

City futures in a time of turbulence





City Futures

- Lots of focused projects/work/analysis, e.g.
- UK Government Office for Science “Future of Cities” project
 - Academic network of Universities of Cardiff, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Reading, University College London
- City visions – 22 cities
- Manchester 2040+ - connected communities focus among young people
- EC Horizon 2020 Future Cities initiative across themes
- Arup - Future Cities: UK Capabilities For Urban Innovation
- Joe Ravetz - City III (to be published)
- etc
- I assume that this audience knows much more than me about the focused work on cities globally – in this seminar I am asking questions about the global context – how might the world be – what does this mean for cities?



City futures - agenda

- Timescales for change
 - Three Horizons
 - Turbulence
 - Assumptions 2050
- Dealing with uncertainties
 - Forecasts and scenarios
 - What paradigm changes can we envisage?
- Four scenarios
 - How might the world be?
- What do the scenarios mean for cities? For Manchester?



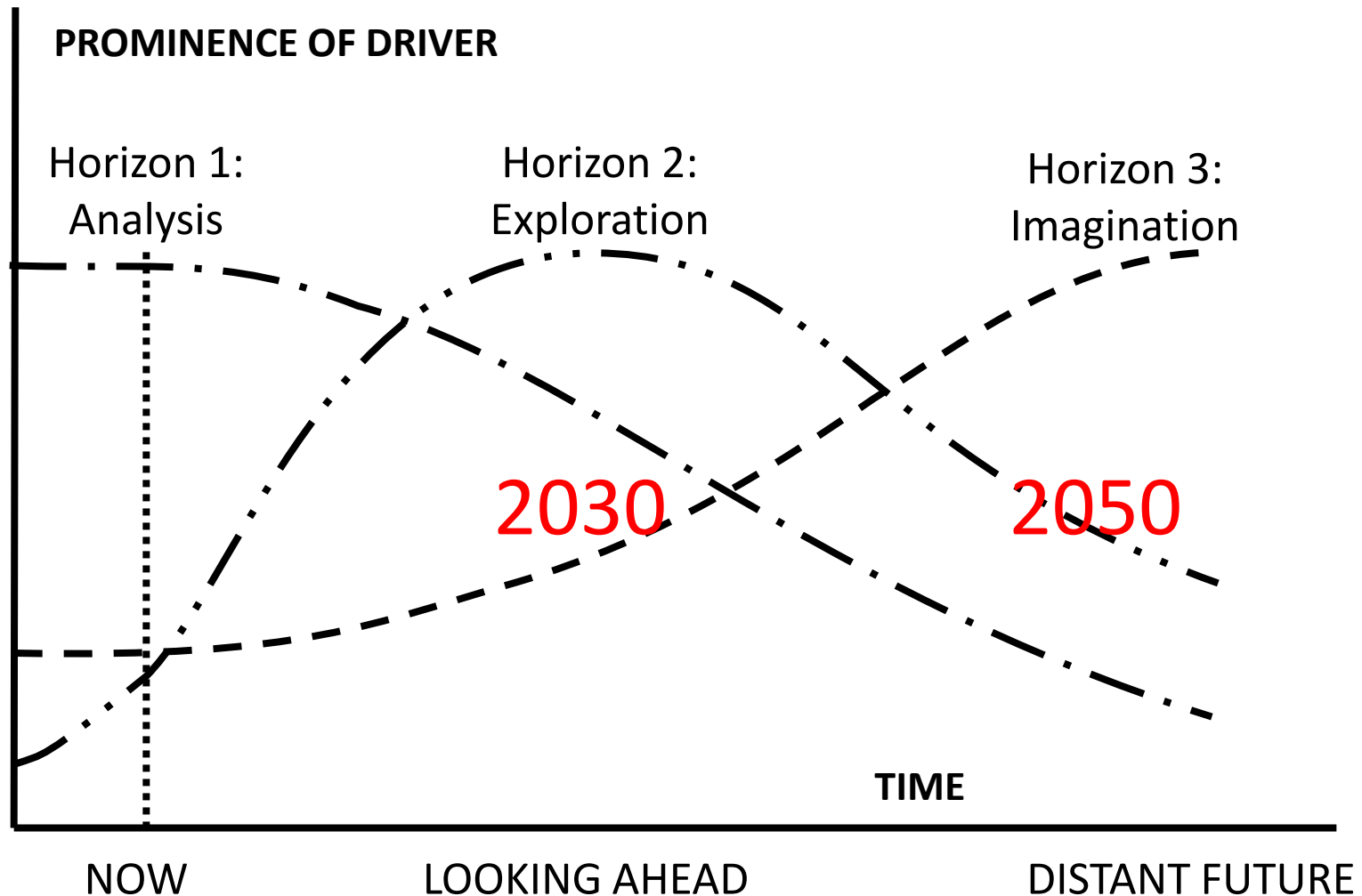


Timescales for change



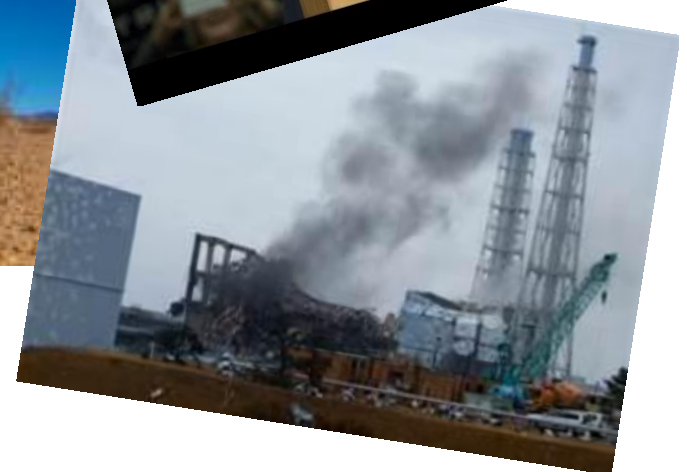


Three Horizons





Sources of turbulence



DON'T ASK THE EXPERTS !!

"After Brexit, UK crashed... Scotland left & the EU fell apart. Trump took USA & Putin took Eastern Europe... climate change migration etc

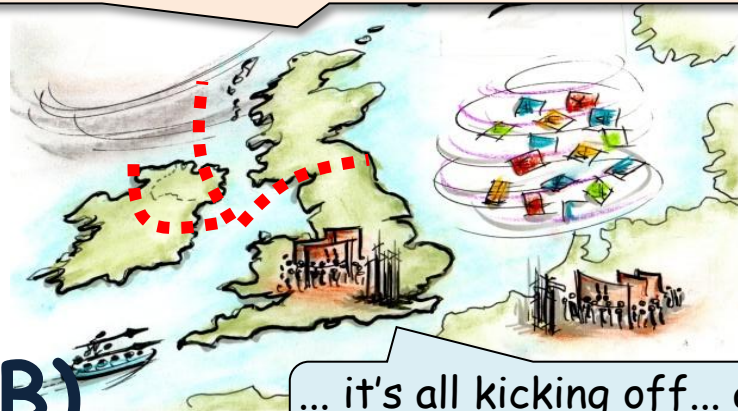
Consulting



Fog on Channel...

(A)

"UK was divided & uncertain... austerity, financial crisis, refugees, terrorism, etc... But the EU & UK worked together



... it's all kicking off... again... Anyone have a plan??

(B)

"After 'Brexit-Max' the UK hollowed out, but London grew as the global tax haven & southern England as its playground...



who said Brexit was anti-migration? we need our G3 an hour workers...

(C)

(D)

"in the EEA/EFTA, the UK is now a beacon of peace & prosperity, working with a more intelligent EU

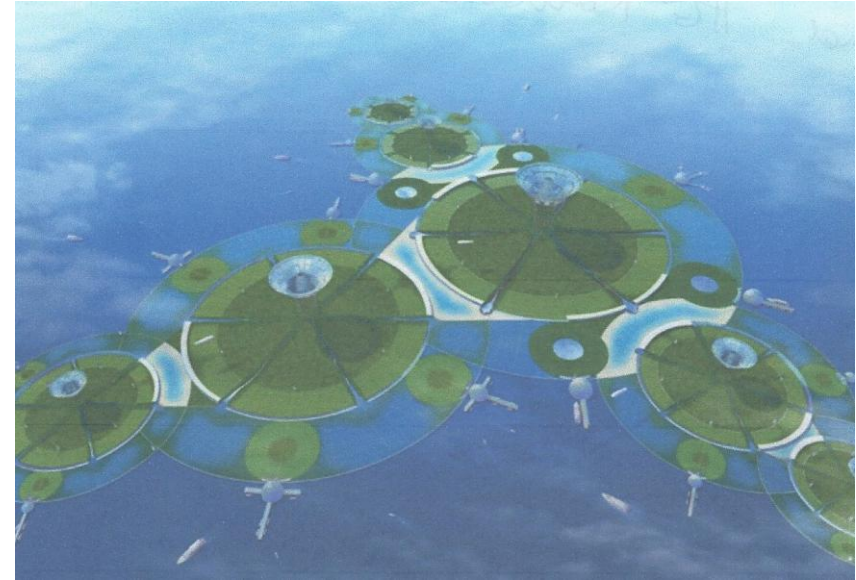


At last... a working community of 500 million for the 21st century!!



