

ECEGE7003Q Assessment 2:

Identify one issue of sustainability in contemporary society and critically reflect upon the tensions between policy and practice.

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Overview of Discussion

- Sustainable development
- Unsustainable urban development
- 20 minute neighbourhood
- Global Pandemic and Inequalities Highlighted
- 20 Minute Neighbourhood Policy: Aspirations vs Legislations
- 20-minute Neighbourhood in Practice
- Recommendations

Sustainable development

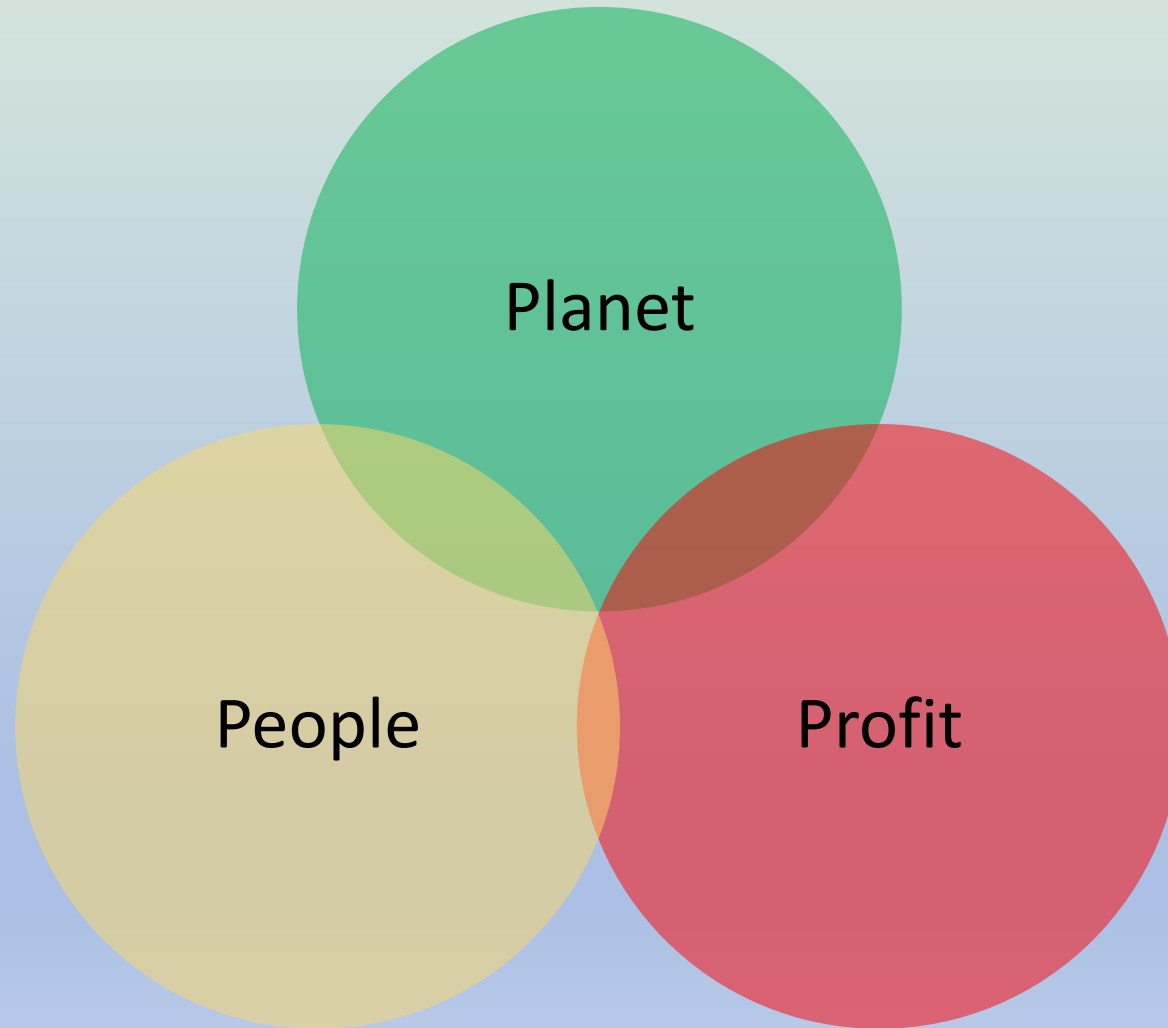
‘Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Two key concepts:

1. Overriding priority given to essential needs of the world's poor
2. Technology and social organisation to limit the demands on the environment to meet present and future needs.’

