



UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue (SDD) Urban Strand Final Report

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List of Abbreviations

ASC	Academy for Sustainable Communities
BICC	British Inter-University China Centre
BRE	Building Research Establishment
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
CABE	Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
CASS	China Academy for Social Science
CBRE	China Building Research Establishment
CCCPE	China Cooperative Centre for Political and Economic Research
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDS	City Development Strategies, promoted by Cities Alliance
CES of the BE	Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy (British Council)
CLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
Defra	Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, UK
DFID	Department for International Development, UK
DPM	Deputy Prime Minister, UK
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport, UK
DTI	Department of Trade and Industry, UK
EPSRC	Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH
HMT	Her Majesty's Treasury
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
LGA	Local Government Association
LOCOG	London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals, UN
MLR	Ministry of Land and Resources, PRC
MoC	Ministry of Construction, PRC
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NDRC	National Development and Reform Commission, PRC
ODPM	Former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
OSI	Office of Science and Innovation, DTI, UK
PI-UK China	Professional Institutions, UK-China
PRC	People's Republic of China
RIBA	Royal Institute of British Architects
RICS	Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors
RTPI	Royal Town Planning Institute
RUEP	Regional and Urban Economic Policy Directorate, CLG, UK
SDD	Sustainable Development Dialogue
SEPB	Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau
SURF	Shanghai Urban Regeneration Foundation
TI-UP	Technology, Infrastructure and Urban Planning
ToR	Terms of Reference
UCRIN	Urban China Research International Network
UK	United Kingdom
UK-TI	UK Trade and Investment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UPSC	Urban Planning Society of China
<i>Urban SDD</i>	<i>Proposed collaboration under the urban theme of the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue</i>
WAG	Wales Assembly Government
WIF	WSSD Implementation Fund
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WUF4	World Urban Forum 4

Executive Summary

This report forms the Scoping Study for proposed collaboration under the urban theme of *UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue (Urban SDD)*, and is one of several initiatives arising from the Joint Statement on *Sustainable Development* signed by the governments of the People's Republic of China and the UK in November 2005. The lead Chinese partner for the *Urban SDD* is the Ministry of Construction (MoC), and the lead UK partner is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The report sets out a framework for collaboration on the *Urban SDD*, based around two priority areas identified by the MoC - 'planning for sustainable cities' and 'low income urban households'.

Section 2 compares the approach to sustainable development adopted by China and the UK. Both countries take the definition of sustainable development in the 1997 Bruntland Report as the basis for their sustainable development strategies, with unique national perspectives. In China, the emerging emphasis on 'the scientific approach to development' and 'harmonious development between humans and the environment' is setting new national agendas, while in the UK broad principles of living within environmental limits, social justice, and a sustainable economy, set a framework for policy development by the devolved administrations.

Section 3 summarises key findings from the mapping of bilateral links between China and the UK in the fields of urban development and the built environment. There is a rich tradition of cooperation between organisations in China and the UK across a broad spectrum, illustrating the increasing environmental awareness in China and the UK. The links are grouped into central/provincial government initiatives; city links; academic initiatives; professional initiatives; networking, and built environment consultancy (details in Appendix 2). It is recommended that this extensive activity is widely publicised through websites and at conferences. A particular focus for the *Urban SDD* should be to further debate at the World Urban Forum 4, UN Habitat's biennial forum, held in China for the first time in October 2008.

The MoC's two priority areas of interest - 'planning for sustainable cities/towns' and 'low income urban households' are considered to be highly relevant by all those contacted during the Scoping Study. It is recommended that these form the core activities in the *UK-China SDD*. The UK has many relevant areas of interest in particular its expertise on planning for sustainable cities and contributions to the poverty reduction agenda, which should also be a reflected in the dialogue.

Section 4 outlines a proposed programme for the *Urban SDD*. The *Urban SDD* should contribute to global leadership on the theme of sustainable development and, as set out in the ToR, increased understanding of sustainable urban development approaches by professionals in China and the UK to ensure they have the skills and knowledge to make a difference. The recommended programme draws on detailed proposals set out by the MoC, and runs to October 2008, with four components as follows (see Figure 4.1):

- A. Planning for Urban Regeneration
 - A1. Revival of Declining Urban Economies
 - A2. Protecting Culture & Built Heritage in Historic Cities
- B. Low Income Housing & Urban Poverty Reduction
 - B1: Housing Dialogues and Best Practices
 - B2: Housing Renewal in Low Income Areas
- C. Planning for Sustainable Cities
 - C1: Strategic Spatial Planning - case study of Yunnan
 - C2: Urban Observatory and Sustainable Cities Indicators
- D. World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4).

The outcomes of each component will be: the development of mutual understanding on issues relating to sustainable urban development and urban planning practice; improved public policy as a result of improved understanding of problems, and the introduction of successful practices and policy innovations based on partner country experience (see Figure 4.2).

1. Background & Context

1.1 Objectives and Methodology

This report was commissioned by the WSSD Implementation Branch, European and International Sustainable Development, of the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) under contract number DC07-02. The report forms the Scoping Study for proposed collaboration under the urban theme of *UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue (Urban SDD)*¹. The terms of reference (ToR) for the Scoping Study are given in Appendix 1. The report has been undertaken through the Urban China Research Centre of the School of City & Regional Planning at Cardiff University, with the DFID Technology Infrastructure and Urban Planning Resource Centre (TI-UP).

The study is being advised by a Steering Group of members from Defra (UK and China); the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG); the Department for International Development (DFID, UK and China), the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Deputy Prime Minister's office (DPM), and UK-Trade and Investment (UK-TI). The partner agencies in China are the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China (NDRC), and the Ministry of Construction (MoC) working through the Department for International Relations, Department of Planning and Department of Finance.

The report is divided into four sections. Section 1 sets out the background to the *Urban SDD* and summarises the terms of reference. Section 2 compares interpretations of the concept of sustainable development in China and the UK based on a policy analysis of official documentation. Section 3 summarises the mapping of key links between Chinese and UK organisations, and highlights potential themes for the *Urban SDD*. Section 4 sets out recommendations for the future programme to mid-2008.

Methodology

The mapping exercise was based on an extensive website search, interviews and video conferences with members of the Steering Group and other leading experts, followed where possible by telephone calls to verify information. Details are given in Appendix 2. Members of the team visited Beijing on 26-28 March 2007. The meetings held are listed in Appendix 3.

There is extensive reciprocal work between China and the UK across a broad spectrum of operations. Whilst every attempt has been made to capture major initiatives, the report is not comprehensive. The report has concentrated mainly on bilateral initiatives, with some mention of multilateral initiatives where particularly relevant to the *Urban SDD*.

1.2 UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue

Sustainable Development Dialogue

The *Sustainable Development Dialogues* were set up following the UK government's participation in the UN's *Millennium Summit* in 2000, the commitment to the *Millennium Development Goals* in 2000, and contribution to the *Earth Summit II (World Summit on Sustainable Development, WSSD)* in 2002. The SDDs comprise a series of innovative partnerships with leading emerging powers, led by Defra in collaboration with the FCO, DFID and other departments. The dialogues aim to place sustainable development at the core of bilateral relationships and to provide a coherent framework for cooperation, building on existing work and identifying new areas for collaboration between governments (local, regional and central), civil society, the private sector and academia. Five SDDs have been established with China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa, all countries with expanding economies experiencing significant environmental and social pressures².

¹ <http://www.sustainable-development.gov.uk/international/dialogues/index.htm>

² <http://defraweb/corporate/ministers/statements/ip061026.htm>

UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue

In November 2005 a Joint Statement entitled the *UK-China High Level Dialogue on Sustainable Development* was signed by the governments of the People's Republic of China and the UK. The statement committed the signatories to a partnership seeking to resolve international economic problems and promoting sustainable development. The partnership includes but is not limited to representatives of:

- Defra, DTI, DFID, FCO and OSI in the UK, and
- the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Development & Reform Commission, State Environmental Protection Administration, and Ministry of Science & Technology in China;
- academia, NGOs, civil society and business groups;
- multi-stakeholder engagements.

The statement identified urban development as a common theme in the UK's *Sustainable Development Strategy* and China's *Sustainable Development Action Plan*. The agreement runs until November 2008, and ministers will wish to decide on its extension in 2007.

The *UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue* operates across four themes:

- natural resources;
- sustainable consumption and production;
- capacity building and institutional development, and
- urban development.

Defra has set up a WSSD Implementation Fund (WIF) to resource the SDDs.

In this report the term *Urban SDD* is used as shorthand for proposed collaboration under the urban theme of the *UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue*.

1.3 Terms of Reference for Scoping Study

The ToR for the Scoping Study (Appendix 1) set out the broad aims as:

- *“to provide co-ordination on urban development collaboration with China under the UK China Sustainable Development Dialogue (SDD) and identify clearly focused themes for engagement;*
- *to provide expert input to developing and implementing a package of activities under the urban development theme of the SDD in support of high-level UK-China policy dialogue on sustainable urban development;*
- *to maximise opportunities for mutual learning/benefit, building upon existing collaboration and ensuring complementarity, with outputs feeding into broader events such as the fourth World Urban Forum in Nanjing;*
- *to demonstrate that the UK can be a key partner with China in developing sustainable cities”.*

The work will be divided into a Scoping Study and an Implementation Strategy. This report forms the Final Report for the Scoping Study.

The Ministry of Construction (MoC) identified two priority areas of interest for the *Urban SDD* as follows:

- *“low income urban households, which tend to be in the older parts of Chinese cities – and although China has done some good work in regeneration, this has been piecemeal, and there are no effective, formal mechanisms for replicating this work, and*
- *planning for sustainable cities/towns, including sustainable urban design, improved energy efficiency, environmental conditions, land use, transport and improving ability to minimise the impact of the huge numbers of migrants (c. 10m p.a.) moving into urban areas”.*

2. Approaches to Sustainable Development

This section summarises the evolution of approaches to sustainable development in China and the UK since the early 1990s. The section first considers the evolution of China's sustainable development strategy and then looks at the policy context in the UK. Finally the different approaches are compared.

The concept of 'sustainable development' was popularised in *Our Common Future* (commonly known as the Brundtland Report) (WCED 1987) as that which:

'meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.'

The Brundtland Report was endorsed by political leaders at the *United Nations Conference on Environment and Development* (the *Earth Summit*) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. The summit produced the following:

- the Rio declaration, which established a set of principles for action;
- a programme of action for the next century, Agenda 21
- a Climate Change Convention to try to reduce the risks of global warming;
- a Biodiversity Convention to protect species and habitats; and
- a statement of principles for the conservation of the world's forests.

Earth Summit II was held in New York in June 1997, and the *World Summit on Sustainable Development* (WSSD), known as *Rio+10*, was held in Johannesburg in 2002. The Johannesburg conference was interesting because for the first time businesses sought to work with governments and NGOs in delivering sustainability, for example through in sustainable production and consumption (Flynn 2007).

2.1 Sustainable Development in China

In recent years, China has experienced rapid economic growth and urbanisation, but the impact on the environment is significant. The extent and speed of change has resulted in growing recognition of the need for an environmental-friendly approach to economic development, and a paradigmatic policy shift from a focus on economic growth to the desire for a 'harmonious relationship between humans and the environment'. Sustainable development thus becomes a systemic issue rather than an isolated environmental concern.