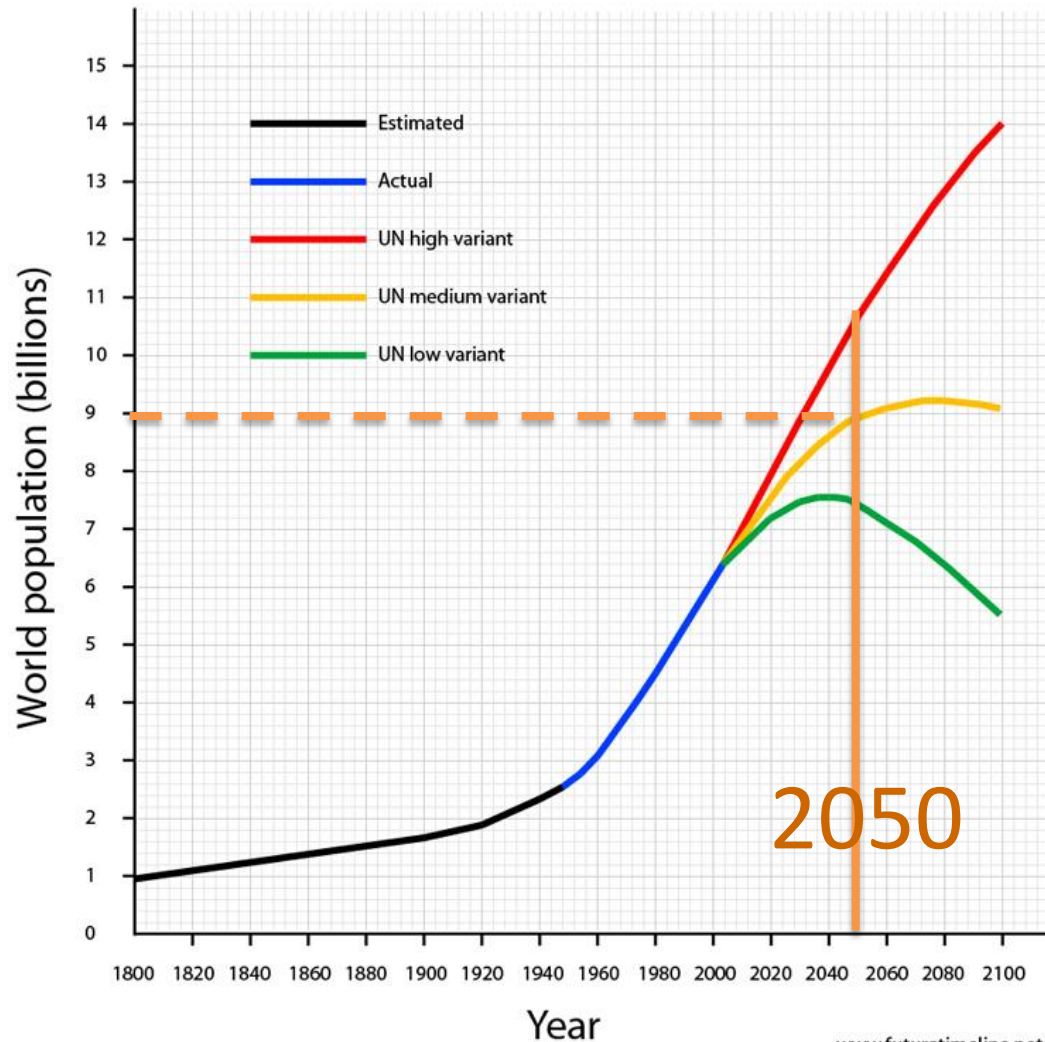
Assumptions - 2050

- Global population will grow to 9 BN and get older
 - Most of the additional people in Africa and Asia
 - Migration will be massive
- Turbulence as the world rebalances to new centres of economic power
 - New centres may not share the value systems of the West
- Technology (info, cogno, bio, nano) will continue to introduce changes in
 - Political and social systems: Personal capacity and lifestyles
- Ecological, energy and environmental limits tested or breached
 - Population lives in cities (70% by 2050)
 - New middle class uses electricity, travels, eats meat
 - Sea levels rise





