Sustainable Cities GRP: City of Culture workshop discussions
Initial challenges and considerations (1)

• Define expectations of impact
• Focus on transformative activity
• Importance of co-designing research with the community
• Ask ‘uncomfortable’ questions
• Focus on the long-term legacy
• Importance of short, medium and long-term measures/evaluation
• Start with clearly defined outcomes

• Think about different points of entry: individual, family, community
• Link with existing research/connections
• Who makes the decisions about areas of research?
• Make sure we do something!
Initial challenges and considerations (2)

- How do universities make the most of the opportunity? Challenges around speed of delivery, resources, capacity, etc.
- How does this fit with other new opportunities, like City of Sport and Commonwealth Games?
- How can we work with existing social enterprises?
- Does the City of Culture need to reach everybody in some way?
- How will different organisations and communities work together?
- How do we hold onto (and measure) the qualitative?
- How will the research be funded/resourced?
Potential research areas

- Sustainability – economic and environmental
- Creating, digitizing and using archives
- Mapping the city in different ways
- Health equity
- Community engagement
- Cultural ‘currencies’
- ‘Meta research’ and impact of City of Culture research on communities
- Theories of change
- Place/ vision of Coventry for the future
- Methodologies for quantifying and evaluating the unquantifiable
Research areas in more detail

- Mapping the city through an app: publish and collect stories about Coventry
- Look at the relationship between Coventry and the two universities as part of place studies
- What does ‘community’ mean in different contexts?
- What is the role of Coventry as a sanctuary city?
- Finding and working with invisible/hard to reach communities
- What is culture, and how do we measure it?
- What does losing a culture mean? And what is the cost?
- How can we use ‘culture’ to improve health and wellbeing?
- Engaging employers in improving the health and wellbeing of the workforce
- Enabling ‘self-triage’ for health and wellbeing
- Optimising the GP-patient relationship
- Histories of Coventry: oral, art, heritage, other
- How is the history of Coventry’s communities reflected in the curriculum?
- Cost-benefit analysis of health and well-being initiatives/policies
- Value of ‘safe spaces’ for participation: urban zoning
Next steps

- Share your keywords with the group (via the GRP)
- Connect with colleagues at Warwick and Coventry
- Build initial ideas into research projects
- Connect with your research support offices to identify opportunities for funding and to build applications/business cases
- Attend more City of Culture events
- Participate in research taking place in your community
Links and contacts

• Jonathan Neelands: jonothan.neelands@wbs.ac.uk
• Jon Coaffee: j.coaffee@warwick.ac.uk
• Stephanie Whitehead: s.whitehead@warwick.ac.uk
• Katie Klaassen: K.Klaassen@warwick.ac.uk
• Sarah Wall: S.Wall@warwick.ac.uk

• GRP pages: https://warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/sustainablecities/newsandevents/calendar/city_of_culture/