

The CITY

A geographical region, with open and flexible boundaries, consisting of :

- (a) An interwoven, densely constructed core (**built environment**);
- (b) A large resident population of more than 500,000 people (**social environment**);
- (c) A supporting hinterland of lands, waters and other natural resources (cultivated landscape);

together functioning as ...

- (i) a complex living system (analogous to, yet different from, other living systems such as ecosystems and organisms); and
- (ii) a synergetic community capable of providing a high level of **individual welfare** and **social wellbeing** for **all** of its inhabitants.

Definitions

Built Environment:	Anywhere there is, or has been, an intrusion or intervention by a human being in the natural environment, e.g. cities, towns, villages, rural settlements, services, transport systems, roads, bridges, tunnels, and cultivated lands, lakes, rivers, coasts, and seas, etc including the 'virtual' environment.
Social Environment:	The complex network of real and virtual human interaction – at a communal or larger group level – which operates for reasons of tradition, culture, business, pleasure, information exchange, institutional organization, legal procedure, governance, human betterment, social progress and spiritual enlightenment, etc. The 'social' environment shapes, binds together, and directs the future development of, the 'built' (incl.'virtual') environment.
Human Health:	A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. [WHO]
Individual Welfare:	A person's general feeling of health, happiness and fulfilment.
Social Wellbeing:	A general condition - in a community, society or culture - of health, happiness, creativity, responsible fulfilment, and sustainable development.
Sustainable Development:	Development which meets the responsible needs, i.e. the Human & Social Rights* , of this generation - without stealing the life and living resources from future generations, especially our children ... and their children. *As defined in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN OHCHR).