

# Future Cities CATAPULT

## Future Cities Catapult – Background Information

The Future Cities Catapult is a global centre of excellence for urban innovation. It brings cities, businesses and universities together to make cities better places to live.

The Catapult helps turn ingenious ideas into working prototypes that can be tested in real urban settings. Then, once they're proven, it helps spread these ideas to cities across the world to improve quality of life, strengthen economies and protect the environment.

These new technologies and processes will help cities function better, but only if they can share the load amongst themselves and utilise the strengths of one another to provide more efficient, cost-effective services. That's why cities are thought of as systems that can be joined up to work better together.

This philosophy is central to the Catapult's Urban Innovation Centre in London, which is home to an expert team of master-planners, data scientists, anthropologists and futures specialists. It provides a space for businesses, universities, investors, innovators, cities and their citizens to convene, collaborate, and develop ideas to make cities work better in an integrated way.

On any given day, city leaders share their thoughts on planning regulations; data scientists create maps of traffic through London's streets; and financiers and lawyers collaborate to develop new business models for emerging technologies. It's this bringing-together of ideas and understanding that the Catapult believes will change our cities forever.

Whatever the collaboration, the goal is the same: to make the UK a hotbed of brilliant applied innovation, a place where excellent ideas are turned into reality before being adopted around the world. In turn, a better life can be made for those who live in cities - urban environments will be safer, cleaner, more efficient and easier to use.

[www.futurecities.catapult.org.uk](http://www.futurecities.catapult.org.uk)

### Scott Cain

Scott has been involved in the Future Cities Catapult since its inception by the Technology Strategy Board (TSB, now InnovateUK), and led the £34.5m Future Cities Demonstrator programme. He is now the Director for Communications, Business Development and Strategy of this world-leading technology & innovation centre. Scott was the founding partner of The Long Run Venture, which develops entrepreneur-led solutions to complex, long-run challenges: things like changing climate, living well longer and cities. Scott co-founded and Chaired Global Entrepreneurship Week ([www.unleashingideas.org](http://www.unleashingideas.org)), the rallying-point for a global movement of entrepreneurial young people now in over 100 countries. Scott was previously Deputy CEO and then CEO at Enterprise UK - the campaigning organisation to create a more enterprising and entrepreneurial culture in the UK, working to a board of the Director Generals of the CBI, IoD, FSB and British Chambers of Commerce.