

Metropolitan INnovation & Intelligence Lab (MINI-LAB)

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Introduction / background

The Devolution programme in Greater Manchester (GM), and similar city-regions around the UK, is a call for public services to 'do more with less', with 'joined up thinking', for problems which are complex and inter-connected. This calls for a 'triple helix' type of collaboration between public, private and academic sectors: enhanced shared-mind capacity for co-learning and co-innovation between all stakeholders.

The Mini-Lab is an innovative partnership between the University of Manchester and the Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub. It builds on 4 main research collaborations: *Future of Cities: Eco-Cities / RESIN: Triangulum: and Living Labs*. It will build & test a prototype for 'urban co-intelligence' and co-innovation.

Aims and objectives

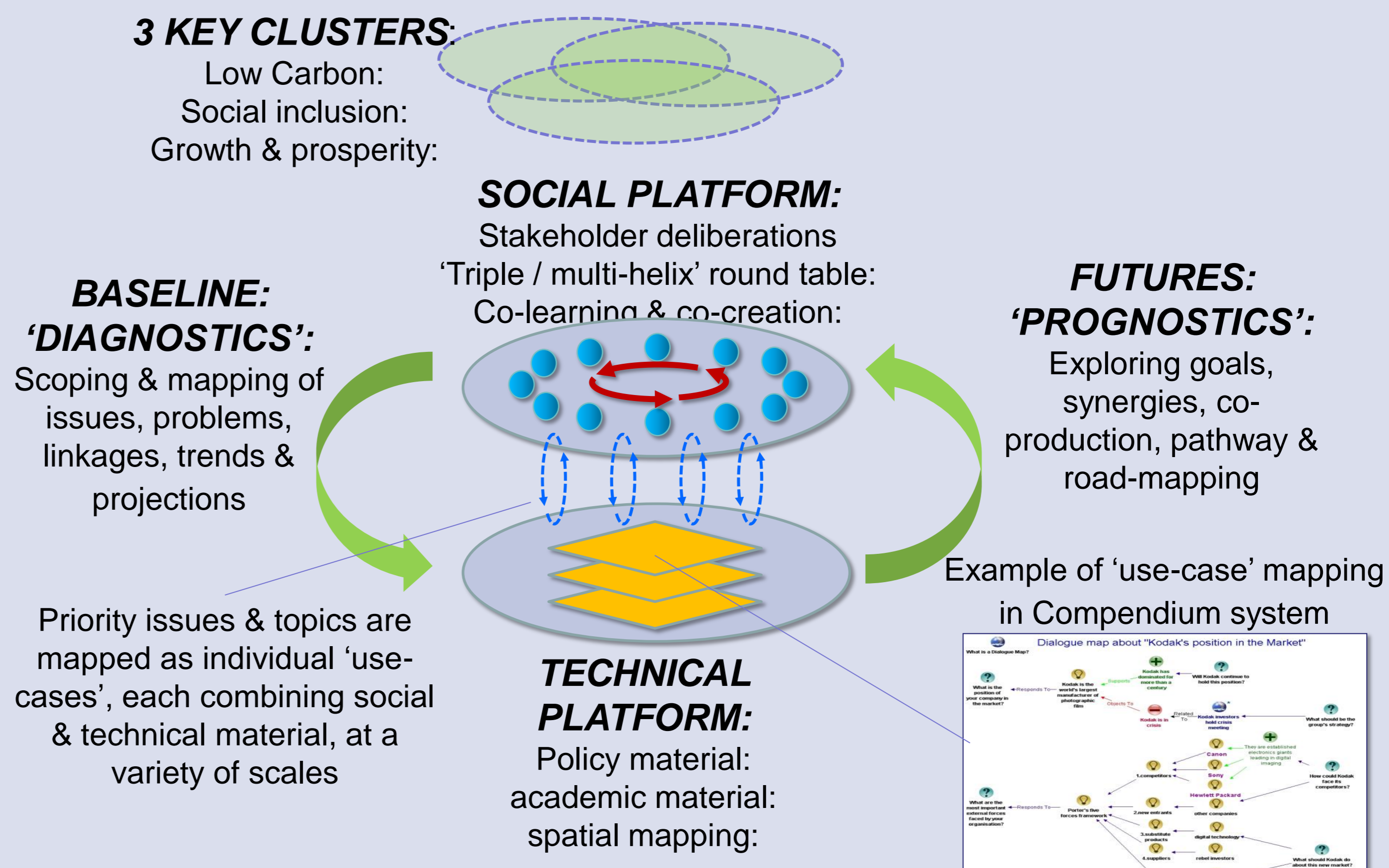
Overall, to enhance research-policy links with a prototype 'triple helix' model of urban co-innovation, in the cluster '**low carbon retrofit for growth & inclusion**'.

3 objectives include:

- (a) contribute to shared-mind capacity for co-learning & co-innovation
- (b) identify research-policy links & exchanges in this cluster:
- (c) evaluate the prototype, with lessons for wider dissemination

This 'retrofit' cluster includes a series of inter-connected topics: economic development: housing retrofit: energy efficiency: fuel poverty: public health: Devolution policies: housing markets: green infrastructure: quality of life: social inclusion.

'MINI-LAB' FRAMEWORK



Methodology

The Mini-Lab is based on the 'synergistic toolkit' for complex systems in transition. There are 2 'platforms' working in parallel:

- Social platform: triple-helix of stakeholders: knowledge exchange: co-learning & co-creation
- Evidence platform: Policy material: academic material: spatial analysis:

First, the 'baseline diagnosis' looks at the present day issues, problems, linkages. Then the 'futures prognosis' looks at goals, opportunities and ways forward. The cycle repeats where needed. Priority issues and topics are mapped as individual 'use-cases', each with social & technical material, at a variety of scales. These are linked into a knowledge landscape ('shared-mind-scape'), in a form of urban 'co-intelligence'.

Benefits to University of Manchester & partners

Academic benefits : enhanced research linkages, future collaborations, civic engagement, & leadership on innovation. Partner benefits:(a) contribution to 'Low-Carbon Inclusive Growth' cluster: (b) contribution to co-innovation & collective (co)-intelligence. Policy innovation, financial innovation & social innovation each help a foresight view, e.g. city-region energy system, or integrated retrofit.

Expected outputs

- 2 main stakeholder workshops with a variety of consultations, incl. inputs from city-region advisory group & international advisors.
- Online prototype platform as working demonstration
- Synthesis report, thematic report & evaluation report, including:
- Recommendations for policy & research programmes

Expected outcomes/impacts

For academics, a demonstration prototype for 'triple-helix' co-innovation, for enhanced research impact.

For policy partners, thematic recommendations, & contribution to city-region co-learning and co-creation