



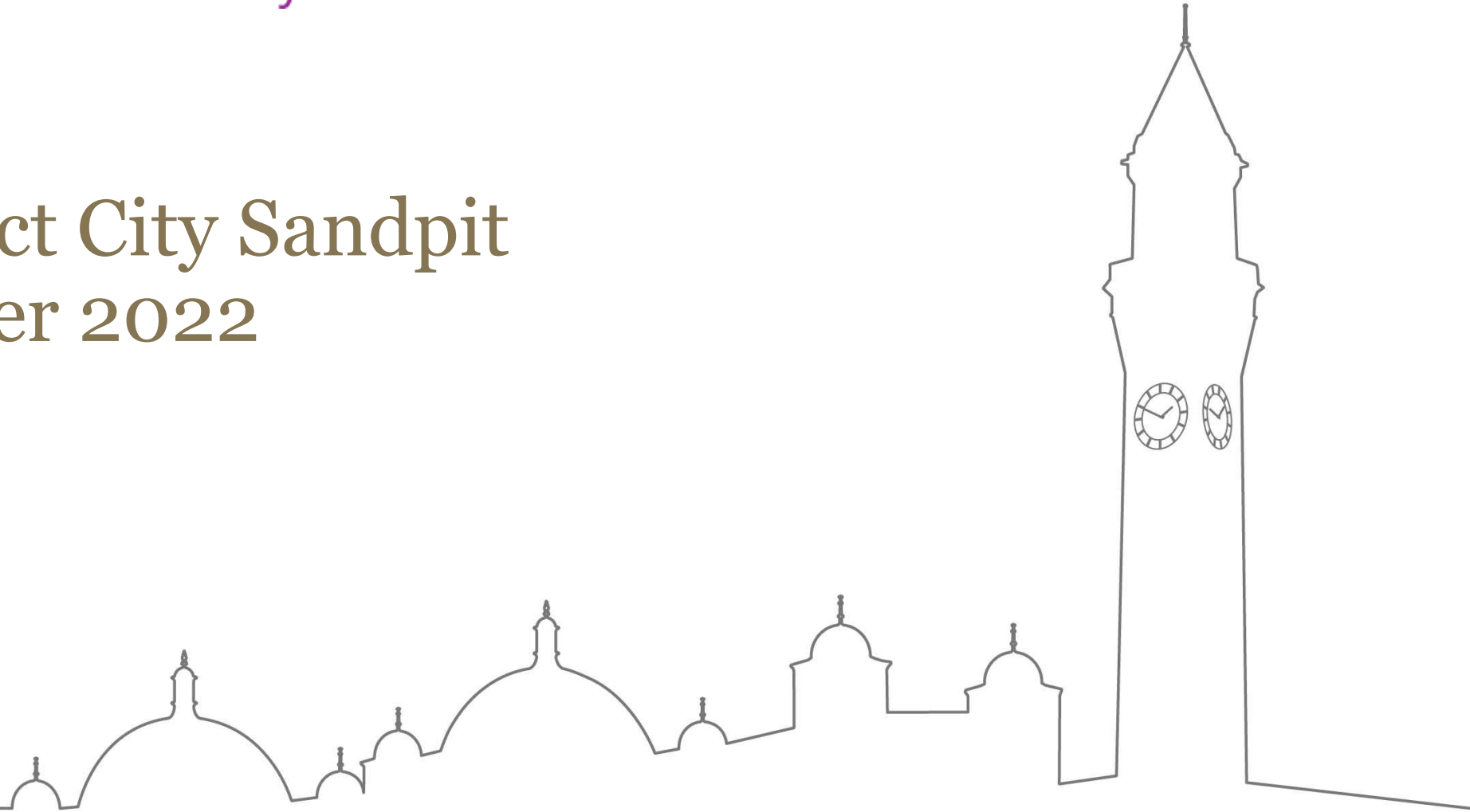
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# Global Conflict City Sandpit

28<sup>th</sup> November 2022



# Agenda

## Session 1

16.00-16.10      **The Reality of War** (Dr Klaus Richter)

16.10-16.20      **Fuel in Birmingham** (Dr Rosie Day, Dr Jonathan Radcliffe, Dr Harriet Thomson)

16.20-17.00      Table discussion

## Session 2

17.00-17.10      **Social Cohesion & Solidarity** (Prof. Paul Jackson)

17.10-17.20      **Infrastructure & Economy** (Dr Sara Fregonese)

