



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage

The Future of Cities and Work

Dublin Economic Workshop 2021

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The Future of Cities and Work



An 'A-B-C' Approach

A: Accelerated trends and Agendas

B: 'Business as usual', or a 'Brave new world'?

C: Choice and the 'Curated' City





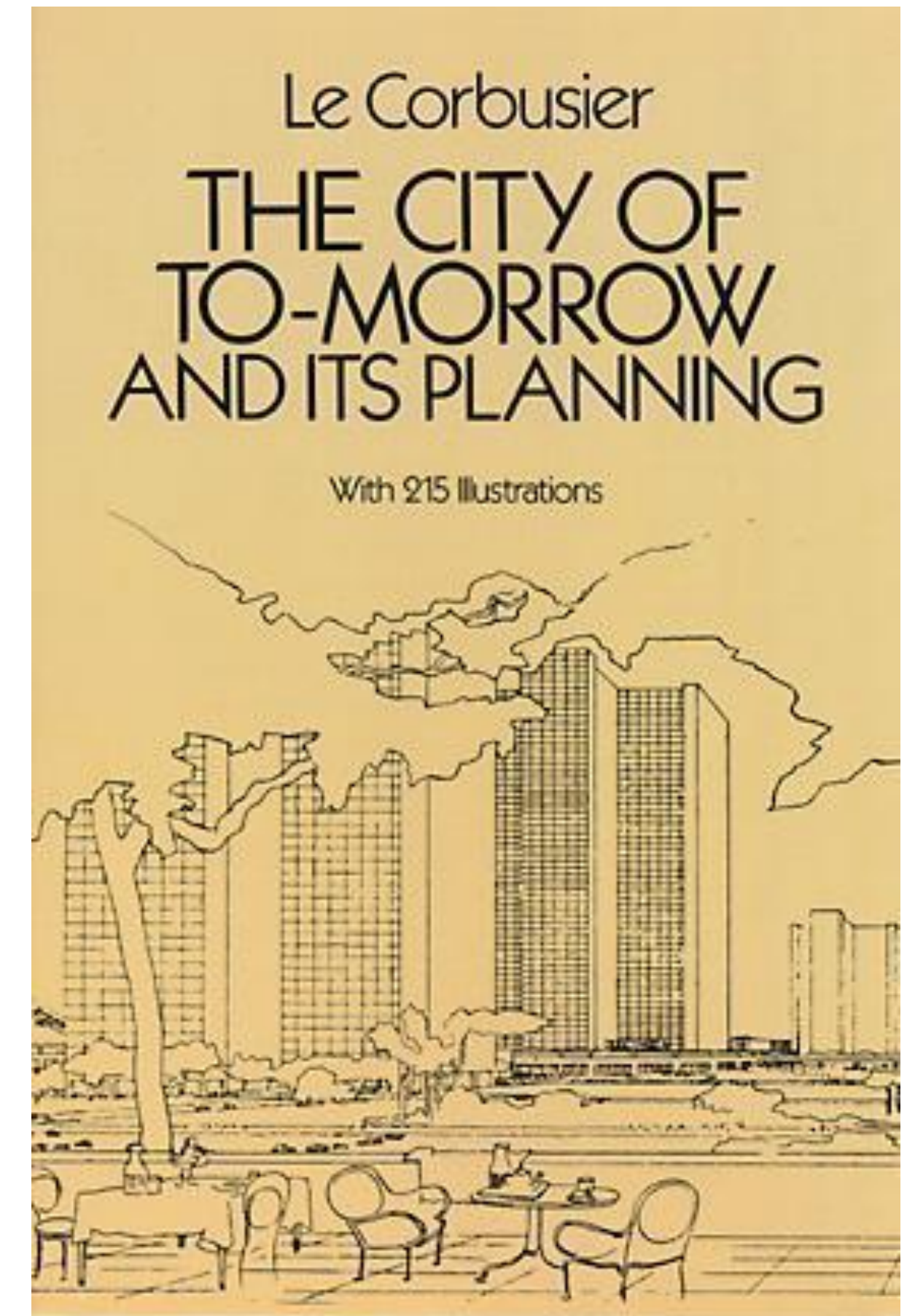
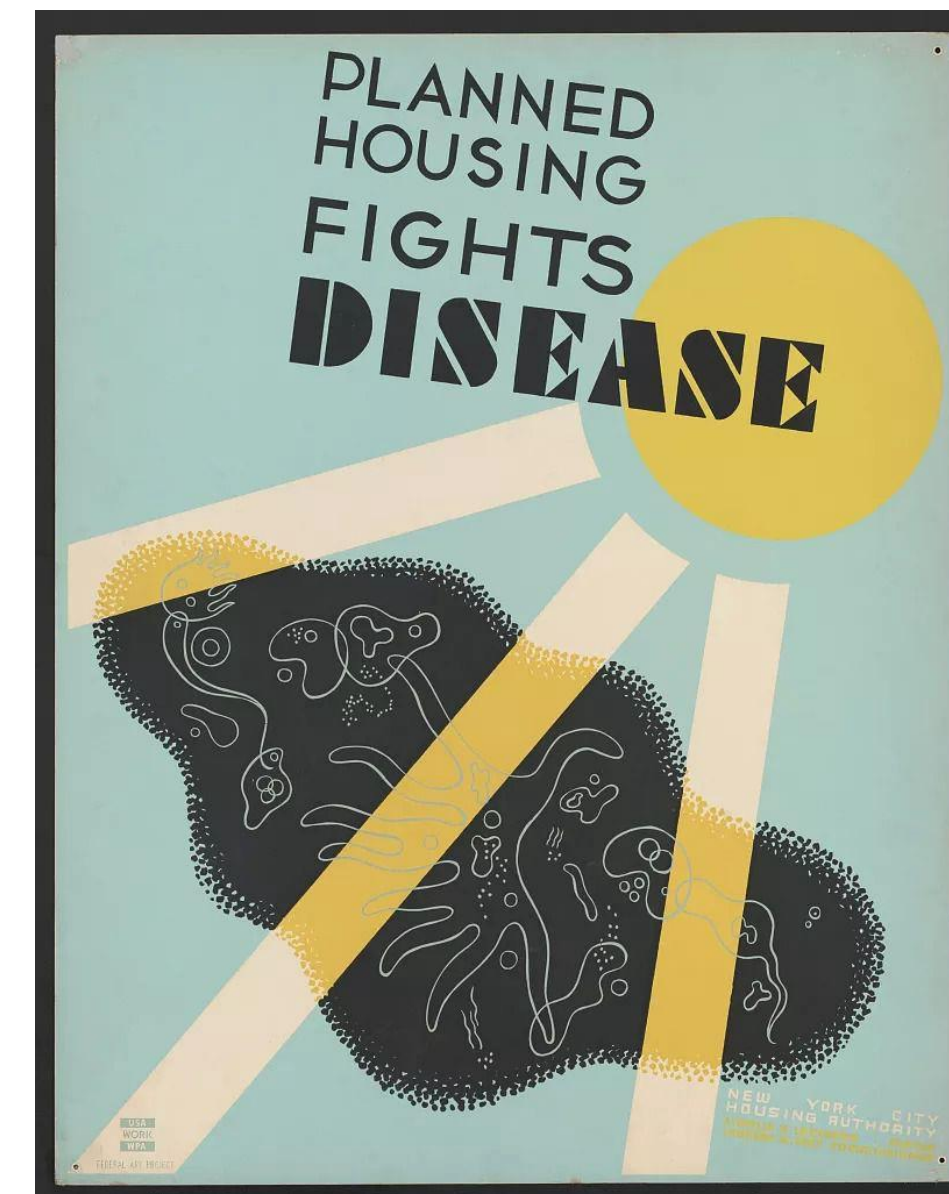
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A Accelerated Trends

A: Accelerated Trends and Agendas



- Change is the natural state, planning about managing change
- Post-pandemic - 'step change' opportunity
- Multiple underlying issues and trends...