Global population – Horizon Three



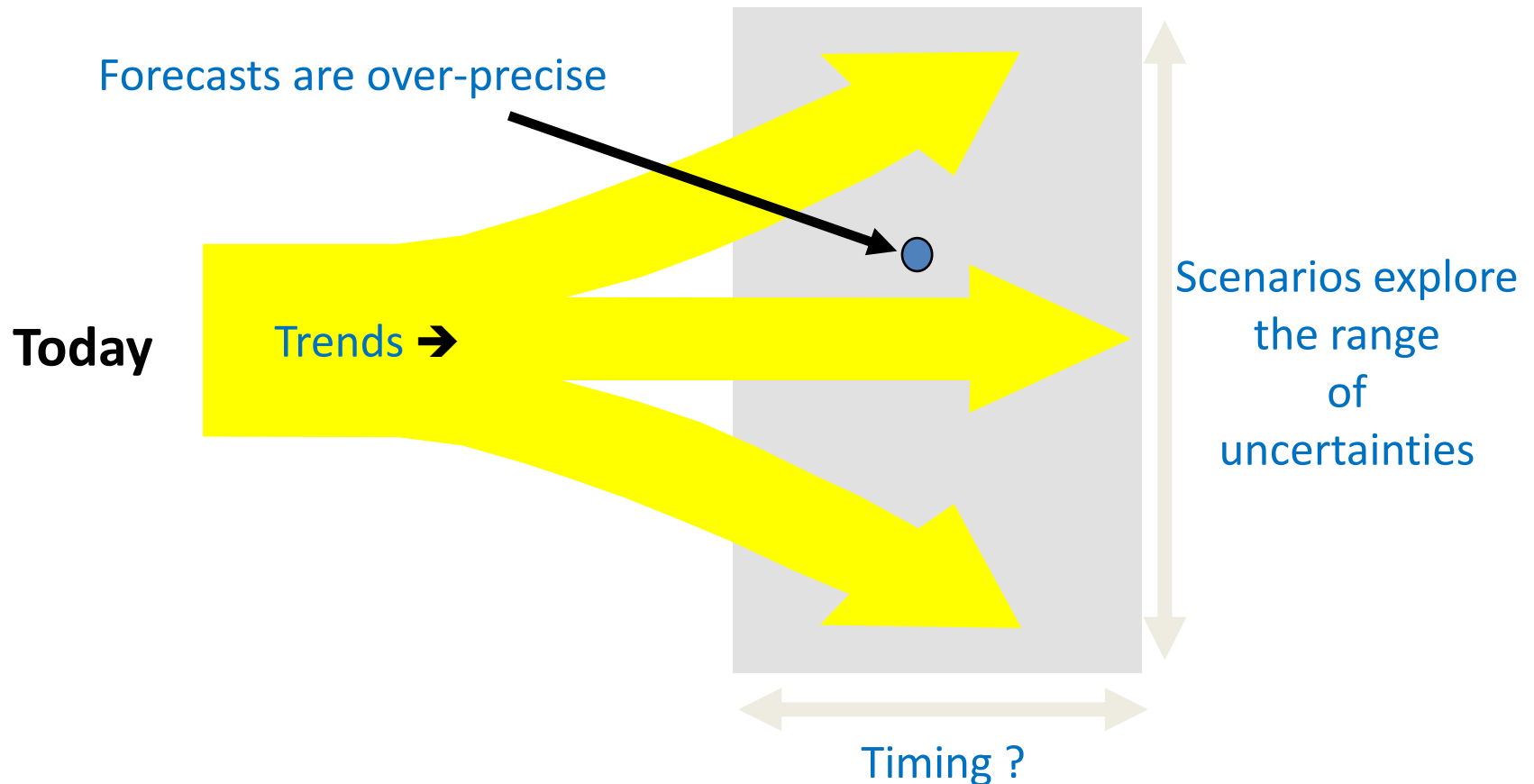


Dealing with uncertainties





Forecasts and scenarios





Scenarios from “In Safe Hands”

- Scenarios developed by SAMI to develop longer term views of the future
- Fleshed out and tested through open events at London Guildhall and Barnard’s Inn, drafts of the report critiqued by Long Finance Kitchen Cabinet
- Since used by Banks and Asset Managers, Dairy Marketing, Supply Chain Managers -----