17.20-18.00      Table discussion



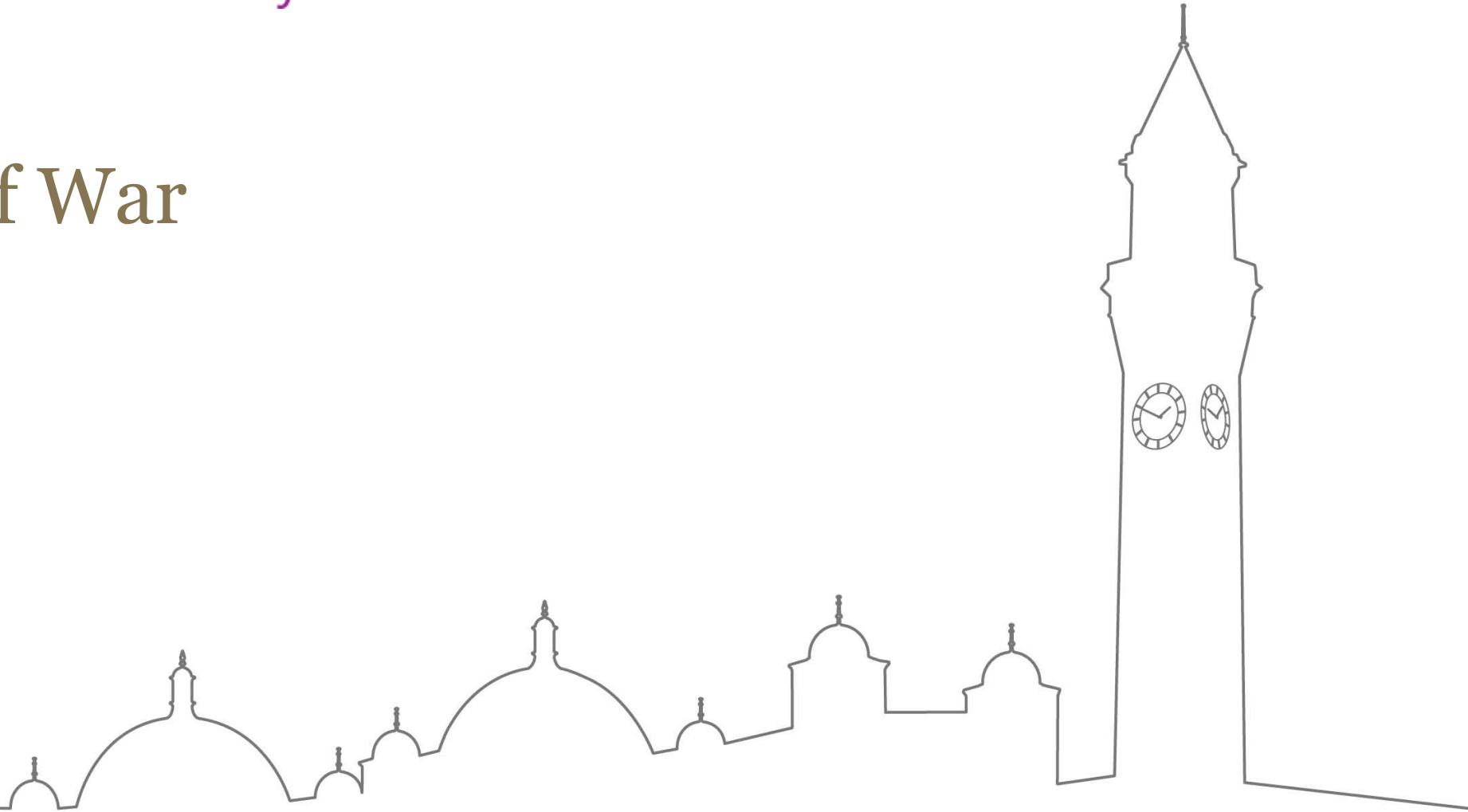
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# The Reality of War

Dr Klaus Richter



# Historical Drivers of Change in Wartime Cities

- Dynamics of violence
- (Ontological) security
- Impact of destruction
- War economy / material shortages
- Impact of global economic realignment
- Social cohesion
- Inter-ethnic relations
- Urban-rural divide
- Centre-periphery relations

**Determining factors:** nature and duration of war (impact), nature of the post-war (recovery)

Cities as war zones (e.g. Mariupol)

Cities directly affected by war but with distance to the frontline (e.g.

