The Heseltine Institute brings together the University of Liverpool’s world-class academic research base with policy makers and practitioners to work together to address some of today’s most pressing public policy issues. We provide thought leadership and high impact research to support the sustainable development of cities and city-regions, with a particular focus on former industrial cities undergoing regeneration.

By initiating and opening up new conversations, we inspire co-created, innovative and sometimes disruptive solutions to key urban challenges. By doing this we build an evidence base for local and national public policy and frame agendas for positive change.

We work with a range of external organisations including local authorities, businesses, the public sector, charities, social enterprises, housing associations and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to ensure a sustainable and successful future for tomorrow’s cities.

**Our expertise**

We are a multidisciplinary team with expertise in:

- The social economy/social enterprises
- English devolution, combined authorities and the metro-mayors
- Brexit: impacts and responses
- Low carbon transitions and climate resilience
- Smart cities
- Health inequalities and health governance
- Diverse leadership and gender equality
- Neighbourhood regeneration
- Skills in the local economy.

**Our work**

We support organisations by:

- Encouraging knowledge exchange and civic engagement
- Undertaking collaborative research
- Hosting capacity building events
- Upskilling and training students and stakeholders
- Providing consultancy and advice.
Case study

Onward Homes

Challenge: Twelve years into a 22-year regeneration programme of the Hattersley and Mottram housing estate in Greater Manchester, Onward Homes, a housing association working throughout the North West, wanted to find out what impact the interventions made to date were having on the estate. Dr Paul Hepburn and Dr Matthew Thompson from the Heseltine Institute carried out an independent evaluation of one of its housing associations, Peak Valley, to gauge progress and ensure that learning from the Hattersley case could be captured and shared. It aimed to provide lessons not only for Onward Homes but also for the wider housing association sector and policy-makers.

Solution: We undertook an in-depth evaluation of the regeneration programme by assessing the extent to which Peak Valley met the original regeneration objectives set out in the Collaboration Agreement, the founding legal document for the regeneration partnership. Our observations of the estate included walking tours, regular visits to key areas and facilities, semi-structured interviews and focus groups, as well as speaking informally with a variety of people living on the estate.

Impact: The evaluation concluded that the regeneration had been largely successful and identified areas for improvement, including to the estate’s environment, the local community centre and to future governance arrangements. It also identified a set of principles that may help guide future regeneration projects. The Institute presented findings at three separate events – to Onward’s Board, key stakeholders in Hattersley, and at an official launch event at the DW stadium in Wigan. Onward now has a comprehensive evaluation of the estate’s regeneration, which will inform the next ten years of the project.

Why work with us?

• Access to knowledge: The Heseltine Institute acts as a front door to the wealth of research taking place across the University of Liverpool. We can start conversations, forge relationships and help to share knowledge that benefits us all.

• Global expertise: Our internationally renowned team has both academic and practical experience of public policy and a proven track record of influencing local and national decision-making.

• Well-connected: We have a broad range of expertise and can draw on skills and knowledge from across the University and the city region.

• Independent: We are a non-partisan, rigorously independent Institute that acts as a ‘critical friend’ to the stakeholders we work alongside.