Since 1992 China has published a series of documents to promote sustainable development. In 1992, the State Council decided that the State Planning Commission and the State Science and Technology Commission should lead appropriate ministries, departments, and non-government organizations in working together to formulate *China's Agenda 21*.

In 1994, the *White Paper on China's Population, Environment, and Development in the 21st Century* was published. The white paper sets out the long-term strategy and related sector policies for sustainable development. It discusses a wide range of issues including:

- strategies and policies, legislation, economic policies, financial resources and mechanisms, education and capacity building;
- population, consumption and social services;
- eradication of poverty, health and sanitation, development of human settlements,
- sustainable agriculture and rural development;
- industry, transportation and communication, energy production and consumption; conservation and sustainable use of natural resources;
- conservation of biodiversity, combating desertification, disaster mitigation, protection of the atmosphere;
- environmentally sound management of solid wastes, and
- public participation in sustainable development.

In 1997, China published the *Peoples Republic of China National Report on Sustainable Development*. The report for the first time sets up a comprehensive framework for sustainable development in China. The Chinese government endorses the *Statement on Sustainable Development* adopted by the 15th Session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as set out in the Bruntland Report, quoting a section of the UNEP statement which suggests that

'[sustainable development] does not imply any way encroachment upon national sovereignty... sustainable development implies progress towards national and international equity including assistance to developing countries,...the existence of a supportive international economic environment that would result in sustained economic growth, and development in all countries, ... the maintenance, rational use, and enhancement of the national resource base..[and] incorporation of environmental concerns and considerations into development planning'.
(UNEP/GC15/L.37, Annex II 1989 in the 1997 *National Report on Sustainable Development*³).

In the definition of sustainable development in the Bruntland Report, the 1997 report presented the Chinese understanding of sustainable development, as follows:

'sustainable development requires that both the present and the future needs are taken into account, rather than sacrificing the interests of future generations to meet the needs of the present generation'.

The document also points out the need for economic growth:

'social and economic developments are the cornerstone of sustainable development. Experience in history has led us to believe that sustainable development can not be attained when the populace is plagued by backwardness and poverty. China must firmly give priority to the primary task of developing her national economy so as to alleviate poverty and improve the living standards of the people. Economic development, as the nation's central task, is essential to raising social productivity, improving the competence level and living standards of the people, and achieving sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the environment. Economic development constitutes the material foundation for any national undertakings in the country, and is a fundamental guarantee to achieving the co-ordination of population, resources, environment, and economy'.

The 1997 report reviews the progress and priority areas, and priorities included:

- containing the population growth rate while improving competence levels;
- reinforcing the efforts for combating and alleviating poverty;
- carrying out comprehensive environmental improvement in cities and stepping up housing construction for the urban population;
- popularising cleaner production, preventing and treating industrial pollution, and promoting changes in the patterns of industrial growth;
- attaching importance to energy development and energy conservation;
- cultivating new forestry resources and continuing with forest eco-engineering projects;
- rational development, management, and protection of freshwater resources;
- rationally utilising atmospheric resources and strengthening relevant monitoring, evaluation, and planning;
- making efforts to change solid wastes into useful and environmentally sound resources

The State and Technology Commission and the State Planning Commission (now National Development and Reform Commission) prepared the *Priority Programme for China's Agenda 21*. The commissions collected 55 project proposals from about 52 ministries, agencies and public organizations, and formulated the programme. More detailed information is available from the Administrative Centre for China's Agenda 21 (ACCA21)⁴.

³ <http://www.acca21.org.cn>

⁴ <http://www.acca21.org.cn>.

China's *Agenda 21* has the following priority areas:

1. Capacity building for sustainable development
2. Sustainable agriculture
3. Cleaner production and environmental protection
4. Clear energy and transportation
5. Conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources
6. Environmental pollution control
7. Combating poverty and regional development
8. Population, health and human settlements
9. Global change and biodiversity conservation

In 2000, the Ministry of Science and Technology published *Science and Technology Outline for Sustainable Development (2001—2010)*. The policy defines the 'scientific approach to development' arguing the need for science and technology to enhance sustainable development. It states that;

'in the next decade, China will face a host of severe challenges in its quest for sustainable development. It has to deal with long-standing problems related to population, resource and environment while coping with newly emerging problems in the course of development. A central task facing the country will be how to leverage science and technology to provide a stronger support and guarantee for sustainable development'.

In 2002, China reviewed and republished *The People's Republic of China National Report on Sustainable Development*. This milestone document was prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). The report reviews progress in implementing the sustainable development strategy from 1992 to 2001.

With the increasing awareness of environmental problems, the approach is shifting from emphasising the speed of growth in the 1980s and early 1990s to a more balanced approach. The 'scientific approach to development' is a major breakthrough in the ethos of development that will expand the scope of sustainable development policy from narrowly defined environmental protection to an all-inclusive concept of sustainability. Recently the aim for developing a 'recycling economy' (发展循环经济) and the policy of establishing a 'saving society' (建设节约型社会) has also expanded the scope of sustainable development.

The rise of environmental concern is also reflected in the annual address by Premier Wen Jiabao to the National People's Congress on 5 March 2007, which called for a greater effort to protect the environment. According to reports, he said that "the pattern of economic growth is inefficient. This can be seen most clearly in excessive energy consumption and serious environmental pollution...We must attach greater importance to saving energy and resources, protecting the environment and using land intensively"⁵.

However, China still faces the challenges of implementing the principles developed in these documents. MoC together with NDRC have recently made efforts to propose various implementation policies. Some key areas include the sustainable city development (in particular regeneration of old industrial cities) and social sustainability of low income housing.

2.2 The UK Sustainable Development Agenda

In the UK, the UN conferences served to heighten public awareness of environmental issues, but have had mixed impact on environmental policy⁶. Following the Rio Conference, in 1994 the Conservative government published *Sustainable Development: the UK Strategy* (Cm 2426) (HMSOa 1994) and *Biodiversity: the UK Action Plan 1994* (Cm 2428) (HMSOb 1994).

Policy development has responded to European and domestic agendas. After the 1997 election, the new Labour government made a commitment to update sustainable development policy, publishing a consultation paper *Opportunities for Change* (HMSO, 1998) in 1998, and a revised sustainable development strategy, *A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development for the United Kingdom* (Cm 4345) in 1999 (ODPM 1999).

⁵ <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/low/world/asia-pacific/6418225.stm>

⁶ The majority of this section is drawn from Flynn (2007)

However, following devolution, in 1999 most of the responsibility for sustainable development was passed to the devolved administrations in Scotland and Wales. By the early 2000s it was evident that a single UK strategy was no longer feasible, but at national level a strategic role would be to set out a shared understanding of sustainable development, priorities for action, an international agenda, and performance indicators (Defra 2004 p11).

Current UK Policy

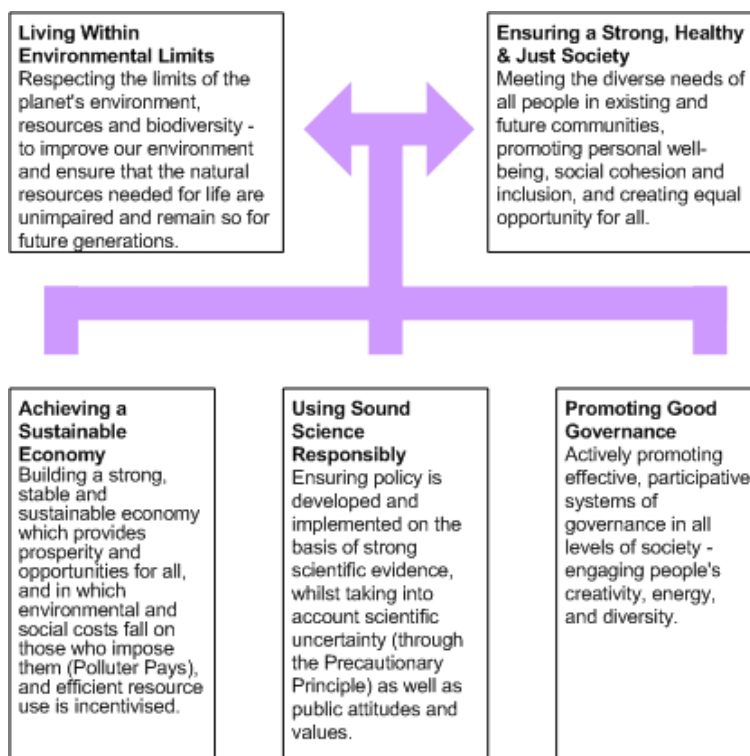
The current policy context is set by two policy documents: *Securing the Future* (Defra 2005) which sets out the UK government's sustainability strategy but does not fully apply in Scotland or Wales; and *One Future – Different Paths* (HM Government 2005) which established a common agenda across the UK government. The relationship between the different governments and their key documents is illustrated figure below.



*Covers England and all non-devolved issues, including international relations

Source Defra 2005 p15

Securing the Future (Defra 2005) establishes a set of principles applicable to all governments in the UK, and then focuses on delivery rather than aspirational commitments, including measures to support businesses through initiatives on sustainable consumption and production and for consumers to adopt more sustainable lifestyles. In addition, a core part of the strategy is devoted to energy and climate change, as summarized below:



UK Sustainable Development Principles Source Defra 2005 p16

The document (Defra, 2005) identifies four priority policy areas summarised below:

- *Sustainable consumption and production* – addresses the production and lifecycle impacts of products and materials, and develops social and environmental awareness to help reduce inefficient resource use and boost business competitiveness.
- *Climate change and energy* – scientific consensus indicates that greenhouse gases released by human activity are a primary cause of climate change. The aim is to transform energy generation and use, and to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- *Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement* – seeks to promote a better understanding of environmental limits, enhancement and recovery to ensure a decent environment for everyone and an integrated policy framework.
- *Sustainable communities* – the aim is to create sustainable communities that embody the principles of sustainable development at the local levels, by involving local communities in decisions that affect them. Similar principles should be applied to international agendas of poverty reduction and environmental improvement.

The UK government's sustainable development goal

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.

For the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations, that goal will be pursued in an integrated way through a sustainable, innovative and productive economy that delivers high levels of employment; and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment, and use resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

Source: Defra, 2005, p16

Related Initiatives in the UK

Several other UK initiatives have informed the sustainable development agenda. The urban white paper, *Our Towns and Cities: The Future, Delivering an Urban Renaissance* set out to establish a clear vision for the future of towns and cities (DETR 2000). The *Sustainable Communities Plan* was launched in 2003 with the objective of tackling pressing housing problems, including the acute shortage of housing and high costs in the south east of England and areas of housing market collapse parts of the north and midlands. The £22bn plan ran to 2005/06 and included funding for housing investment and growth areas in the SE in: Thames Gateway; Milton Keynes/South Midlands, Ashford and Stansted/Cambridge.

The *Bristol Accord* was agreed at the *Bristol Ministerial Informal Meeting on Sustainable Communities in Europe* in December 2005 during the UK presidency of the EU, as a framework for delivering economic prosperity and improved quality of life for European citizens (ODPM 2005). The accord sets out pre-requisites for sustainable communities and identifies eight characteristics of sustainable communities as being: active, inclusive and safe; well run; well connected; well served; environmentally sensitive; thriving; well designed and built; and fair for everyone (ODPM 2005).

