

qualities of political leadership that can take a sceptical country to war. As Prime Minister Blair noted, climate change is a greater threat than international terrorism.

The process of developing the sustainable city of the future will involve a major cultural change, which for many will mean a change in lifestyle, one which is no longer dependent upon the motor car. A feature of this necessary cultural change is a holistic perspective of the city region, its people and the technology that supports and sustains their social, economic, political and physical infrastructure. This new paradigm – or way of viewing the city as a series of overlapping and interconnected systems – if it is to be successful, will result in planning mechanisms, which comprise sets of interrelated and mutually supportive

policies. The paradigm for sustainable development is akin to the holistic or synoptic method of the Geddesian planner rather than to the sectoral approach used in resource allocation or the limited solutions offered by traditional road engineering to discretely defined traffic problems. For the purposes of the discussion that follows in Chapter 4, the nature of sustainable urban transport will be analysed within the framework of the city and its region. However, it is clear that sustainable urban transport requires the support of a balanced combination of pricing measures to promote public transport, in addition to changes in governance, advances in transport technology including recycling of materials, and new initiatives in the design and structuring of all future urban developments.

THE REGION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The present patchwork of local authorities outside London does not foster the implementation of sustainable development, nor does it assist in achieving a balanced approach to an integrated transport provision for the country. Devolution of power to Scotland, Wales and the suspended assembly for Northern Ireland, together with the election of a powerful Mayor of London, does however auger well for a future pattern of devolved government that could begin to tackle the main problems associated with assuring the Nation of a sustainable future. Furthermore, the prospect of elected regional assemblies and strong city executives with London-type elected Mayors may further strengthen a system eminently suited to achieving sustainable development based on popular support.

COMMUNITY

Definitions of sustainable development are built on a premise that recognizes the virtue

and necessity of grass roots community activity in the development process. 'Think globally, act locally', is a catch phrase often used in any debate on sustainable development. Citizen participation in development and the political structures which sustain it is clearly an essential requirement of local and regional government in a sustainable world. It can be argued that the lowest level or tier of government should be the local community which occupies a clearly defined district or quarter of the city. 'Community' in the twenty-first century, however, is not necessarily associated with a physically identified place. Many associations, friendship patterns and communities of interest extend far beyond the confines of the local neighbourhood: they form a rich web of overlapping communities. It is not the intention here to dispute this explanation of community, nor is it the intention to suggest the need or desirability to change this particular aspect of urban culture. It is, however, asserted that people see the city partly in terms of named and clearly identifiable districts. The district,