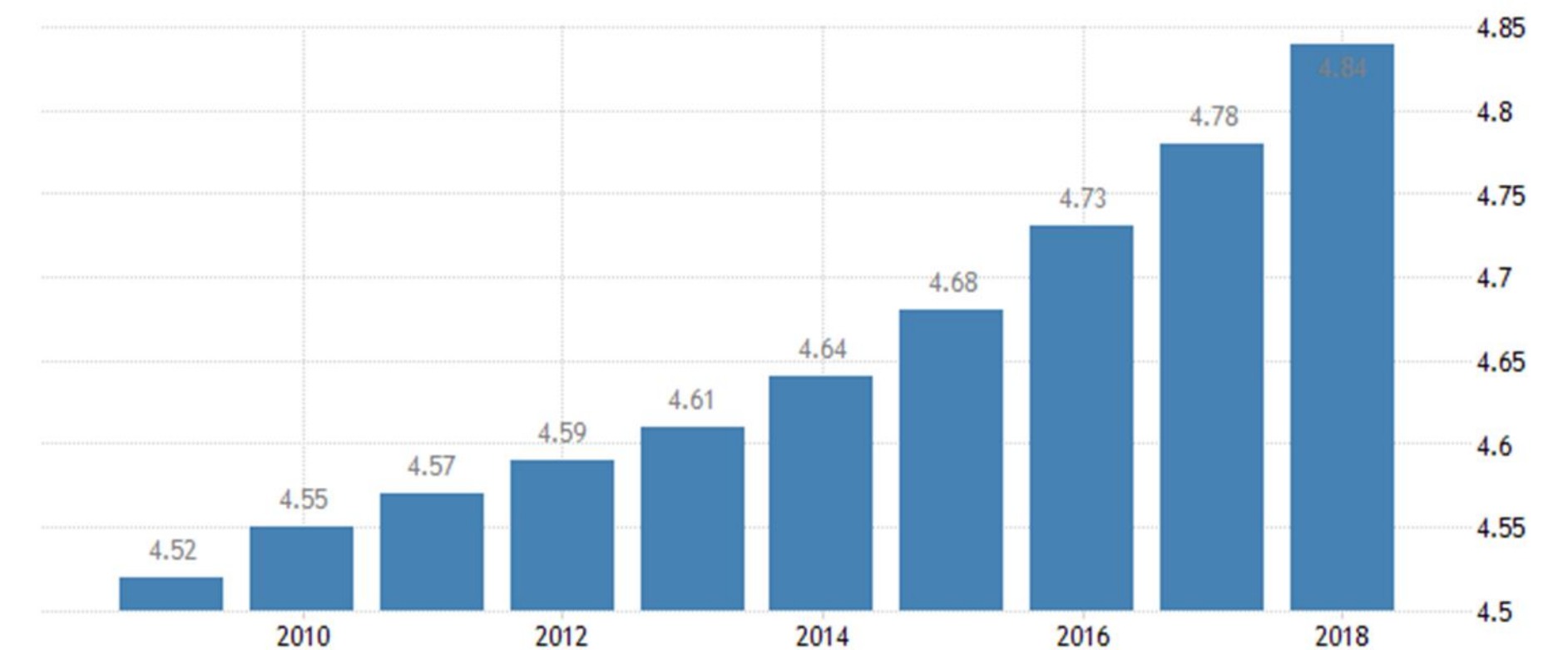


A: Accelerated Trends and Agendas



Global 'Megatrends' - Ireland

- Climate Change - pattern and form of development
- Digitalisation - impact on work, retail, commuting and regions
- Demographics - growing, but ageing and more diverse population



