

Urban Futures Knowledge Organiser

What is Urbanisation?

This is an increase in the amount of people living in urban areas such as towns or cities. In 2007, the UN announced that for the first time, more than 50 % of the world's population live in urban areas.

Settlement Hierarchies



If we group and classify a number of settlements according to their size and shape, the result is settlement hierarchy.

Key Characteristics of Settlement Hierarchy.

- The number of services that a settlement provides increases with settlement size.
- Small settlements will only provide low-order services such as a post office.
- Larger settlements and conurbations have a much larger sphere of influence than smaller ones.
- The range of a service or product is the maximum distance people are prepared to travel to purchase it.

Types of Cities



Megacity An urban area which over 10 million people living there.



More than two thirds of current megacities are located in either EDCs and LIDCs). The amount of megacities are predicted to increase from 28 to 41 by 2030.

World City Cities that are centres for trade and business. They hold global influence.



Key 'world cities' include London, New York, Tokyo and Paris. Most are located within ACs but are now gradually expanding into EDCs, for example Moscow.

Causes of Urbanisation

The movement of people from rural to urban areas.



Push

- Natural disasters
- War and Conflict
- Mechanisation
- Drought



Pull

- More Jobs
- Better education & healthcare
- Increased quality of life.
- Following family members.

Consequences of Rapid Urbanisation in LIDCs

Although there are lots of opportunities in urban areas, the rapid growth can place many pressures that causes various problems.

Social Consequences

- Little official housing available.
- Infrastructure struggles to support growing population.
- Increase in crime rates.

Environmental Consequences

- Rubbish may not be collected.
- Sewage and toxic waste pollutes river environments.
- Increased congestion produces more pollution.

Economic Consequences

- May not be enough jobs – increased unemployment.
- Informal sector increases Little access to education and healthcare.

Counter-Urbanisation in ACs

This is the movement of people from city centres to the outskirts.



Push

- Overcrowding and pollution.
- Unemployment increases.
- Deindustrialisation of centre.
- Traffic congestion increases CO₂.



Pull

- Green spaces & family friendly.
- New modern housing estates.
- Improved public transport.
- Rents cheaper on outskirts.



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Suburbanisation

This is the movement of people from city centres to the outskirts.



Push

- Overcrowding and pollution.
- Unemployment increases.
- Deindustrialisation of centre.
- Traffic congestion.



Pull

- Green spaces & family friendly.
- New modern housing estates.
- Improved public transport.
- Rents cheaper on outskirts.



Consequences of Suburbanisation

Environmental Consequences

- New housing damages countryside and habitats.
- Increase of cars adds air pollution.

Economic Consequences

- People leaves centres and they become deserted.
- Unemployment increases, which leads to poverty.

Social Consequences

- Offices and businesses are abandoned.
- Economic and ethnic segregation.

Rapid Urbanisation: Life in Lagos, Nigeria



Background

Lagos is a port on the coast of Nigeria in West Africa. Recently the city has experienced rapid population growth with 3.4 million extra people calling it home between 2000 and 2010. It is now classed as a mega-city with a population of 21m.

Effects of rapid Urbanisation – Makoko squatter settlement

Social

- Many live without electricity.
- High diseases rate and life expectancy low.
- Floating Makoko has no access to fresh clean water

Economic

- High rate of corruption to officials.
- Business is limited due to poor infrastructure.
- Only informal sector employment

Environmental

- Makoko is heavily polluted with poor sanitation.
- The lagoon is polluted with lots of floating rubbish

Management

- Authorities removed many dwellings in slums such as Makoko with the Eko-Atlantic plan.
- A loan of \$200 from the World Bank to improve drainage and solid waste.
- New ideas such as the 'floating homes and school' have been suggested.

Sustainability Plans

Aim to collect waste in the Ikosi fruit market. The waste will be used as biofuel and produce light for the markets as well as cleaning up the environment..

Wealthy Lagos

Banana Island



- Rich part of Lagos with wealthy coastal property.
- Home to the Nigeria footballers and Movie stars.
- Banana Island has lots of private, secure properties with lots of mod-cons.
- Government keen to expand these areas and destroy the current shanty homes such as Makoko.

Environmental Consequences

- Redevelopment of brownfield sites improves the area by removing eye-sore areas
- Area has refuse collection and proper sewerage facilities making it a clean healthy environment.

