

Institution: University of Manchester
Unit of Assessment: 16 (Architecture, Built Environment and Planning)
<p>a. Context</p> <p>Our research draws on expertise across the multi-disciplinary School of Environment, Education and Development (SEED). From its creation, SEED has been dedicated to addressing contemporary challenges of this century around poverty, climate change and sustainable urbanization. Maximizing impact is therefore a key priority of our research strategy and our three research centres are catalysts for this, aiming explicitly to impact beyond academia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2013, the Centre for Urban Policy Studies (CUPS) has a long-established reputation for policy-relevant research on spatial planning and territorial development and close links with practitioners and policy-makers in government and beyond; • Established in 2000, the Centre for Urban and Regional Ecology (CURE) undertakes multidisciplinary research, within and beyond SEED, for scientific understanding and practical application, notably around 'sustainable city-regions'. Reflecting its evolving focus and inter-disciplinary work, CURE was renamed the <i>Centre for Urban Resilience and Energy</i> in late 2013. • Established in 2006, the Manchester Architectural Research Centre (MARC) addresses the co-evolution of design and development strategies and the socio-economic processes shaping cities, engaging directly with built environment professionals, policy-makers and communities. <p>A significant proportion (57%) of our £4.2 million research income comes from 'impact sponsors' such as EU, government, NGOs and the private and voluntary sector. We are particularly well-known for evidence-based policy analysis that has influenced the strategies and policies of many government bodies and public organisations; developing tools and methodological approaches that can be applied in 'real world' contexts, particularly related to neighbourhood analysis and adaptation to climate change; and producing innovative approaches to public participation and stakeholder involvement including web-based scenarios, GIS-based public participation (PPGIS) and pioneering forms of engagement and community envisioning.</p> <p>b. Approach to impact</p> <p>For many years, our research has been directly sponsored and funded by numerous government departments, public sector organisations, professional bodies, charitable institutions and the voluntary sector with the explicit intention that its impact would extend beyond academia. Since 2008, 25% of our 'research' income has come from such sources, with a further 33% from EU funded programmes with a strong impact focus. Our impact takes a variety of different forms, embracing a wide range of partners and user groups within our region, the UK and internationally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and National Government and Public Bodies in the UK: We have a long record of policy-relevant, methodologically robust, evidence-based research that has influenced UK policy and practice. Involving regular engagement with civil servants, government officials, Ministers and elected politicians, often directly working with governmental bodies as clients, examples include work for ODPM on <i>Spatial Plans in Practice (SPiP)</i> (Baker, Hincks) and <i>Local Development Framework (LDF) Monitoring</i> (Wong, Baker) which influenced national planning policy and local practice; a project defining a national set of strategic housing market areas for the National Housing and Planning Advisory Unit (Wong, Baker, Hincks); and providing the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills with a monthly report on regional employment, output and investment trends for Ministers and policymakers (Haughton, Hincks, with NIESR). • Professional Bodies, Charitable Trusts and Other Organisations: A related strand of research provides policy-relevant analyses and recommendations for UK professional and non-governmental bodies, including a three-year project developing a <i>Housing and Neighbourhood Monitor</i> for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) (Wong, Kingston, Hincks) and on 'A Map for England' for the RTPi to stimulate a debate on joined-up national planning (Wong, Baker, Hincks). In partnership with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) we received a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) award to fund a post-doctoral researcher to develop social network analysis in an external consultancy environment (Deas). Our <i>Six Steps to Flood Resilience</i> (jointly with BRE), an output from CURE's <i>EUFP7 SMARTeST</i> project, was adopted in 2013 by the National Flood Forum, Environment Agency, LGA, ABI and DEFRA. • Private Sector and Corporate Organisations: Guy, Handley and Tippett played a key role in the establishment of the £25 million Tesco-funded <i>Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI)</i> and subsequent work on <i>Integrating the Senses Inside Supermarkets</i> and <i>Supermarket Adaptation to Future Environments (SAFE)</i> (Guy, Handley) and Tippett's action-research on embedding

Impact template (REF3a)

company-wide sustainability learning is impacting on both Tesco and future practice across the retail sector. Our work on *Energy Travel and Sustainable Buildings* and the *Ecocities Research Programme* (**Guy, Handley, Karvonen, Kingston**, sponsored by real estate company, Bruntwood) is influencing corporate good practice in sustainability.