The *State of the English Cities, 2006* was an independent report, supported by the *State of the English Cities Database*. The report identifies the needs to support the economic success of English cities, sustain the urban renaissance and close the gap in economic performance across the country, supporting the priorities of social cohesion, competitiveness, liveability, and governance, and calling for a national spatial strategy to support city regions.

The *Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change* was the first time a major independent report highlighted the economic impact of climate change. The review (HMT 2006) argued that climate change is a serious global threat which demands urgent response, and that hundreds of millions of people may suffer hunger, water shortages and coastal flooding as the world warms. Global action, if taken imminently, could be achieved at around 1% of global GDP, but if delayed may cost 5-20% of global GDP per year. Climate change demands an international agenda, shared understanding, long term goals and agreed action.

2.3 Analysis – Key Parallels and Areas of Divergence

Table 2 makes an initial comparison of approaches to sustainable development in China and the UK. The table is analysed further below.

Table 2: Comparison of approaches to SD in China and the UK

Topic area	China	UK
Context of SD	Rapid urbanisation Fast economic growth & restructuring High direct foreign investment High demand for housing, infrastructure and natural resources	Deindustrialisation Urban decline in N. & Midlands Housing pressures in the SE. Overcrowding on transport network
Development stages	Industrialising (but some coastal cities, emerging service industries, some industrial cities seeing de-industrialisation)	Post-industrial Service-based economy
Key Issues	Urbanisation Migration (rural to urban) Expansion of urban land Loss of agricultural land	Urban regeneration Quality of life Concern about climate change Biodiversity
Spatial planning framework relevant to SD	Plan-led development (because of the capacity of the government)	Strong administrative capacity for planning and development Criteria-based control
Development approaches	Development mentality in transition from growth-oriented to the ' <i>scientific approach of development</i> '	Very active NGOs and civil society awareness of SD
Management related to SD	Across many government departments (eg MoC, NDRC, MLR Ministry of Land and Resources)	Across many government departments (eg Defra, CLG)
Priority policy areas	Harmonious society Urbanisation Heritage protection Regeneration of old industrial cities Regeneration of low income city centres	Sustainable communities Sustainable consumption/ production Climate change and energy Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
Important policy documents	<i>China Agenda 21: White Paper on China's Population, Environment and Development in the 21st Century (1994)</i> <i>Priority Programme for China's Agenda 21(1994)</i> <i>PRC National Report on Sustainable Development (1997)</i> <i>Science and Technology Outline for Sustainable Development (2001-2010)</i> <i>PRC National Report on Sustainable Development (2002)</i> (Review of 1997 report)	<i>Opportunities for Change (1998)</i> (consultation paper) <i>A Better Quality for Life: Strategy for Sustainable Development for the United Kingdom (1999)</i> <i>Securing the Future: UK government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)</i> <i>One Future - Different Paths (2005)</i>
Potential areas of dialogue	Urban regeneration of industrial city-regions facing economic restructuring Natural resource protection Cities and climate change Heritage protection Management of SD, especially in strategic planning, development control and transport planning, and development of appropriate indicators Skills for SD Topic specific to China but experience relevant from the UK: housing for low-income families (relates to issues of social exclusion and multiple deprivation, management of social housing in UK)	

Both China and the UK take the definition of sustainable development in the 1997 Bruntland Report as the basis for their sustainable development strategies. Both countries have, however, given the concept of sustainable development an unique national political perspective.

In China, the emerging emphasis on 'harmonious development between humans and the environment' is setting a new national agenda. Meanwhile, the UK documentation sets a framework for the devolved administrations, including the broad principles of living within environmental limits, social justice and a sustainable economy, with an emphasis on good governance and climate change not reflected in the Chinese documentation. The emphasis on natural resource protection is common to both countries.

The two national contexts in which sustainable development strategies are applied is very different. Levels of urbanisation – the proportion of the population living in urban areas - in China are around 42% in 2005 whereas in the UK they are over 80%. In China there are real opportunities to embed the principles of sustainable development in the process of new urban development, whereas in Britain strategies are mainly aimed at regeneration of mature urban areas.

The institutional and civil society contexts are also different. In China the strong plan-led approach to development allows for a strong government lead in policy implementation. In Britain private-sector led development and a strong NGO and civil society lobby means that achievements are consensus rather than plan-led. In China, the emphasis on social inclusion as an element of SD is relatively new, but has been embedded in UK strategy for some time. The UK also has a lead on policy-based indicators and skills training for sustainable development.

The two priority areas of interest of the MoC – 'planning for sustainable cities/towns' and 'low income urban households' – reflect a significant step towards a broader understanding of sustainable development, with potential for substantive joint work between China and the UK, as the two topics are at the core of public policies on the built environment in both countries.

3. Key UK-China Urban Development Collaborations

As outlined in this section, there is a rich tradition of cooperation between organisations in China and the UK across a broad spectrum. This section first summarises key findings from the mapping of links between China and the UK in the fields of urban development and the built environment. The links are grouped into five broad categories: central and provincial government initiatives; local government and city links; academic and educational initiatives; initiatives by professional institutions; networking and knowledge sharing, and consultancy and commercial links in the built environment.

The section then discusses potential partner organisations for the *Urban SDD*⁷ before drawing conclusions on the relevance of the mapping exercise for the SDD themes, and considering priorities for the SDD. The links are summarised in Appendix 2, and those most relevant to the SDD are mentioned below, cross-referenced in brackets to the entry in Appendix 2.

3.1 Central and Provincial Government

Deputy Prime Minister's Office

The China Task Force⁸ was set up in 2003 at the request of the Prime Minister and is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM), with the objective of deepening relations, fostering understanding and furthering cooperation between China and the UK. The initial focus was on science and technology, trade and investment, education, and sustainable development. The Task Force's work and recommendations have been discussed at joint meetings between the DPM and Premier Wen Jiabao.

An important initiative being undertaken by the Task Force is the preparation of a discussion paper on *Sustainable Cities*. The document has been drawn up by 11 leading UK experts on sustainable development, together with the China Britain Business Council and members of the Task Force. The briefing paper draws on the 2005 *Bristol Accord* (see p13) to identify a series of eight principles that reflect best practice in developing sustainable communities, based on an exchange of ideas between China and the UK. A recommendation of the discussion is the setting up of an Academy for Sustainable Cities for knowledge exchange between public, private and academic sectors, operating in both the UK and China.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

Defra's work in China has focussed on the UK-China Climate Change Working Group, launched in September 2006 by the UK Environment Secretary and the Chinese Minister for the National Development and Reform Commission. The working group will help shape discussions under the *Gleneagles Dialogue*, the *EU-China Partnership on Climate Change* and the *United Nations Framework on Climate Change*⁹.

Defra's other main area of work in China is acting as the lead UK government department for the *UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue* (see Section 1.2). To date work has included taking forward proposals relating to sustainable consumption and production; capacity building for sustainable industrial development through the UK-China Chemicals Working Group, and establishing a joint working group on forestry¹⁰.

Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG)

The lead department on international urban issues is the Regional, Urban and Economic Policy Directive (RUEP). RUEP has regular meetings with DFID and, although there is no direct work in China, has sought funding to support the UK government's delegation to the

⁷ The term *Urban SDD* is used as shorthand for proposed collaboration under the urban theme of the UK-China Sustainable Development Dialogue.

⁸ http://www.dpm.gov.uk/china_task_force.aspx

⁹ MoU - <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/internat/devcountry/pdf/china-memorandum.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/060913a.htm>

World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4) in Nanjing in 2008 and Shanghai Expo 2010. There is a Ministerial commitment to participate in Nanjing, but the level of involvement will be decided following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

The RUEP and Planning Directorates have been working with the German EU Presidency on urban policy including the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. RUEP is exploring the scope for expanding the European Urban Knowledge Network to share knowledge and best practice on urban policy and delivery. It represents the UK on the Urban Working Party of the OECD Territorial Development Policy Committee, and hosted a workshop on City and Regional International Comparisons and Benchmarking for key stakeholders in government and elsewhere in November 2006.

Within CLG there are many directorates with skills relevant to the *Urban SDD*. For example, the RUEP and Planning Directorates are leading a debate on 'place-making' and sustainable communities, and collaborated with DFID in publishing the document *Making Planning Work* (2006), which highlights the importance of generic and multi-disciplinary skills in delivering sustainable urban development. The *Code for Sustainable Homes* is an important initiative launched by CLG in December 2006 to provide a national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes, and is promoted by CLG's Building Regulations Division.

Department for International Development (DFID) China

DFID's policy for China is set out in the *China Country Assistance Plan (2006-2011)* (DFID 2006). The focus of all DFID's work is on reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Total overseas development assistance to China represents less than 0.1% of GDP, and the government of China itself provides most of the resources for MDG-related programmes, based on the development strategy in the *11th Five Year Programme*. DFID's strategy is to support specific national programmes, such as basic education, HIV/AIDS, TB, and water and sanitation. DFID anticipates that by the end of 2011 the UK's relationship with China will be based on dialogue and cooperation, rather than a donor-recipient relationship (DFID 2006).

The *China Urban Poverty Study* was undertaken for DFID in 2004 by GHK (Hong Kong) (GHK 2004). The study found that the urban population is increasing at over 4.5% per annum with rural to urban migration the main source of urban growth. The migration of people constitutes one of the major linkages between the urban and rural areas, with significant remittances and financial flows from urban to rural areas. Estimates of the extent of urban poverty are uncertain because poverty lines are still being researched and official data may exclude temporary migrants, but the study found that poverty amongst migrants' is up to 50% higher than amongst official urban residents. The study called for further research into *hukou registration* and migration; urban poverty and the environment; property rights; urban livelihoods; urban agriculture; housing, and urban health and education delivery (GHK 2004).

Devolved Administrations

A number of small-scale initiatives are being pursued by the devolved administrations. As part of their China Strategy, the Scottish Executive is seeking to share information and expertise on regeneration, environmental management, and energy efficiency (G13).

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has advised Yunnan Province in developing a spatial plan with an emphasis on sustainable development (WAG) (G16). WAG also has a memorandum of understanding on spatial planning and sustainable development with Chongqing (G17).

Other Central Government Initiatives

Three other themes of relevance to the *Urban SDD* emerge from the analysis of government-to-government initiatives (Appendix 2).

- *Poverty reduction*

Several studies have a focus on poverty reduction, eg: the *China UK/ Urban Health and Poverty Project* (G4), and *Poor Adolescent Girls Project* (G5).

- *Environmental resources*

UK/China Water Resources Demand Management Assistance Project is being promoted by the Chinese Ministry of Water Resources, consultants Mott MacDonald and DFID in order to support the reforms introduced by China's 2002 Water Law (G3).

The Guizhou Institute of Environmental Science and Design is promoting capacity building for Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) under the Kyoto protocol (G11).

- *Social security*

The *China Unemployment Insurance Project* (G6) is promoted by the Chinese Ministry of Labour and Social Security in collaboration with the British Council and DFID.

The *EU-China Social Security Project* (G10) has a similar theme developed in partnership with the British Council and the European Union.

3.2 Local Government and City Links

There are numerous initiatives linking cities and local administrations, mainly developed with the objectives of promoting cultural exchange and economic links.

Greater London Authority – Beijing and Shanghai

The Greater London Authority has opened small offices in Beijing and Shanghai. The Beijing offices also provide space for representatives from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) (LG1). There is a particular focus on climate change.

