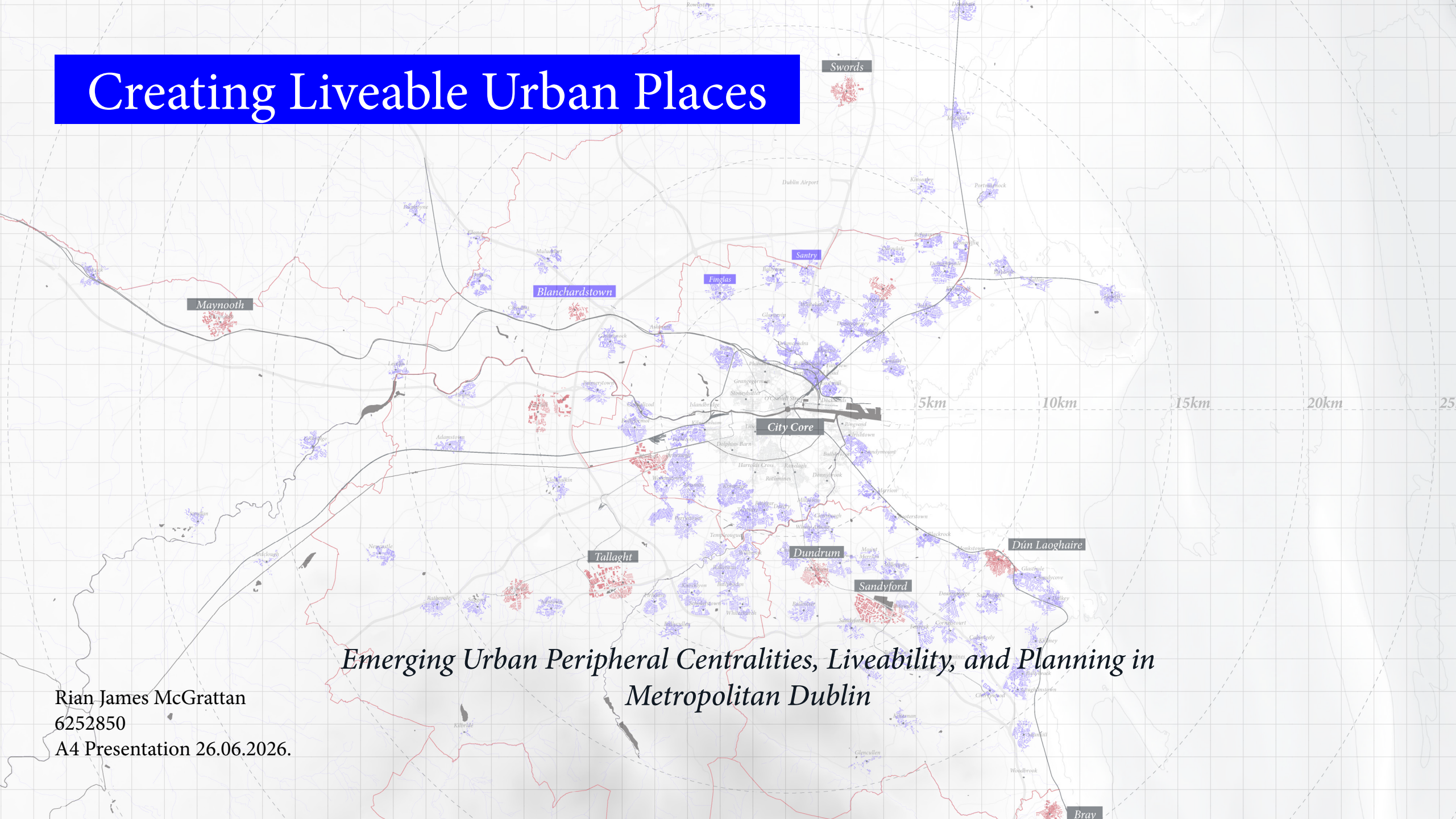


# Creating Liveable Urban Places



*Emerging Urban Peripheral Centralities, Liveability, and Planning in Metropolitan Dublin*

Rian James McGrattan

6252850

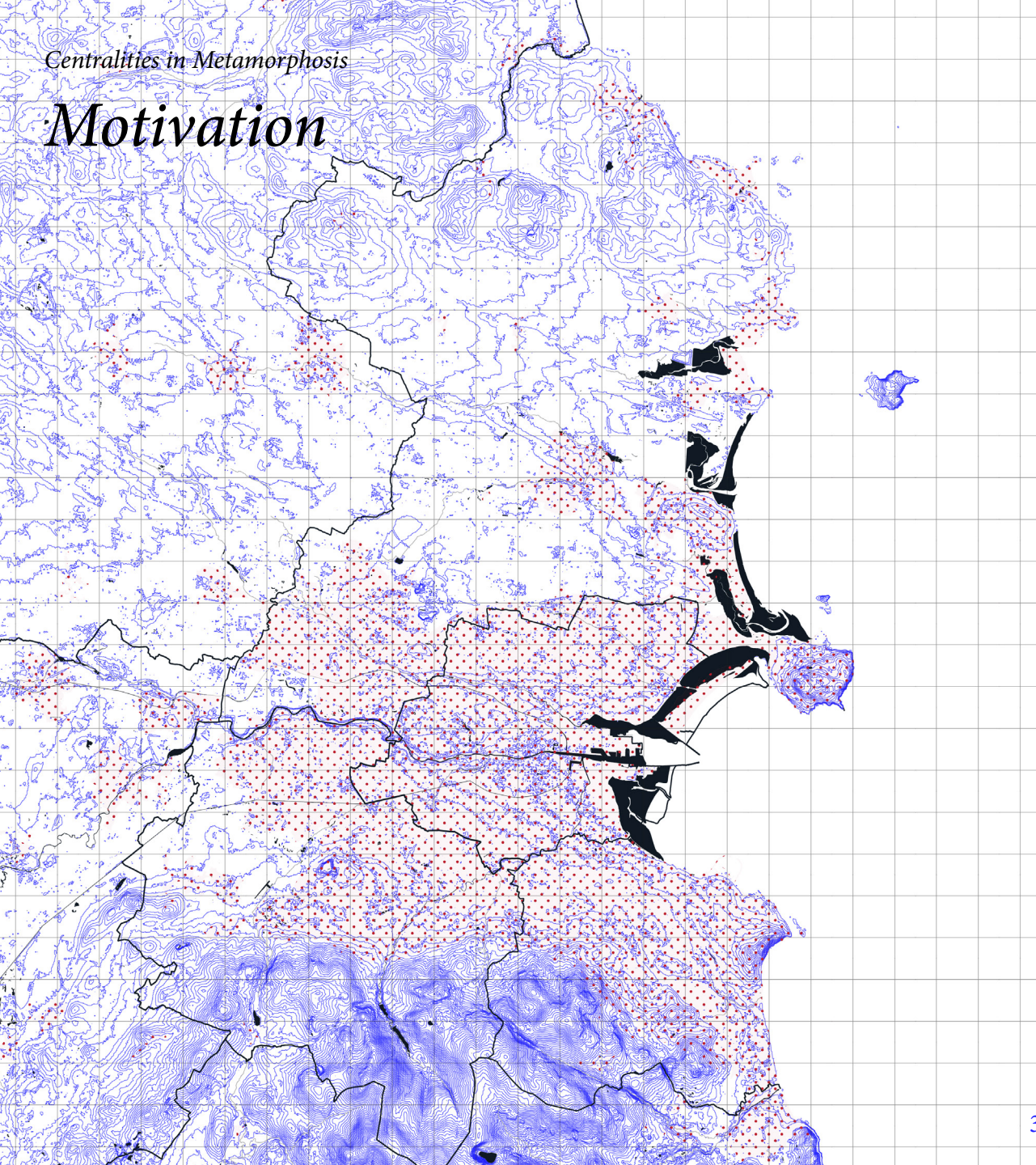
A4 Presentation 26.06.2026.

# *Contents*

*Development of the City*  
*Living in the Edges of the City*  
*Retrofitting Neighbourhoods*  
*Public Space Design*  
*Planning Policies*



# Motivation



- Boundaries Municipalities
- Waterways & Canals
- Contour Lines
- Built Up Areas
- Wetlands



*“Ineluctable modality of the visible: at least that, if no more, thought through my eyes.”*







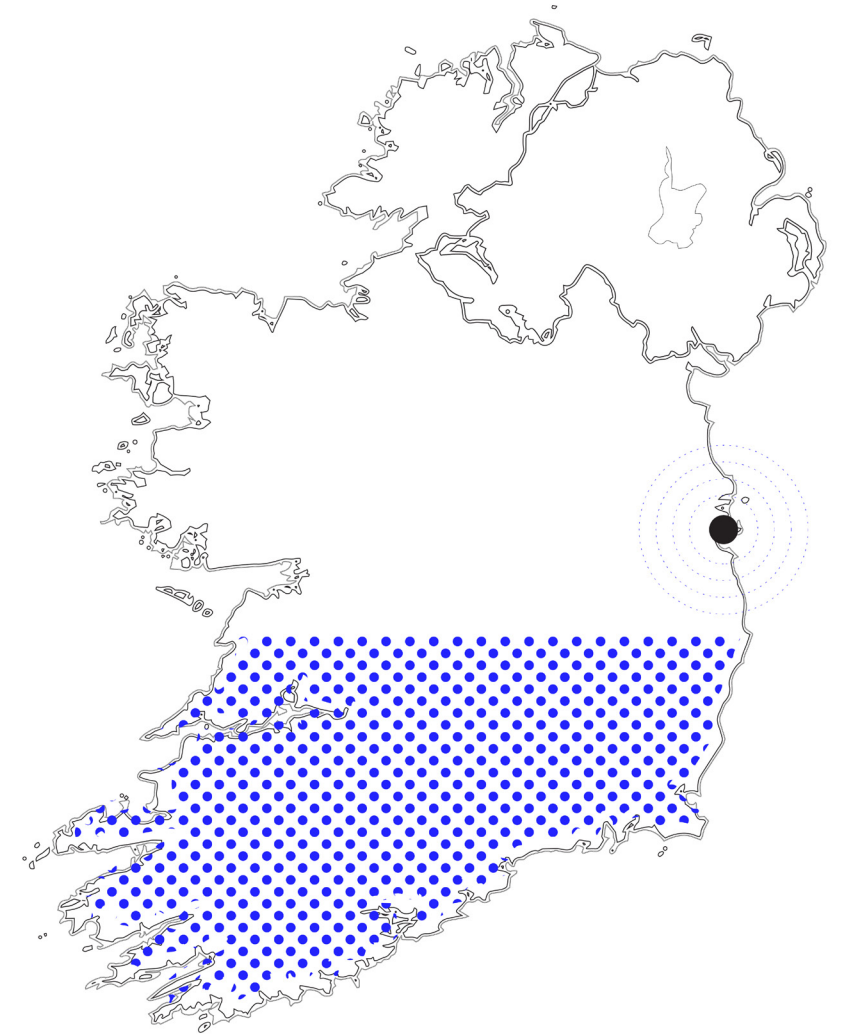
Greater Dublin Area Population:

2.1 Million or 40.5% of the total  
population of Ireland live in the GDA

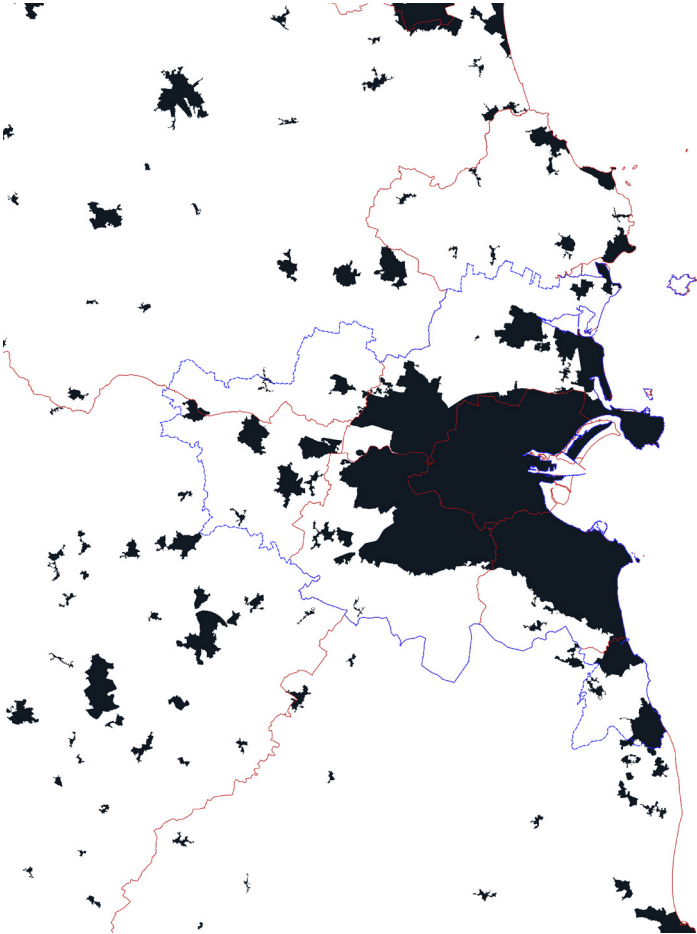
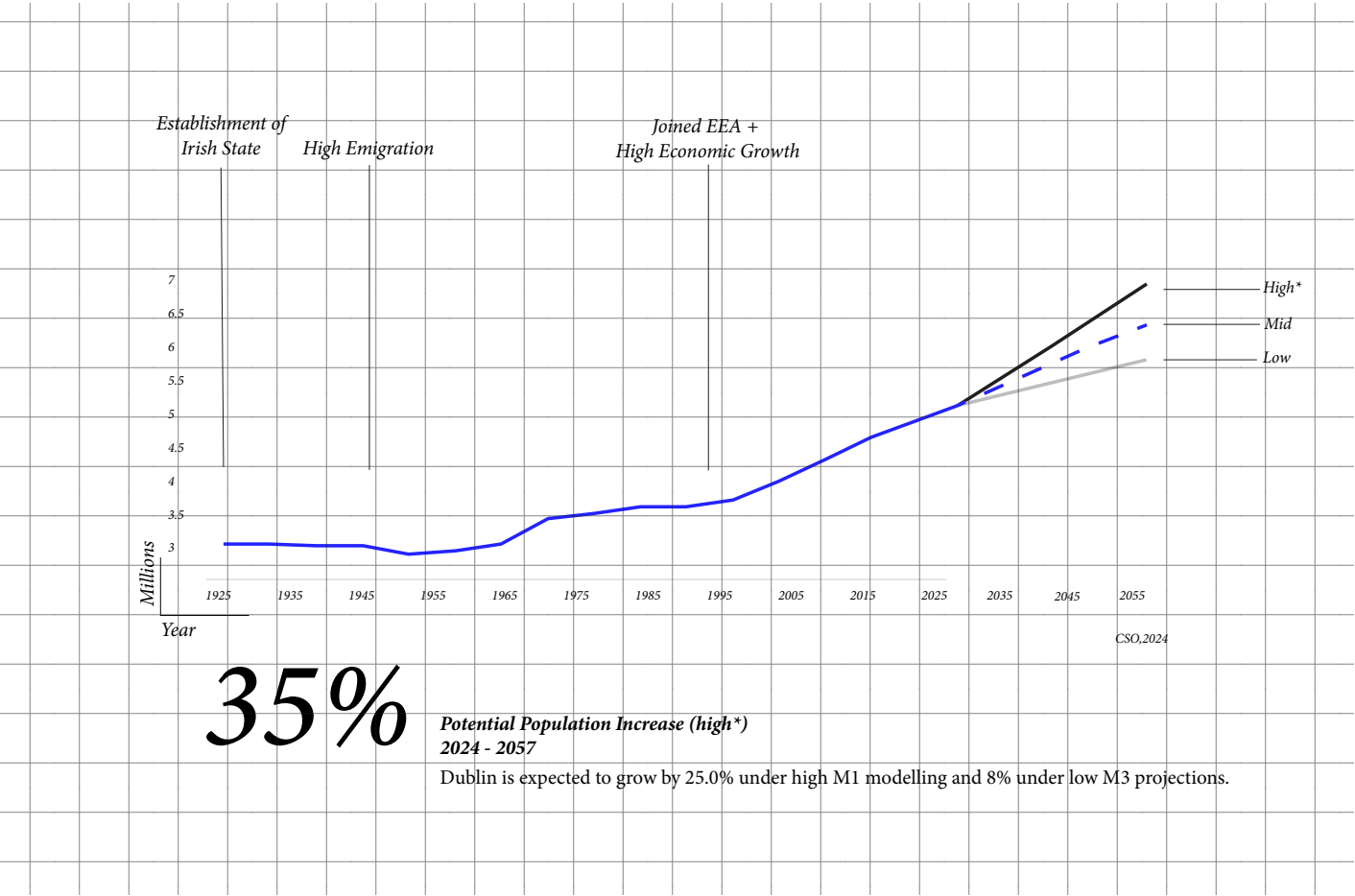
Dublin County (inclusive of the four municipalities) Population:

