

Smart Cities/smart Buildings – a Tale of Two Scales!

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SUMMARY

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RICS regards the ‘smart’ agenda as essential to delivering competitive advantage in the global economy. It also sees the development of expertise in this area as highly transformative in terms of generating new services and new expertise for its citizens as well as creating a new economy. Two recent reports in the UK respond to the challenges and opportunities of moving towards ‘smart’ urban environments at distinctly different scales. At the level of the city, five key areas are identified where planning and development processes can support smart city aspirations. At the level of the building the role of Building Information Modelling (BIM) in combination with the internet of things and advanced data analytics and spatial measurement is advocated as a way of changing how buildings and infrastructure are procured. Although these reports address different scales their aims are closely connected. They are about enabling procurement of new buildings and infrastructure more effectively and about making better use of the existing stock of assets in the service of the citizen. UNECE has also started to develop Smart City ‘indicators’ for developing world cities but just how will BIM develop as ‘small but important’ cog in the bigger machine of Smart Cities? How will geo-technology enable developing world cities to deal with rapid urbanisation? How will we get the most from our creaking Victorian infrastructure in the West? And how will governance influence the adoption of BIM technologies within this context?

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