

Tracking Neighbourhood Change in Nottingham

A project has recently been undertaken by Nottingham City Council to understand how we can support a requirement to evaluate and monitor regeneration activities within the City. The main objective of this project was to develop a tool to evidence social, economic and environmental change over time in relation to investment, providing a holistic approach to regeneration and enabling the monitoring of outcomes at a local level. Tracking the changes that occur within our neighbourhoods as the City's regeneration programme moves forward requires access to a comprehensive evidence base, incorporating the following key areas:

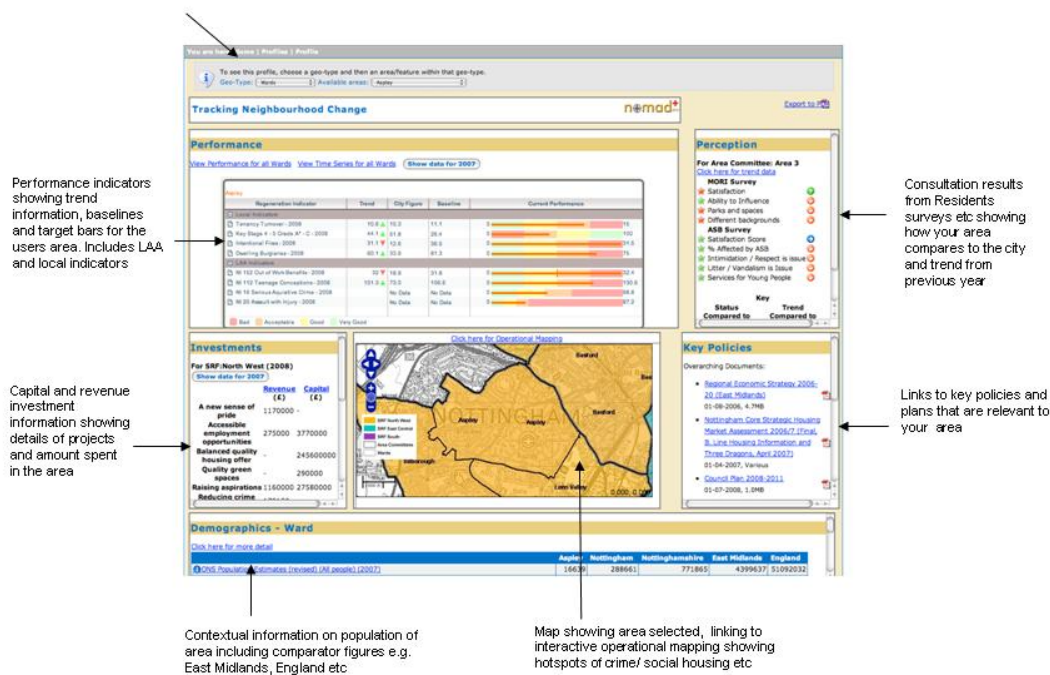
- performance;
- perception;
- investment;
- contextual;
- policies/ plans;
- operational

Research was centered around developing an understanding of these six areas in terms of the data and information that would feed them, alongside developing a suitable IT solution that would pull together and present this information. The IT solution would need to include a combination of data visualisation tools, GIS, and our existing Local Information System (NOMAD+). The technology underpinning the platform is based on ESRI ArcGIS Server and InstantAtlas Server from GeoWise.

The key outcome was the creation of a pilot tool which enables the user to Track Neighbourhood Change at SRF (Strategic Regeneration Framework), Area Committee and Ward level (with LSOAs in development). The tool was developed in the form of an 'evidence dashboard', pulling together information for a user-specified locality on the six key areas outlined above.

The IT solution presented is both unique and innovative, with each key component of the dashboard offering the ability for user to drill-down further into the data. Examples include maps allowing the user to animate change over time, a breakdown of capital and revenue spend, charts to show the performance of the area you have selected, and graphs to show trend information for resident consultation or demographics.

User selects area. Information on dashboard reflects area chosen



As well as enabling the development of a pilot tool, the research also uncovered several challenges which will need to be overcome before the tool can be fully implemented, mainly around the areas of obtaining investment

details by locality and maintaining streams of data at a neighbourhood level. Nonetheless, the Tracking Neighbourhood Change tool offers an innovative solution, pulling together a range of evidence for a specified locality, and presenting the information in a user-friendly manner.

The Tracking Neighbourhood Change tool could have numerous applications, far beyond supporting the monitoring of regeneration activities. However, specific benefits include:

- Aiding strategic decision making through monitoring trends at a ward level
- Identifying the impact investment has had on performance indicators, perception and at a neighbourhood level
- Prioritising where more investment may need to occur through acting as an Early Warning System to highlight underperforming areas
- Attracting additional investment through demonstrating an evidence-based approach to regeneration
- Supporting other areas such as the Sustainable Community Strategy, Comprehensive Area Assessment and Community Empowerment

Through monitoring social, economic and environmental trends this tool will truly offer the capability to drive change and evidence decisions at a local level, as well as understanding the outcomes of the regeneration work that will take place in Nottingham over the next 10-15 years.