c. 1.5 Million

CSO, 2022

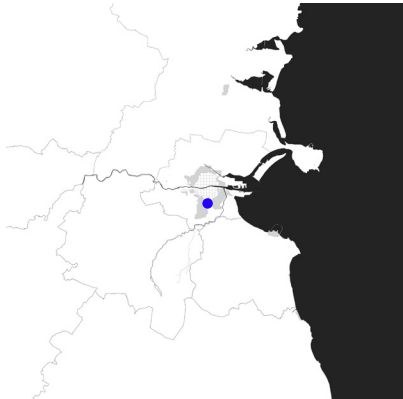


# High Expected Population Growth





# From Townlands to Urban Villages



1800s 1900s



Dublin Tenements



1849 Dublin



*1800s 1900s*



*1940s*

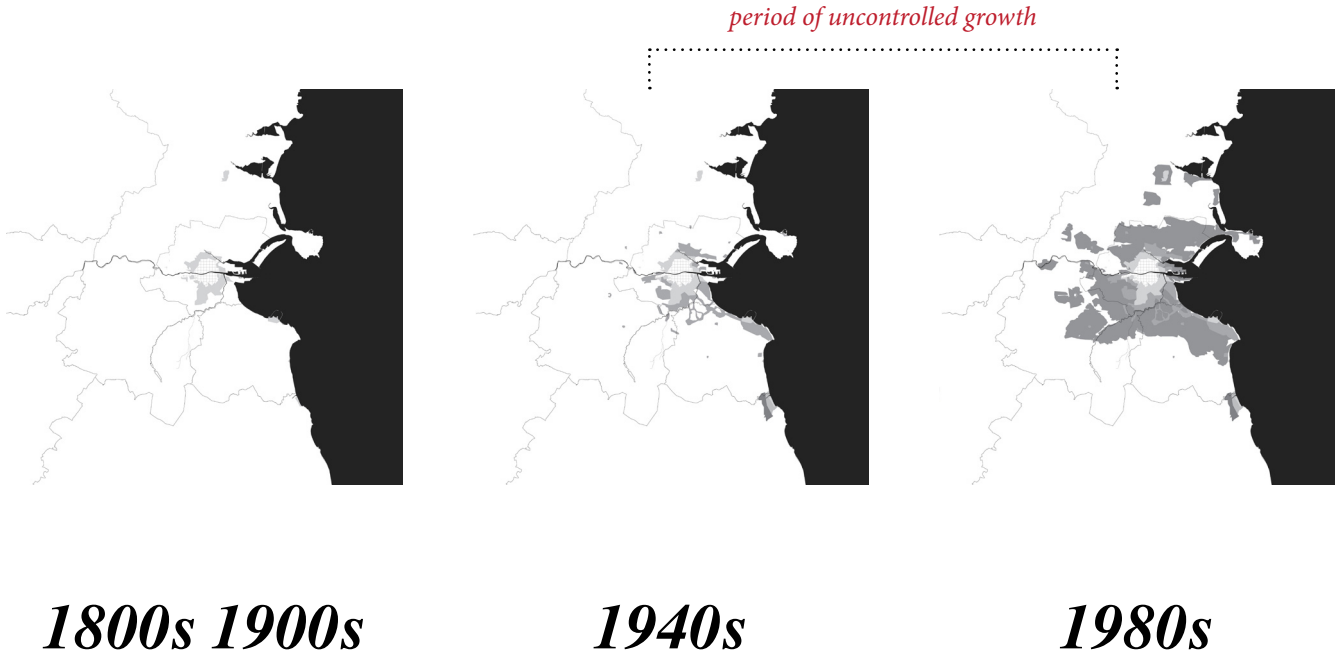
*Source: National Library of Ireland, (1920)*

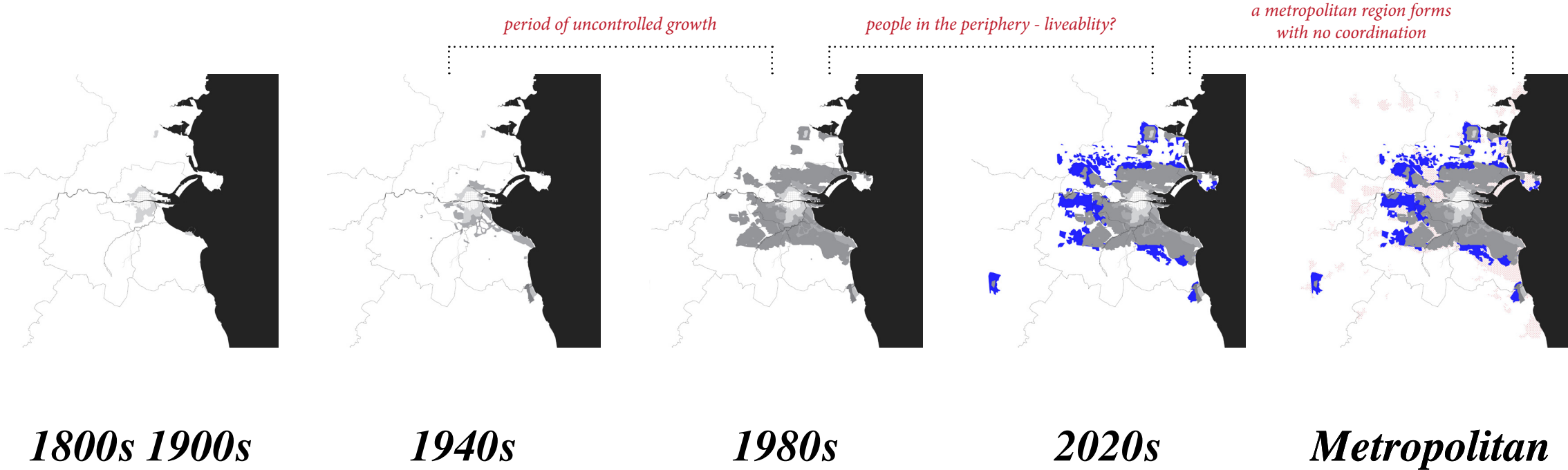


*1920 Rathmines*

*One of the first urban villages on the periphery of Dublin before  
being absorbed back into the City of Dublin in 1930*







*ends? is the goal a urbanised eastern region*



# *Today's Expansive Urban Edge*



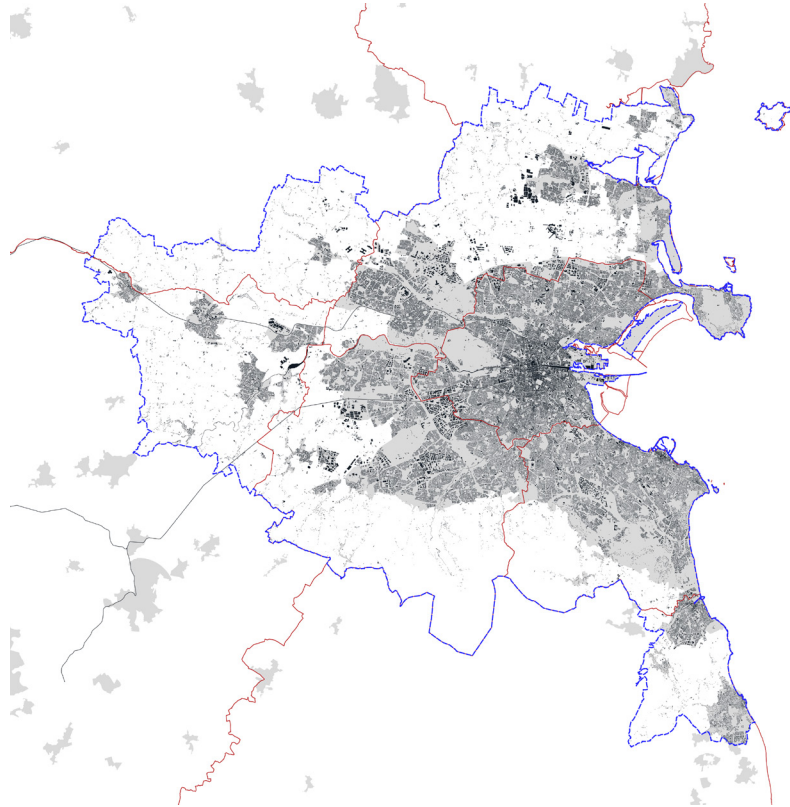
1984



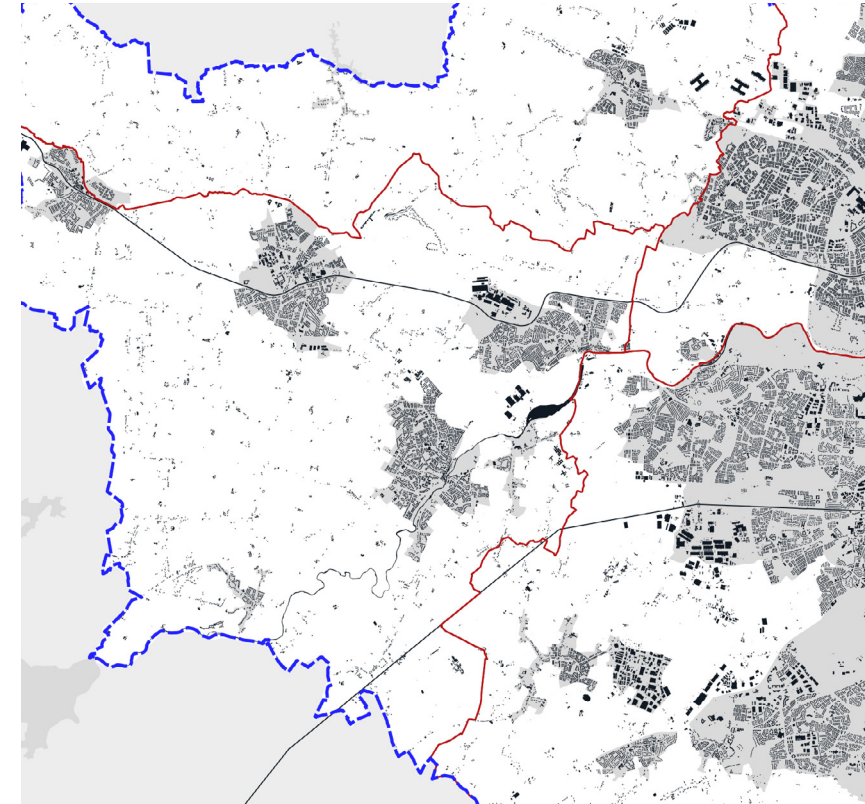
2022

*Source: Aerial Imagery, NASA 2022*

# An Urban Region with a Rural Mindset



Where is the built-up urban area & what type of building types, street networks, and functions exist?



How do council boundaries affect how places are developed?

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



Comhairle Cathrach  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City Council

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown  
County Council Comhairle Contae  
Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth an Dúin

SDCC  
Comhairle Contae South Dublin  
Átha Cliath Theas County Council

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

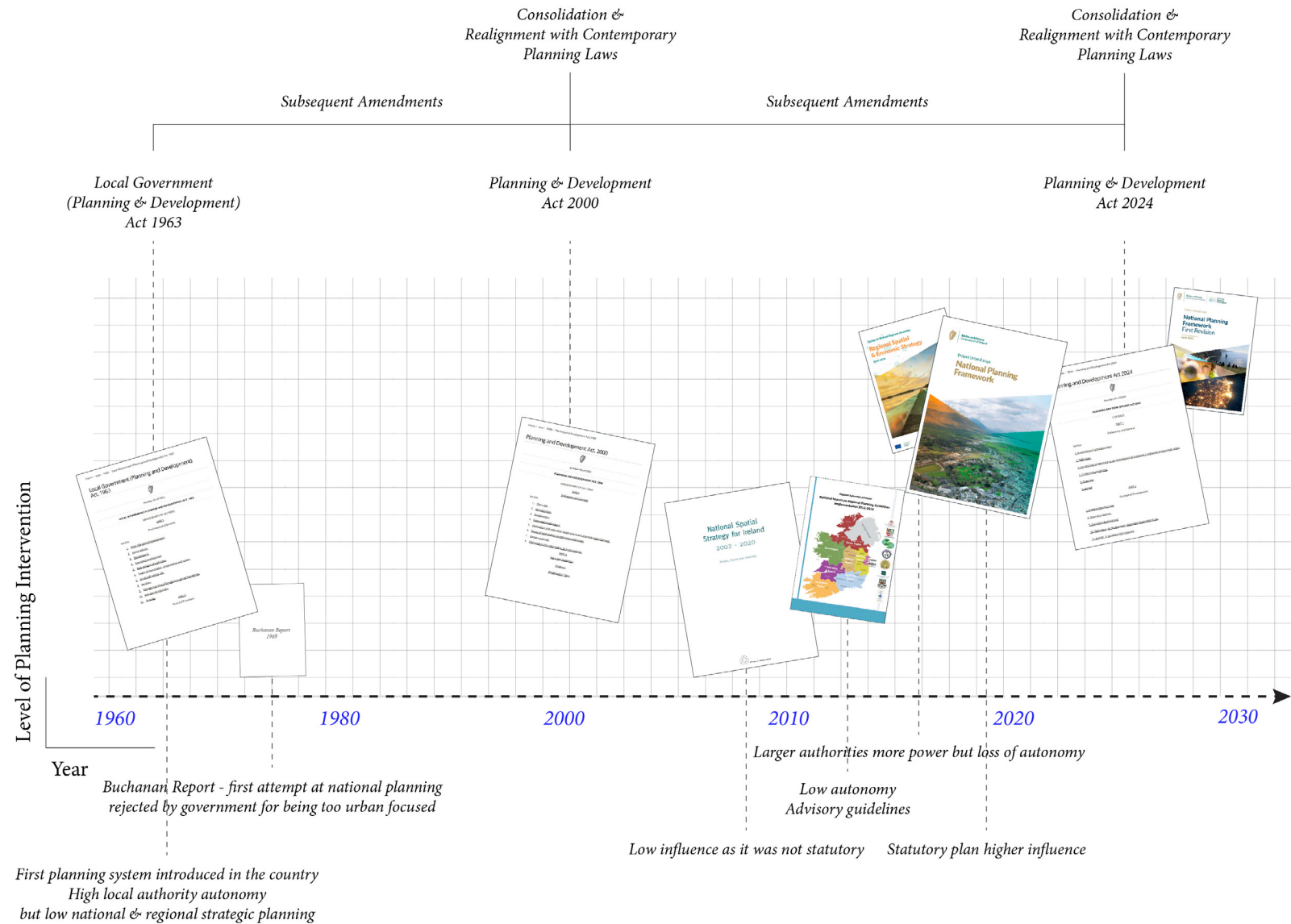
WICKLOW  
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