Birmingham during WW2)

Cities as sites of civil war (e.g. Mogadishu)

Cities affected by the economic and political shocks of war (e.g. Birmingham and Russia's war against Ukraine)

- **Impact of war:** ‘total war’, strategic bombing
- **Recovery:** period of stability provided by external assistance

<b>Cologne during WW2</b>	<b>2 YRS</b>	<b>5 YRS</b>	<b>10 YRS</b>
<i>Dynamics of violence</i>	little impact	little impact	fully recovered
<i>(Ontological) security</i>	little impact	strong impact	fully recovered
<i>Impact of destruction</i>	little impact	strong impact	partially recovered
<i>War economy</i>	little impact	little impact	fully recovered
<i>Global economic realignment</i>	little impact	little impact	partially recovered
<i>Social cohesion</i>	little impact	little impact	fully recovered
<i>Inter-ethnic relations</i>	strong impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Urban-rural divide</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Centre-periphery relations</i>	n/a	n/a	n/a

- **Impact of war:** transformative military occupation followed by escalating inter-ethnic and class warfare
- **Recovery:** period of political instability and economic depression

<b>Vilnius during WW1</b>	<b>2 YRS</b>	<b>5 YRS</b>	<b>10 YRS</b>
<i>Dynamics of violence</i>	little impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>(Ontological) security</i>	little impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Impact of destruction</i>	little impact	little impact	fully recovered
<i>War economy</i>	strong impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Global economic realignment</i>	little impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Social cohesion</i>	little impact	strong impact	partially recovered
<i>Inter-ethnic relations</i>	strong impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Urban-rural divide</i>	strong impact	strong impact	not recovered
<i>Centre-periphery relations</i>	strong impact	strong impact	not recovered

- **Impact of war:** ethnic divisions in line with war in neighbouring Bosnia
- **Recovery:** period of continuing political instability and ethnic conflict

<b>Novi Pazar/1990s (not in warzone)</b>	<b>2 YRS</b>	<b>5 YRS</b>	<b>10 YRS</b>
<i>Dynamics of violence</i>	no impact	no impact	n/a
<i>(Ontological) security</i>	strong impact	little impact	partially recovered
<i>Impact of destruction</i>	no impact	no impact	n/a
<i>War economy</i>	little impact	little impact	partially recovered
<i>Global economic realignment</i>	strong impact	little impact	not recovered
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<i>Centre-periphery relations</i>	strong impact	strong impact	partially recovered

# Ontological security (sociological, not IR!)

- Based on changing expectations towards future developments (e.g. the outcome and duration of war)
- Shapes social cohesion and resilience
- **Recommendation: Manage societal expectations by continuously discussing a broad range of possible outcomes**
- Challenge: diverse perceptions of ontological security in diverse communities