SOURCE: TRADINGECONOMICS.COM | EUROSTAT

A: Accelerated Trends and Agendas

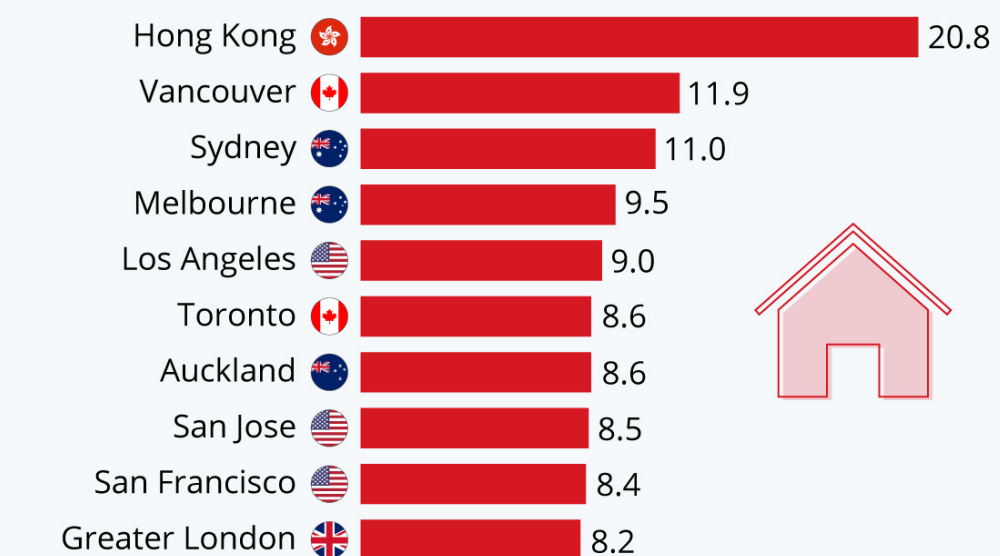


Critical challenges remain

- Housing affordability, viability and supply - investment
- Dominance of Dublin region - congestion and competitiveness
- Competing for urban space - who the city is for? e.g. 'overtourism'

Where it is Hardest to Afford a Home

Least affordable international housing markets ranked by house price to income ratio (2020)*



* median house price divided by median annual gross income
Source: Demographia International Housing Affordability Survey



statista



A: Accelerated Trends and Agendas



Post pandemic, all now in sharp focus

- The 'new normal', 'reimagining...'
- Competing narratives - flight from urban areas, boost for suburbs and regions
- Cities/towns prospered for millennia - urban regions will lead recovery, but now face **change**





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B

‘Business as Usual’, or
a ‘Brave New World’?

B: 'Business as usual' or a 'Brave new world'?