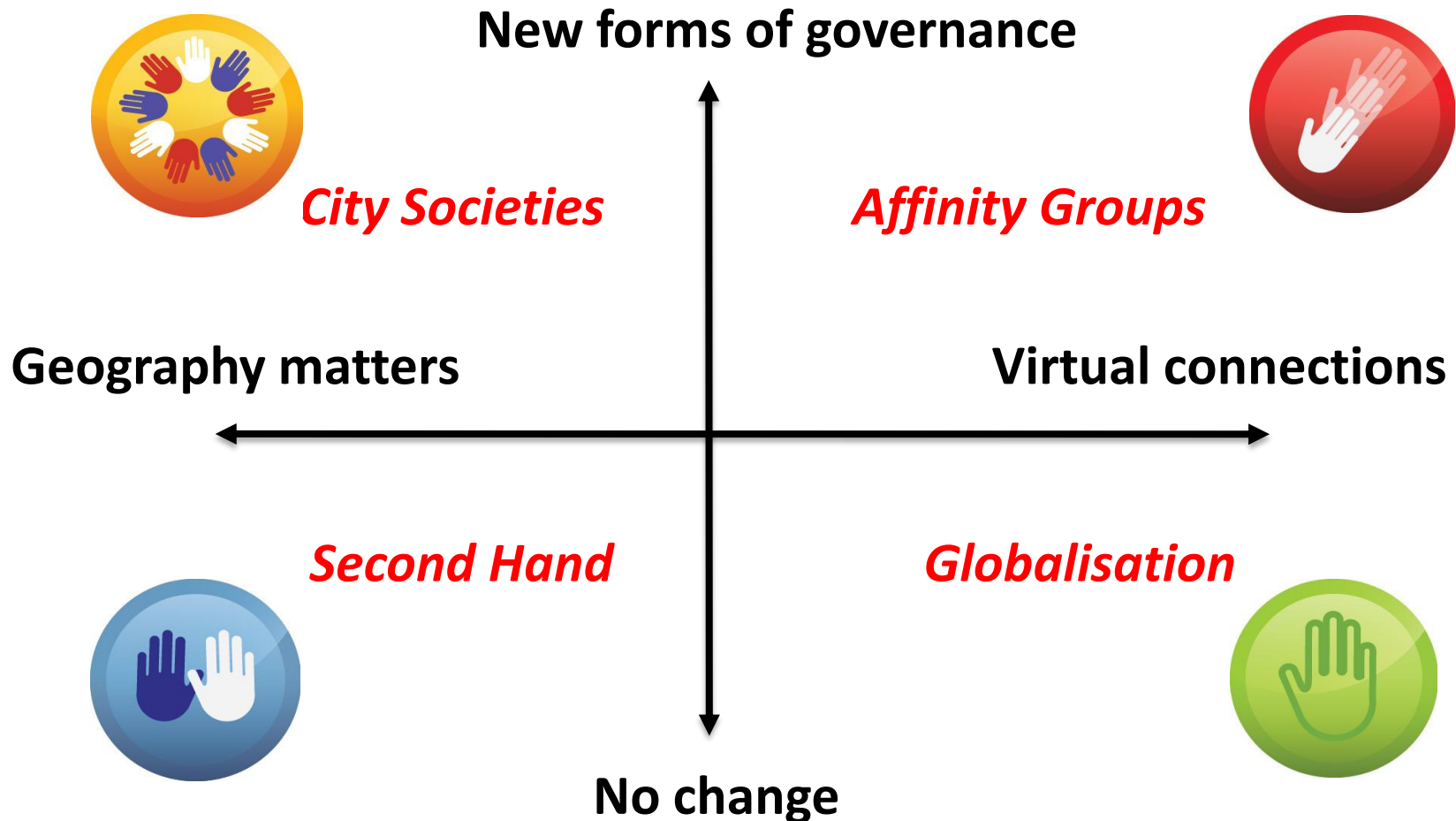


What paradigm changes?

- Will our economy and society be similar to now?
 - or
 - Will there be a new paradigm?
- Does geography matter?
 - If yes, with no new paradigm, its like now but struggling
 - what sort of new paradigm might there be? City states?
 - or
 - If geography does not matter, with no new paradigm we have our current official future, ICT enabled globalisation
 - A new paradigm could be based on virtual ICT enabled global loyalties, so based on affinity groups?



Four scenarios





Second Hand

- Capitalism, nation states, democracy and western value systems still dominant as concepts,
 - though not all countries/regions are moving to embrace these
- Nearest to current paradigm but
 - Degradation of nation state capability
 - Technology has fed the population
- Systems in constant stress
 - But no new ways forward
 - International institutions stagger on