Y2

Open-ended expectations

Replaced by volatile **anticipations**

Moderated expectations

Loss of ontological security

Ontological security maintained

Social and political alienation

Social and political resilience

Y5



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# Fuel in Birmingham

Dr Rosie Day, Dr Jonathan Radcliffe,  
Dr Harriet Thomson



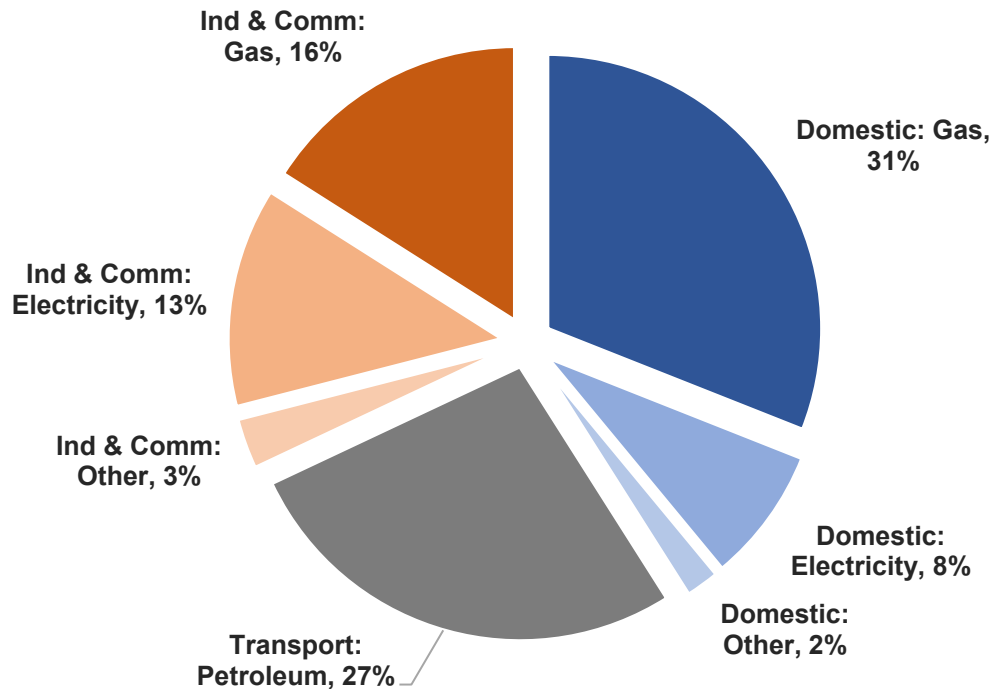
# SETTING THE SCENE

how reliant is Birmingham on imported energy/fuels?

## **Final energy consumption data for Birmingham:**

Natural gas meets almost half of all Birmingham fuel demand; 38% of UK supply is indigenous; 41% imported by pipeline from Norway; 18% as LNG (mostly Qatar).

- Gas import dependency 47%
- Oil import dependency: 28%



## **How could this change over the next decade?**

In 2030, UK import dependency is expected to increase to 64% for natural gas, 56% for oil.

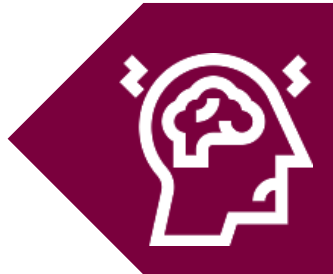
New internal combustion engine vehicles will be phased-out from 2030

→ continued reliance on petrol and diesel for transport  
'Ambitious' government targets to install 600,000 heat pumps/year across UK by 2028, replacing gas boilers; aiming for HPs cost = gas boiler by 2030

→ continued reliance on natural gas for heating  
UK electricity generation expected to be 'net zero' by early 2030s, with some potential for Birmingham to increase rooftop solar PV and build smart local energy systems

→ reduced reliance on imported natural gas for power

# IMPACT OF CONFLICT short term



- Panic buying of petrol
- Reduced use of essential energy services, such as heating, cooking, & refrigerating food & medicines
- Worsened physical and mental health

**HOUSEHOLDS &  
INDIVIDUALS**



- Reduced access to services requiring internet access and/or transport
- Disruptions to crucial services: health and education

**COMMUNITIES &  
PUBLIC SERVICES**



- Disruption to generation and storage capacity
- Increased operating costs for all businesses

**INDUSTRY &  
BUSINESSES**

**Supply shocks and  
price increases to  
natural gas &  
petroleum  
products**

# IMPACT OF CONFLICT short term



- Panic buying of petrol
- Reduced use of essential energy services, such as heating, cooking, & refrigerating food & medicines
- Worsened physical and mental health

## HOUSEHOLDS & INDIVIDUALS



Between 28th October - 2nd November 2022

44%

Cooked with alternative equipment (e.g. BBQ)

28%

Used candles for lighting

15%

Reduced use of electrical medical equipment

Ipsos Mori poll of UK-wide sample



Supply shocks and price increases to natural gas & petroleum products

# medium to longer term **IMPACTS**

**Continued supply disruptions & high prices, possible rationing of gas & petroleum products**

## **HOUSEHOLDS & INDIVIDUALS**

- Entrenched fuel poverty issues
- Adverse impacts to health & wellbeing
- Non-payment of energy bills
- Harmful coping strategies (e.g., improvised heaters, burning waste)



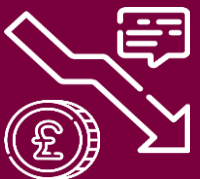
## **COMMUNITIES & PUBLIC SERVICES**

- Increased local air pollution
- Closure or reduction of public facilities due to running costs
- Widening of inequalities in health, income, employment & educational outcomes
- Impacts on social and community cohesion



## **INDUSTRY & BUSINESSES**

- Unsustainable operating costs and solvency issues
- Difficulty securing renewable energy components
- Potential targets for energy-reduction mandates