(Keeble, 1988)

Tripartite Model of Sustainable Development



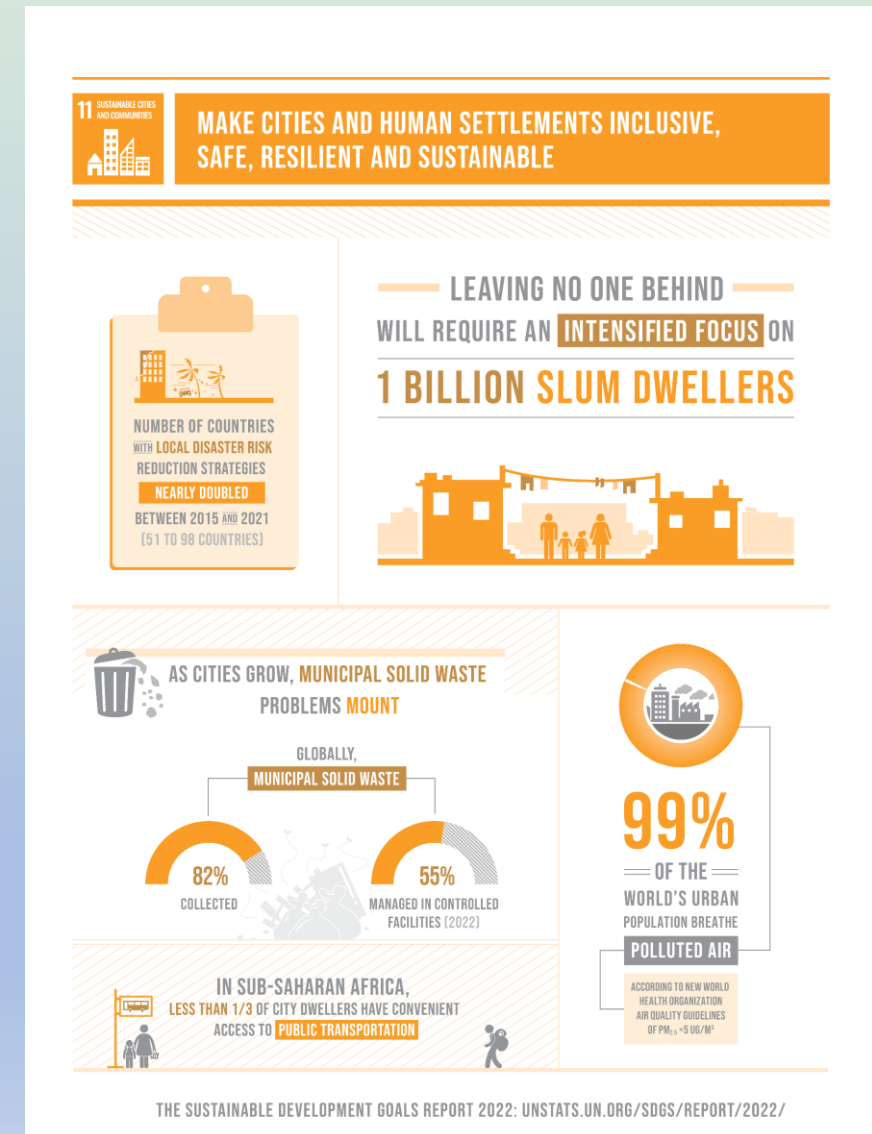
Unsustainable urban development

‘Human’s... draw too heavily, too quickly, on already overdrawn environmental resource accounts to be affordable far into the future without bankrupting those accounts.’

(Keeble, 1988)

‘2050, it is expected that two-thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas.’

