# Future Proofing Cities Creating Communities Fit for the Future

# Nick Roberts, Atkins North America

### **ICMA Conference Presenter**



Shakespeare wrote 'What is the city, but the people?' As engineers and designers the challenge is irresistible and immediate to work with cities around the world to support them in meeting the future needs of all of their people.

> **Uwe Krueger** Chief Executive Officer, Atkins

**10%** lived in cities in 1900

**50%** lived in cities in 2007

**75%** will be living in cities in 2050







#### **ATKINS GLOBAL**

Atkins is one of the world's leading design, engineering and project management consultancies.

We have the depth and breadth of expertise to respond to the most technically challenging and time-critical infrastructure projects and the urgent transition to low carbon economies.



In North America we provide infrastructure planning, engineering, construction management, environmental consulting, urban planning, architecture and programm management services to state and local



al cities fr nes and tropical storm







ENERGY Our Energy business operates across multiple geographies with our main centres in the UK and North America. We provide engineering and project management services and are engaged in, and actively growing, our capability for all aspects of the developing energy market with the allied susses of dimate change, sustainability and energy security.







-UNITED KINGDOM We deliver engineering and technically integrated design, together with project and cost management services, to a wide range of clients in the public, regulated and private sectors. Our areas of operation include water, environment, education, aerospace, defence and infrastructure design as well as significant activity in transportation.



In the Middle East we provide a full range of design, engineering and project management services for buildings, transportation and other infrastructure



INDIA



and Ireland

Copenhagen Me Denmark

engineering, planning, urban design, architectural and rail design services. In mainland China our focus is on urb other with arc









## THE URBAN CHALLENGE

# 80%

of the world's population already live in areas with high threat to water security

#### 60% of the world's

of the world's ecosystems are already either degraded or used unsustainably





**95%** 

of food production is highly dependent on oil

# 11%

of the world's remaining natural areas could be lost by 2050

> FUTURE PROOFING CITIES



### **RAPID URBANIZATION**

0.4 billion

Africa's urban population by 2050

We already live in an urban world, but 95% of future urbanisation will take place in the developing world

ukaid

Department

for International Development ATKINS

FUTURE PROOFING CITIES

1.9 billion

Asia's urban population by 2050



### THE RISKS FACING URBAN AREAS





### THE FUTURE PROOFING CITIES REPORT









### WHAT IS FUTURE PROOFING CITIES?

Future proofing cities is about utilising and developing the capabilities of cities to respond to environmental risks (e.g. climate hazards, resource scarcities, and damage to ecosystems) in a way that catalyses social and economic prosperity.



### **ROLE OF SOFT AND HARD INFRASTRUCTURE**











#### ΙϾΜΔ

### **OUR APPROACH**





### **FIVE URBAN TYPES**

Assessment of 129 cities:

Possible to group cities into 5 types based on most significant risks they face



Energy intensive, sprawled cities with significant carbon footprints



Cities with major climate hazards



Cities with regional support system(s) at risk (water, food, biodiversity)



Cities with multiple risks: energy, carbon, climate hazards, and regional support systems



Cities with a low current risk profile





### UNIQUE INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT **FRAMEWORK**







CITIES

### **CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO RISKS**



ΙϾΜΔ

### PRACTICAL STEPS TO FUTURE PROOFING

Over 100 policies for future proofing





### PRODUCE MULTIPLE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS





### MAXIMIZING IMPACT AND ENSURING DELIVERABILITY





## KEY MESSAGES

- Communities need to act now to consider their response to long term vulnerabilities to prevent long term harm to their economies and infrastructure security
- There are a wide range of practical actions for future proofing which can be considered in a long term planning framework
- This is ultimately about investing in the right kind of soft and hard infrastructure and governance framework
- Maximizing returns on investment will require an holistic approach to assessing the environmental, social, and economic benefits of policies



## **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Future proofed urban strategies
- Unlocking finance for communities
- Evaluating risks to private sector investment portfolios
- Other
  - Supporting urban diagnostics
  - Strengthening capacity
  - Data for communities
  - Research and guidance



### **THANK YOU**

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# Questions/Comments?

Additional Information...





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