# BUILDING RESILIENCE principles

**Based on our work on Covid-19 recovery and on climate resilience**

- 1. Resilience as a shared property** not belonging to any individual system, sector or party
- 2. Whole-systems thinking** embedding networks across sub-systems and scales in policy processes
- 3. Social asset building** including wide engagement and more open methods of priority-setting
- 4. Ambidexterity** balancing alignment of current processes and adaptability to future changes
- 5. Mainstreaming climate adaptation & net zero** ensuring that measures align rather than conflict with these imperatives

# Actions to increase ENERGY RESILIENCE

## Demand reduction

- Insulate buildings
- Support energy efficiency improvements
- Encourage active travel and public transport
- Social organisation to reduce travel
- Behaviour change

## Support Business & Industry

- Identify & support vulnerable industries with exposure to fuel disruptions
- Strengthen critical supply chains
- Enhance resilience with on-site renewables & storage



## Smart local energy

- Small scale renewables
- Heat networks
- Food waste to energy
- Improve data and control systems
- Draw down regional funding?

## Foster Social Innovation

- Support energy co-ops & energy communities
- Sites of community support & action such as appliance sharing, warm banks
- Community kitchens
- Providers of trusted advice for energy vulnerable households



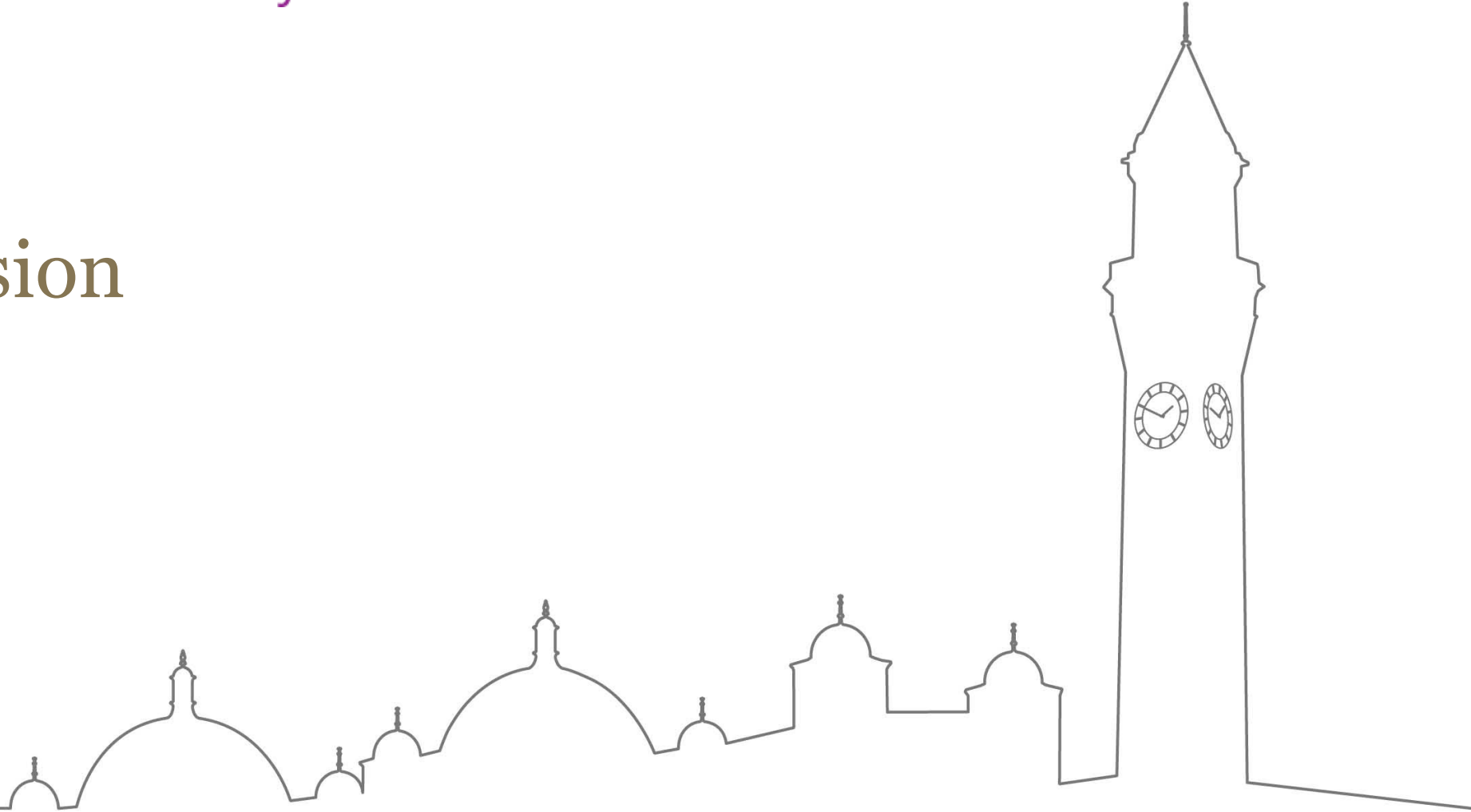


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# Table Discussion





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# Social Cohesion

Prof Paul Jackson

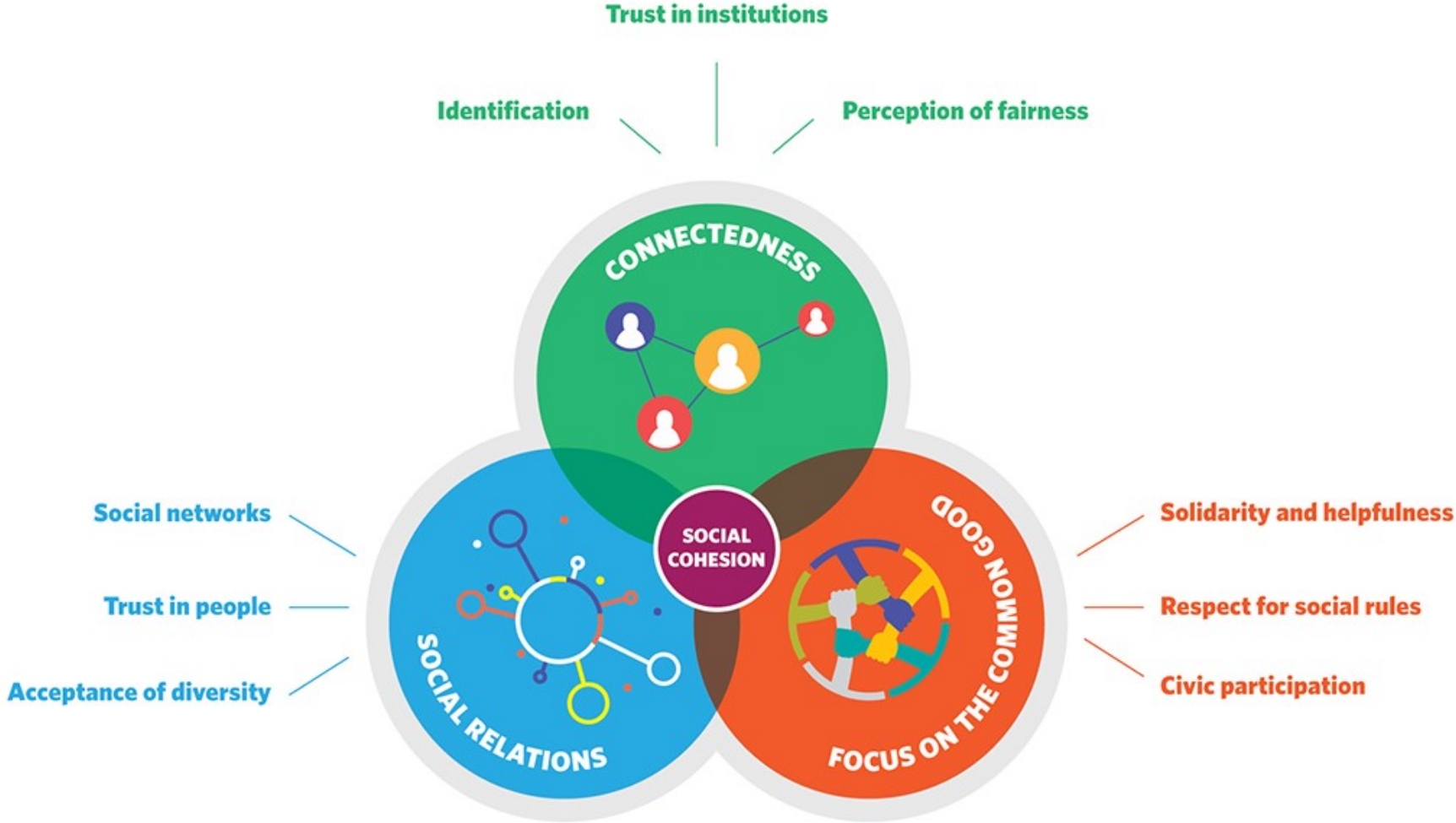


# What on Earth is social cohesion?

- Everyone thinks that social cohesion is a good idea but no-one has a definitive way of defining it.
- According to the **UN**, a cohesive society is one where all groups have a sense of belonging, participation, recognition and legitimacy... Such societies are not necessarily demographically homogenous. Rather, by respecting diversity, they harness the potential residing in their societal diversity (in terms of ideas, opinions, and skills).
- **United Nations Development Programme** meanwhile defines social cohesion as the state of a society's convergence, or the 'common bonds' that unify different people and groups that share space or territory. It comes about when people buy into and interact with each other based on a common set of political, economic and social institutions.



