

# **Mathematical and computer models: their contribution to policy development**

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## **Abstract**

The case for the role of mathematical and computer models of cities and regions in providing an evidence base for policy development is argued. An agenda of ‘wicked problems’ is identified and the role of a city or government intelligence system is charted. Illustrative dynamic models are presented ranging from higher education and retailing to the impact of railways in the urban system development of the United States. The potential impact of computer modelling in a range of UK government departments is reviewed.