



European Institute for Urban Affairs

Celebrating 20 years of innovative research

Over the last two decades the European Institute for Urban Affairs has become a highly influential 'think tank', shaping the way that Government agencies and partnerships think about cities and plan for their development.

Under the leadership of Professor Michael Parkinson, CBE, the Institute's research has tracked the re-emergence of our cities from the doldrums of economic recession in the 1980s to their rightful place as the nation's economic powerhouses and bedrock of contemporary society.

Urban affairs

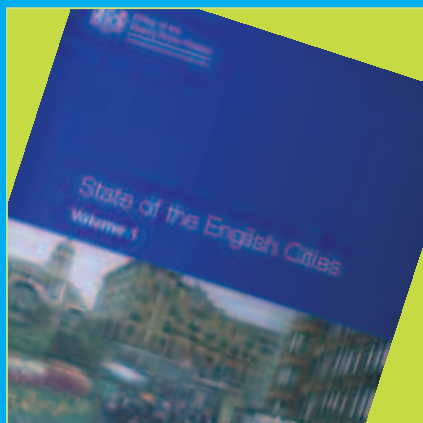
Since its inception the Institute has played a key role in policy development at the highest level. For example, its evaluation of the British Government's Action for Cities programme played a major part in the introduction of the City Challenge initiative. While its work for the Directorate-General for Regional Policy, which manages the 70+ billion European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), was instrumental in the development of the Community's URBAN initiative.

Thanks to the Institute's incisive, pragmatic and honest approach, government departments, councils and other key organisations have a better understanding of why and how change happens in our cities, and how effective specific policies are at influencing and encouraging positive urban development and social change.

Their publications are the first point of reference for parliamentary and media debates. The Institute's State of the English Cities report, the most comprehensive study ever undertaken of England's cities and towns, is consistently referred to as a crucial piece of the Government evidence base in many documents, most recently the Treasury Sub-National Review.

Secretary of State David Milliband described the Institute's State of the English Cities report as 'monumental'

Research ranges from evaluating local strategic partnerships and neighbourhood management initiatives to major city master-planning projects



Clients include the EC Directorates, national government departments, local authorities, research councils, OECD, charities and voluntary organisations



National agendas, local matters

Just as cities have changed over the last 20 years, so too has the Institute's research focus, formulating and encouraging new ways of thinking about urban governance and the interconnectedness of social and economic life, as well as the importance of regions, regional cities and how to capitalise on their assets.

What makes the Institute's research stand out, is not just its outstanding quality but its diversity of focus, ranging from evaluating specific neighbourhood renewal programmes to comparing the economic performance of England's major regional cities.

It's this extensive understanding of what makes urban areas 'tick', from individual neighbourhoods to country-wide performance, that gives the Institute its clarity of approach and what ultimately makes its recommendations plausible and effective.

European lessons

By taking inspiration from Europe and applying these lessons to the UK, the Institute has posited plausible, effective solutions that will enable our regional cities to match the performance of their European neighbours.

“The University is very proud of the achievements of this highly influential Institute. The work of this truly entrepreneurial team clearly shows the impact that research can make on society. When you consider what they have achieved in their first 20 years, there is reason to be excited by what’s to follow as our cities evolve to meet the needs of the 21st century.”

Professor Michael Brown DL
Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Liverpool John Moores University



The Team:
(front) **Michael Parkinson,**
(back L-R) **Jean Parry, Jay Karecha,**
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