# What on Earth is social cohesion?



Source: Bertelsmann Foundation



# Research on social cohesion

- Community-driven development (CDD) programmes promote social cohesion through community participation in decision-making, bringing divided people together, and addressing community needs;
- Limited evidence that access to jobs improves social cohesion because jobs reduce tensions stemming from unemployment; improve people's economic condition; and enable different groups to interact;
- Social protection promotes social cohesion where it can reduce poverty, enhance the income security of vulnerable people, improve access to basic services and establish just legal entitlements for previously excluded groups;
- Education can be a positive or negative influence on social cohesion;
- Civil society can play a positive role in peace building where it does not reflect the inherent bias of societies, e.g. racism or ethnic bias;
- Media and communication across a wide range of platforms can drive of cohesion in diverse ways: building bridges; improving governance; increasing knowledge; providing early warning; as an outlet to express emotions; and as a motivator for action.



# Measuring social cohesion

- Trust
- Participation
- Collaboration
- Heterogeneity
- Respect and tolerance
- Safety
- Relationships
- Unrest or violence (lack of)



## Thinking for year 2: Communication and community

- How might the City establish and support clear and trusted communications networks across a range of media?
- What do inclusive community driven programmes look like in Birmingham?
- How might the city establish immediate social protection to reduce poverty; enhance income security for vulnerable people, improve access to basic services; and establish legal entitlements for previously excluded groups?

## Actions for year 5: Jobs and justice

- How can BCC best establish an environment for investment in economic development and employment?
- How can the justice institutions address historical injustices and establish equitable access to justice?
- What would the City need to do in order to transition from immediate stabilisation to longer-term development programmes?

## Actions for year 10: Education and peace

- How might BCC build sustainable and equitable institutions to support social cohesion?
- What does inclusive service provision look like in potentially divisive areas like education?



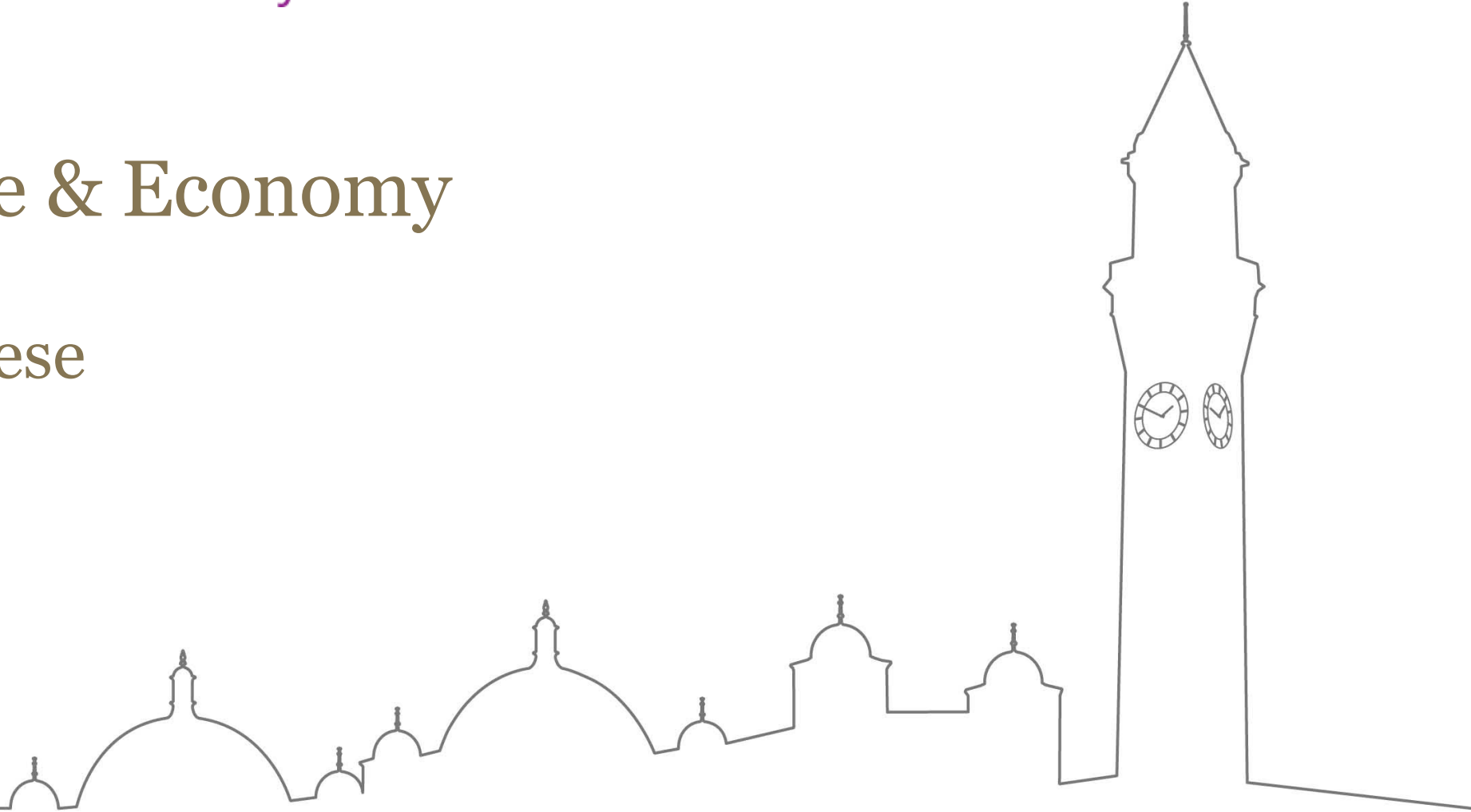
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# Infrastructure & Economy

