Learning from deals and deal-making

‘Growth Deals Beyond the Cities’, CURDS and Cities and Local Growth Unit, 2021

Andy Pike
Henry Daysh Professor of Regional Development Studies

andy.pike@ncl.ac.uk
Where did deals and deal-making come from?
Origins

• then Secretary of State for Cities Greg Clark’s (1992) PhD on incentive payment systems…

• Critique of New Labour’s ‘top-down’ and ‘command state’ centralism…

• Commercial and financial practice…

• US political horse-trading…even Trump’s ‘The Art of the Deal’…
Evolving geographies of deals
Evolving geographies of deals

• **Wave 1** – larger city-regions in England

• **Wave 2** – smaller and faster growth cities in England

• **Wave 3** – remaining city regions + smaller cities, towns and rural areas in Scotland and Wales

• **Wave 4** – extension to Northern Ireland and remaining areas in Scotland and Wales

• **Wave 5?** – more Devolution, Town Deals and new County Deals in England, evolution of deals in devolved territories?
City Deal geographies, 2017

Source: O’Brien, P. and Pike, A. (2018) “‘Deal or no deal?’ Governing urban infrastructure funding and financing in the UK City Deals”, Urban Studies
Ten lessons
1. Articulating an ‘ambitious’ and ‘transformative’ vision and strategy

“what you have to do is to make the government an offer it can’t refuse... it needs to be so compelling that what is being proposed is so clearly in the national interest as well as the local interest... demonstrated convincingly with the economic analysis that is available”

(Greg Clark, UK Secretary of State, BEIS, 2017)

Source: Quoted in Discuss Manchester (2017) Panel, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35FogyF7isQ; Accessed: 29 August 2018
2. Tailoring to local assets and circumstances

“The aim of these deals is to empower cities to forge their own path, to play to their own strengths and to find creative solutions to local problems”

(Nick Clegg, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreword, 2011)
3. Connecting ‘growth’ and ‘public service reform’

GM: from ‘cost centre’ to ‘net contributor’ to the national economy...

Source: Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester LEP
4. Linking growth ‘cores’ with their ‘peripheries’
5. Demonstrating innovation

‘Financial Innovation Name Generator’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Terms (select 1 from each column)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dividend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payoff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. Integrating programmes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Deal Area</th>
<th>Public policy areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Birmingham &amp; Solihull</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol &amp; West of England</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Manchester</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leeds City Region</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liverpool City Region</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nottingham</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle &amp; Gateshead</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheffield City Region</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7. Creating locally appropriate governance arrangements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance model</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elected Mayor</td>
<td>Liverpool City; Bristol City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combined Authority</td>
<td>North East Combined Authority; West Yorkshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected metro-mayor and Combined Authority</td>
<td>Greater Manchester; Sheffield City Region; Liverpool City Region; Tees Valley; Greater Birmingham and Solihull; West of England</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Committee</td>
<td>Black Country; Coventry and Warwickshire; Hull and Humber; Oxford and Oxfordshire; Plymouth; Thames Valley Berkshire; Glasgow and Clyde Valley; Cardiff Capital Region; Aberdeen; Edinburgh and South East Scotland; Swansea Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Local Authority</td>
<td>Inverness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEP or private sector-led</td>
<td>Greater Ipswich; Preston; South Ribble and Lancashire; Swindon and Wiltshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Board</td>
<td>Nottingham; Greater Brighton; Greater Cambridge; Greater Norwich; Leicester and Leicestershire; Solent; Southend; Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8. Ensuring accountability, scrutiny and transparency

“…two mafia bosses carving up Apulia. There was no white paper or consultative document, let alone a debate in parliament. Manchester’s deal was reached by sleight of hand, by one man with a political problem to solve and another who saw this as an opportunity”

The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth aims to significantly improve the use of evidence in the design and delivery of interventions for local economic growth. A key part of this is engagement with practitioners to share best practice and guidance about improving policy development and evaluation.

This paper, produced by John Holden at New Economy and Alan Harding at the University of Liverpool Institute for Policy Studies, presents a case study of the approach to evidence-based policymaking taken in Greater Manchester and offers a series of good practice lessons for other local policymakers.
10. Sharing knowledge and practice locally and centrally
Key questions for Growth
Deals beyond the Cities...
#1 How to demonstrate economic, productivity and jobs growth beyond cities?
‘External economies of agglomeration’

Attractiveness of city to skilled labour and capital

High productivity, high innovation, high incomes

Skilled labour pool

Specialised goods and services suppliers

Knowledge spillovers and technology transfers

Scale, density and economic integration
‘Rural levelling up’

‘Trickle down’ Levelling Up effects from cities to towns to rural communities

TO

‘Inclusive Levelling Up’ raises rural health AND ‘Trickle up’ to wider economies

BY

Improved rural targeting, and better rural capacity to ‘Reach in’ for resources

#2 How to build Green Book compliant rationales for public policy intervention?
• Business cases for public investment assessed on their current economic or market value and rated using Benefit-Cost Ratios (BCRs)

• Projects located in more productive and stronger economies produce higher BCRs

• City centres generate higher BCRs = rationale that £1 of public money invested in city centre generates higher GVA and employment for benefit of wider city-region than £1 spent elsewhere
#3 How to change the yardsticks for deal objectives and measuring success?
Connecting to inclusive and sustainable growth and wellbeing agendas for post-Brexit and post-pandemic recovery
#4 How to develop a policy repertoire beyond ‘city centrism’?
‘City centrism’ policy repertoire

- Urban service economy model for city regeneration
- Attraction and promotion of business and consumer services
- Upgrading of urban service functions through attracting and growing HQs, knowledge-intensive and exportable services
- Supply-side provision of sites and premises and education and training
- Improvement of intra- and inter-city transport connections
- Encouragement of firm-university linkages
- Improvement of city business environment and image to attract people and firms
- Liberal planning and regulation to attract new investment and support urban core economic dynamism and critical mass
- Public-private partnership and governance of ‘functional economic areas’
Acknowledgements