

You are invited to the Centre for Urban Resilience & Energy / cities@manchester Forum:

# FORESIGHTING a FUTURE with CITIES

*How can future-oriented research help pro-visioning UK cities build resilience & prosperity in the coming decades?*

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015, 5-7pm, followed by reception.

The University of Manchester, Samuel Alexander Building, Arts Theatre & Foyer -  
<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/maps/interactive-map/?id=63>

**cure**

**cities**  
@manchester

Keynote: Professor Sir Alan Wilson, UCL (Chair of Lead Expert Group of the Government Office of Science Foresight on Future of Cities).

Contributing speakers on the panel: Prof. Karel Williams (MBS), Mark Tewdwr-Jones (Newcastle), Kevin Morgan (Cardiff), Nicola Headlam (Liverpool), Sally Randles (MBS), Colin Talbot (MBS), Mark Atherton (AGMA), Nicola Kane (TFGM), *New Economy Manchester*, Cllr Derek Antrobus (Salford), Saska Petrova (CURE), Stefan Bouzarovski (CURE), Andrew Karvonen (Cities), Ian Miles (MBS), Joe Ravetz (chair).

There are aspirations that our cities can re-emerge as 'powerhouses'. But behind the rhetoric there are deep concerns – political distrust, low productivity, divided communities, crumbling infrastructure, and structural inequalities. Cities may trade a little more power for a big drop in resources, and for some the outcome may be as 'poorhouses'.

In an age of scarcity and change, this calls not only for hard infrastructure, but creative rethinking of how global-local economies and communities can work. This calls for 'pro-visioning' future-oriented thinking and strategy, combined with present day social learning and policy innovation.

This is the role of the toolkit known as **Foresight**. At present, the *UK Foresight on 'Future of Cities'*, run by the Government Office of Science, brings together 21 city demonstrations, 24 science-policy studies, national spatial modelling, and multi-level policy advice.

We are now looking at ways to build on this, for the next phase of City Foresight. There are many possibilities: strategic futures & policy intelligence, universities in knowledge economies, smart / 'wise' socio-technical systems, promises / perils of big data, new complex system models and so on.

In this Forum we bring together some of the most active players from around the UK to explore this space of opportunities. We invite speakers to (briefly) address the question - **'how can future-oriented research help pro-visioning UK cities build resilience and prosperity in the coming decades'?** An open discussion explores ways forward: followed by a UK review & next steps on the City Foresight Platform.

RSVP to [joe.ravetz@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:joe.ravetz@manchester.ac.uk)

More on <http://urban-energy.org/category/guest-contributions/>

