Briefing note, March 2014

Liveable Cities
A transport perspective

Key messages from the presentations

- Mobility and transport systems should be designed to be adaptable and attractive, and should aim at promoting health, well-being, safety and accessibility.
- Transport is key to facilitating major urban regeneration.
- Urban planning in the UK should learn from successful examples in neighbouring European countries.
- Strong political leaders, and planning departments in cities and city-region administrations, should be given the financial and legal means to establish liveable cities.

There are many pressing urban challenges, particularly regarding the needs of transport and mobility. In order to promote liveable cities, these challenges require progressive policies. This note summarises the outputs from a high-level impact seminar organised by University College London (UCL) in collaboration with the Department for Transport (DfT), in March 2014. The seminar presented recent academic research on the topic and considered its relevance for current policy debates.

Main conclusions from the discussion

- **Mobility characterises a city's identity** and should be a pleasurable and exciting experience for users, in particular for pedestrians.
- **Local governments** should have the **autonomy** and political **maturity** to transition towards liveable cities.
- **Strong, determined and visionary political leaders** and stakeholders are key to create liveable cities.
- **Partnerships** between neighbouring local authorities are important in developing and delivering effective visionary plans.
- Public **control over the land** facilitates efficient and sustainable planning policies.
- **Evaluation tools**, including appraisal methodologies, need to be rethought and adapted to current requirements.
- Sustainable urban planning involves making a **collective decision**, both top-down and bottom-up, about how mobility and transport can improve **quality of life, equity, safety and security.**
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