(United Nations, no date)



UN Sustainable Development Goal 11

Targets to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable by 2030:

11.B Increase urbanisation policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigating and adaption to climate change

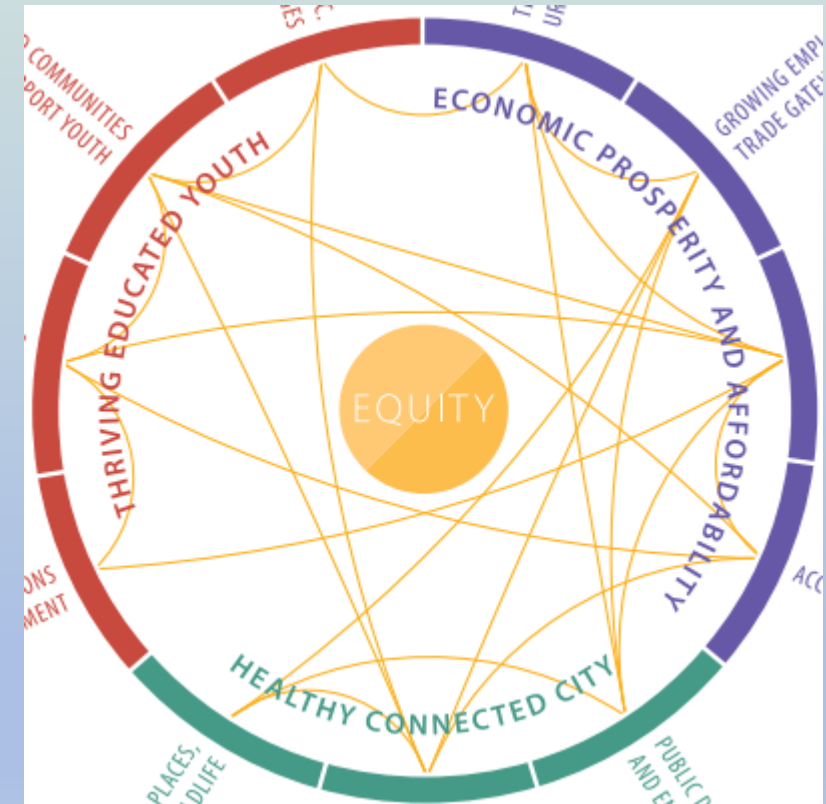
(United Nations, no date)

20 minute neighbourhood

‘To provide well-connected and mixed-used neighbourhoods and communities with proximate access to employment, essential services, public transport, and open spaces.’ (Chau et al., 2022)

- Originating in Portland Oregon
- Anthropomorphic model
- Strong sustainability
- Technocentric

(City of Portland, 2023)



Global Pandemic and Inequalities Highlighted



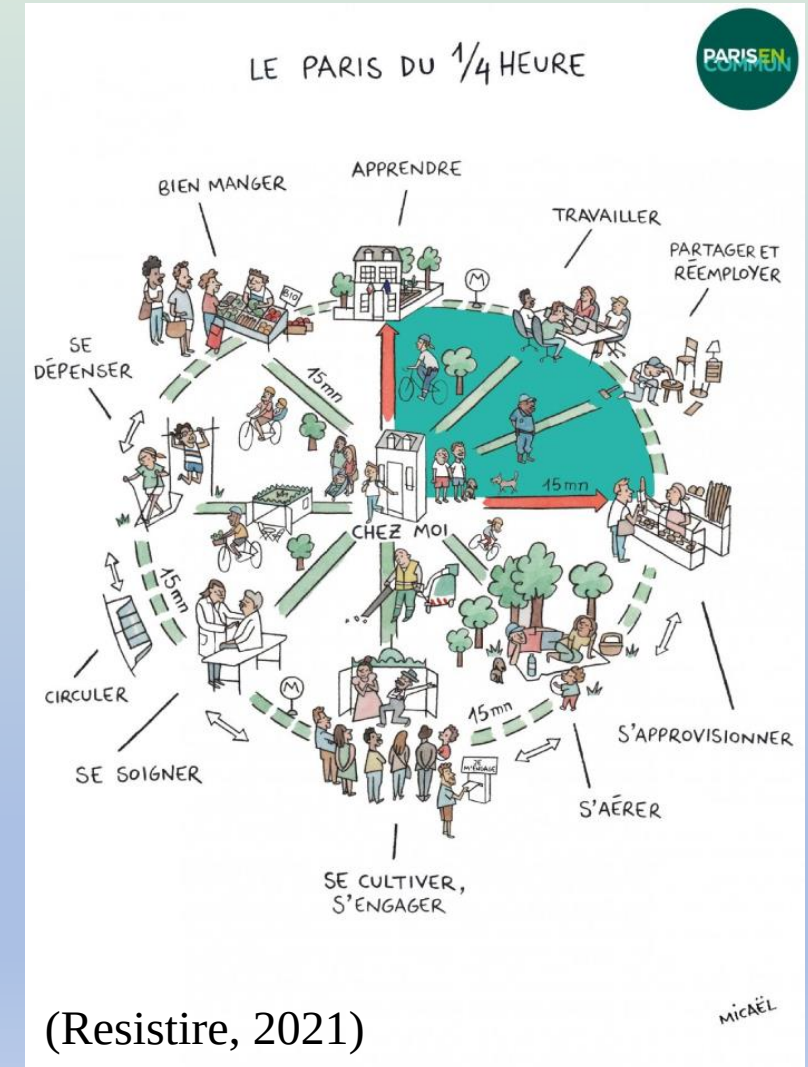
(Welsh Government, 2020)

