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the Edge is hosting a series of four thought-leadership discussions on the future city of 2030-2040 in partnership with Taylor Wessing and UCEM

3. Clustering & Proximity:

Is the ideal of the dense, social, mixed-use and walkable city still fit for the future?



Ideas of city clustering and walkable neighbourhoods, achieved through high densities and close physical proximity, have been prominent in urban planning discussions for many decades and have been widely applied. The downsides, especially to the poor and dispossessed, have long been considered manageable and a price worth paying for the benefits created. How will this dominant viewpoint develop in the face of environmental, social, economic and policy challenges in the next two decades?

Today

Cities have been rediscovered in recent years as desirable and creative places to live work and party. Heritage and former industrial areas have been reinvented and new parts of cities created along similar lines, but with added high-rises. Cities across the world have embraced the density mantra, especially as a means of coping with population pressures and the unremitting demand for growth.

The COVID-19 crisis has challenged this model:

- Space and distance have become suddenly popular again.
- Footfall in CBDs and retail areas is projected to be far lower in both the immediate and the medium-term future as WFH continues
- Long term trends and changes towards social polarisation have been accelerated by the crisis

looking ahead to 2040:

- Can the principles of density and clustering be reinvented for the post-Covid world?
- Will the social and creative city thrive or be diminished?
- Is the dense city still the answer to the net zero carbon question?

Chair: Pat Brown, Central

Speakers: **Jamie Ratcliff**, Executive Director, Network Homes
Selina Mason, Director of Masterplanning, Lendlease
Ronald Nyakairu, Senior Manager, Local Data Company
Charles Landry, Comedia, Author – The Creative City

Online: Zoom

Timing: Tuesday 1st December 2020, 16.00 – 17.30

To attend please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/city-2040-series-clustering-and-proximity-tickets-128063913613>