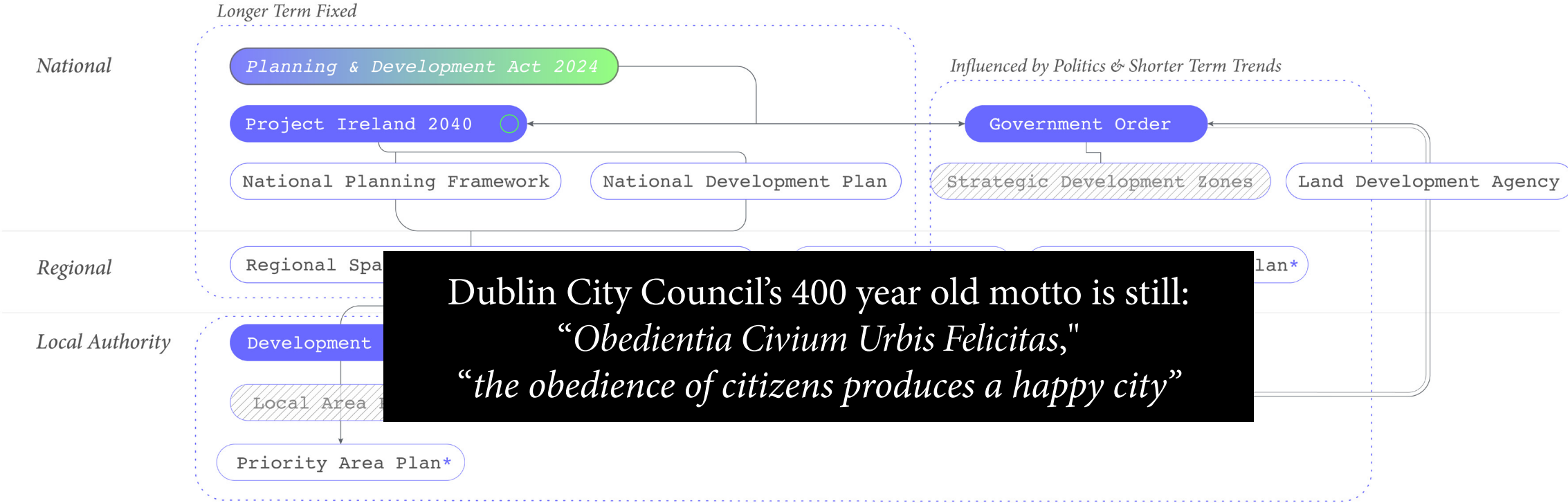
Regions' Local Authorities



# A Lack of Urban Planning





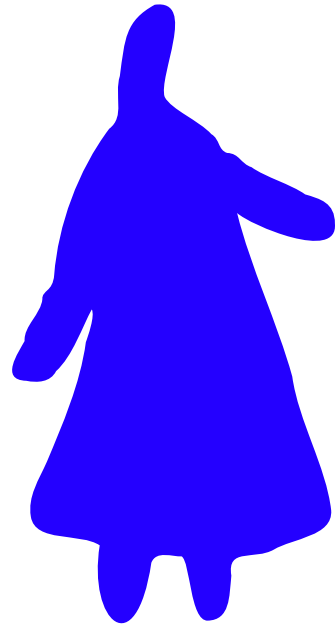


 **Recently Replaced:**  
Strategic Development Plans with Urban Development Zones  
Local Area Plans with Priority Area Plans

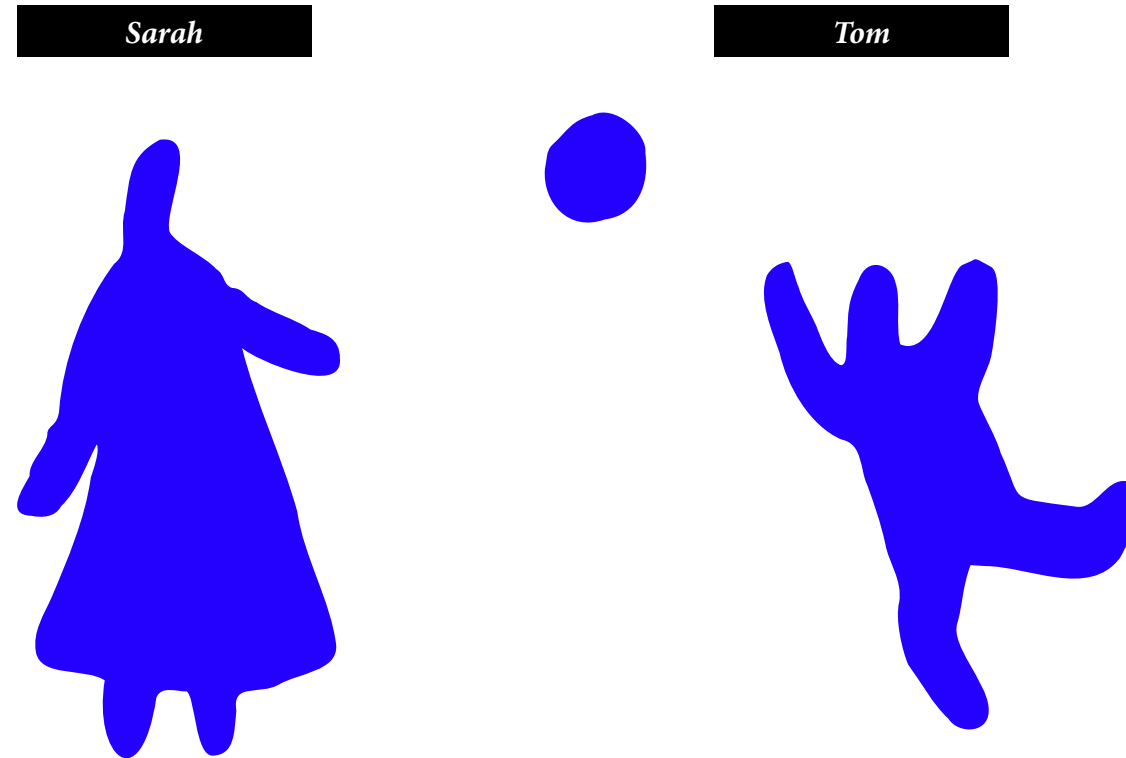
| Plan Type*                   | Intended Scale      | Primary Focus                                                            |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Urban Area Plan (UAP)        | Entire Town/City    | Integrated Planning for Regional Growth Centres / Key Towns              |
| Urban Development Zone (UDZ) | Strategic Area      | Fast Tracking High Density / Large Scale Residential / Economic Projects |
| Coordinated Area Plans (CAP) | Cross Boundary      | Planning for Areas That Cross Two or More Municipalities                 |
| Priority Area Plan (PAP)     | Local Neighbourhood | Regeneration / Targeted Change / Housing Delivery                        |

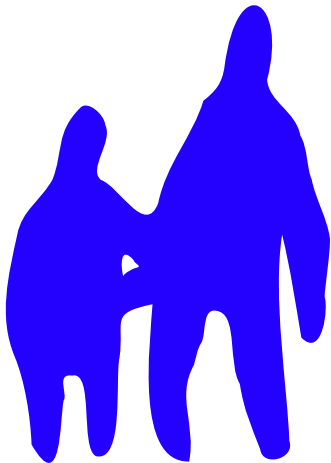
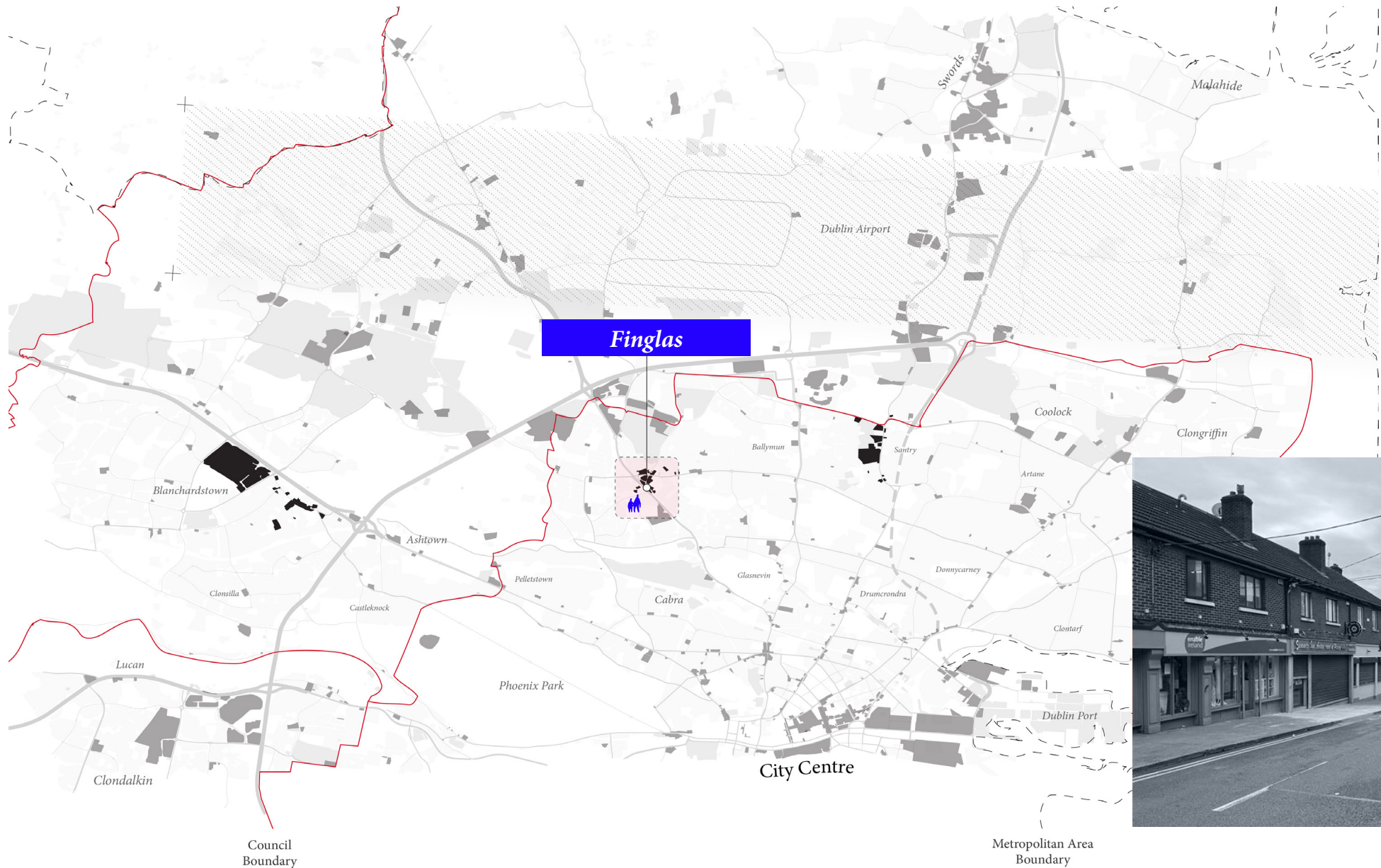
*Liveability*