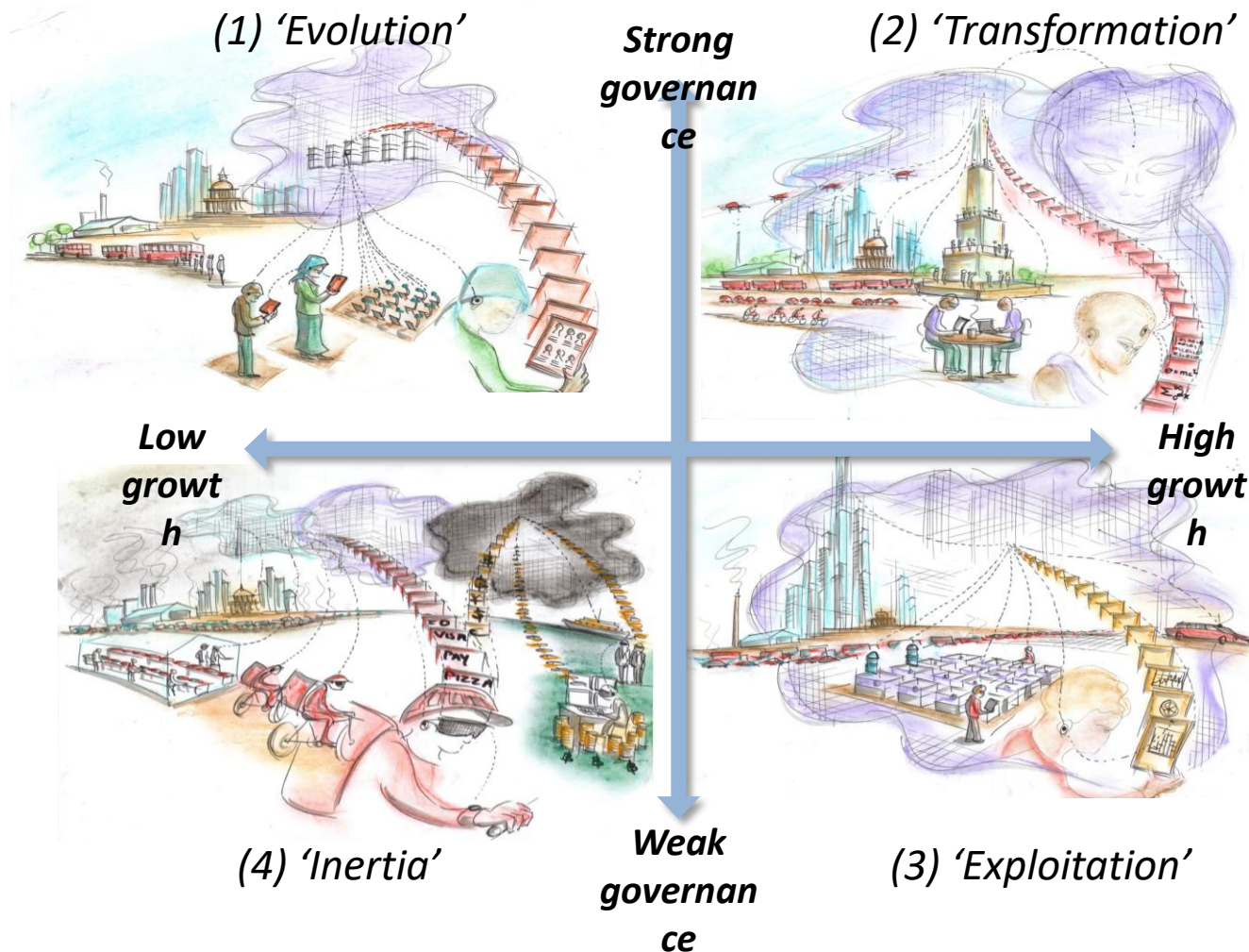
Globalisation

- Capitalism, democracy and western values still dominant
 - Significant stand-outs and international tensions
 - Global markets
 - National governments in retreat
- Evolution of global governance
 - Rethinking of taxation & pensions
 - Food revolution successful
 - ICT underpins all
- Lack of diversity leads to break down by 2030
 - Inability to handle systemic volatility
 - Break down of international institutions





Scenarios for the digital-enhanced workplace





What sources of turbulence?

- What could cause a break in the global system?
- Discuss with your neighbour & we will share in 2 minutes



Affinity Groups

- A crisis has caused the breakdown of the global system
- Society has re-formed around affinity groups
 - Multiple value systems accommodated
 - Democracy not seen as universal good
 - Complex arrangements of nation states and communities of affinity groups
- How do international issues get addressed
 - e.g. regulation
 - e.g. systemic challenges?