- **International Policy and Practice:** Work impacting internationally includes our EU projects developing innovative policy tools for assessing the impacts of climate change including *Green and Blue Space Adaptation for Urban Areas (GRaBS)* (**Kingston**); CURE's *Climate Proof Cities* project with the Dutch Government; and *EUFP7 Smart Resilience, Technology, Systems and Tools (SMARTeST)* research, involving 10 EU partners to develop and test ways to make areas more resilient to flood risk. Beyond Europe, we are working on a wide range of topics including climate change adaptation and the urban poor in Bangladesh (**Guy**); expert advice to the Egyptian Supreme Council of Antiquities and Moroccan Ministry of Habous and Religious Affairs on the rehabilitation of historic Hammams (**Sibley**); indicators and policy monitoring practices in the EU, UN Habitat, Australia and China (**Wong**); and *Ketso* (**Tippett**), in use in 27 countries.
- **Local Organisations, Communities, Stakeholders and the Public:** An equally important, strand of our impact strategy is to engage local organisations, stakeholders, communities and individuals through the provision of innovative, often open sourced and web-based, user-friendly tools for a variety of purposes. These include the *GRaBS* website, winner of an EC RegioStars Award 2011; the online *JRF Housing and Neighbourhood Monitor*; and the development of *Ketso* as a social business, commended by RTPI for its contribution to community engagement.

In addition to directly-funded, applied research projects, our approaches to maximizing the impact of research, and sustaining our relationships with key user groups over the long-term, include:

- Our research centres which raise the profile and impact of our research beyond academia;
- The appointment of senior figures from professional practice and public policy as Honorary Professors and Research Fellows (e.g. Goodstadt, Past President of the RTPI; Syms, HCA / National Brownfield Land Advisor to Ministers; McInroy, Director, Centre for Local Economic Strategies; Carbonell, Lincoln Land Institute; and Bubbico, European Commission).
- Appointments of staff to governmental and other public policy advisory committees, steering groups and networks such as the House of Commons Select Committee; DCLG Housing and Planning Expert Panel; EU Directorate-General for Regional Policy Urban Audit II; UN Habitat; ODPM Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy; UNESCO; UK Man and Biodiversity Forum.
- Major exhibitions and media events, including exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw on *Architecture after Socialism*; on *Mapping Controversies* in France and Switzerland; *Hammamed* exhibitions in Damascus and Fez; touring exhibitions on *Urban Radicalisation* and *Multi-Faith Spaces*; freely available videos (*Ketso*); as well as regular media appearances on national and local radio (e.g. on Radio Four's *Today* Programme regarding the *JRF Housing Monitor* and RTPI's *A Map for England*) to explain our research and its significance to society;
- Organising and delivering conferences and other training and CPD activities to practice (e.g. on a regular basis for RTPI NW), the discipline-based seminar series (open to practitioners outside the University) and SEED annual public lectures; and active involvement in UoM networks such as *policy@manchester* and *cities@manchester* that have an explicit mission to promote and discuss our research with relevant policy and practice communities;
- The provision of more accessible publicity materials to disseminate our research, and its societal relevance, including shorter summaries and non-technical, user-friendly reports and articles in professional and popular journals such as *Town & Country Planning* and *Planning*.
- Engaging in critical policy and practice debates linked to our research via other forms of communication such as on-line materials and websites (e.g. *GRaBS*; *EcoCities*; *MFS*, *JRF Housing & Neighbourhood Monitor*), blogs and social media.

