

Smart places: new needs?

Ben Hawes
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# Urban tech and the pandemic

- The way we were
- Responding
- Speculative futures



### Ben Hawes

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Background in Government technology policy:

Digital TV Switchover Plan 2006

Government's Guidance to Ofgem 2009

Review of Intellectual Property and Growth in the digital age 2011

Smart cities, national internet of things programme IoTUK 2013-5

Review of Artificial Intelligence 2017

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# UK places were keen to embrace digital services, but

- Skills, capability, competing priorities, restricted resources in local public services
- Lack of proven models for using data in the interests of citizens
- Data privacy and barriers to data sharing
- Atomised market for providers of services
- Gaps between services on offer in the markets and local priorities
- Patchy and incomplete devolution of powers from the centre

# What did they mean by "smart"?



## Needed to fix the plumbing first... 2018 Local Digital Declaration

### Introduction

This declaration affirms our collective ambition for local public services in the internet age, and our commitments to realising it. It commits us working on a new scale to:

- design services that best meet the needs of citizens
- challenge the technology market to offer the flexible tools and services we need
- protect citizens' privacy and security
- deliver better value for money

### Smart cities in 2019

- Data-driven management of transport (Transport for London, Citymapper, Uber)
- Data-driven planning
- IoT for management and maintenance (bins, potholes, parking)
- Growing interest in further automation
- New demand for data-driven local economic planning
- Social media analysis tracking public sentiment
- New channels for public engagement around Globally, slow development at first, now faster

## "Shadow" smart places

- Consumer uptake of location-enabled services: Uber, Deliveroo, navigation apps, geo-tagging on social media
- Growth in geospatial technologies mean we more location-enabled services are in development

## 2020: PANDEMIC

Things change fast, and we don't know how much more change we will see even this year

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## New demands

- Crisis management, delivering city services under new constraints
- Integrating data more and faster
- Tracking, predicting and managing infection, with new and different datasets
- Managing public space; tracking movement, travel and compliance with restrictions
- New communications
- Even greater need to protect vulnerable people
- Uplift in contactless transactions, remote service delivery, remote working

## Question

 Of all the digital transformations you have achieved locally in the last decade, what paid off most under pressure in the last 4 months?

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## We might see:

- Demand for data integration and presentation
- New demand for managing buildings, movement and public space
- Increased automation of city operations and services
- More surveillance, more fear of surveillance; more opportunities for applications protecting privacy
- More recognition of the power and (contested) value of local data, including local data held by companies
- More investment in data in the local public sector?

## City Brain Construction Principles



#### IT Service Platform

The open IT service platform leads to the prosperity of the industrial ecosystem. It consumes data resources, while conserving natural resources.

#### Al Service Platform

The open AI service platform uses deep learning technology to mine data resources for valuable information, empowering a city with the ability to think.

#### Data Resource Platform

Real-time, network-wide data aggregation, turns data into a true resource. The platform ensures data security, improves data quality, and uses data scheduling to realize the value of the data.

#### Integrated Computing Platform

This platform provides ample computing power

# How smart building technology can help offices and retail thrive post-COVID 19

May 11, 2020



Thomas Barquin
Senior Analyst II, Smart Buildings

Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, Omdia predicts significant investment in smart building a mean of responding to the sector's challenges. Sales of smart building technologies in 2020 to reach \$685.7 million.



## Newcastle - Howbusyistoon.com - helping you stay safe in the city centre



## The five: robots helping to tackle coronavirus

Automatons have been chipping in with the effort to beat Covid, from disinfecting hospitals to delivering groceries



- Disinfecting and cleaning
- Screening temperature, behaviour, masks
- Deliveries
- Supply chains, nventory
- Assistive applications in care homes
- Communicating about social distancing

### More surveillance

"It's Super Saturday, the pubs are open and it's a privacy nightmare - The government has asked pubs, restaurants and other businesses to collect customer information for NHS Test and Trace. There's a lot that could go wrong."

(Matt Burgess, Wired 4 July 2020)

More fear of surveillance

## Google Wants Your Data in Exchange for a Coronavirus **Test**

Public health shouldn't mean surrendering privacy to Silicon Valley.

### Privacy and public interests

## Privacy 2020: 10 Privacy Risks and 10 Privacy Enhancing Technologies to Watch in the Next Decade



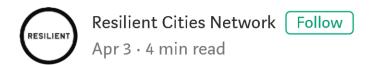
JANUARY 28, 2020 | MARIANNE VARKIANI



### Possible trends

- Analysis of "what worked" in tech responses
- Yet more power to major data-holding companies?
- Growing interest in using new data sources, eg for planning local economic growth
- Sharing best practice between city governments

## Coronavirus Speaker Series: Sharing Knowledge to Respond with Resilience





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Coronavirus Speaker Series: Sharing Knowledge to Respond with

## Questions

 Which digital services will be more of a priority for you in the future?

 Will response to the pandemic increase recognition of the value of local digital transformation?