Economic Consequences

- By removing shanty areas the new residents will pay taxes into the city.
- New shops and services will improve local economy.
- Urban tourism may increase.

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Informal Housing

This is housing that is built on land which does not belong to those who are building it. This may be on land that is unsuitable due to its surroundings.

Internal Growth



Internal growth occurs when urban areas experience rapid rates of population growth. This comes as a result of a large amount of arrival of people in cities, who after finding a job, house and partner will have children. This occurs mostly in LIDCs.

Greenbelt Area

This is a zone of land surrounding a city where new building is strictly controlled to try to prevent cities growing too much and too fast.

Conurbation



A conurbation is a region comprising a number of cities, large towns, and other urban areas that, through population growth have merged to form one continuous urban or industrially developed area.
For example: Greater Manchester includes Manchester, Bolton, Oldham, Bury and Rochdale.

AC: Challenges & Opportunities for Cities: BIRMINGHAM Case Study



Location and Background

Birmingham is the largest city in the Midlands and the 2nd largest in the United Kingdom, NW of London. The M42 ring road surrounds the city. Birmingham New Street station is a national railway link.



City's Importance

- Has over 1million inhabitants.
- 2nd largest economy in UK with over \$121bn.
- Contains six independent universities.
- Important global links with car industry (Jaguar & Land Rover) and Jewellery Quarter.
- Has major transport links that connect effectively to the UK and the world. This is planned to expand with HS2.
- Home of the Balti

Migration to Birmingham

Birmingham is a young, multi-cultural city, its population has come from all around the world, including people from Asia, the West Indies, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. It has one of the largest Pakistani communities in the world and the largest Irish community in England. Over the years, while people migrated to the city for work, its factories exported their manufactured products around the world. Birmingham was once known as the workshop of the world.



Birmingham's way of Life

- The city benefits by the diversity and many different cultures.
- The population benefits from many companies and shops locating there.
- Good entrainment centres and night life.



Urban inequality

Birmingham, like many UK cities, is the main challenge of inequality. Some areas of the city suburbs enjoy greater wealth and a good quality of life (eg Sutton Coldfield Four Oaks), other areas, close to the city centre suffer deprivation and a poor quality of life (eg Sparkbrook). Inequality is linked to levels of unemployment and other indicators of deprivation, like educational achievement, child poverty and household income.

City Challenges

- There is a lack of affordable housing, especially for the young generation in the city centre.
- Social inequality including deprivation and poverty is a problem for young people. There is a lack of access to education in the Inner city areas.
- Poor safety and crime rates
- House price inequality keeps going. Wealthy can move to the suburbs away from deprived areas. The poorer people, including unemployed are left to live in deprived areas.

Sustainability challenge

Modernization of housing stock. Provision of new double glazing windows to keep warmth in. New secure front doors for safety. New boilers for greater energy efficiency and help reduce demand of power.
Improved Metro. This is being made to help improve energy efficient pollution free transport systems for people from the suburbs to be able to enter the city centre.

Re-urbanisation in ACs

Movement of people back into urban areas.



Push

- Lack of jobs in rural and suburban areas.
- Less leisure and entertainment in rural areas.
- May have increased house prices.



Pull

- Redevelopment of brownfield sites with improved housing.
- Young people are attracted to the Universities and entertainment facilities available.

Consequences of Re-urbanisation

Social Consequences

- Shops and services benefit from more residents.
- Tension between new and older residents.
- House prices in redeveloped areas increase.
- More jobs and less employment within the area.

Environmental Consequences

Redevelopment of brownfield sites improves old industrial and polluted areas while Decreasing pressures on greenfield areas.

Economic Consequences

New shops and services will improve local economy. Jobs available may not be accessible to original residents. Urban tourism may increase.

Birmingham HS2 from 2026

Birmingham Curzon Street is undergoing major development in the next decade. This will lead to...

- A new high speed railway line (HS2) is considered to run from Birmingham and then North towards Leeds.
- Take pressure off existing rail network and reduce travel times for business travel.
- Encourage more to travel by train which is more sustainable
- Create jobs and investment in local economy.



HS2 issues

- More people will commute from Birmingham to new jobs in London.
- The total cost of HS2 will be £42.6 billion, which the UK cannot afford.
- Existing railways could be improved to carry more passengers. We already have fast intercity trains and we don't need to travel faster.