SEED provides dedicated administrative support for staff to deliver impact-related events (e.g. conferences, workshops, seminars) and supports staff to receive training in media communications, such as seminars in public engagement skills. Engagement with the public is enhanced through opportunities for researchers to take part in high level activities to communicate their findings; for example during *policy@Manchester* week which showcases the contribution of UoM academics to UK public policy development. An impact support officer within SEED's Research Support Hub (reporting to an Associate Dean for Research) supports and coordinates our impact activities. The University's innovation company for intellectual property management

Impact template (REF3a)

and commercialisation (*UMIP*) has directly supported our work: **Kingston** was awarded £140,000 to support commercialisation of his *PPGIS* and facilitate the setting-up of a University spin-out company; **Tippett** received funding and legal assistance to set-up *Ketso*; *UMI3 UoM Innovation Group* awarded two Social Entrepreneur *Just Do It Awards* to **Tippett**, to trial *RoundView* in HEIs, and **Sibley** to implement an innovative design prototype for retrofitting historic Hammams.

c. Strategy and plans

Our impact strategy is based around the *mission statements* for our three **research centres** and the over-arching strategies set by the School and University. Social responsibility, and having a research impact beyond academia, are incorporated within two of the three goals of the UoM's *Strategic Vision 2020* and achieving higher levels of impact is also core to the University's overall *Research Strategy*. To achieve this, we have developed a clear local strategy (*SEED Research Strategy, 2011-2015*) which highlights "*the 'impactful' nature of our research as a key strength of our strategic focus...*", backed-up by an associated set of actions:

- **Staff appointments and posts:** the School has recently created a post of Deputy Director of Research, working directly with an Impact Officer within the School's Research Support Hub, to further promote and support our impact activities.
- **Research applications:** the internal peer-review of research proposals and 'sign-off' by the SEED Research Director includes a '*Pathway to Impact*' statement, encouraging researchers to 'think impact' and foster innovative approaches to co-production and engagement.
- **Funding:** The Faculty's annual fund for research support (SIRF), focussed particularly on early career researchers, includes a specific call for funding activities to promote impact. The UoM Research Institute (*UMRI*) supports interdisciplinary research institutes, including pump priming of new activities and helping established institutes to facilitate their impact and one of our doctoral students also won a new UoM Research Impact Scholarship to undertake his research. UoM was one of three universities securing a £500k ESRC pilot Impact Acceleration Award (2013-14) and has subsequently been allocated a further £920k for a further 4 years, providing substantial future funding for innovative impact activities.
- **Training:** Impact awareness and training is integrated into the research sessions of the Faculty's training programme for new academics. Through the *ESRC NW Doctoral Training Centre* we also promote impact through our training of PhD students.
- **Annual review:** a rigorous annual review and feedback process is already in place to ensure that our research centres continue to deliver high-impact work. Annual *Performance Development Review* processes ask individual researchers to identify potential impact as a key part of their research portfolio and the University's annual Research Profiling Exercise collects information about impact activities. Performance against research and impact targets is reviewed through the University's annual Planning and Accountability cycle.
- **Staff development and reward:** The School strongly supports staff to maximise research impact and recognises their achievements in various ways. Impact and dissemination activities are part of our sabbatical leave system; academic workload models reward impact related activities (e.g. knowledge transfer; training; dissemination; practice links) and knowledge exchange and impact is one of four areas of evaluation for promotion and career development, explicitly contributing towards recent promotion cases (**Baker** to Reader; **Kingston** to SL).

Facilitated by these actions and strong institutional support, our strategy beyond REF2014 is to extend our influence, within the UK and internationally, on government policy, professional practice and corporate behaviour via rigorous evidence-based spatial policy analysis and the continued development of innovative methodological approaches to neighbourhood analysis, climate change, sustainable low carbon futures and community / stakeholder engagement.

d. Relationship to case studies

The cases we have chosen exemplify three noteworthy areas of research impact, including co-production of knowledge with practice, that we are particularly well known for:

- **Case 1 on quantitative indicator research and spatial policy making:** exemplifies the longstanding CUPS mission to provide innovative and robust evidence-based policy analysis.
- **Case 2 on building capacity for urban climate change adaptation:** an exemplar of our applied interdisciplinary research on innovative web-based climate change adaptation tools.
- **Case 3 on creative engagement and participatory planning:** the development of a social business (*Ketso*) supported by UMIP exemplifies innovative work on stakeholder engagement.