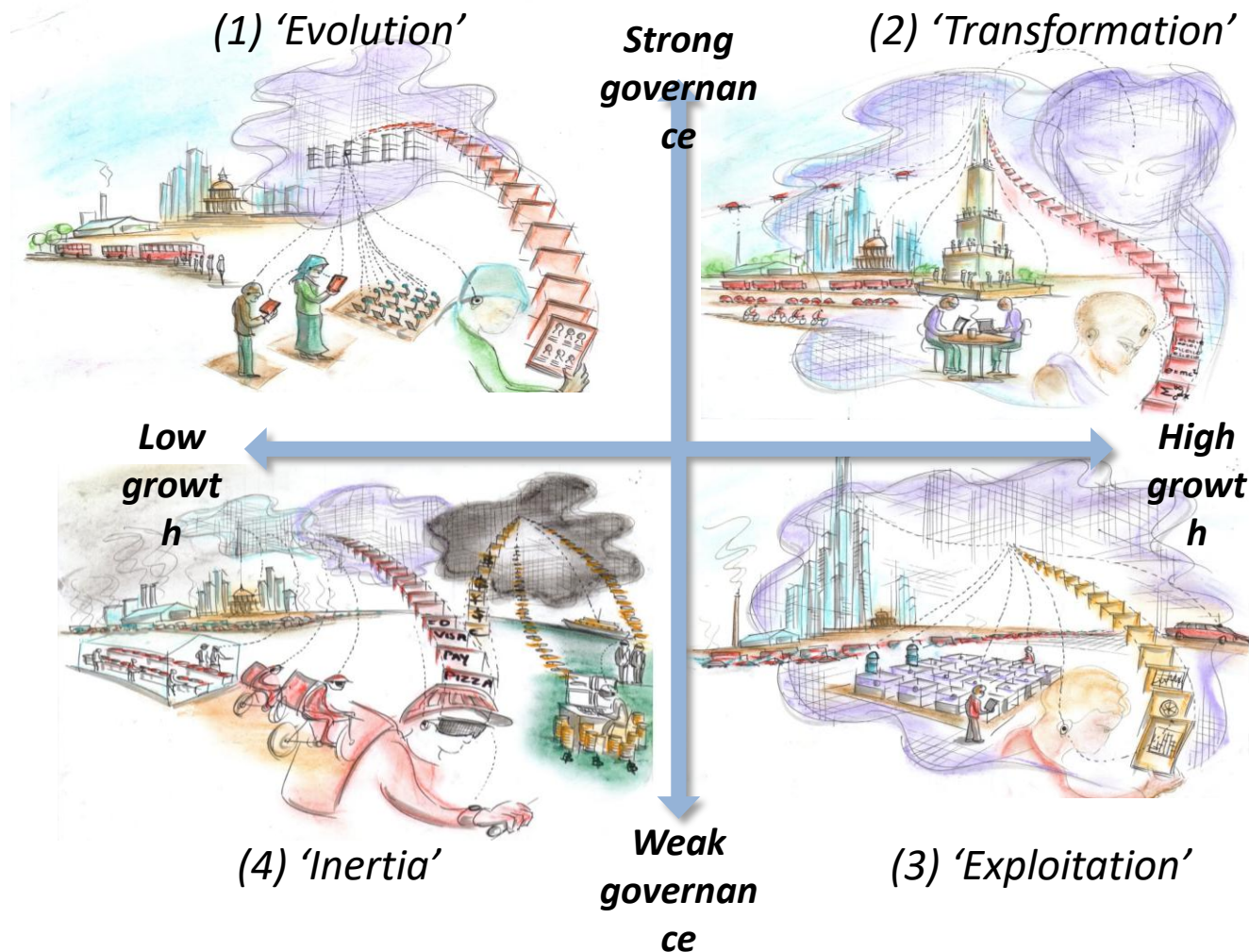
City Societies

- A crisis has caused the breakdown of the global system
- Society has re-formed around city states
 - Cities as wealth clusters “brands”
 - Failure of nation states
 - Democracy, capitalism and western values competing with other organising concepts, UN etc disappear
 - Cities may co-operate or may be at war
- Global commons abandoned
 - Conflicts in values, fewer implicit norms





Scenarios for the digital-enhanced workplace





Which scenario? some conclusions

- Second Hand
 - It may be as good as it gets!
- Globalisation
 - Homogeneity the cause of volatility and break down
- Affinity Groups
 - Best for London as global city
- City Societies
 - How real this one feels



- Discuss with your neighbour – which one do you prefer? Which one do you think most likely – 2 minutes then share.



What does this mean for cities?

- 70% of the population live in cities
- If turbulence causes breakdown of nation states --
- Formation of
 - City Societies?
 - Affinity Groups?





City Societies

- e.g. Benjamin Barber: *If Mayors Ruled the World: Dysfunctional Nations, Rising Cities*
 - Detroit and suburbs
 - Bangkok vs Thailand
 - London vs UK
- Effect of city “brand”
 - What is Manchester’s brand ?
 - Aspiration 2050?