English Core Cities Group

The English Core Cities Group was initiated in 1995 to set out a shared vision of the distinctive role of big cities in national and regional contexts. The members include the eight large regional cities in England: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. The Core Cities group has a small secretariat based in Manchester. There are no current activities in China, but the group hopes to set up a steering group to coordinate activities for WUF4 in Nanjing 2008 with CLG involvement (LG2).

Several cities in the Core Cities Group have active links with Chinese cities. The Scoping Study has obtained information on the following links, although not all the Core Cities responded to the request for information:

- Bristol City Council is linked to Guangzhou focussing on trade and economy, environment and technology, and cultural exchange, supported by the Bristol China Partnership. Bristol City Council is advising on a municipal waste management strategy for Guangzhou (LG3).
- Liverpool and Shanghai became International Sister Cities in 1999. The Liverpool Shanghai Partnership (LSP) was set up in 2006 with Liverpool City Council and the University of Liverpool to deepen understanding, promote economic and social well-being, and promote bilateral trade. Shanghai Urban Regeneration Foundation (SURF) is a non-profit making element of LSP, regulated by the Shanghai Municipal Government which is providing assistance on regeneration projects, and may be represented at the Shanghai Expo 2010 (LG5).
- Nottingham City Council is linked to Ningbo, a relatively new link set up in collaboration with Nottingham University, and is opening a small office on the Ningbo Campus to promote business links; an area of focus is the further education sector (LG6).
- Leeds has a link with Huangzhou (LG4) and Sheffield with Anshan (LG7). Other core cities have yet to respond to requests for information.
- Birmingham is twinned with Guangzhou.

Many other twinning arrangements exist between UK and Chinese cities, as identified in Appendix 2, page A11, but the information is not up to date and Scoping Study has not researched twinning arrangements in detail.

3.3 Academic and Educational Links

There are well-established academic and educational links between UK and Chinese universities, some of which have an urban perspective.

University of Nottingham

The University of Nottingham Ningbo is a campus of the University of Nottingham based in Ningbo, sponsored by the City of Ningbo, and was the first Sino-foreign university approved by the Chinese Ministry of Education (A6). The teaching medium is English and degrees are awarded by the University of Nottingham. Approval was granted in April 2004 and the university opened in autumn 2004. Student numbers are around 1,800 in 2006/07 and will rise to 4,000 in 2007/08. A number of research institutes are planned, the first of which will be the *Centre for Sustainable Energy Technologies* linked to the *Institute for Sustainable Development* in Nottingham.

Cardiff University

The *Urban China Research Centre* in the School of City & Regional Planning at Cardiff University promotes interdisciplinary study of the contemporary urban transition in China. The centre is undertaking a three-year study of urban poverty and property rights in China (A8), and is hosting a conference on *China's Urban Transition and City Planning* in June 2007. The centre has been awarded a major grant from the Leverhulme Trust to establish the *Urban China Research International Network (UCRIN)*, which will undertake *A Landmark Study of Restructuring and Spatial Inequalities under China's Market Transition*.

China Policy and Research Institutes

Several UK universities have policy and research institutes focusing on China:

- The *China Policy Institute* in the University of Nottingham is a 'think-tank' working with research centres around the world on policy analysis of governance and business strategies (A7).
- The *British Interuniversity China Centre (BICC)* established in 2006 is a joint venture between Oxford, Bristol and Manchester Universities, funded by a £5m grant from HEFCE, ESRC and AHRC as a leading centre for research and teaching on China and the Chinese language (A9).
- The *Centre for Contemporary Chinese Studies* at Durham University was established in 1999 to consolidate and develop existing research on society, culture, economy and business in China, based in the School of Government and International Affairs (A10).
- The *UK-China Link: Advances in Urban Water Systems* is an EPSRC-funded initiative between the Centre for Water Systems at the University of Exeter and several universities in China including: Tsinghua University, Tianjin University, Tongji University, and Harbin Institute of Technology (A11).
- The *UK-China Join ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems Centre)* is a link between the Transport Research Group, University of Southampton, and Beijing University, supported by the UK Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology (A12).
- The *China Sustainable Transport Research Centre* is jointly sponsored by the China Academy of Transport Sciences, the Centre for Transport Studies at Imperial College, London, and Volvo Research and Educational Foundation (A13).
- Heriot Watt University is setting up a *Scottish Centre for Chinese Urban and Environmental Studies*, in association with the RTPi Scotland, RICS Scotland and ICE Scotland (A16).

- The University of Bristol hosts the new *Centre for East Asian Studies* a multi-disciplinary group exploring the societies of East Asia and critical relationships between Europe and East Asia (A22)

The Scoping Study identified one Chinese university with a formal UK research link:

- The *BP-China Research Centre: Clean Energy Facing the Future* was established in 2001, funded by BP with a \$10m over 10 years. This is one of four BP-funded research centres, the others being at Cambridge, Princeton, and California, and is one of the Chinese Academy of Sciences' largest international collaboration projects (A20).

Other University-based Initiatives

Several university and research institutes have smaller educational initiatives, such as the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) which is translating information on urban community governance to disseminate information to China (A17).

The School of Architecture at Cardiff University is working with the Xi'an University of Architecture and Technology to develop a strategy for sustainable housing in Xi'an (A19), and is hosting a Leverhulme project on Sustainable Building Design with Tianjin University (A20).

The Cultural and Education Section, British Embassy, China (CES of the BE)

The Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy in China is run by the British Council, with offices in Beijing, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Hong Kong. The Section supports a number of activities with an urban focus (A5), and is running a *Climate Cool* campaign to raise public awareness on climate change through schools.

The Section is working with the Urban Planning Society of China to arrange Sino-British exchanges. Seminars in 2005 included the following: urban regeneration in Beijing; topics for the Shanghai Expo 2010 with the expo coordination group; waterfront renovation at Tongji University, and 'green community development in the UK' at Xi'an (P5). Workshops on energy efficiency are being run for mayors and real estate developers (G14).

A conference on the *Urban Environment* is proposed for November 2007, organised with the Urban Planning Society of China and the Ministry of Construction, to take place in Beijing. The preliminary programme includes sessions on city design and planning, regeneration, property development, waste management and energy conservation.

3.4 Professional & Research Organisations

PI-UK China

PI-UK China is an association of UK professional institutes in the built environment, construction and engineering fields. Membership includes 16 professional institutions of architecture, planning, landscape, construction engineering, and the built environment, representing more than 500,000 individual members. Members include the RICS, RIBA and the RTPI. The PI-UK China aims to develop opportunities for collaboration between Chinese and UK professionals. There is a Board of Management in London and a smaller body in Shanghai under Professor James Ding of Tongji University (P1).

Other Professional Links

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) runs a China office for Chinese members and has now set up as a legal entity in Shanghai (P2, P3).

The Chartered Institute of Housing, Asian Pacific promotes the science and art of housing in the region, and helped validate a degree in housing management at Wuhan University in 2005 (JA31).

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) held an exhibition on *Urban Transformations in Shanghai* in spring 2007 (P6).

3.5 Networking, Knowledge-sharing and Social Initiatives

Building Research Establishment

The Building Research Establishment (BRE) is a former government research centre, now run by a charity the BRE Trust, which champions excellence and innovation in the built environment. The BRE provides consultancy, testing and commissioned research services covering all aspects of the built environment (K1).

Since 1988 BREEAM standards (BRE Environmental Assessment Method) have been developed to promote sustainable building standards for a range of buildings including offices, retail, industrial, schools, residential, and hospitals and prisons. In the UK, the improved standards for new and existing housing are promoted by the *Code for Sustainable Homes*, launched in December 2006. The BRE is in discussion with the PRC Ministry of Construction (K1) to establish an Eco-Homes standard for China.

UK-China Construction Working Group

The UK-China Construction Working Group aims to further trade, cooperation and knowledge-sharing through an MoU between the MoC's International Relations Department and the UKTI and other government departments including DTI and CLG. The agreement runs until September 2007. The working group encompasses most of the areas of responsibility of the MoC, with a focus on general cooperation, urban development, regeneration, new technology and project management. The working group is hosting a visit by the MoC to Britain in April 2007 (K2). The MoU covers intelligent 'green' building and energy saving; urban public transport; environment (sewage treatment, garbage etc); urban water management, and urban planning and urban regeneration¹¹.

Other Knowledge Sharing and Social Initiatives with an Urban Focus

- The *UK-China Partners in Science* network in China seeks to promote UK/China understanding of scientific developments, supported by the British Consulate General in Shanghai (K3).
- *China Connections through Culture* is an initiative of the UK's Department for Culture, Media, and Sport (DCMS), the FCO and British Council, which supports cultural exchange between the two countries (K4).
- The China Comparative Centre for Political & Economic Research (CCCPE), British Council and Young Foundation are collaborating on a social innovation project (K6).
- The Great Wall Society of China is cooperating with the Estates Offices of Glamis Castle on the *Protection of Historic Landmarks* (K7).
- *One Planet Living* is supported by WWF-UK and Bio-regional Consulting Ltd which is fundraising to build a sustainable community (K8).
- The Climate Group is an NGO that surveys best practice on climate change and energy initiatives in India and China (K9).
- The Building and Social Housing Foundation is compiling a database on sustainable development and innovation. Five projects in China are listed (K10).
- Habitat for Humanity is involved in constructing small-scale, self-build social housing projects in Kunming in SW China (K11).
- The British Standards Institute operates globally with a regional headquarters in Hong Kong and has 10 offices in PR China (K15).

¹¹ UK-China Construction Group Meeting Notes, 2007

3.6 Consultancy and Economic Development

This section focuses on major consultancy projects and built environment companies that have large-scale programmes and offices in China and are contributing to policy development. There are numerous small-scale design and construction projects which have not been listed here.

Beijing Olympic Games 2008

The Beijing Olympic Games 2008 is a major project, with significant international consultancy involvement. The Scoping Study has not researched the project in detail as its time-horizon is limited and the project is atypical.

Dongtan Eco-City

Shanghai Industrial Investment Corporation has commissioned the building of Dongtan Eco-City on Chongming Island off Shanghai in the Yangtze River delta (WBCSD 2006) (C1). The island totals around 80 sq. km, and is planned for a city of 500,000 people by 2025, with the first phase for 50,000 people completed for the Shanghai Expo 2010. The island contains one of the most important wetland sites in SE Asia and protecting the wetland was an imperative in the initial design concept. Phase 1 will include urban and ecological parks, community waste management, combined heat and power systems and extensive public transport. Arup is responsible for the integrated master-planning of the city and Atkins provided environmental planning and tourism input.

Kunming Eco-City

INTEGER Kuming Project is the first eco-city in southern China, with an emphasis on environmental protection and intelligent technology. The project aims to be a focal point for the improvement of housing standards and building technology in China. INTEGER has over 160 commercial partners and has demonstrated the application of intelligent systems to high-rise buildings in the INTEGER Hong Kong Pavilion (C2).

China British Business Council

The China British Business Council is the lead agency in helping UK companies do business in China. The council delivers a diverse range of services and organises high-level business events between trade-related ministers from both countries (C3).

Other Consultancy Initiatives

Eco-Energy Cities is a joint venture between the University of East Anglia, David Langdon Seah International and China Development plc (C4). The enterprise develops client-specific low carbon master plans.