- Experience of lockdown and the pandemic had direct correlation with where you lived (Calafiore et al., 2022)
- People experiencing intersectional inequalities were disproportionately affected, including Ethnic Minorities, lower socio-economic and disabled people (Calafiore et al., 2022)
- Vulnerability of cities due to mono-functional city zones (Chau et al., 2022)
- Lack of amenities at local level (Pozoukidou and Chatziyiannaki, 2021)
- Concept of safety expanding to include mobility, public space and socialisation (Pozoukidou and Chatziyiannaki, 2021)

20 Minute Neighbourhood in Policy



(Victoria State Government, no date)



(Resistire, 2021)

20 Minute Neighbourhood Policy Aspirations vs Legislations

- Gower and Grodach (2022, p. 46) found of 33 cities worldwide only 2 cities, Portland and Eugene, had 'specific, measurable bench-marks in their 20 minute neighbourhood policy documents.
- Calafiore et al., (2022, p. 11) concluded the '20-minute city has been presented as an unambiguous normative good for cities with the need for policy targets to prove governmental and council accountability.
- Olsen et al., (2022, p. 2) recognised the 20-minute neighbourhood is yet to be assessed and implemented on a national scale. As such there is disparity between principles and data.
- Calafiore et al., (2022, p. 2) highlights though there is a lack of well-established approaches to planning, the concept has received widespread policy attention seeking to put ideas into practice.

20-minute Neighbourhood in Practice



Local Living Framework
diagram
(Scottish Government, 2022)

Accessibility vs Proximity



‘A hierarchy of movement to support active travel’(Town and Country Planning Association, 2021)

- ‘where people can meet the majority of their daily needs within a reasonable distance of their home, by walking, **wheeling** or cycling.’ (Scottish Government, 2022, p. 4)
- Ableist standardisation of walkable neighbourhood planning and design (Stafford and Baldwin, 2018)
- Mitigate against ‘pedestrianised islands’ Pozoukidou and Chatziyiannaki (2021, p. 15) assert that highly diverse and dense housing around public transport hubs.

Gentrification vs Social Equity

- If there are no bench markers to ensure accountability, the areas chosen to be developed, can be cherry picked to enable quick wins for strategic targets, thus fuelling the reproduction of social exclusion and polarisation through commodification and 'city branding'. (Pozoukidou and Chatziyiannaki, 2021; Calafiore et al., 2022; Chau et al., 2022; Gower and Grodach, 2022; Olsen et al., 2022)
- Calafiore et al., (2022) argue that retrofitting 20-minute neighbourhoods into cities with limited infrastructure is challenging due to cities being designed on both historic and present systemic and structural inequalities.
- Olsen et al., (2022) argue that the quality as well as the quantity of local facilities must be assessed to ensure social equity and social justice.

Recommendations

- Comparative analysis of sustainability of communities with similar socio-economic deprivation but who have different quality of facilities and service (Olsen et al., 2022)
- Increase publicly owned housing (Pozoukidou and Chatziyiannaki, 2021)
- Planning and development from intersectional perspective to accommodate the complexity of humanity and sustainability.

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- Welsh Government (2020) *Welsh Government on Twitter: 'There's evidence to show up to 35% of people who get coronavirus don't notice any symptoms at all. They'll still be infectious though, which is why staying local, keeping a 2 metre distance and regular hand washing continue to be so important. Together we'll #KeepWalesSafe https://t.co/2Gr9Uyw630' / Twitter.* Available at: <https://twitter.com/welshgovernment/status/1269330739356733448> (Accessed: 8 May 2023).