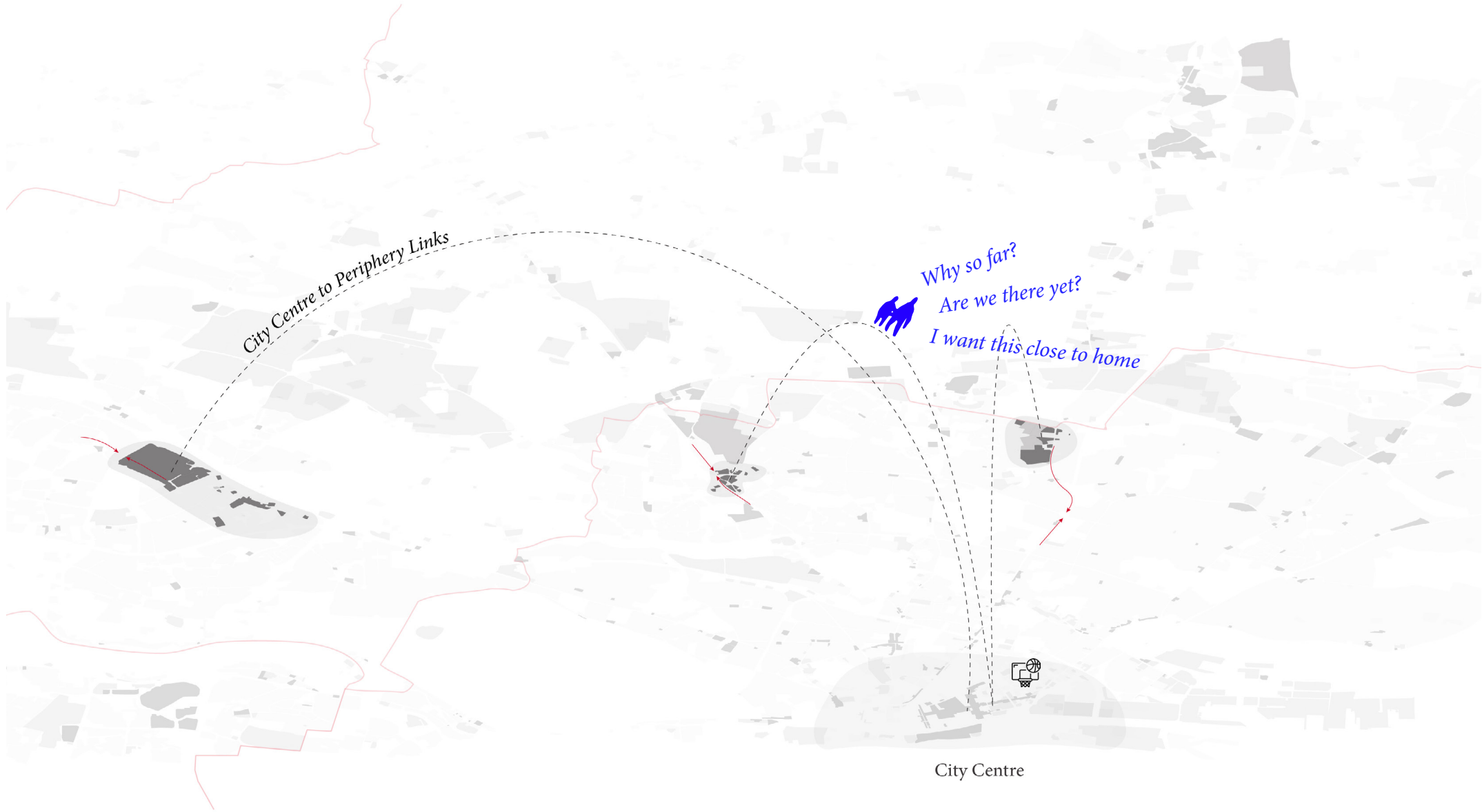
*Sarah*





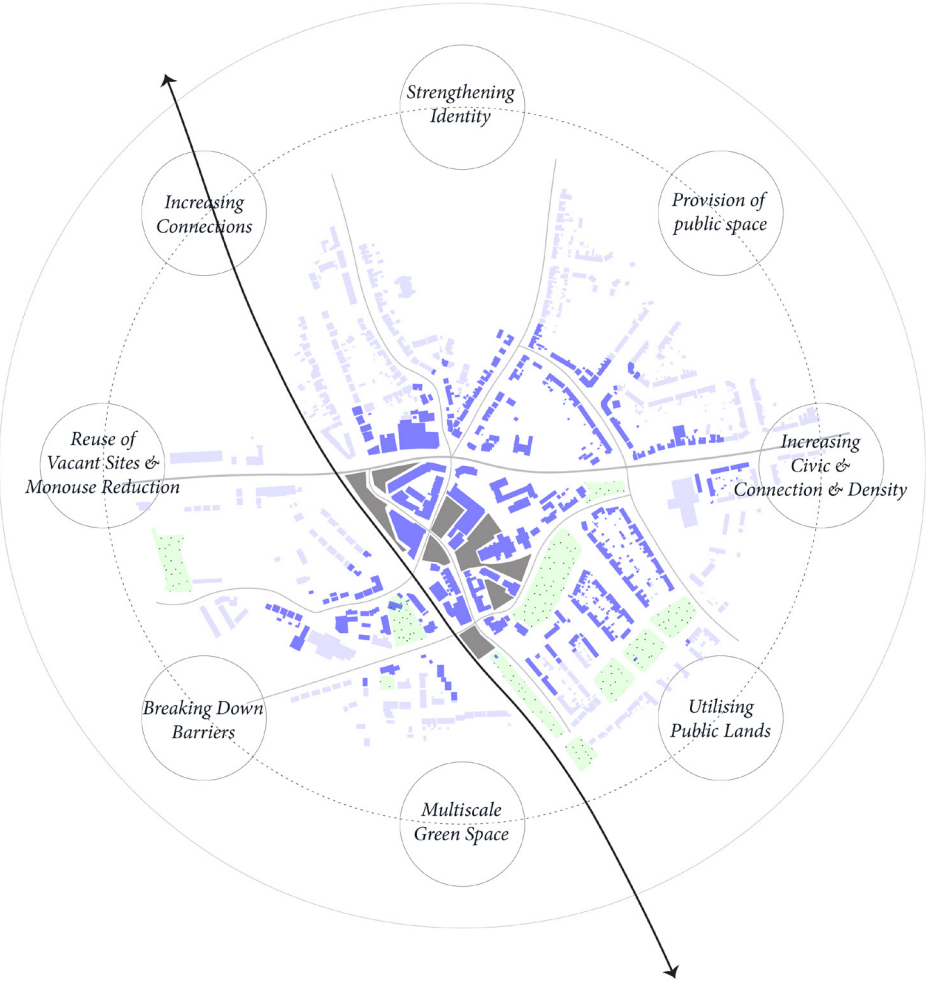
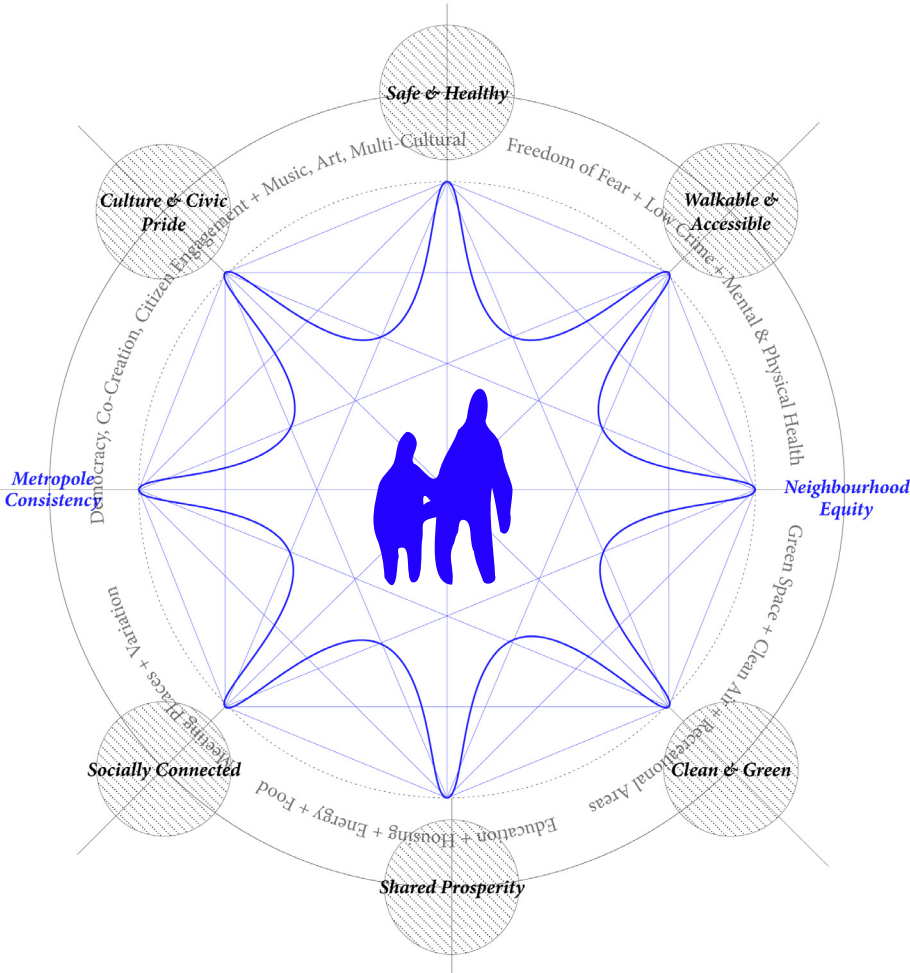






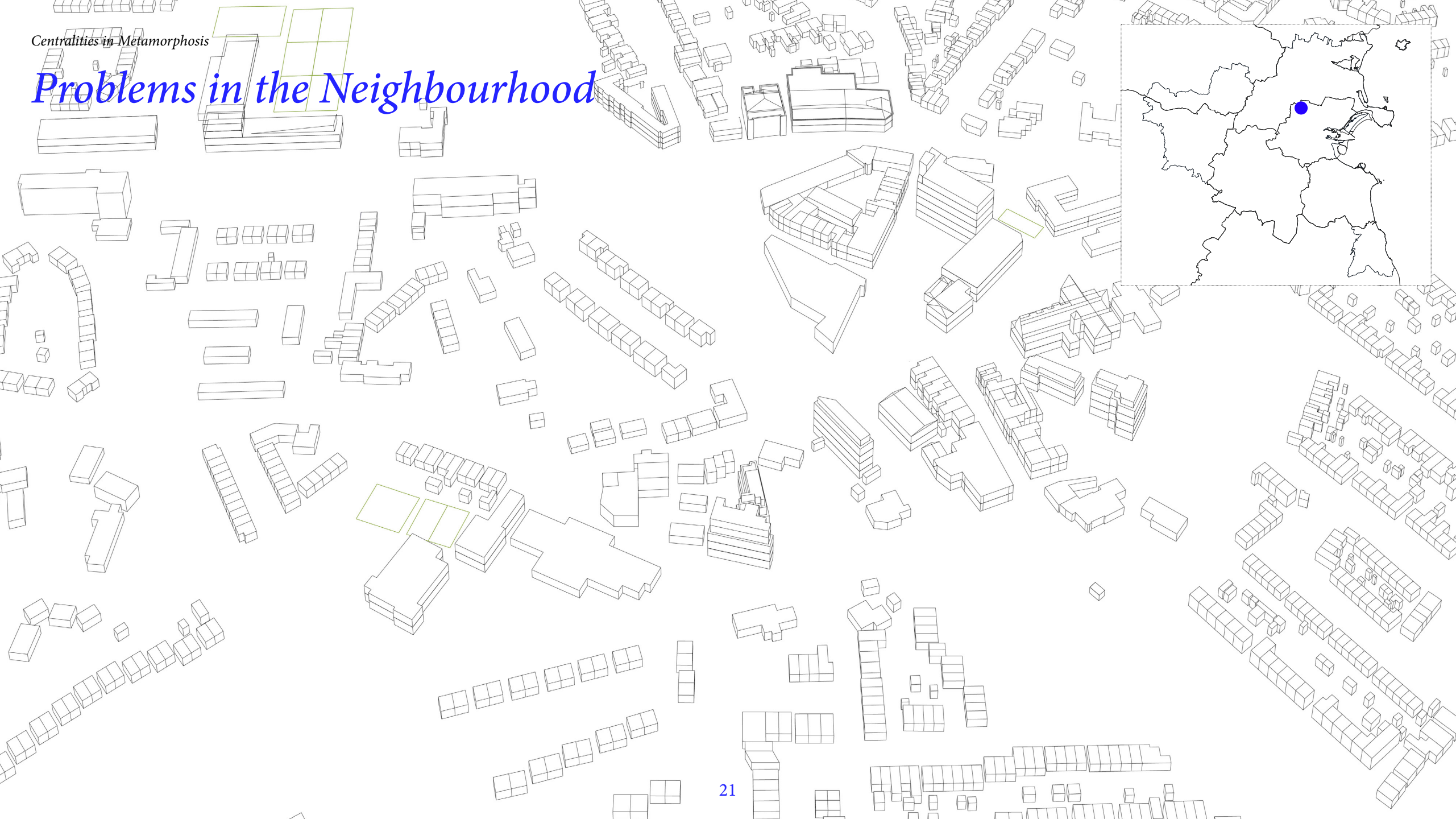


# Liveability



## *Problems in the Neighbourhood Centrality*

# Problems in the Neighbourhood









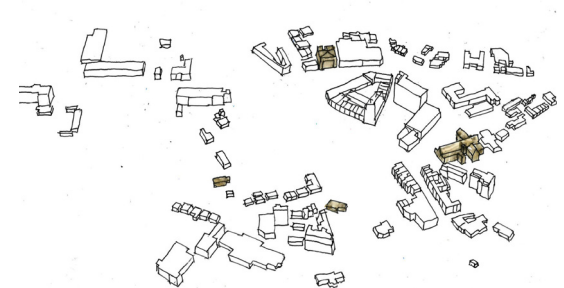




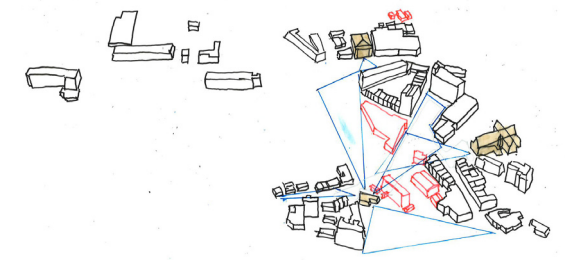
*Finding what works for this type of neighbourhood centre*



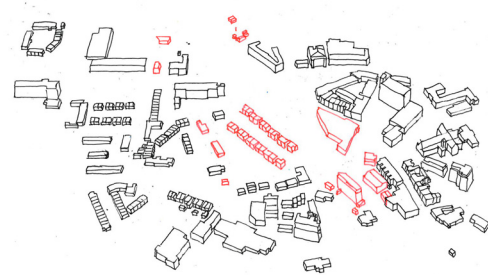
# Centrality Capacity



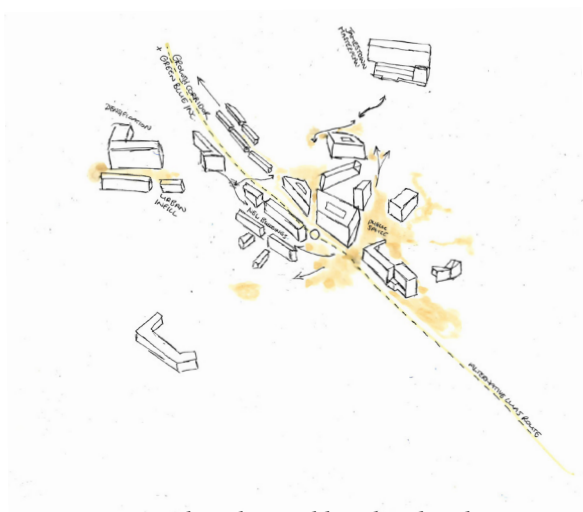
Landmark and heritage buildings



Reviewing sightlines and landmark buildings as guiding principles



What could be removed and kept



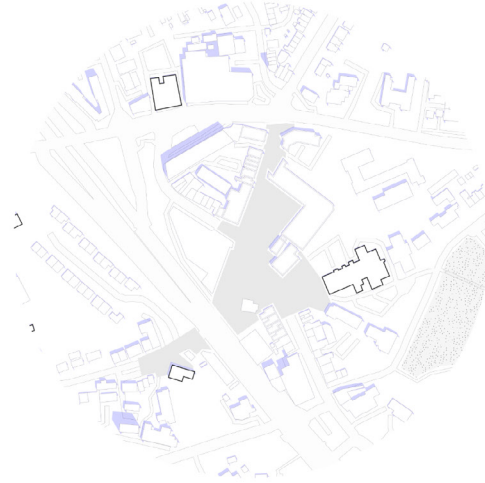
Upscaling the neighbourhood and public space creation