Dr Sara Fregonese





# (Urban) infrastructure in geopolitical context

- Change in global landscape of threat and security
- Shift in geography of conflict
- Urban infrastructure globally under direct or indirect stress from conflict (*cumulative impact*)
- Public health/pandemic, war in Ukraine, climate change are overlapping crises that (re)shape public perceptions of security

*xi. State threats: we will bolster our efforts to detect, deter and respond to state threats, to protect our people, **infrastructure, economy** and values from those who seek to do them harm. We will introduce new legislation to give our security and intelligence agencies and police the powers they need to tackle the challenges we will face in the coming decade.*

(Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 2021, p.22)

Year 0-2

## ***Translate and Prepare***

How can Birmingham City Council...

- translate global-scale challenges into urban-scale scenarios?
- identify infrastructures susceptible to state threats or non-state actors?
- identify and prioritise infrastructures susceptible to degradation and needing specialised maintenance in case of disruption?
- establish integrated communication and knowledge flow across agencies for emergency/resilience plans?
- translate and prepare existing infrastructure for potential population displacement?

*[...] we must improve our ability to detect, disrupt, defend against and deter the threats we face in the physical world and in cyberspace. These may be state threats above and below the traditional threshold of war, transnational security challenges such as terrorism and serious and organised crime (SOC), or a combination of these.*

*(Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 2021, p.69)*

# Year 2-5

## *Stabilise and Adapt*

How can Birmingham City Council...

- maintain its infrastructure stable and prepared in the medium term?
- enhance existing plans for infrastructures 'doubling-up' their function in case of disruption? (altered mobility, sheltering, food provision/preservation etc)?
- communicate with residents to deal with the threat of medium-term disruption, especially to homes and domestic spaces?
- gauge public perceptions, levels of acceptance and/or fatigue towards security-driven infrastructural change/disruption?

*Success will depend on more integrated, adaptive and innovative structures and capabilities, reaching beyond central government where necessary.*

*(Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 2021, p.69)*



# Year 5-10

## *Plan for Peace*

How can Birmingham...

- establish a diplomatic role for long-term peace amidst a changing international threat landscape?
- future-proof its public infrastructure for peace preservation?
- Offer lessons for future resilience from its own urban histories of human and infrastructural shock due to war, terrorism, public health incidents?

*We must [...] minimise the opportunity for others to exploit conflict and instability for their own gain, and reinforce the governance and international architecture that help to preserve peace.*

*(Global Britain in a competitive age: The Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy, 2021, p.69)*





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# Table Discussion