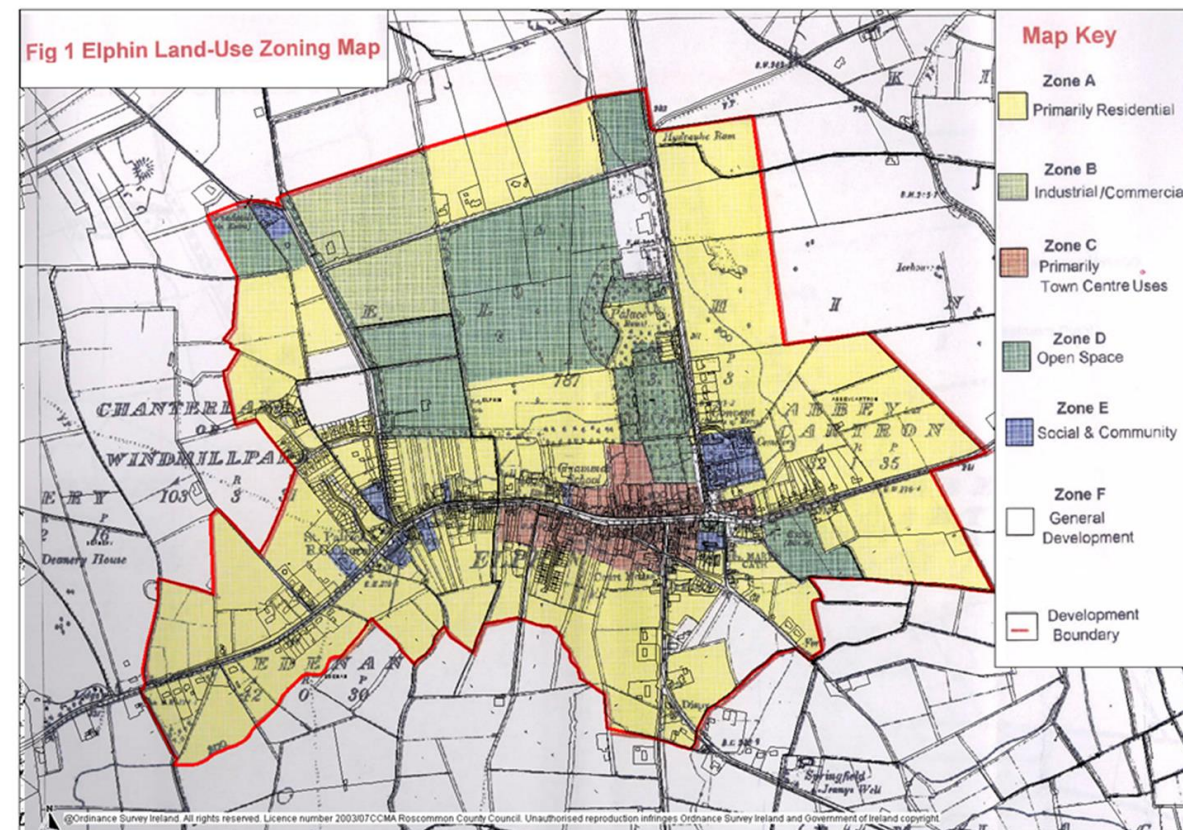


Value of social and interpersonal contact

- Urban areas - most accessible and diverse places, focus of work, learning, culture, recreation
- Facilitate collaboration and creativity, innovation and productivity/efficiency
- Identity, culture and belonging defined by place - place and proximity matter