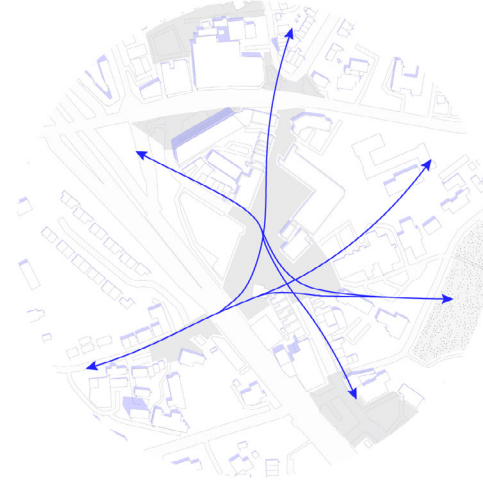
# Design Principles



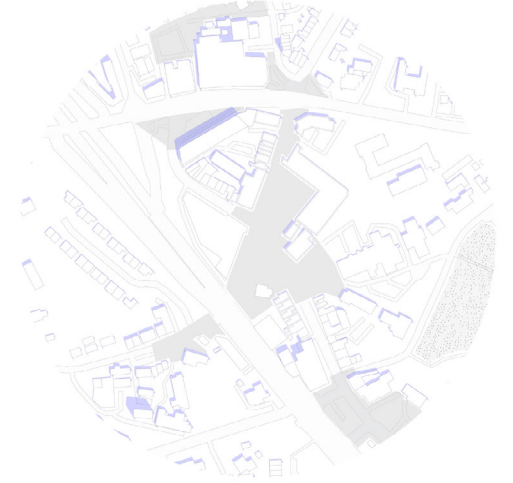
*Place civic buildings by public space & vica versa*



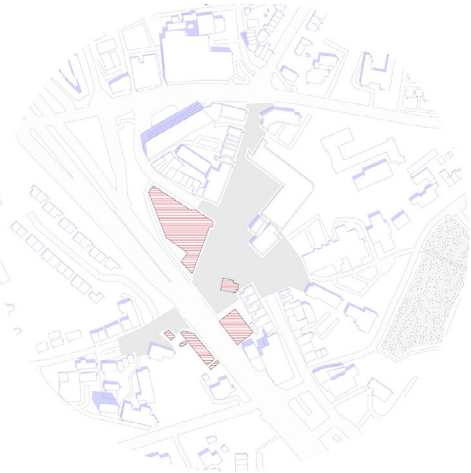
*Placing landmark buildings at the heart of design for sense of place, identity, and legibility creation*



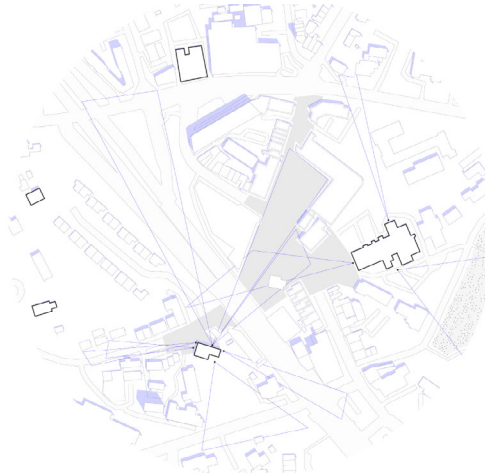
*Improving permeability and legibility  
Connecting the centre east-west once again*



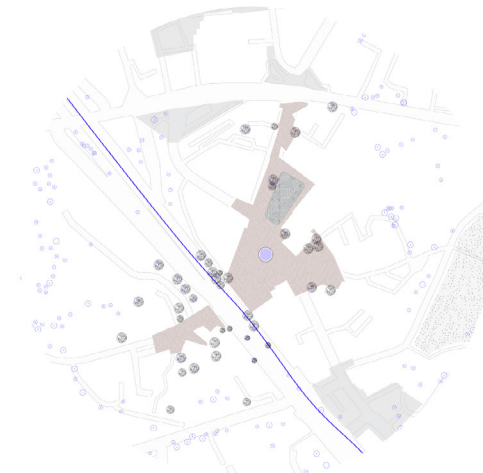
*Creation of public square network with key focal point*



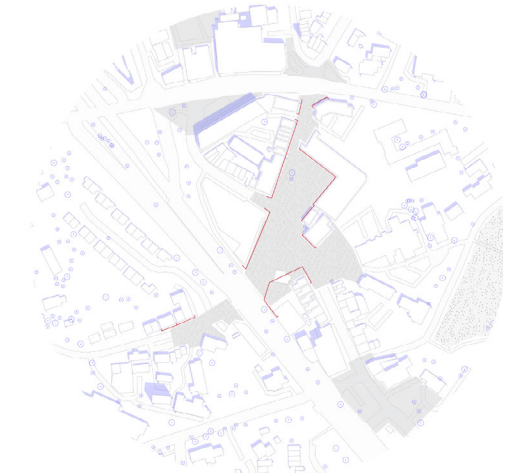
*Removing unsuited buildings due to quality, scale, use, and orientation*