Major built environment consultancies with offices in China include:

- Arup has offices across China and about 1500 staff (C5, C6)
- Atkins has eight offices in China and about 600 staff (C7)
- Halcrow has a Beijing office, with expertise in urban transport and infrastructure (C8)
- Foster and Partners are designing the new Beijing airport (C9)
- Haskoll Architects and Designers has expertise in energy-efficient building design and various prestige architectural commissions (C10)
- WSP Group has three offices in mainland China with expertise in intelligent transport systems, transport modelling, building design, environment, and engineering services (C11)
- Colin Buchanan & Partners works throughout China on transport strategies and design, eg: Shanghai and Hangzhou comprehensive transport policies (C12).

3.7 International Agencies

The Scoping Study has focused on bilateral initiatives, but several of the multilateral programmes are relevant to the *Urban SDD*, and are summarised briefly below.

Cities Alliance

The Cities Alliance is multi-donor initiative launched in 1999 by the World Bank and UNCHS (Habitat) providing grant funding to cities to improve urban development strategies. DFID is a major contributor. Themes include:-

- bringing cities together in dialogue with bilateral and multilateral agencies and financial institutions;
- promoting the developmental role of local governments;
- promoting the positive impacts of urbanisation, and helping local authorities plan for the future;
- assisting cities develop sustainable financing strategies and attract long-term capital investments for infrastructure and other services.

The Cities Alliance supports two key programmes, *City Development Strategies (CDS)*, and *Cities without Slums*. CDS programmes in China include programmes in Changsha, Zhuzhou, Xiangtan, Guiyang, Lanzhou, Chendu, Zhengzhou, Xinxiang, and Erdos (G12). Guiyang was a pilot for UNHabitat's programme of China Urban Indicators.

World Bank

The World Bank's assistance to China on urban development aims to facilitate efficient, equitable and sustainable urban growth and restructuring by improving the protection of urban environments, the provision of infrastructure, and institutional frameworks for local governance (K5). The World Bank has a major lending programme to PR China providing:

- lending for physical investments and technical assistance for urban services for: reduction of water pollution; solid waste management; flood protection; roads and urban transport, and cultural heritage protection. There are about 20 existing projects totalling around US\$ 3bn, with 12-13 projects planned over the next three years, including two cultural heritage projects in Guangzhou and Guizhu
- non-lending advisory services at both local and national government level in response to government requests, for example in helping local governments develop capacity. These include policy studies and city networking and training.
- the Metropolitan Management programme, run in collaboration with the Global Learning Institute, that provides a) input to the national 5-year economic plans; b) other urban planning initiatives including development of an accreditation programme for urban planners and work with the MoC (with GTZ); and c) support for strategic planning through the City Development Strategies (see Cities Alliance above).

United Nations Development Programme

The UNDP has a global mandate to improve livelihoods and promote sustainable development. The core funding in China is supplied by the Global Environmental Facility, with co-funding from the Chinese Government, the lead ministry being MoC. The programme in China focuses on climate change, biodiversity protection, management of toxic chemicals, and environmental management, with priority for rural areas and western China.

The UNDP's largest urban programme is with the Shanghai Municipal Government, which approached UNDP for help in becoming a model city. Since 2000, the city government has allocated 3% of GDP to environmental sustainability with projects identified in the city's 5-year plan. The city is seeking 'Green City Status' before the Shanghai Expo 2010. The UNDP is supporting an Environmentally Friendly City Initiative which will assist Shanghai Environmental Protection Bureau (SEPB) in implementing an 'environmentally friendly city index' to support the accreditation process, improve environmental monitoring, and integrate environmental concerns into development decisions. The programme may be rolled out with other municipalities, eg: Shenyang in Liaoning Province, through a Sister City partnership.

3.8 Academic Research

Several subject areas are not covered in the existing links, in particular around the theme of low income urban households. There is substantive academic research on housing, urban poverty, rural to urban migration, and regeneration. The Scoping Study has not undertaken a literature review.

3.9 Potential UK Partner Organisations

This section lists background information on potential partners for delivering the *UK-China SDD Urban Theme*¹². Those organisations which have with existing links with China have been discussed above, but are listed below for completeness.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra): Defra is responsible for promoting sustainable development, and the lead Department promoting the SDDs (p17 above).

Department of Communities & Local Government (CLG): is the government department responsible for local government, planning and housing and has oversight of urban policy in England.(p17).

Department for International Development (DFID): is the government department responsible for international development and overseas aid (p18).

Devolved Administrations: these include the Scottish Government and the Welsh and Northern Ireland Assembly Governments (p18).

English Core Cities Group: is an association of eight English metropolitan areas: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Nottingham and Sheffield. The English Core Cities group has limited administrative capacity but has the potential to make important links at city level under the *Urban SDD* (p19).

PI-UK China: PI-UK China is an umbrella organisation of professional institutions with interests in China. It would be an appropriate organisation to involve in building links with professional institutions (p21).

Building Research Establishment (BRE): BRE carries out research, consultancy and testing for the construction and built environment sectors in the United Kingdom. Areas of interest include participation in the preparation of national and international standards and building codes, including the UK Building Regulations (p22).

UK-China Construction Working Group: is an active partnership whose activities operate under an MoU with the PRC Ministry of Construction that runs for two years to September 2007. The emphasis on urban planning and regeneration is relevant to the *Urban SDD* (p22)

Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI): The RTPI is the institute for urban planning professionals in the UK. The RTPI's work involves promoting good planning, developing and shaping policy for the built environment, raising standards in the profession, and education and training. The RTPI has reciprocal links with Chinese urban planning societies.

Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC): The ASC is a national skills initiative set up by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) as part of the Government's drive to create sustainable communities. ASC is hosted by the Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency in Leeds.

¹² Sources of Information: BRE <http://www.bre.co.uk/>; RTPI: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/>; Core Cities Group: <http://www.corecities.com/>; Academy for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/home>; European and International Unit of the Local Government Association (LGA): <http://international.lga.gov.uk/index.html>; CABE: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/>; Cities Alliance: <http://www.citiesalliance.org/index.html>

European and International Unit of the Local Government Association (LGA): The unit was set up in January 2007 taking over from the Local Government International Bureau. The unit lobbies the EU and international institutions on behalf of local councils; informs councils about relevant EU policy; develops international partnerships, and promotes the development of local democracy around the world.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE): CABE is a UK executive non-departmental public body established in 1999, funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and CLG, to promote best practice in the commissioning of new building and urban planning by the public and private sector, and wider public education in the appreciation of architecture.

3.10 Potential International Partner Organisations

Although the focus of the mapping exercise was on bilateral links, several international agencies are undertaking work particularly relevant to the *Urban SDD*.

Cities Alliance: The Cities Alliance is supported by the UK government as a funding agency, and ran the *China City Development Strategies Programme 2000-2005*. There is considerable scope for dissemination of the strategic planning experience gained through the CDS programme in the *Urban SDD* activities (p24 above).

World Bank: The World Bank has an extensive programme of urban development activities in China and considerable country experience, which will form a valuable resource for the dialogue (p24)

United Nations Development Programme: UNDP has useful experience on environmental planning and monitoring for sustainable development based on its work on indicators for sustainable development and 'Green City' status with Shanghai Municipal Government (p24).

3.11 Potential Partner Organisations in China

This section gives brief background information on potential professional partner organisations in China which might be involved in implementation of the *Urban SDD*. The team held meetings with the Ministry of Construction, China Academy of Social Sciences and Urban Planning Society of China - information on the other organisations is drawn from the websites listed below¹³.

National Development Reform Commission (NDRC): The NDRC is a macroeconomic management agency under the State Council, which studies and formulates policies for economic and social development¹⁴.

Ministry of Construction (MoC): MoC has been appointed by NDRC as the lead agency for implementation of the *Urban SDD*.

China Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), Centre for Urban Development and Environment: The academy is sponsored by NDRC and provides consultancy on urban development and environmental planning for ministries, provinces and municipalities, and undertakes self-funded research. The focus of work is on strategic transport planning, urban planning and 'equal city' or environmental planning. The centre is publishing a book on *Sustainable Cities in China*, and the annual *Blue Book* on research. CASS is organising a *Sustainable Cities Forum* in October 2007 funded by the Asia Europe Foundation.

¹³ Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC), <http://www.planning.org.cn/index.asp>; China Association of City Planning (CACCP), <http://www.cacp.org.cn/index.asp>; China Association of Mayors, <http://www.citieschina.org/WebEn/next001.Asp>; Architectural Society of China (ASC), <http://www.chinaasc.org/index.php>; China Real Estate Association (CREA), <http://www.estatecn.com/crea/default.asp>; Chinese Society for Sustainable Development (CSSD), <http://cssd.acca21.org.cn/>; Geographical Society of China <http://www.gsc.org.cn>
¹⁴ http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/bizchina/2006-11/16/content_734828.htm

Urban Planning Society of China (UPSC): UPSC is a national academic society affiliated to the MoC, which promotes debate on urban planning and undertakes consultancy. The Society's 11 professional committees focus on various topics including: regional planning and urban economy; planning for housing; environmental planning; historic city planning; urban ecological planning; urban design, and urban disaster prevention, and its journal is the *Urban Planning Review*.

China Association of City Planning: The association was registered by the Ministry of Civil Affairs in 1994, and is managed by the MoC. There are more than 400 corporate members, mainly urban planning institutes, urban consultancies, and local town planning associations. Individual members include experts, and senior officials. The association regulates urban planning and design units, gives urban planning and design awards, and is responsible for the training and registration planners.

China Association of Mayors: The association was approved by the State Council in 1988 following a meeting of 54 Chinese mayors. The first Mayors' Congress was held in Beijing in 1991 and there are now over 5,000 members. The association aims to promote research on urban issues; organise training for mayors and city administrators, and promote international exchange. Membership includes mayors and vice-mayors of designated cities, district heads and deputy district heads of municipalities.

Architectural Society of China: The society was founded in 1953, and is an affiliate of the China Association for Science and Technology; it publishes academic and scientific journals, advises on major scientific and engineering issues, and organizes international academic exchange. The Society has over 100,000 individual members and over 100 corporate members, and is affiliated to the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Asian Association of Architects (ARCASIA).

China Real Estate Association: The association is a national organisation established in 1985, organised by local real estate associations, and other enterprises engaged property development. It is registered with the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and supervised by the MoC; it now has over 1,100 members, holds an annual national housing forum, organises research and exchange, and disseminates domestic and international information on real estate.

Chinese Society for Sustainable Development: The society was established in 1991, approved by the Ministry of Civil Affairs, and is a society of experts and scholars concerned about sustainable development in China. The society promotes academic discussion, dissemination of the science for sustainable development, and provides a theoretical basis for government policy-making.

The Geographical Society of China: The Geographical Society of China is one of the oldest academic societies in China which aims to promote scientific research, improve geographical knowledge, and contribute to socialist modernisation. The Society has more than 20,000 members and publishes 10 journals, including *Journal of Geographical Sciences*, *Acta Geographica Sinica*, and *Chinese National Geography*, and is a member of the International Geographical Union (IGU).

