperity for Manchester

AGMA Commissions
- Commission for the New Economy
- Environment Commission
- Health Commission
- Improvement & Efficiency Commission
- Planning & Housing Commission
- Public Protection Commission
- Transport Commission
Metropolitan governance – organised Manchester?

- Determined modernisation of urban assets
- Growing realism/maturity re. development patterns, inter-dependence
- Continuity, ambition, ‘clout’ of City leadership
- Growth of metro executive based on functional (south) and political (north) linkage
- Unique level of influence at national level
  - based on delivery record, influence, CR narrative
- Early mover in a ‘decentralist moment’
- Biggest tests are around distributive justice – inter- and intra-districts within GM
Growing *autonomy to do, what?*

- Ambitious city regionalism has been allied to new social policy
- Intervention through spatial pilots of reformed service approaches:
  - Early Years
  - ‘Better life chances’
- Tackling deprivation and breaking cycles, to integrate into the labour market for (shared?) productivity and prosperity
- Taking better control of transport and infrastructure levers – emulating what city views as success of London (TfL)
Reflections

- Radical impulses in Coalition agenda:
  - Localism means (potentially) disregard for spatial disparities and Govt. dispassion towards ‘losers’
  - Big Society means redrawing the boundaries of the state and shift of responsibility
- Underlying it has been (constrained) local autonomy, but local differences have been under studied by scholars of local government
- In absence of national spatialised-social policy, localist permissiveness and even encouragement of spatial divergence...
- Is Manchester an archetype of neo-municipal interventionist social policy?