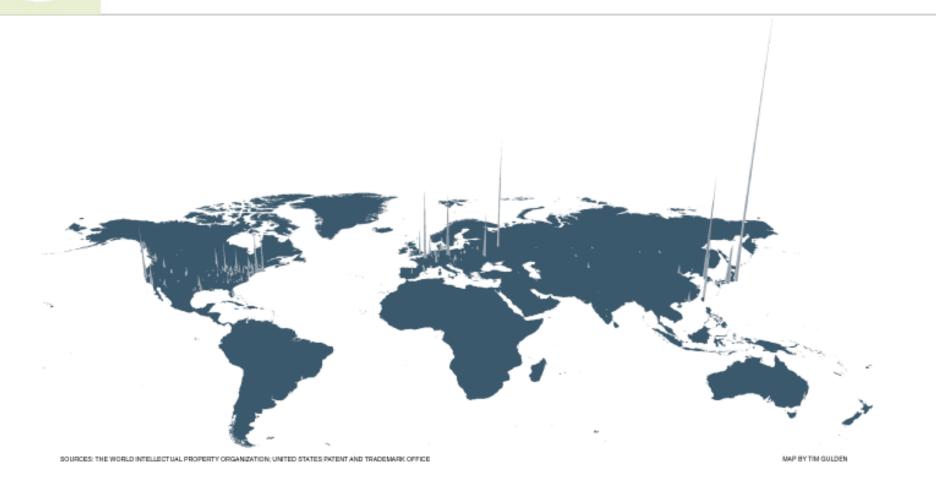


### **Cities, Devolution and Growth:** The economic case for more powerful UK cities

Ben Harrison Centre for Cities December 2014

# Globally economic activity is concentrating in cities

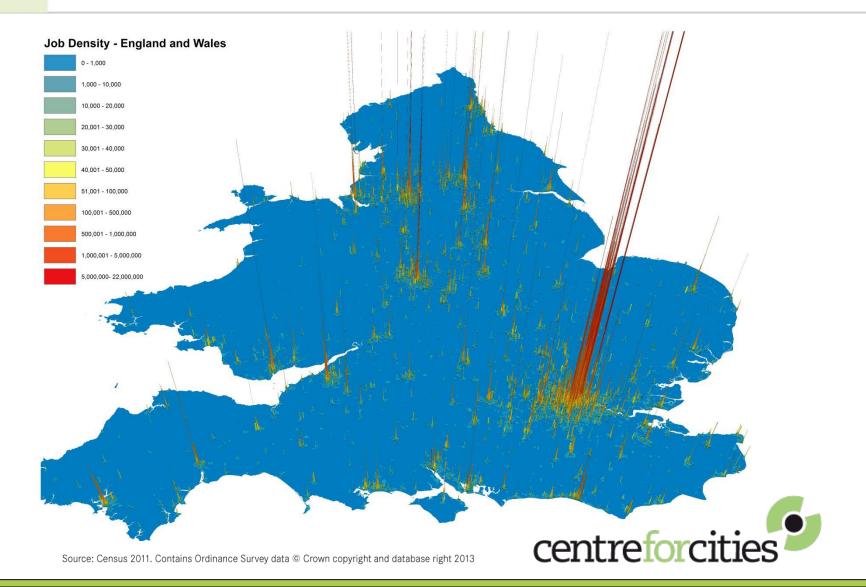




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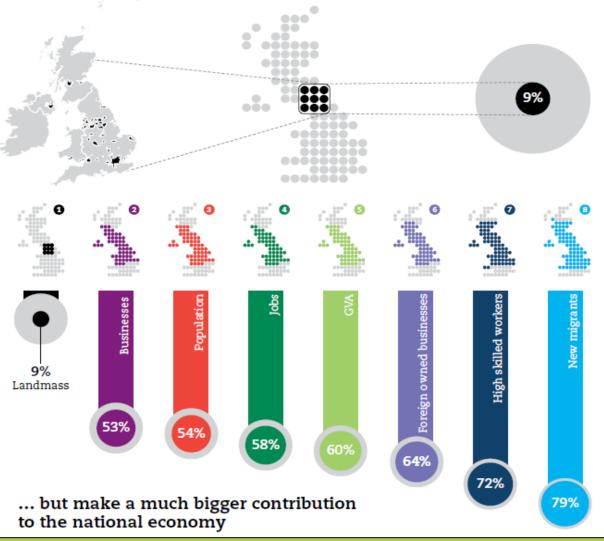






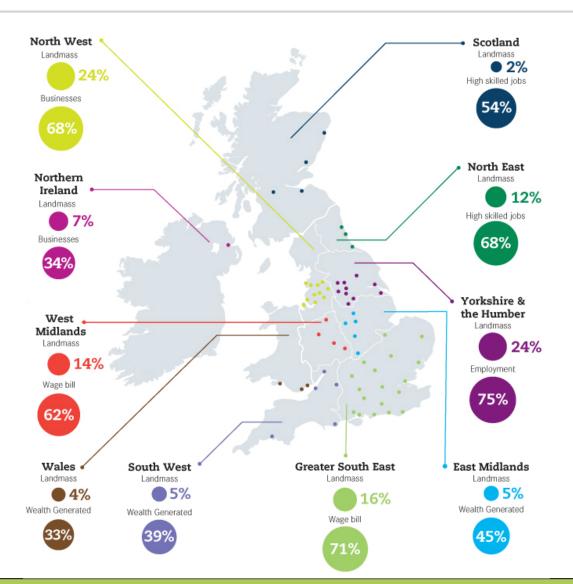


Cities make up just 9% of the UK's landmass ...