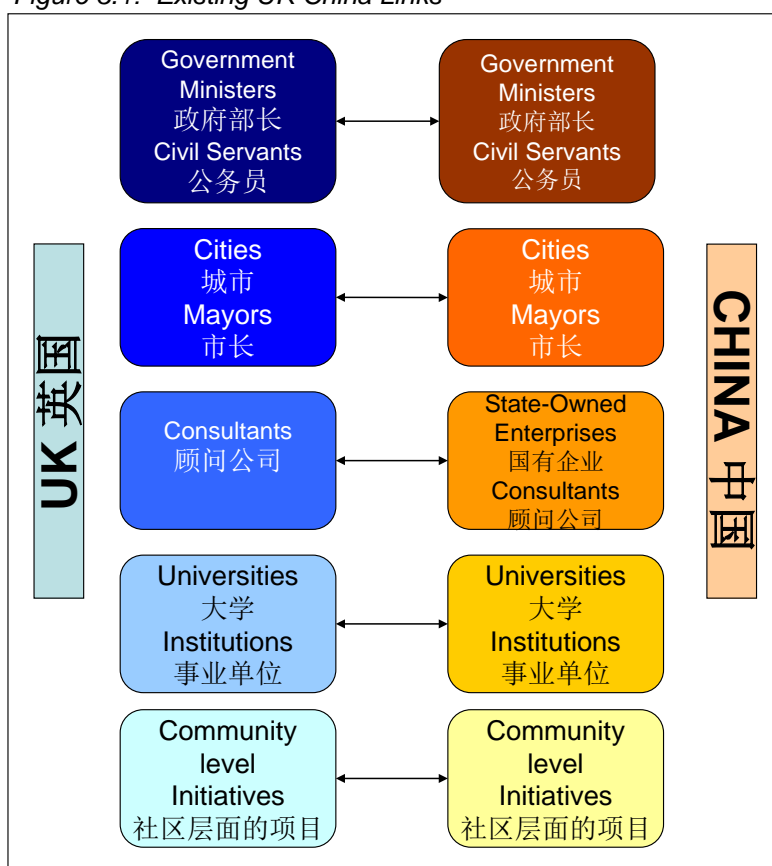
3.12 Conclusions and recommendations for the *Urban SDD*

This section draws together the findings from the mapping exercise. It then comments on the two priority areas of interest identified by the MoC (see Section 1.3 and ToR, Appendix 1), identifies potential strengths that UK can bring to dialogue, and recommends priorities for the *Urban SDD*.

Summary of the mapping exercise

There is extensive cooperation between the UK and China in the urban development and built environment disciplines across a wide range of sectors and organisations. The nature of the links indicates the increasing environmental awareness in China and concern for the protection of resources and heritage conservation. The majority of links are topic-specific, with a strong focus on construction and development, and links are predominantly between organisations of similar standing, as illustrated in Figure 3.1 with few links for example across different tiers of government or between government departments and academia.

Figure 3.1: Existing UK-China Links



Important strategic and interdisciplinary links on spatial planning and sustainable development are found in the work of the international agencies, including the Cities Alliance through its promotion of *City Development Strategies*, the World Bank with its programme focussed sustainable urban growth and restructuring; and the UNDP with its mandate to improve livelihoods and promote sustainable development. Although multilateral in nature these agencies are part-funded by the UK government, and the *Urban SDD* should draw on their strategic expertise.

The Deputy Prime Minister's leading initiative of *Sustainable Cities* also relates to spatial planning and will be expanded through the addition of case studies and pilot programmes. There is a spatial planning initiative in Yunnan Provincial Government which is designated as a flagship province for developing this methodology and, following initial discussions and

some initial training collaborations with the Welsh Assembly Government, the province is seeking support for capacity building to take the programme forward.

City twinning initiatives and cooperation links generate considerable enthusiasm and goodwill, and are sustained over long periods of time with limited funding, and could make an important contribution to the *Urban SDD*. In some of the larger exchanges UK cities are opening offices in China. Twinning initiatives enable mayors and politicians to share knowledge, thus reaching local decision-makers. The English Core Cities group has a potential role in coordinating and showcasing some of these initiatives, but has limited capacity.

There is substantive academic work on low income households and poverty, but this work has not yet been reflected in bilateral links, and the work of Chinese academics and researchers is not widely disseminated or reflected in practice.

Climate change is a major area of policy concern in the UK, but this has not been reflected in a specific urban focus in the links with China. In this context the Building Research Establishment has a well-formulated proposal to develop an Eco-Homes Standard in China based on the UK Code for Sustainable Homes, designed to support sustainability appraisal of new construction.

Several links cover regeneration, in particular the UK-China Construction Working Group, the Scottish Executive and the Shanghai Urban Regeneration Foundation supported by Liverpool City Council. Regeneration is a specific area of UK expertise and collaboration in this area could be developed further through the *Urban SDD*.

There is considerable scope to build on the work on urban indicators and cross-city comparisons. The key challenge is to ensure that data collection is policy-relevant, as in the Shanghai Environmentally Friendly City index being developed in collaboration with UNDP.

Ministry of Construction's priority areas of interest

The MoC's two priority areas of interest - 'low income urban households' and 'planning for sustainable cities/towns' (see Section 1.3 and ToR, Appendix 1) - are considered to be highly relevant by all those contacted during the Scoping Study, including country experts and consultees in government and research institutes. Improved understanding of the relationship between migration, housing and poverty in China is crucially important in combating the increasing incidence of urban poverty in a context of rapid urban growth, increasing owner occupation, and an immature social welfare system. Better management and monitoring of the urban development process is also critical to avoiding widespread environmental degradation.

As these two priority areas of interest encompass some of the most pressing contemporary urban development problems in China, and are widely recognised in China as being of concern, it is recommended that they form the core of activities in the *UK-China SDD*.

Contributions from the UK

The UK is a leading international player in debates on planning for sustainable cities for example through CLG's contribution to European OECD initiatives on the exchange of knowledge and best practice on city, urban and regional development. Also important is the UK's contribution to the poverty reduction agenda, in particular through DFID's work towards implementing the MDGs, and the strategic planning to mitigate the effects of rapid urban growth.

The UK has in-depth expertise in several broad areas policy areas particularly relevant to the *Urban SDD*. First, is the implementation of sustainable development objectives through the land use planning system where, over the last decade the UK has developed a range of policy instruments, integrated strategies, and techniques for assessing the sustainability impacts of plans, programmes and projects.

Second is the monitoring of development impacts, both for individual projects and cumulative effects, against broad sustainability objectives. Third is the development of technology and standards to promote energy efficiency in new building construction and upgrading energy standards of the existing stock for example through the *Code for Sustainable Homes*. Fourth is in the monitoring and measurement of poverty and social exclusion, in order to promote access to housing and other social welfare benefits.

Fifth is the regeneration of older urban areas. There are several Government agencies and other bodies responsible for regeneration at national, regional and local level, including the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) that lead regeneration strategy in the nine English regions, and English Partnerships (the National Regeneration Agency) that fosters urban renaissance and housing market renewal through the acquisition and remediation of brownfield sites for development by the private or public sector. The RDAs, English Partnerships and City Councils have helped to set up 21 Urban Regeneration Companies (URCs) to drive forward regeneration at city sub-regional level.

Priorities for the *Urban SDD*

Several priorities for *Urban SDD* emerge from the analysis above. First, the *Urban SDD* should add value to the extensive and constantly evolving range of bilateral links by showcasing the range of current activity, for example through a website, and publicising the work at conferences and events. The *Urban SDD* can also help bridge the institutional boundaries by involving a wide range of partners. It is critical that the dialogue includes not only leading thinkers at national level, but also decision-makers at regional and city level in order to share knowledge and improve practice.

Second, there should be a particular focus on publicising activities of the *Urban SDD* at the World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4) at Nanjing in October 2008. WUF4 is the biennial forum of UN Habitat attended by many thousands of delegates. This will be a high profile, and well-attended event, and an ideal forum at which to showcase the innovative partnerships and ideas arising from the *Urban SDD*.

Third, the *Urban SDD* should contribute to global leadership on the theme of sustainable development, through the development of new knowledge and shared understanding about processes of urban change across different political, economic and social landscapes. The dialogue should consider the impacts of *urban growth and expansion*, the effects of *urban change and economic decline*, and their consequences for *excluded and vulnerable populations*, in order to manage and mitigate the adverse effects of urbanisation. The MoC's two priorities areas of 'planning for sustainable cities' and 'low income urban households' generally encompass this broad agenda but the dialogue should also include a specific focus on urban regeneration.

With limited funds, there is a decision to be made on the balance within the *Urban SDD* between process or projects. There is considerable merit in involving as many people as possible in the dialogue, at least initially, in order to spread knowledge and create a shared agenda for further studies and pilot projects within the *Urban SDD*. The recommendations in Chapter 4 therefore focuses on creating a wide-ranging debate leading up to WUF4 in October 2008.

The expertise within both CLG and DFID is crucial in implementing the *Urban SDD*. CLG has extensive experience in regeneration, the promotion of sustainable development through land use policy and skills development for sustainable communities. DFID has international expertise in managing urban development in contexts of rapid growth, and in promoting the reduction of urban poverty.

To promote joined-up collaboration, there should be some cross links between the *Urban SDD* and the other UK-SDD themes (see Section 1.2). The *Urban SDD* should also link closely with the DPM's initiatives on *Principles for Sustainable Cities*, and the proposal to develop an Academy for Sustainable Cities.

4. Themes & Programme

4.1 Introduction

This section recommends overarching aims for the *Urban SDD*, and a programme of activities leading up to the World Urban Forum 4 in Nanjing in October 2008. The programme has been developed from the mapping exercise, consultations with the Steering Group, and discussions with the Ministry of Construction and others during the team's to Beijing in March 2007.

4.2 Objectives of the PRC Ministry of Construction (MoC)

During the visit to Beijing, the MoC team set out further proposals (see translation in Appendix 4) as a result of initial UK-China bilateral consultations to identify strategic themes of mutual interest to both governments. The MoC's proposals include five components:

- 1a) Economic regeneration and planning for old industrial cities
- 1b) Planning inspector's system and conformity for statutory plans
- 1c) Planning for conserving historic and cultural cities, towns and villages
- 2a) Provision of low income family housing
- 2b) Upgrading low income housing areas

The MoC considers that a working group, as proposed by the UK Steering Committee, is not required and that existing arrangements are adequate to progress the *Urban SDD*.

4.3 UK-China SDD Urban Theme - Aims

Drawing from the analysis in Chapter 3, and the MoC's proposals above, it is recommended that the *Urban SDD* should aim to:

- contribute to global leadership on the theme of sustainable development, through the development of new knowledge and shared understanding about processes of urban development and change;
- inform public policy in China and the UK, in order to contribute to broad sustainable development objectives;
- improve practice amongst professionals and decision-makers in both countries in the understanding and use of sustainable urban development approaches, ensuring they have the skills and knowledge to make a difference.

In addition the *Urban SDD* should:

- address the MoC's two priority areas of interest for the *Urban SDD* - 'planning for sustainable cities/towns' and 'low income urban households';
- dovetail with the detailed proposals by the Ministry of Construction;
- showcase the bilateral links and other joint activities between the UK and China;
- be inclusive involving as wide a constituency as possible in the *Urban SDD*.