'Business as Usual' in Planning Terms

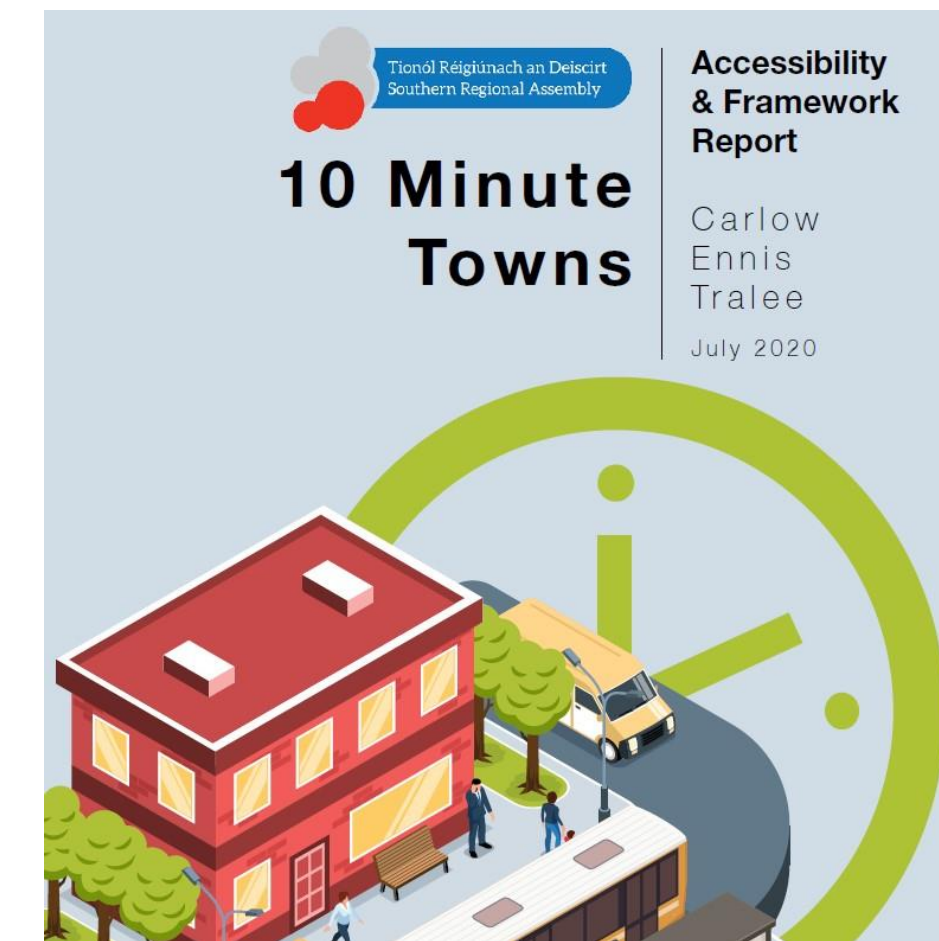


B: 'Business as usual' or a 'Brave new world'?



'Post-traumatic'/'Distributed' urbanism

- Hyper-proximity - Building-in resilience, purposeful redundancy
- The 15-minute city (20-minutes US/Australia), the 10-minute town
- Focus on the neighbourhood, improved active mode/PT networks