### And they matter to regional economic performance









#### Contribution to national private sector job creation, 2010-2012



Source: NOMIS 2013, Business Register of Employment Survey, 2010-2012 data

#### But our large cities punch well below their weight...



	Employment rate, Jul 2012-Jun 2013 (%)	Business start-ups per 10,000 population, 2012	Residents with high level qualifications, 2012 (%)	Residents with no formal qualifications, 2012 (%)	Workplace earnings, 2012 (£)
UK Average	71	42.3	34	10	502
London	71	75.5	47	8	684
Bristol	73	44.1	39	8	489
Birmingham	63	33.5	26	15	474
Glasgow	65	34.3	41	13	486
Leeds	69	39.2	35	10	489
Liverpool	63	30.1	23	16	479
Manchester	68	43.7	33	11	484
Newcastle	65	30.0	31	11	469
Nottingham	66	29.8	31	8	452
Sheffield	68	28.7	30	11	444

Source: NOMIS 2013, Annual Population Survey, residents analysis, July 2012- June 2013, 2012, data; ONS 2013, Business Demography, 2012 data; NOMIS 2013, Mid-year population estimates, 2012 data; ONS 2013, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), average gross weekly workplace based earnings, 2013 data. Green signifies that a city outperforms the national average, whereas red means that it underperforms it.

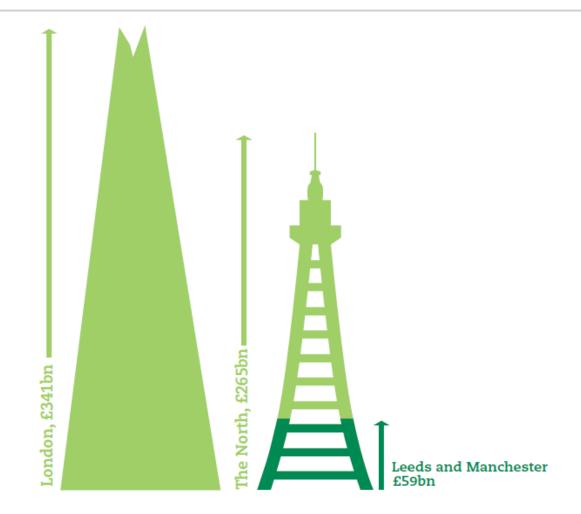
# And face a big challenge to retain talent...



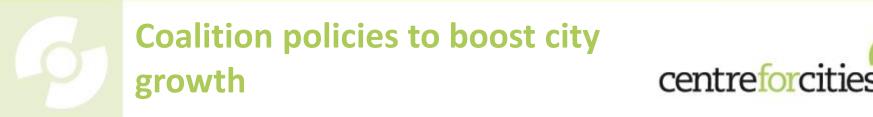


#### ...meaning the UK economy can appear 'unbalanced'





Source: ONS 2013, Workplace based GVA1,2 NUTS3 at current basic prices, 2012 data; Nomis 2013, Business Register of Employment Survey, 2012 data; Nomis 2013, Midyear population estimates, 2012 data; own calculations.



- **2011:** The Localism Act
- **2012-14:** Two rounds of City Deals
- **2014:** Local Growth Deals

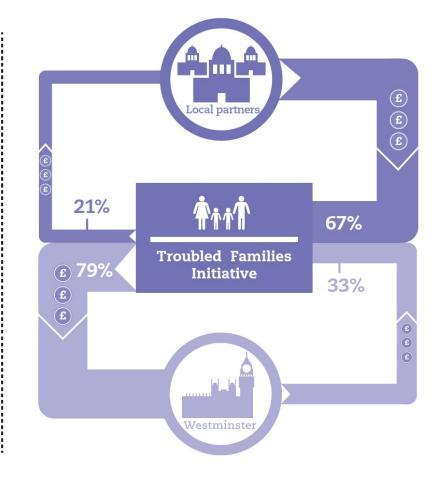
2014:

**Greater Manchester Deal** 

## But cities still have little control over their money

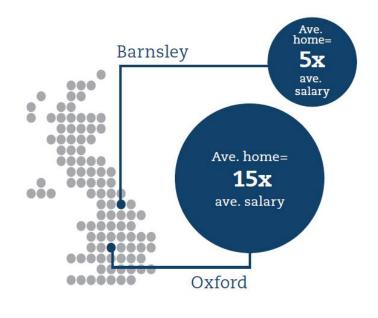


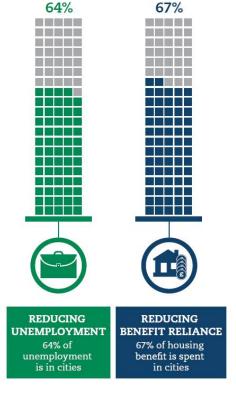




#### **City growth can be a doorstep issue at the Election**







Housing affordability





- Need for change in powers and funding
  - Cities and Prosperity Act with initial focus on Greater
    Manchester & Leeds
  - Spending Review focus on cities and city regions
  - Integrated City Budgets welfare, rewards for success
  - Transport funding and control
  - Increased tax and borrowing powers
- Cities need to step up
  - Metro Mayors and Combined Authorities
  - Taking on risk as well as responsibility







Is it a realistic aim for policy to "rebalance the economy"?

Can UK cities fulfill their potential without elements of fiscal devolution?

Will city devolution lead to greater disparities between and within regions? What does this mean for policy?



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