The objectives are to elaborate policy parallels across five broad levels:

- *Political* – through considering the differences and similarities between the concepts of the 'scientific approach to development' and 'harmonious development' in China, and 'sustainable development' and 'social inclusion' in the UK, and their elaboration in national, regional and local policies;
- *Professional* – through building core professional skills in both countries to support the implementation and monitoring of policies on sustainable development;
- *Research* – through sharing research in both countries, and drawing on international expertise, to advance knowledge on how to measure, monitor and implement the sustainable development agenda;
- *Local government* – through developing skills at city level in evidence-based policy making and urban environmental management;
- *Community* – through exploring opportunities for community and neighbourhood involvement in good governance, project design and implementation.

The programme should be coordinated in the UK by Defra, DCLG (and others in the UK) working with the MoC in China; others partners may be responsible for discrete elements in order to draw in a wide range of expertise. Each element of the programme will start with research on core competencies in the UK and China to focus the debate, followed by a dialogue to identify potential outcomes, pilot projects or other activities designed to share knowledge and inform policy.

Key Events

The dialogues should take place at key events such as conferences to include more participants than could otherwise attend. Progress on the activities should be discussed at the high level bilateral ministerial meeting in Autumn 2007. Four appropriate events have been identified:

- the international conference on *China's Urban Transition* in Cardiff in June 2007.
- the annual conference of the Urban Planning Society of China in Harbin;
- the conference on *Urban Environment* in Beijing hosted by the Cultural and Educational Section of the British Embassy (run by the British Council), and
- the World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4) in Nanjing.

WUF4 in October 2008 will have a focus on sustainable urbanisation, and will be held in China for the first time, presenting an excellent opportunity to involve a wide audience of city politicians, professionals and academics in the *Urban SDD*.

4.4 Proposed Programme

The recommended programme runs to WUF4 in October 2008, with four components: planning for urban regeneration; low income housing and poverty reduction; planning for sustainable cities, and preparation work for WUF4.

The first two components draw on the proposals by the MoC (section 4.2), but with the added emphasis on poverty reduction to reflect the UK Government's core international development priority. The third component has a specific focus on planning for sustainable cities, which is considered essential to the dialogue, both to reflect the ToR, and to advance knowledge on sustainable development in an urban context. The fourth component will raise the profile of the *Urban SDD*, disseminate lessons from the joint activities, and move forward the UK-China collaboration in the international context of WUF4.

The recommended programme components and sub-components are as follows (see also Figure 4.1 and Section 4.5 below).

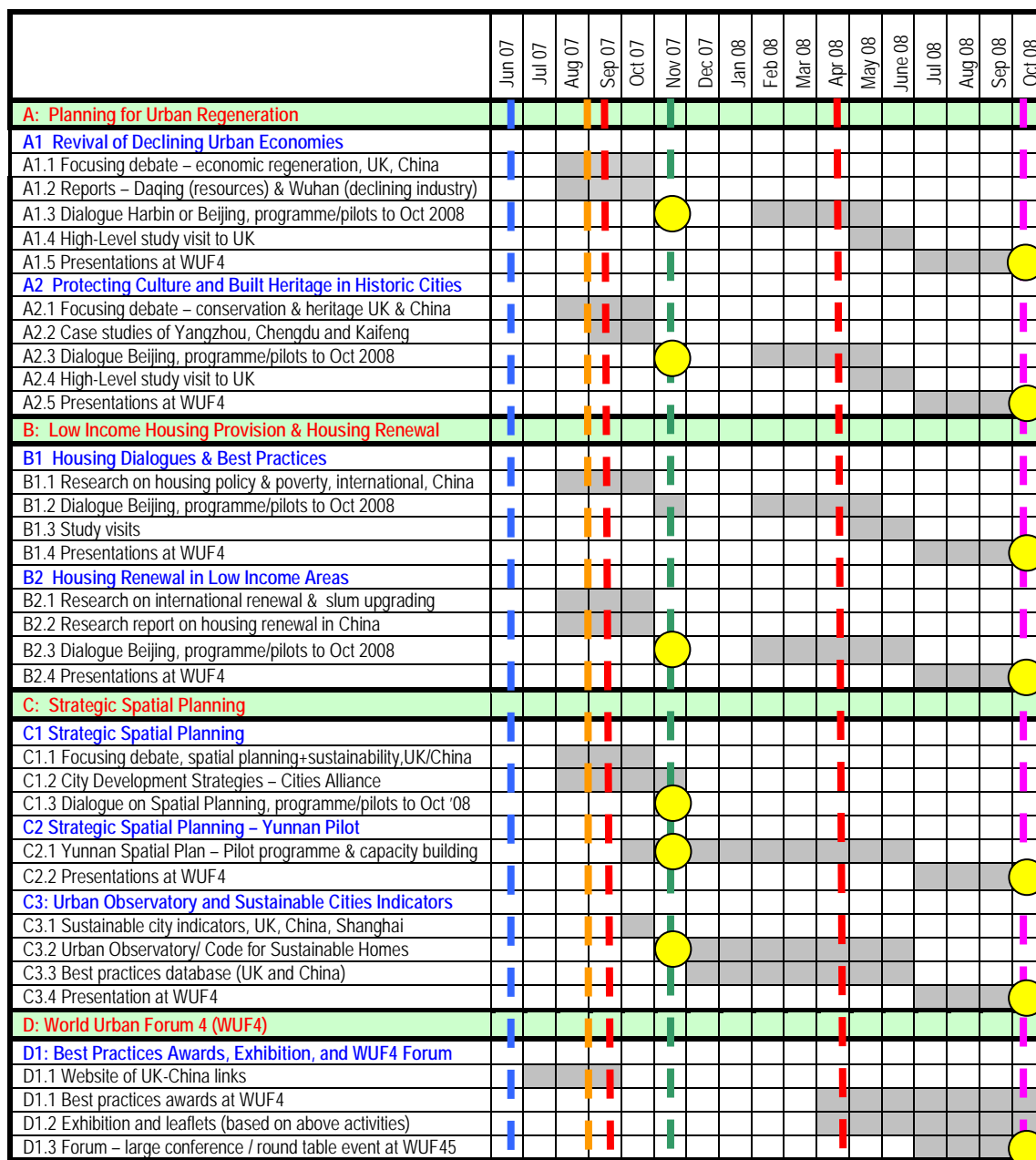
- A. Planning for Urban Regeneration
 - A1. Revival of Declining Urban Economies
 - A2. Protecting Culture & Built Heritage in Historic Cities
- B. Low Income Housing & Urban Poverty Reduction
 - B1: Housing Dialogues and Best Practices
 - B2: Housing Renewal in Low Income Areas
- C. Planning for Sustainable Cities
 - C1: Strategic Spatial Planning – case study of Yunnan
 - C2: Urban Observatory and Sustainable Cities Indicators
- D. World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4).

The **outcomes** of each component will be:

- Development of mutual understanding on issues relating to sustainable urban development and urban planning practice
- Improved public policy as a result of improved understanding of problems
- Introduction of successful practices and policy innovations based on partner country experience

More detailed project outcomes are identified in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.1: UK-China SDD Urban Theme, Proposed Programme



Key Events

■	June 2007	Conference on China's Urban Transition and City Planning , Cardiff University
■	1-3 Sep 2007	Urban Planning Society of China, Annual Conference
■	Autumn 2007 Spring 2008	High Level Ministerial Meetings – Governments of UK and China
■	November 2007	Urban Environment Conference , Cultural & Educational Section, British Embassy)
■	October 2008	World Urban Forum 4 , Nanjing (date to be finalised)
●		Opportunity for networking and dialogue with wide range of stakeholders

Assumptions

1. Defra and MoC will provide high-level & strategic coordination of the programme.
2. Most of activities will be steered by the government agencies and implemented by consultants.
3. Proposals to be agreed with lead and focus partners. Activities should involve others where possible.
4. Dialogues will be open to all delegates at events.

4.5 Programme Elements

The section below gives detailed notes on each programme component.

A: PLANNING FOR URBAN REGENERATION

This programme element has two strands:

- Revival of Declining Urban Economies
- Protecting Culture and Built Heritage in Historic Cities

to reflect the proposal by the Ministry of Construction.

Partner agencies: In China the lead partner for this component will be the Ministry of Construction. The lead focus in the UK will be provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG). CLG's expertise on regeneration makes it a central player in this dialogue, and although CLG does not have specific China expertise, UK experience on regeneration is highly relevant to the Chinese context. CLG should take the high-level lead in steering the component, with management funded from the overall programme funds.

Other partners may include: the Urban Planning Society of China (regeneration/conservation consultants to MoC, conference organisation); UK-China Construction Working Group (practice and innovation); English Core Cities Group (regeneration, twinning links); Foreign & Commonwealth Office (heritage tourism, Global Opportunities Fund); World Bank (heritage protection); Cultural & Educational Section of British Embassy - British Council (regeneration and conference organisation), and the China Association of Mayors (practice issues).

Stages of work: The first stage will focus debate on relevant practice through commissioned reports or a series of academic papers. This will be followed by dialogues taking place either at the at USPC's conference in Harbin (which would be particularly appropriate for the regeneration dialogue), or at the *Urban Environment* conference in Beijing in November. The dialogues will identify work to October 2008, possible pilots and the study visit programme.

Dialogue Topics - Revival of Declining Urban Economies: The UK reports will focus on relevant regeneration policy and practice, for example: organisational responsibilities and the role of English Partnerships, Regional Development Authorities; Urban Regeneration Companies, Urban Development Corporations, public private partnerships, and land assembly; the role of special area designations such as Objective 1 areas and SPZs; tax & other financial incentives; regeneration through major sporting and cultural events; city marketing and image promotion, and case studies of innovative practice.

The China reports will cover: structural problems in Chinese cities; legal and administrative responsibilities; role of provincial/municipal governments; role of city competition for direct investment; area-wide and local designations (eg: effectiveness of innovation zones), and case studies of innovative practice. Case studies may include Daqing, a city with declining extraction industries, and Wuhan, with a declining industrial base, as suggested by the MoC.

Dialogue Topics - Protecting Culture and Built Heritage in Historic Cities: The UK reports on conservation will cover the legislative and policy framework in the UK, including: policy guidance for listed building and conservation areas; criteria for listing and conservation area designation; inspection, monitoring and enforcement; financing conservation; industrial heritage; heritage tourism – case studies of Bath, London etc, and relevant case studies as a comparison to Chinese examples.

The China reports on conservation should consider legislation and policy guidance for heritage preservation, heritage tourism in Chinese cities, and case studies of Yangzhou, Chengdu and Kaifeng as proposed by the MoC.

Study visit to UK: The study visits to the UK should be combined, to minimise planning costs, and should take place in March or April avoiding the winter weather but before WUF4.

Outcomes: The outcomes will include: a report summarising policy recommendations, good practice and innovations in regeneration and conservation; proposed activities to October 2008 for example planning the five city case studies identified by MoC; the exchange visit, and other activities leading for WUF4. The city-pilots would probably be locally funded.

B: LOW INCOME HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY REDUCTION

This programme component has two strands:

- Housing Dialogues and Best Practices
- Housing Renewal in Low Income Areas

to reflect the interest and proposal by the Ministry of Construction. The focus will be on the role of low income housing in urban poverty reduction, to reflect the UK government's international development policy, looking at issues of access, tenure and finance, including financing low income housing construction and leveraging private sector investment.