*Reviewing sightlines from landmark buildings*



*Introducing a green network and re-exposing the stream into the public space*

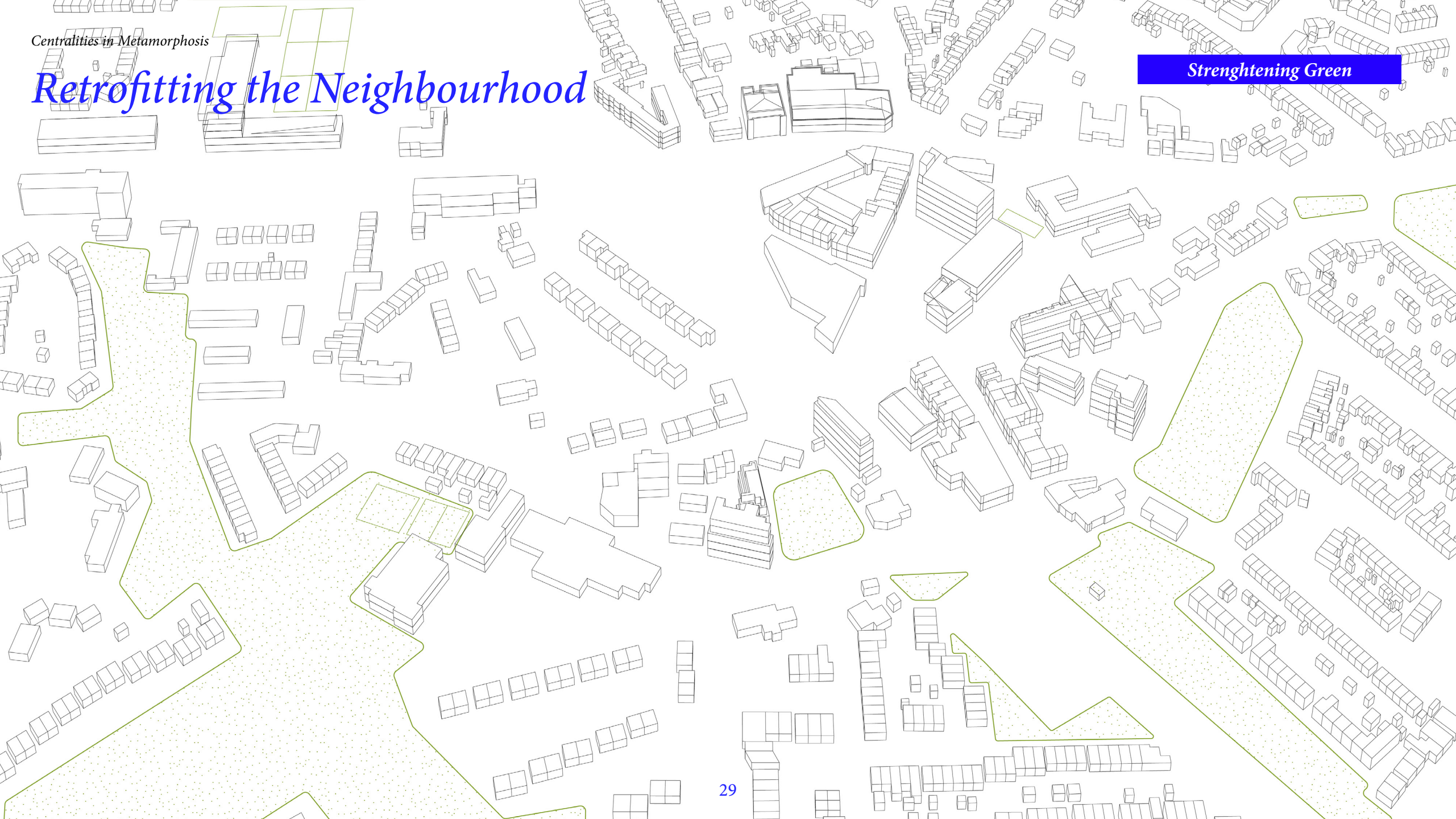


*Active ground floor mixed use frontages on the main public space*

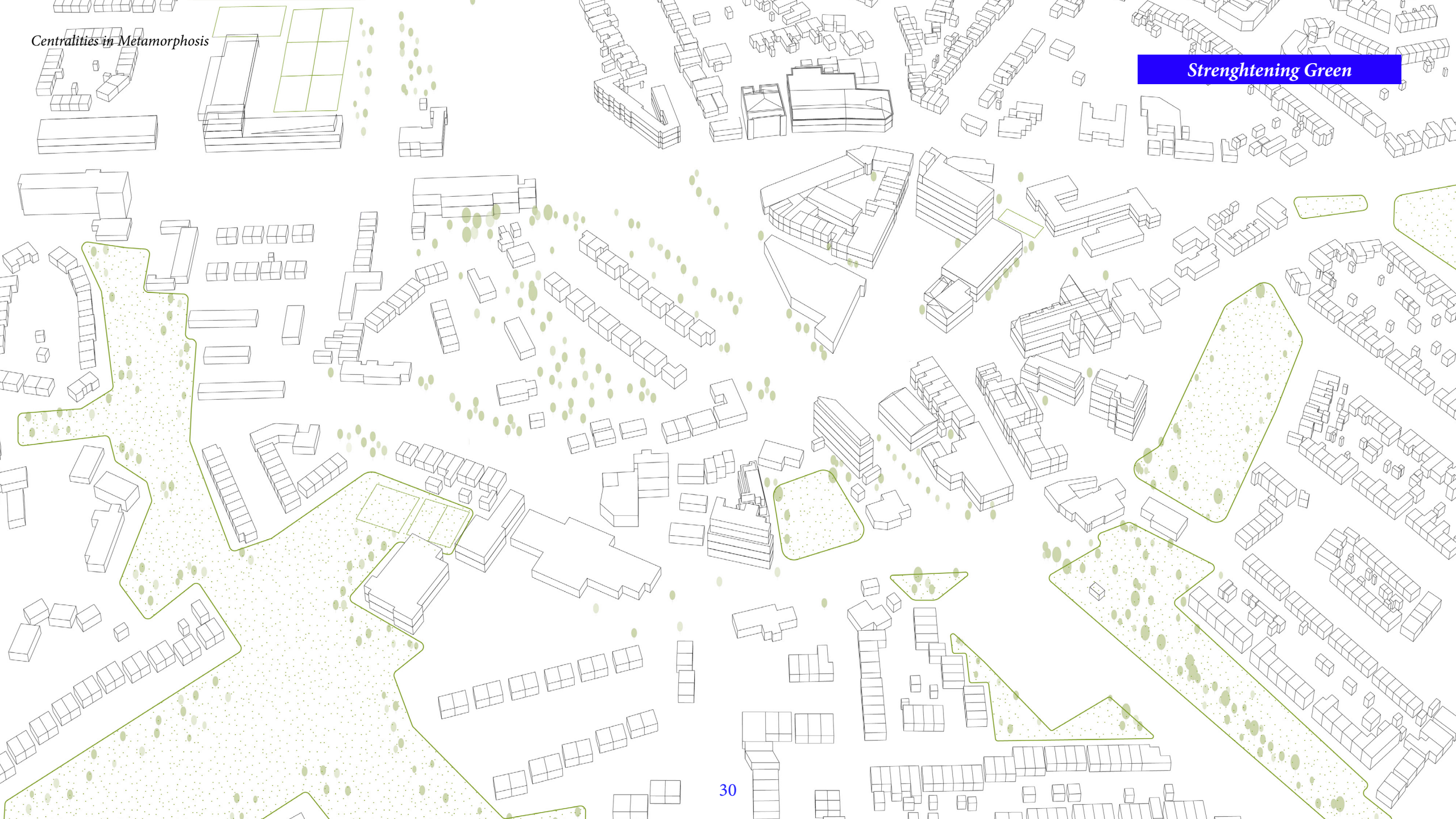
*Retrofitting the Neighbourhood*

# Retrofitting the Neighbourhood

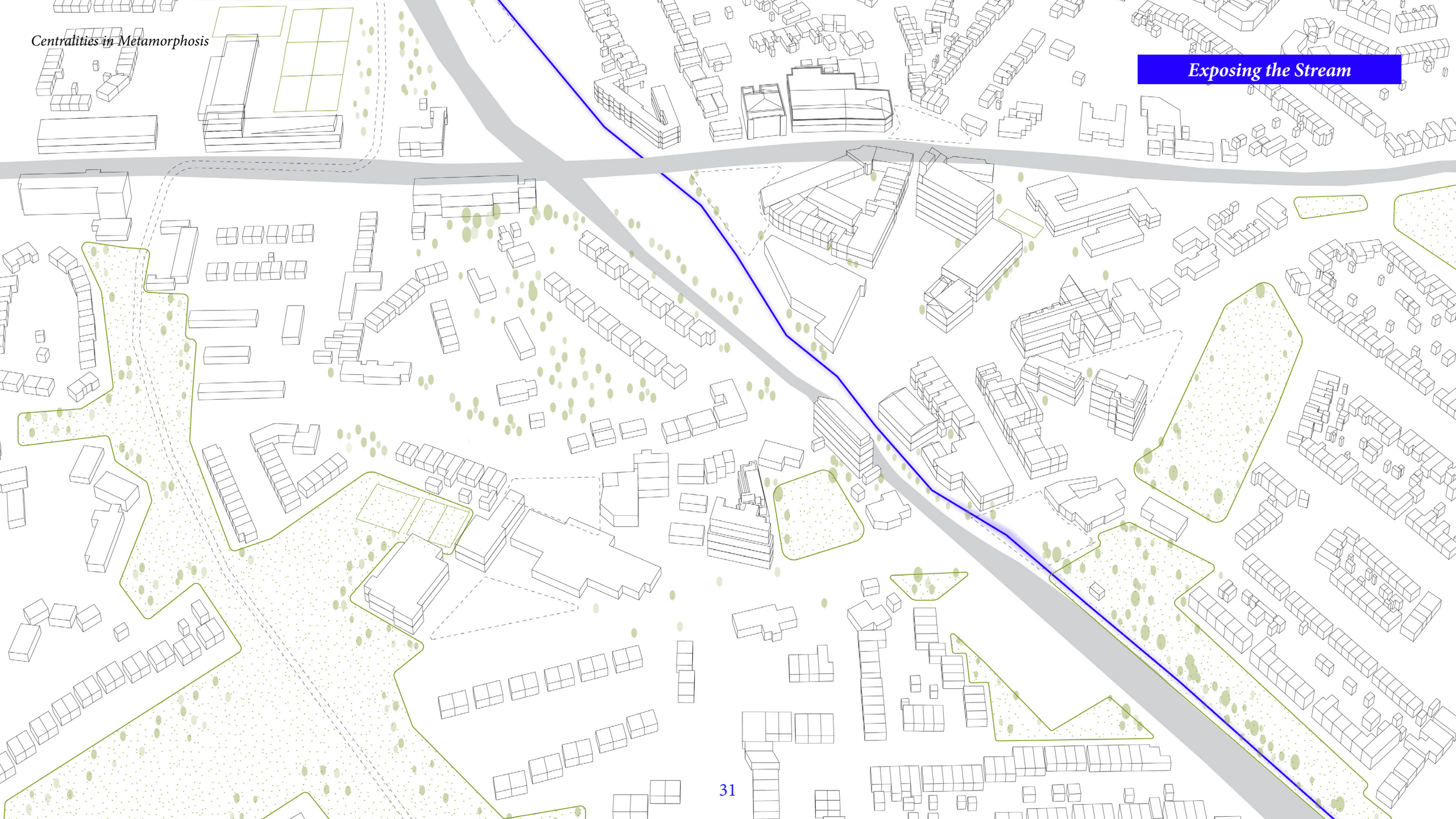
Strengthening Green



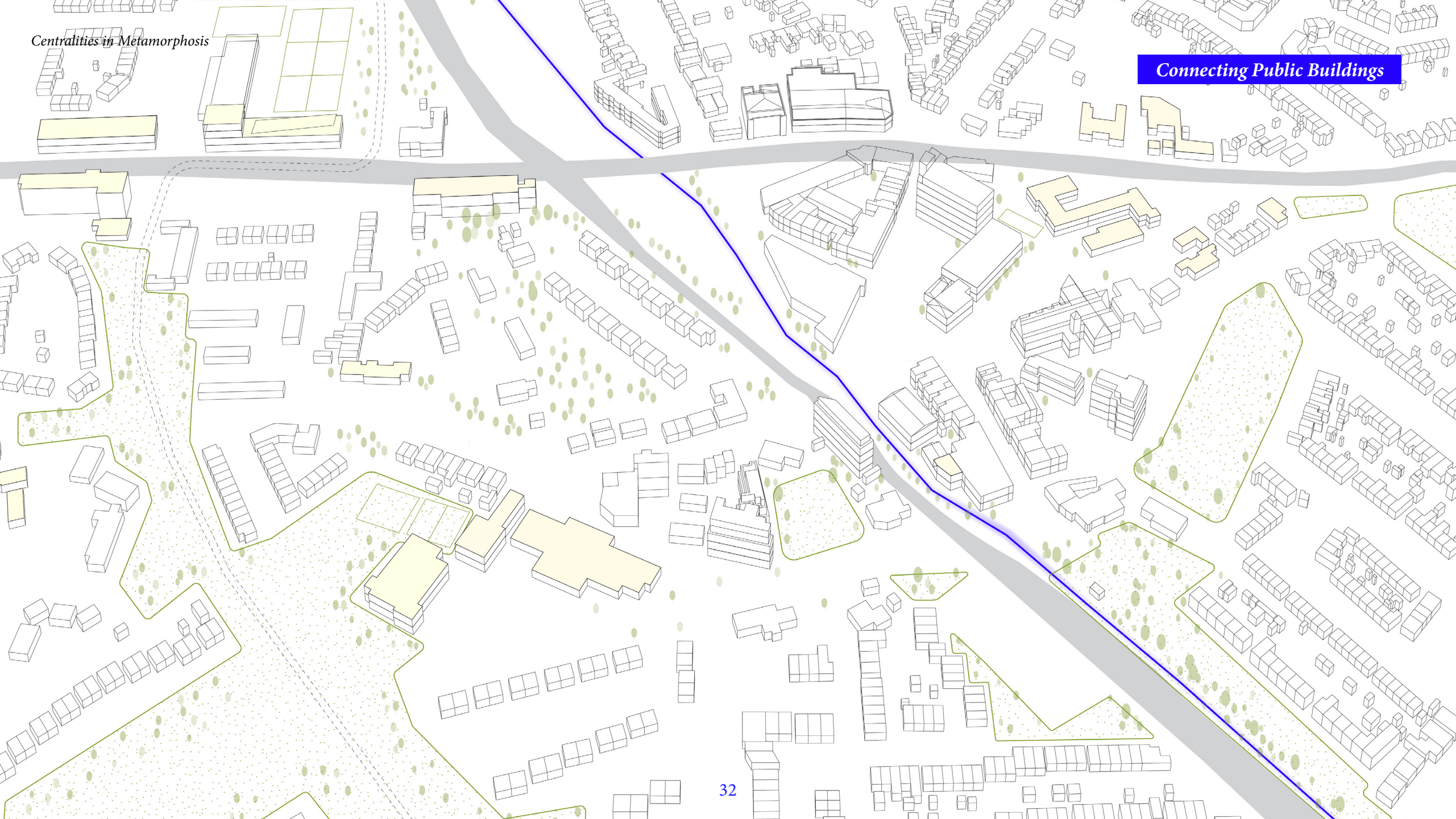




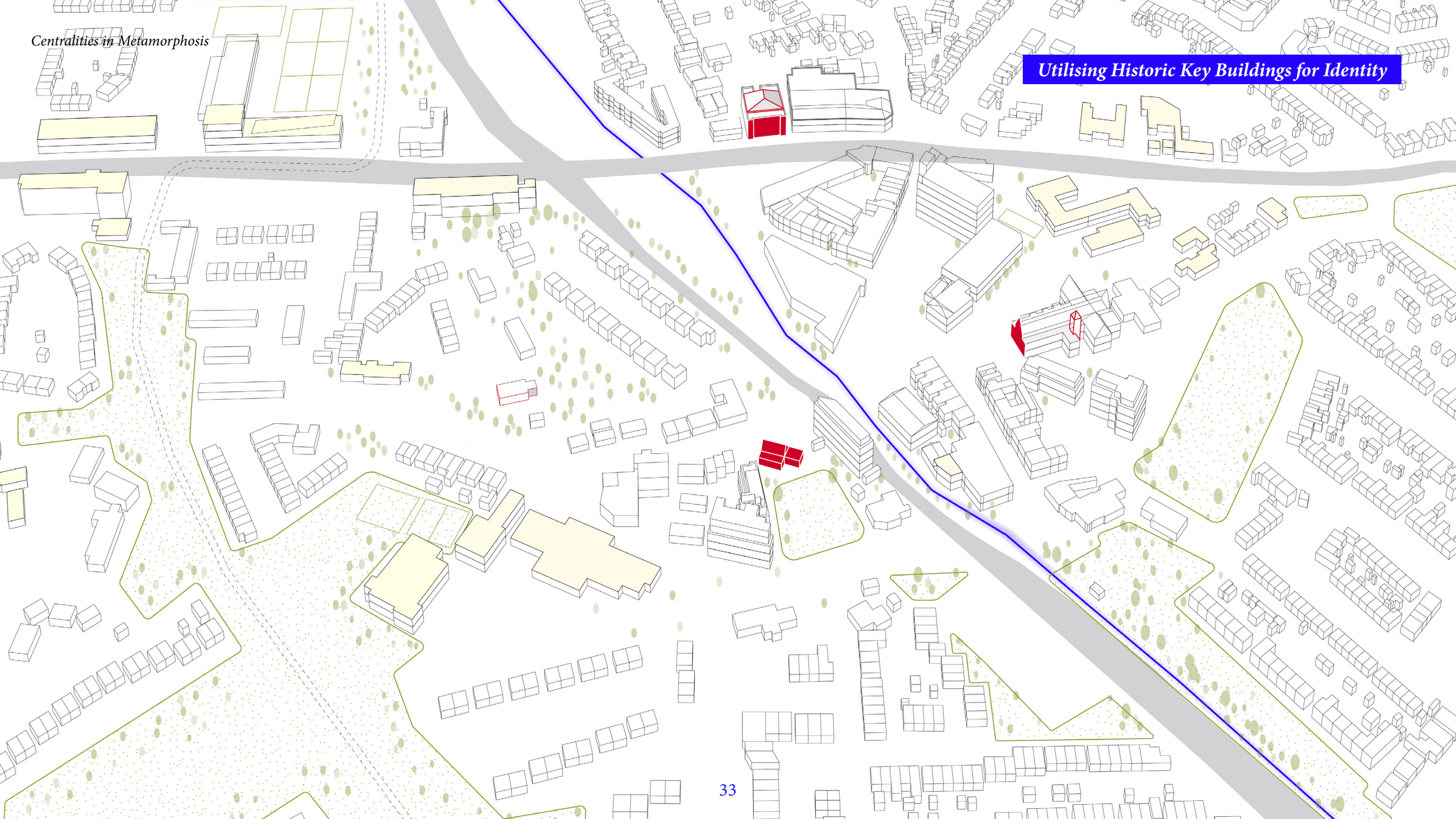




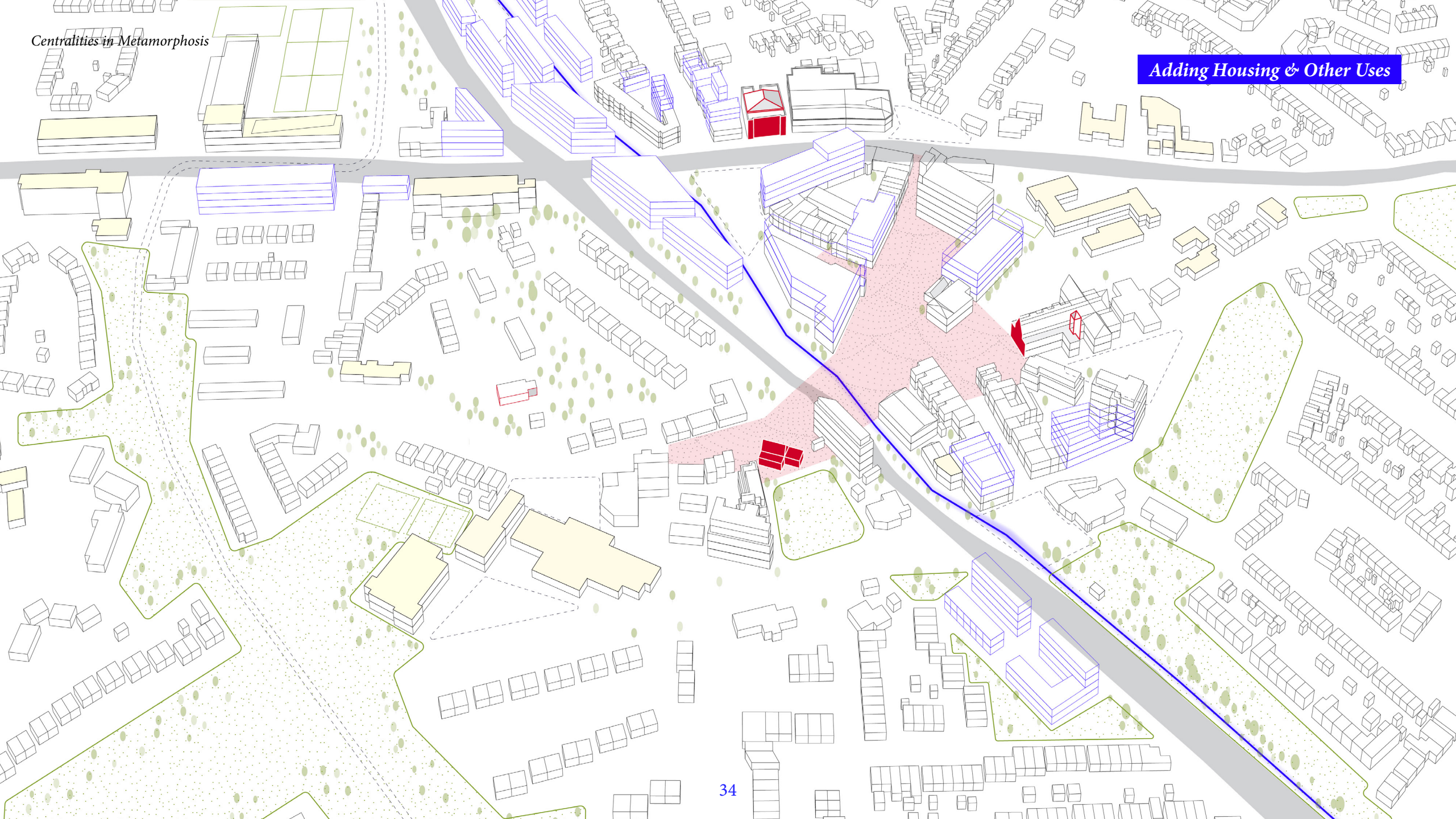




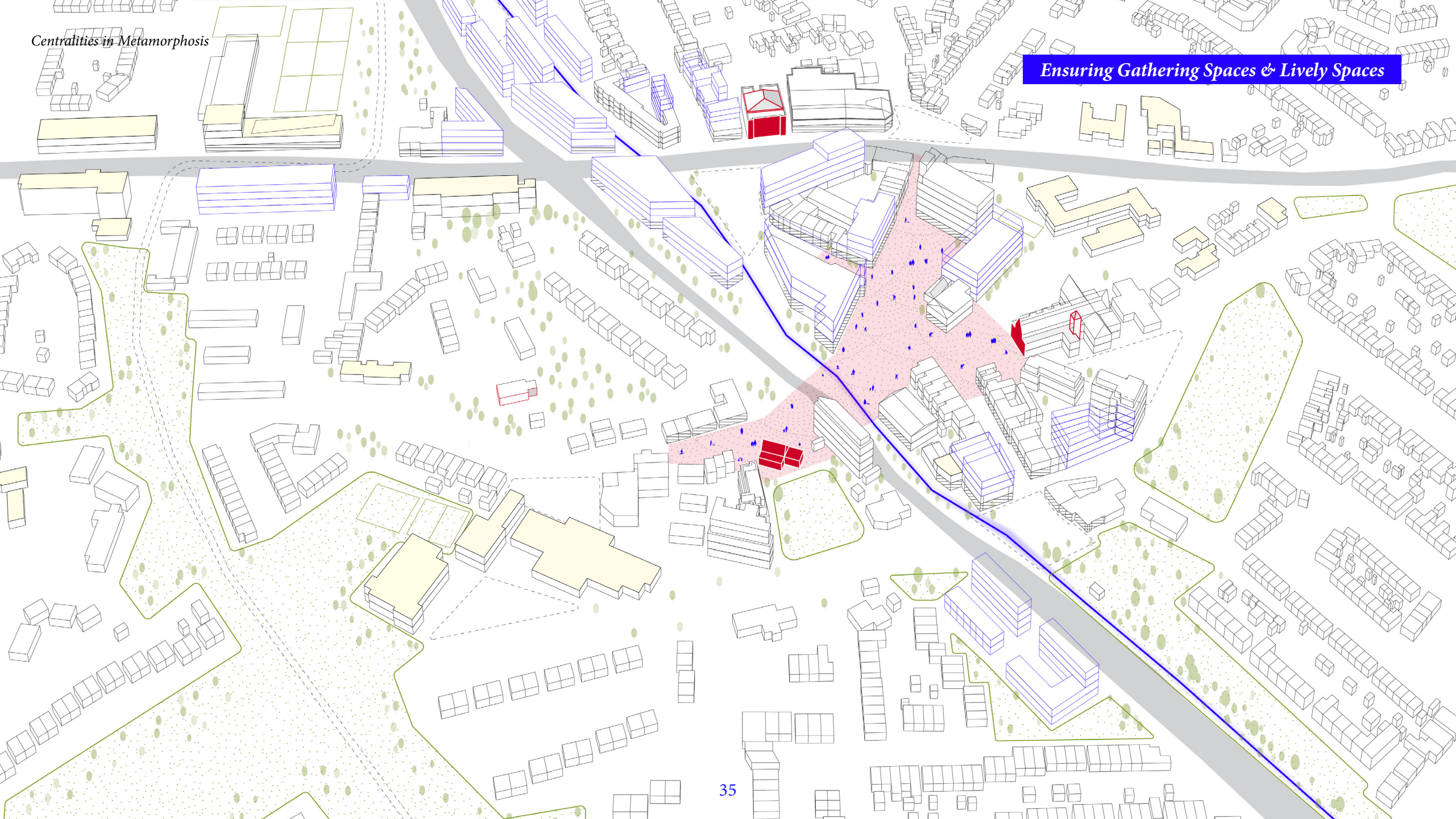






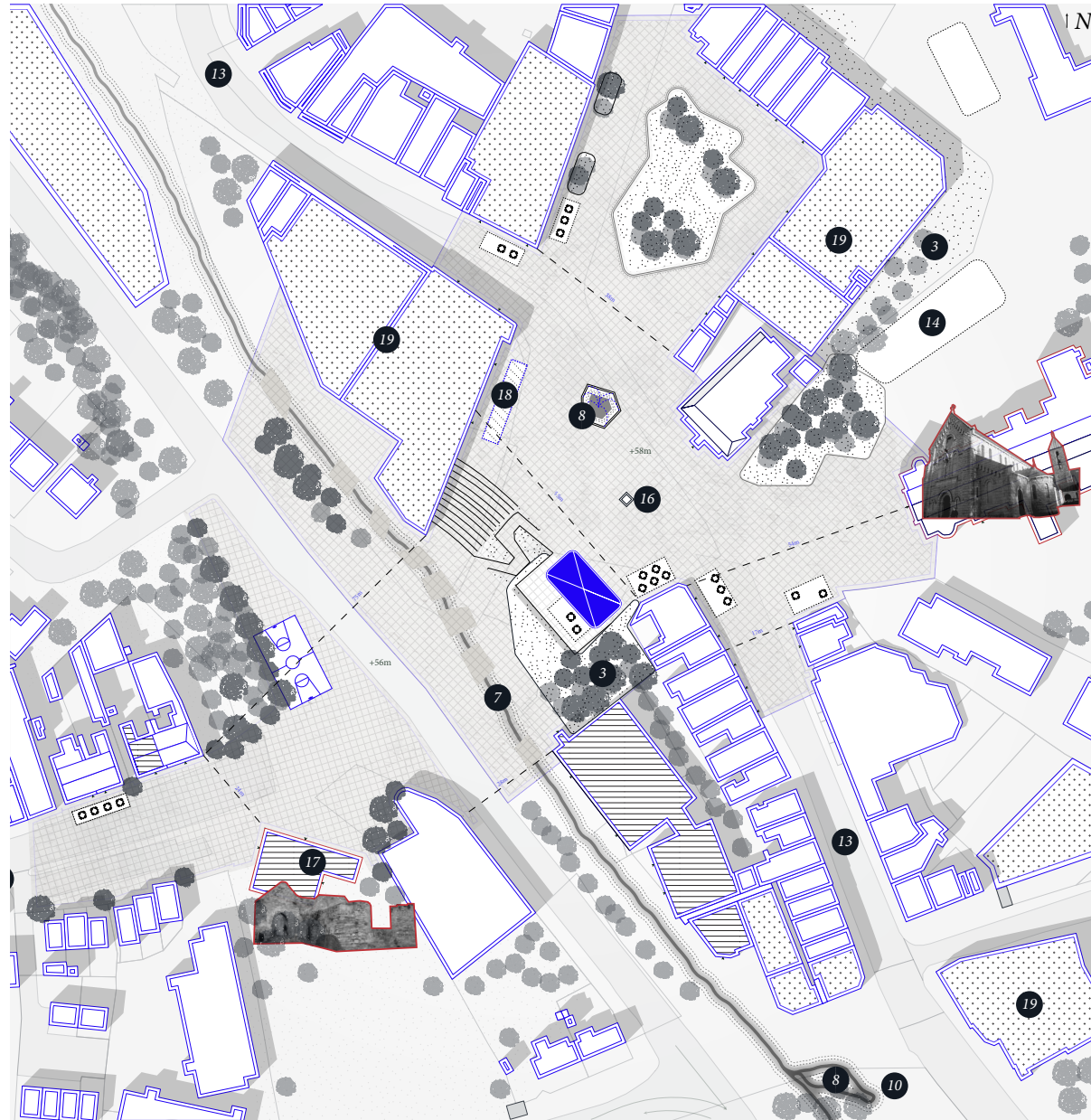




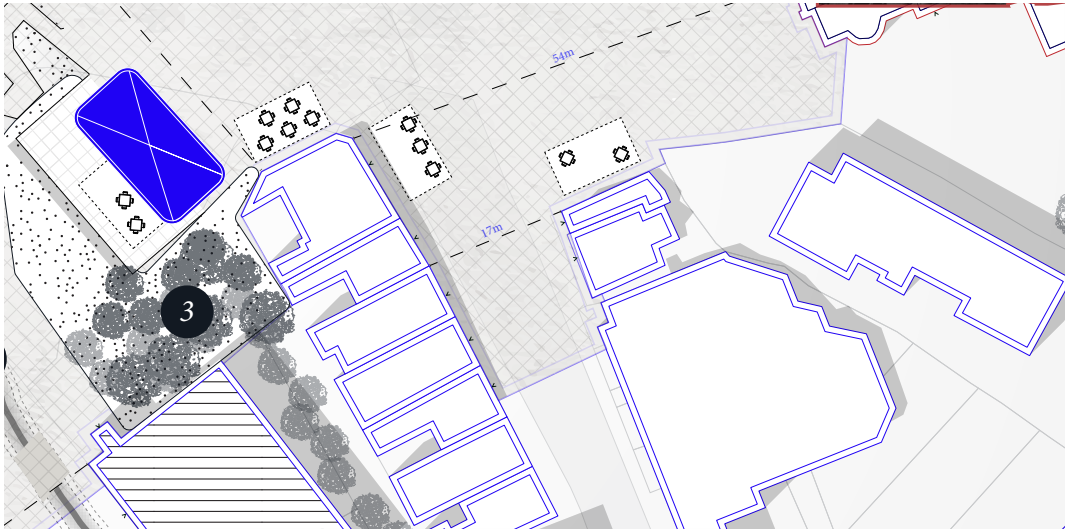