Dan Austin/HistoricDetroit.org

Discuss with your neighbour - what are the early indicators of this scenario? what would you do first as Mayor of an independent city region based on Manchester? – what would smart ICT do? share in 2 minutes



Affinity Groups

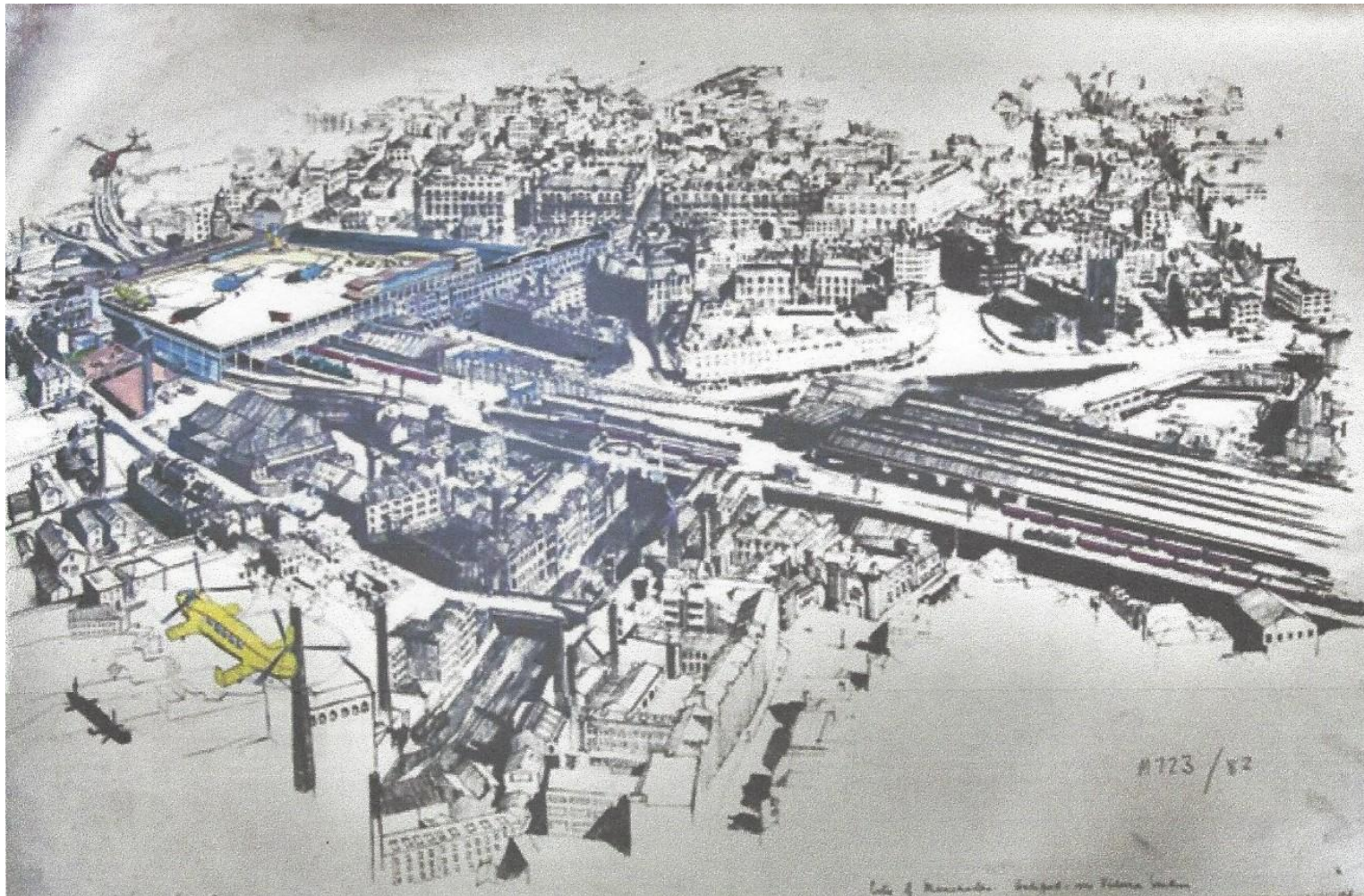
- The Multicultural Manchester project found the city third most diverse in world after Paris and New York: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2394338/200-languages-spoken-Manchester-population-just-480-000.html#ixzz4VwNLzq6P>
- How to make this an advantage?



Discuss with your neighbour – what are the early indicators of this scenario? as Mayor what would you do differently if Affinity Groups were stronger than local ties? – what would smart ICT do? share in 2 minutes



1956 – heliport at Manchester Victoria?





Summary

- City futures in a time of turbulence
- Timescales for change – Three Horizons
 - A structure for scoping future thinking
- Dealing with uncertainties - Four scenarios
 - Scenarios are mental models which help “think the unthinkable”
- What does this mean for cities?
 - For Manchester?
- The unthinkable may happen!





Thank you – and keep in touch!

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