Partner agencies: The Ministry of Construction will be the lead partner for this component in China. The Department for International Development should be the focus agency for the UK, with the main role being played by DFID China. DFID would take a high-level policy lead and liaise with MoC in China, but logistics and management of the component would be supplemented from overall programme funds.

Other partners could include: the Tsinghua University (housing consultants to MoC); UNDP and UN Habitat (low income housing in transition countries); the Building and Social Housing Foundation (World Habitat Awards and good practice); and the China Association of Mayors (practice issues).

Stages of work: Debate will be focused through academic papers, drawing on the expertise at Chinese universities on drivers of low income housing and poverty, with the aim of disseminating this knowledge to a practice-based audience. The papers will be presented at the *Urban Environment* conference in Beijing in November.

Dialogue Topics - Housing Dialogues and Best Practices: The dialogue should draw on UK expertise in the international context on low income housing policy and poverty reduction, as there is relevant practice experience outside the UK on housing policy and provision of low income housing in transitional economies. The reports should consider housing tenure and management, alternative approaches to low income housing provision in transitional economies, self-help housing, and models for collective housing management such as housing cooperatives and associations.

From a Chinese perspective, the dialogue should consider the institutional factors which influence access to low-income housing, and access for different groups of the urban poor, including urban and migrant households. Other relevant topics include: housing finance and under a decentralized public financial system; taxation and financial policies to support low income housing provision, and private sector involvement in low income housing provision.

Dialogue Topic - Housing Renewal in Low Income Areas: Again there is relevant expertise in the UK on international good practice in slum upgrading and renewal in a context of rapid development, and the dialogue could consider: intermediate housing tenure and housing management; innovative financing and public sector role in low-income housing provision; standards for low-income housing; public private partnerships in housing renewal, and low-income housing in eco-cities.

The Chinese reports should consider China's experience in housing renovation; housing tenure management, housing standards and renovation; the role of 'urban villages' in low-income housing supply; social impacts in low-income neighbourhoods, and the experience in Yantai city in Shandong Province.

Study visit: The dialogue should identify the most appropriate place for field visits to study innovative provision of low-income housing – this may not be the UK.

Outcomes: The outcomes will include a policy report summarising the dialogue on low income housing provision and upgrading of slum areas in transitional economies, including issues of tenure, housing finance; and innovative delivery mechanisms, together with a programme of activities to October 2008; for example planning for housing delivery through non-profit organizations, the exchange visit programme, and activities leading up to WUF4.

C: PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

The third programme component is considered central in providing a coherent framework for the *Urban SDD* and underpinning other SDD themes. The programme focuses around two key projects:

- Strategic Spatial Planning, Yunnan Pilot
- Urban Observatory and Sustainable City Indicators.

Partner agencies: As lead ministry on Sustainable Development in the UK, Defra is the natural UK lead partner, through Defra China, possibly focussing on the Urban Observatory and city indicators. CLG may wish to lead the strategic spatial planning sub-component. The Welsh Assembly Government could lead on the pilot Yunnan Spatial Plan because of its experience in developing the Wales Spatial Plan. Logistic support will be funded through programme funding. A Chinese partner should be identified, possibly MoC or the China Academy of Social Science's Centre for Urban Development and Environment (CASS).

Other partners could include the Cities Alliance (strategic planning); the World Bank (urban services and strategic planning); the UNDP (urban indicators); the Urban Planning Society of China (spatial planning and conference organisation); PI-UK (planning and sustainable architecture); the RTPI (planning practice); the English Core Cities Group (planning practice and developing twinning links); Shanghai Municipal Government (urban indicators); the Academy for Sustainable Communities, and the Cultural and Educational Section of the British Embassy - British Council (sustainable cities, conference organisation); the China Association of Mayors (practice issues).

Stages of work: The first proposed event is the dissemination of experience from the multilateral City Development Strategies promoted by Cities Alliance and the World Bank, as the Cities Alliances is a leading agency promoting good practice in strategic planning for rapid urban growth. These are major programmes, and lessons both good and bad should be widely disseminated. The dialogues at the *Urban Environment Conference*, will serve as planning meetings for the practical elements of the programme, for example the Yunnan Spatial Plan pilot study, the Urban Observatory, and the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Dialogue Topics - Strategic Spatial Planning: The UK reports for the dialogues should cover the role of spatial planning and urban design as a delivery mechanism for sustainable development policy; benchmarking, indicators and cross-city comparisons; strategic environmental assessment, sustainability appraisal and ecological footprinting, the integration of sustainable development and climate change through the planning system (see draft White Paper) eg: through the *Code for Sustainable Homes*. In China, reports will cover methods of spatial planning, statutory processes and innovations in strategic planning in China; indicators and cross-city comparisons, and the work by the Shanghai Municipal Government in developed environmental indicators and 'Green City' bid.

Pilot – Yunnan Spatial Plan: Yunnan Provincial Government has recently requested technical assistance on spatial planning. The majority of funding would come from the provincial government with support needed in capacity building. Under this element, it is proposed that the focus is on developing and implementing the Yunnan Spatial Plan and in using EIA / SEA as an environmental management tool.

Pilot - Urban Observatory, Sustainable City Indicators: The UK has particular expertise on policy relevant indicators, and the aim is to provide technical help to set up an Urban Observatory, either at CASS or a university department to help establish database of existing urban indicators, and research potential for new policy-based indicators. The Urban Observatory could be a component of the Academy of Sustainable Cities proposed by the DPM's office. Practice impacts could include mayors' training workshops.

Study visit to UK: The timing of all study visits to the UK should be combined to minimise logistics, and to take place in March or April avoiding the winter weather but ahead of WUF4.

Outcomes: This component has an emphasis on projects, and the outcomes will be planning and initial implementation of the Yunnan Spatial Plan, and identifying partners and initial programmes for the Urban Observatory and Sustainable City indicators, together with a programme for the study visit and outputs for WUF4.

D: WORLD URBAN FORUM 4

There are two cross-cutting aspects of the programme: publicity of the *Urban SDD* through a web-site and presentation of the *Urban SDD* at WUF4.

The *Urban SDD* website could provide links to all the UK-China activities identified through the mapping exercise. This could be implemented quite quickly, possibly through TI-UP. The lead partner should be Defra.

The WUF4 will be the main platform for showcasing the work of the *Urban SDD*. The intention is to supplement and add value to the UK government’s presence at WUF4 for example by contributing to the exhibition or running workshop sessions. One outcome would be to establish learning networks to promote the ongoing exchange of knowledge and best practice, and a commitment to establish further opportunities to continue the dialogue and information exchange, for example highlighting good practice or areas where further research is required.

Lead partners: CLG and DFID are already committed to lead on the UK government’s presence at the WUF4 in Nanjing.

- *Best practices awards:* open competition for submission of ‘best practice’ projects on sustainable development initiatives in the urban context in Europe and China. Judging and award at WUF4.
- *Exhibition, dialogue reports and leaflets:* consultants and other partners may contribute to exhibition panels etc.
- *Sustainable Development Forum:* a large conference or round table event to take place as part of main programme or in parallel; this should be a large event to include mayors and other urban professionals.

Activities and Outputs

Figure 4.2: Project Components, Activities and Outputs

Project Component	Activities	Outputs
A: Planning for Urban Regeneration		
A1 Revival of Declining Urban Economies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study papers, on regeneration in UK and China • Case study reports on Daqing (resources) & Wuhan (declining industry) • Autumn conference / report of dialogue, identification of pilots & programme to Oct 2008 • High-level study visit to UK, to look at regeneration agencies, PPPs etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to include 250 people in dialogue • Policy report on regeneration practice • Identification of city pilots possibly using URC model • Presentation at WUF4
A2 Protecting Culture and Built Heritage in Historic Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study papers on conservation and heritage in UK and China • Case studies of Yangzhou, Chengdu, & Kaifeng • Autumn conference / report of dialogue, identification of pilots & programme to Oct 2008 • High-level study visit to UK, to study listed buildings and conservation area legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to include 250 people (as above) • Policy report on conservation practice. Proposal for heritage tourism project funded by FCO • City pilots in Yangzhou, Chengdu and Kaifeng • Presentation at WUF4
B: Low Income Housing Provision & Housing Renewal		
B1 Housing Dialogues & Best Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study papers on housing policy and poverty reduction, China & international context • Autumn conference / report of dialogue, identification of pilots & programme to Oct 2008 • Study visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to include 250 people (as above) • Forum (eg: website) to share academic/practice experience • Possible pilot eg: cooperative housing • Presentation at WUF4
B2 Housing Renewal in Low Income Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study papers on slum upgrading in China and international context • Autumn conference / report of dialogue, identification of pilots & programme to Oct 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to include 250 people (as above) • Planning of pilot eg: cooperative housing • Presentation at WUF4

Figure 4.2: Project Components, Activities and Outputs .. ctd

Project Component	Activities	Outputs
C: Strategic Spatial Planning		
C1 Strategic Spatial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study papers on spatial planning & sustainability UK & China • City Development Strategies – dissemination of Cities Alliance's work • Autumn conference/ report of dialogue, pilots and programme to June 2008 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference to include 250 people (as above) • Website access to CDS work • Planning of pilot: eg: CDS handbook • Presentation at WUF4
C2 Strategic Spatial Planning – Yunnan Pilot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yunnan Spatial Plan – pilot programme • Capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft spatial plan for Yunnan Province • Presentation at WUF4
C3: Urban Observatory and Sustainable Cities Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic and consultancy papers on sustainable city indicators, UK, China, Shanghai • Proposals for Urban Observatory/ Code for Sustainable Homes • Best practices database (UK and China) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative research report on indicators for sustainable cities • Proposals for Urban Observatory, possible pilot • Proposals for <i>Code for Sustainable Homes</i>, possible pilot • Presentation at WUF4
D: World Urban Forum 4 (WUF4)		
D1: Best Practices Awards, Exhibition, and WUF4 Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website of UK-China links, CDS strategies etc • Best practices awards at WUF4 • Exhibition and leaflets (based on above) • Forum event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website showcasing activities of Urban SDD • Best practices awards • Exhibition material - to include national, regional, city authorities, consultancies etc • Large conference / round table event at WUF4

4.6 Programme Implementation

Programme Management

The role of lead agencies will be to provide strategic direction, with a commitment to attend meetings, provide guidance on strategy, comment reports and the programme, attending one or two conferences, and hosting sessions during high level visits. It is assumed that:

- the UK lead agencies will have professional and administrative support funded through the programme;
- the MoC may fund consultants they have already selected;
- air fares to the UK for study visits may be funded by Chinese partners;
- translation costs will be significant and should be costed in the programme; these should cover translation of the executive summaries or abstracts, and simultaneous translation for 2 days at each conference.
- study visits will be combined to save on planning and logistical costs, with specialist elements for each component.

The Next Steps

The first priority in the *Implementation* phase will be to finalise the proposed programme with potential partners, agree the components, and identify any potential match funding. Priority steps in the initial phase include:

- agreeing the proposals with the Ministry of Construction and other lead partners;
- agreeing with the Urban Planning Society of China and Cultural & Educational Section of the British Embassy (British Council) whether dialogues can be held during the November conference;
- agreeing a framework for reporting and financial management;
- commissioning academic papers and other reports;
- agreeing a dissemination strategy and setting up the *UK-China SDD Urban Theme* and website, and
- preliminary proposals for involvement in WUF4.

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