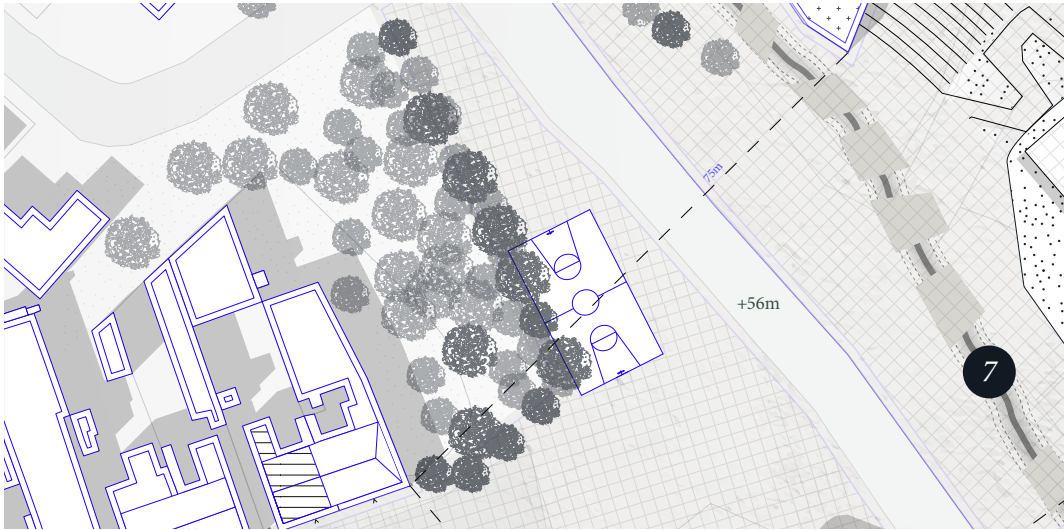
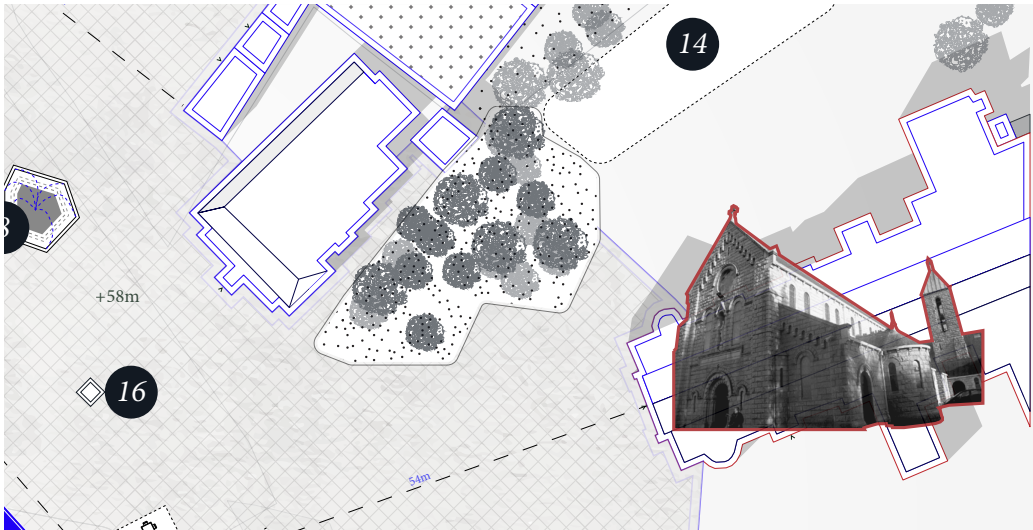




# A New Heart for Finglas

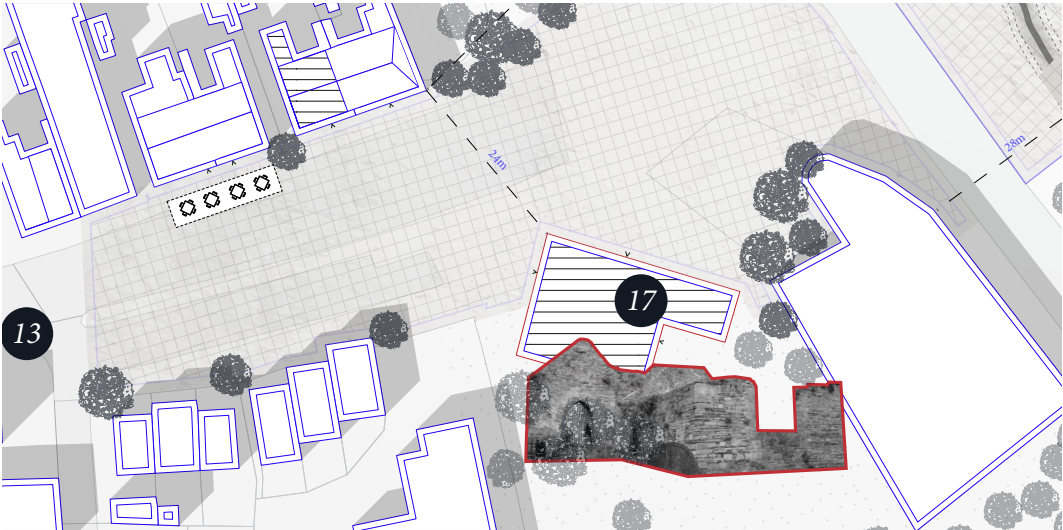
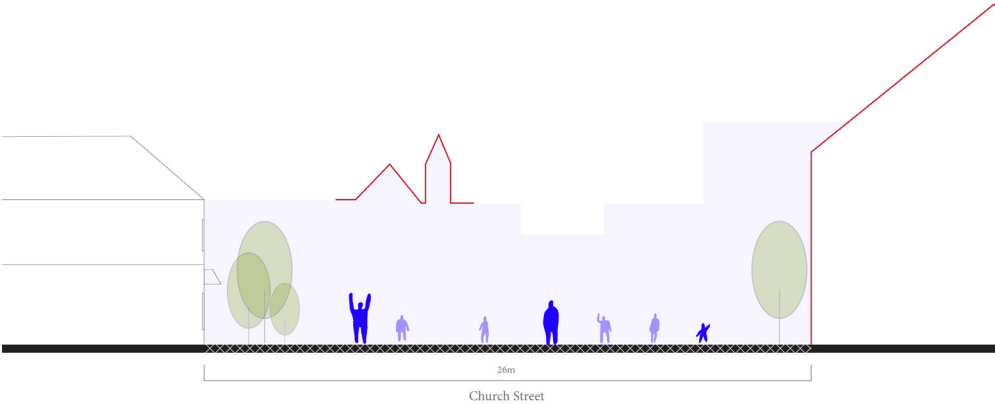


- 1 Main Square
- 2 Steps & Ramp
- 3 Nature Space
- 4 Narrowed One Way Street
- 5 New civic building
- 6 Landmark Building
- 7 Exposed Stream
- 8 Water Feature
- 9 Water Square
- 10 Linear Park Entrance
- 11 Outdoor Dining Space
- 12 Tearooms Multi-Functional Space
- 13 Pedestrianised Streets
- 14 Play Space
- 15 Grass Green Space
- 16 Richard McKee Memorial
- 17 St. Canice's Finglas Visitor Centre
- 18 Market Stall Space
- 19 Densification