DUBLIN CHAMBER DUBLIN: THE 15 MINUTE CITY

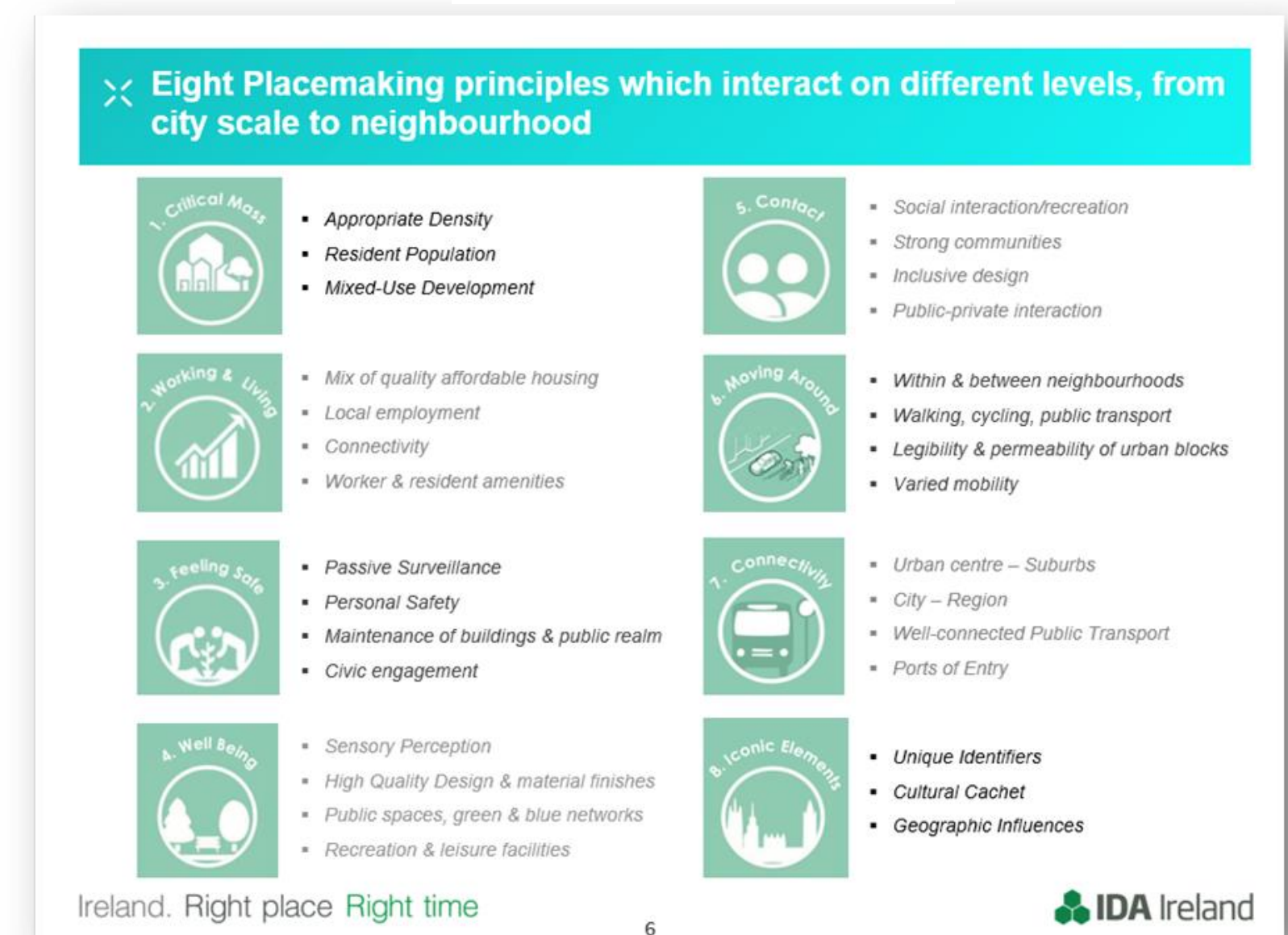


B: 'Business as usual' or a 'Brave new world'?



Mixed-use 'hybrid'

- Suburbs and towns more 'workable', Cities more 'livable'
- Means using land, buildings, areas and spaces differently
- Regulatory and market adjustment





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C

Choice and the
'Curated City'

C: Choice and the 'Curated' City



National Planning Priorities:-

- **Regionalisation:** strengthening cities and regions relative to Dublin
- **Compact Growth:** leveraging the qualities of all scales of urban settlement
- **Attractiveness:** Influencing the locational choice of firms and individuals



C: Choice and the 'Curated' City



'Tactical' Urbanism

- Experiment and experience to influence behavior change and 'win' public acceptance
- Will need to extend to densification, amenity
- New and alternative uses and how they may co-exist



C: Choice and the 'Curated' City



Critical to provide Choice

- Pandemic highlighted that choice/amenity depended on occupation, location and living conditions
- 15 minute city works best with pre-20thc urban 'superstructure', density/footfall, good social mix and cohesion
- Must avoid reinforcing inequality



C: Choice and the 'Curated' City



The 'Curated' City

- City authorities and developers exercising great care about use, mix and location
- Adding value, choice, community - maintaining and following through
- Delivery is key, making it happen – e.g. Limerick 2030



C: Choice and the 'Curated' City



Strategic Investment and Delivery

- Transformational change - €3.5bn to Land Development Agency (LDA)
- €2bn Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) investment underway
- Urban Development Zone (UDZ) mechanism being developed

The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund

Project Ireland 2040
Building Ireland's Future

€2 Billion fund
2018-2027

€100 Million Allocated to projects in 2019

“ Supporting the compact and sustainable development through the regeneration and rejuvenation of Ireland’s five cities and other large towns. Projects can include... ”

Transport infrastructure	Low-carbon transition
Accessibility infrastructure	Building re-use / redevelopment
Addressing vacancy	Urban regeneration and public realm renewal

www.gov.ie/urdf

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Conclusions



- Planning necessarily dynamic and agile
- Pandemic one of many drivers of change
- Catalyst for transformational opportunities
- Regionalisation and leveraged compact growth
More mixed-use cities, towns and suburbs
- Focused on diverse, walkable, neighbourhoods
- Greater levels of amenity, density and footfall
- Sustainable, high-quality, connected, livable places



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Thank You

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