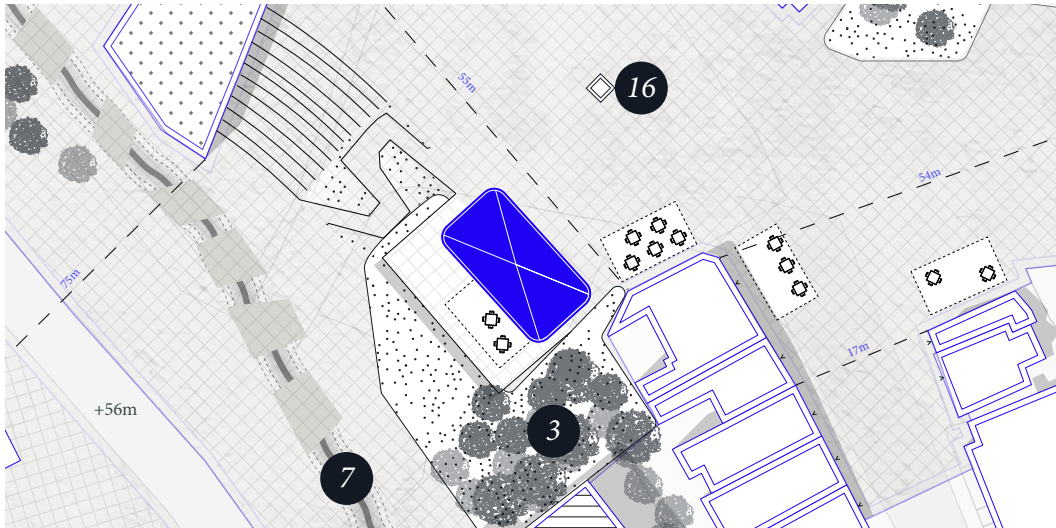


# Drawing Out the Identity

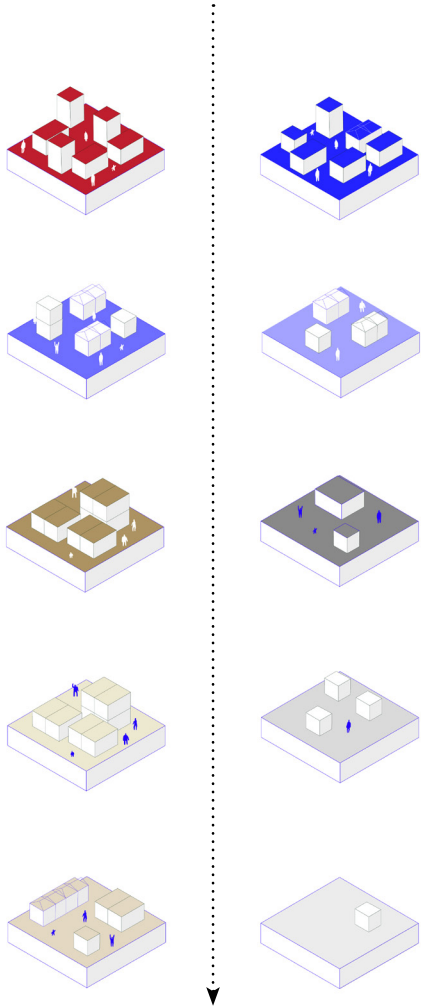




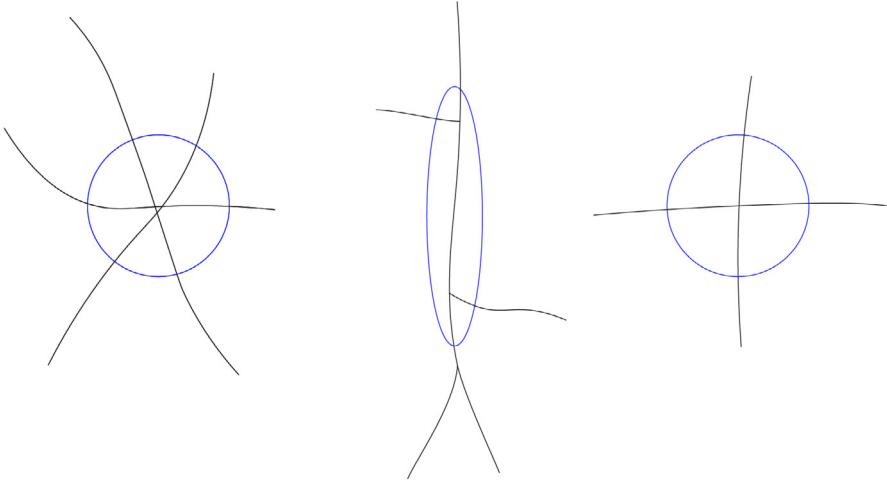
# *A Multi-Functional Civic Amenity*



*Type of Places*



Level of Activity high to low

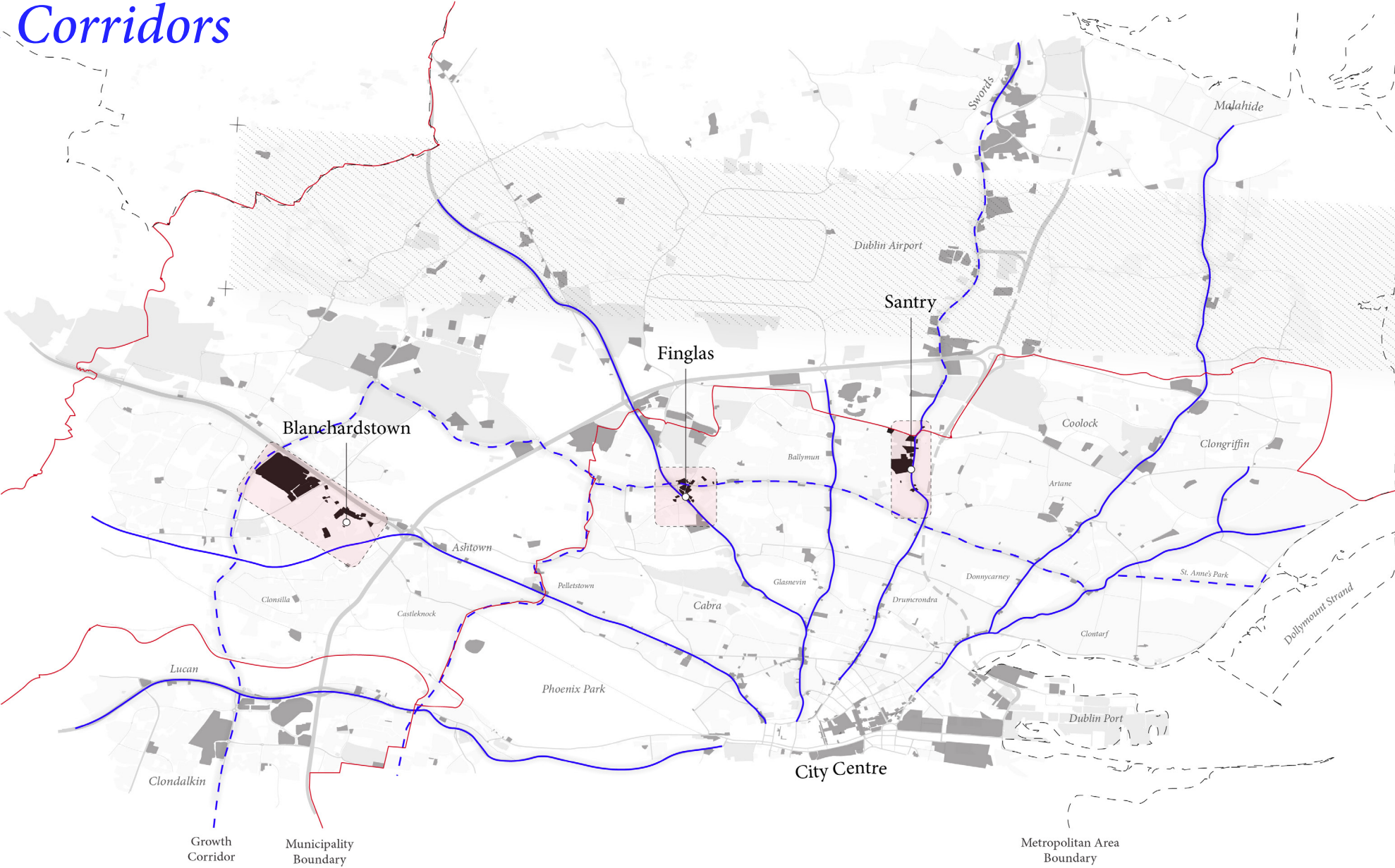


Main Street Layout Types Found in the Region



# *A Multi-Scalar Liveable Metropolitan Region*

# Growth Corridors



Centralities in Metamorphosis

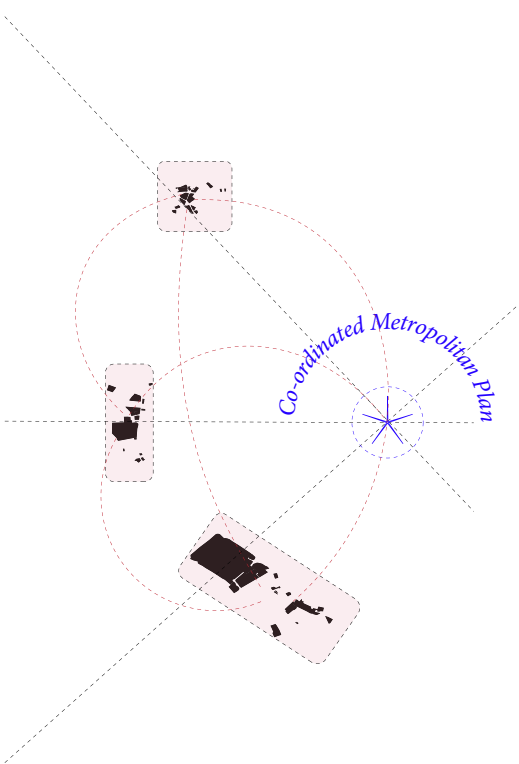
- Step 1: Designation in the Local Authority's Development Plan
- Step 2: Choosing a suitable area plan
- Step 3: Implementing Multi-Scalar Design + Policy Principles



*This plan type is chosen due to the current scale of this centrality and potential for transformation. The area is village*

*Santry could be subject to an UAP due to its Metropolitan scale and function potential. Nearby is a major university and the airport, alongside a significant amount of light industrail lands this creates the conditions suited to larger scale*

*The largest plan type is applicable in this case, with two distint centrality types nearby, one that functions primerely on a local scale and one on a regional scale.*





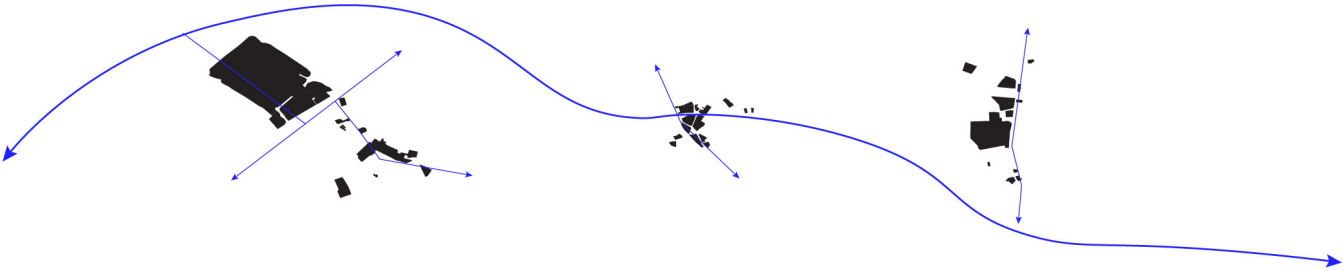
# A Connected Region

current situation



*Disconnected Peripheral Centralities*

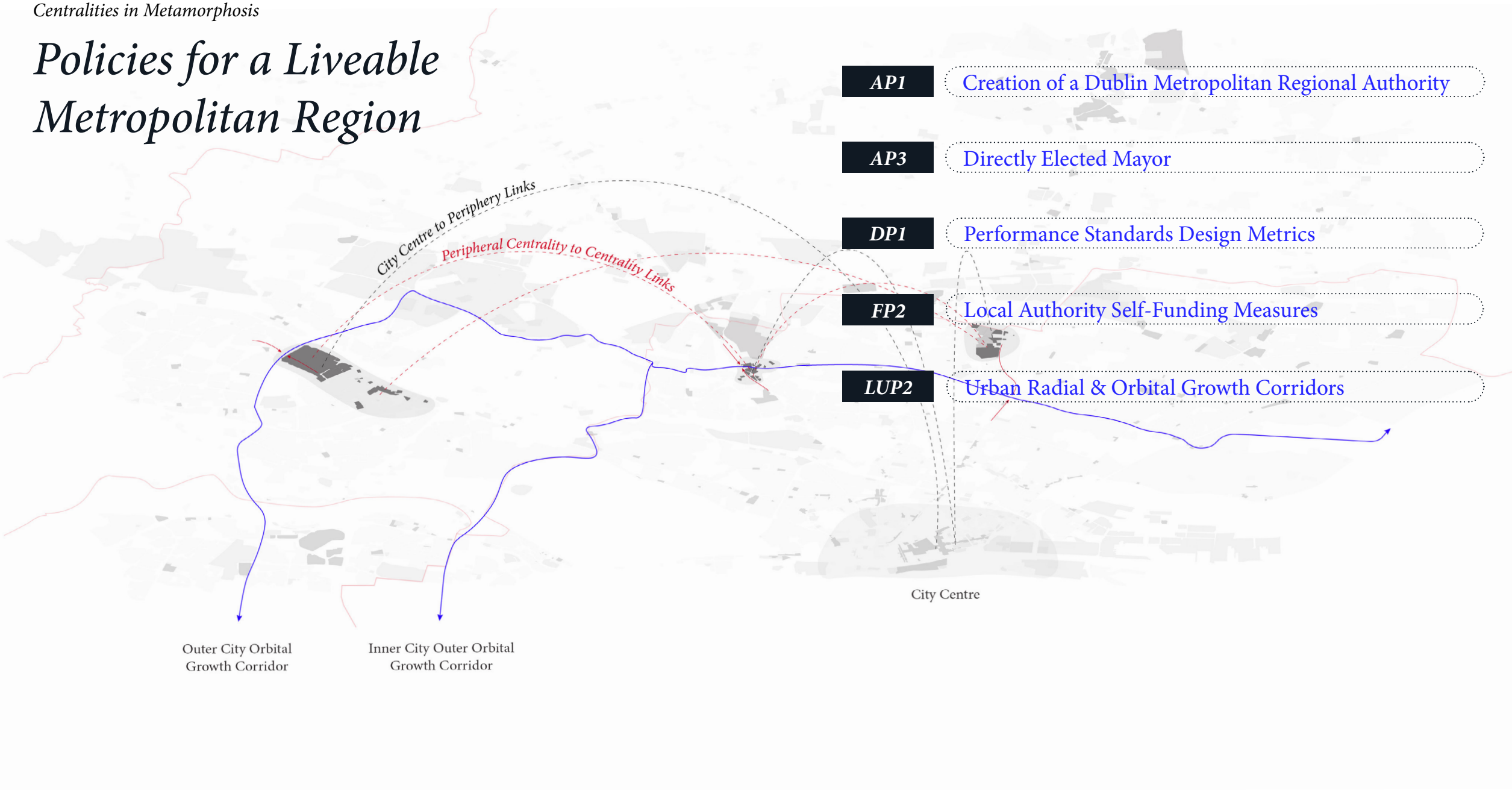
future situation



*Connected Peripheral Centralities*

# *Conclusions*

# Policies for a Liveable Metropolitan Region





*Thank You!*