

# Liveable Cities

Thinking about the Future  
7 December 2012  
Royal Society

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

LANCASTER  
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ATCU

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Southampton

## Thinking about the Future

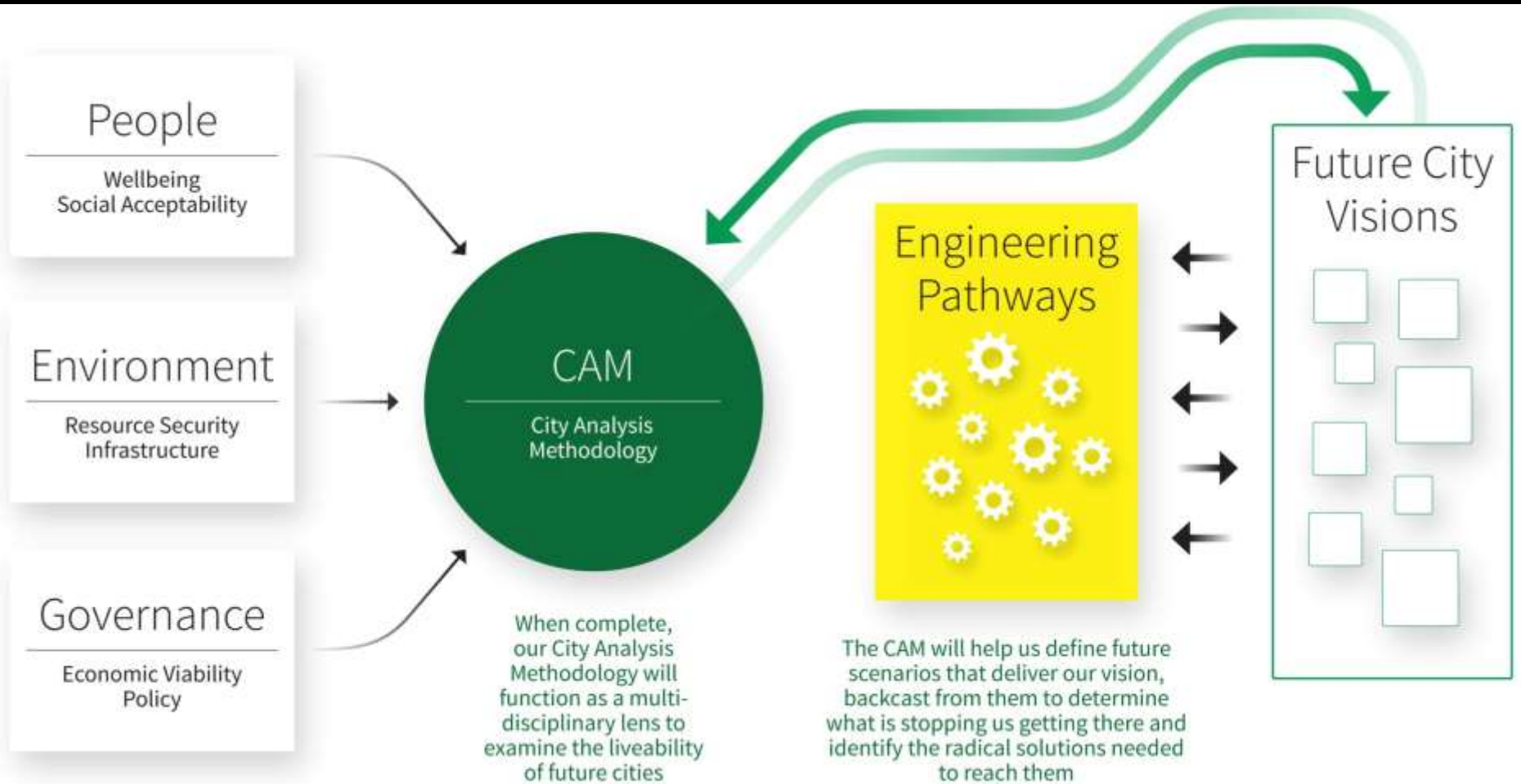
To identify and test radical engineering interventions that will lead to low carbon, resource secure future cities in which societal wellbeing is prioritised.

This will be achieved by

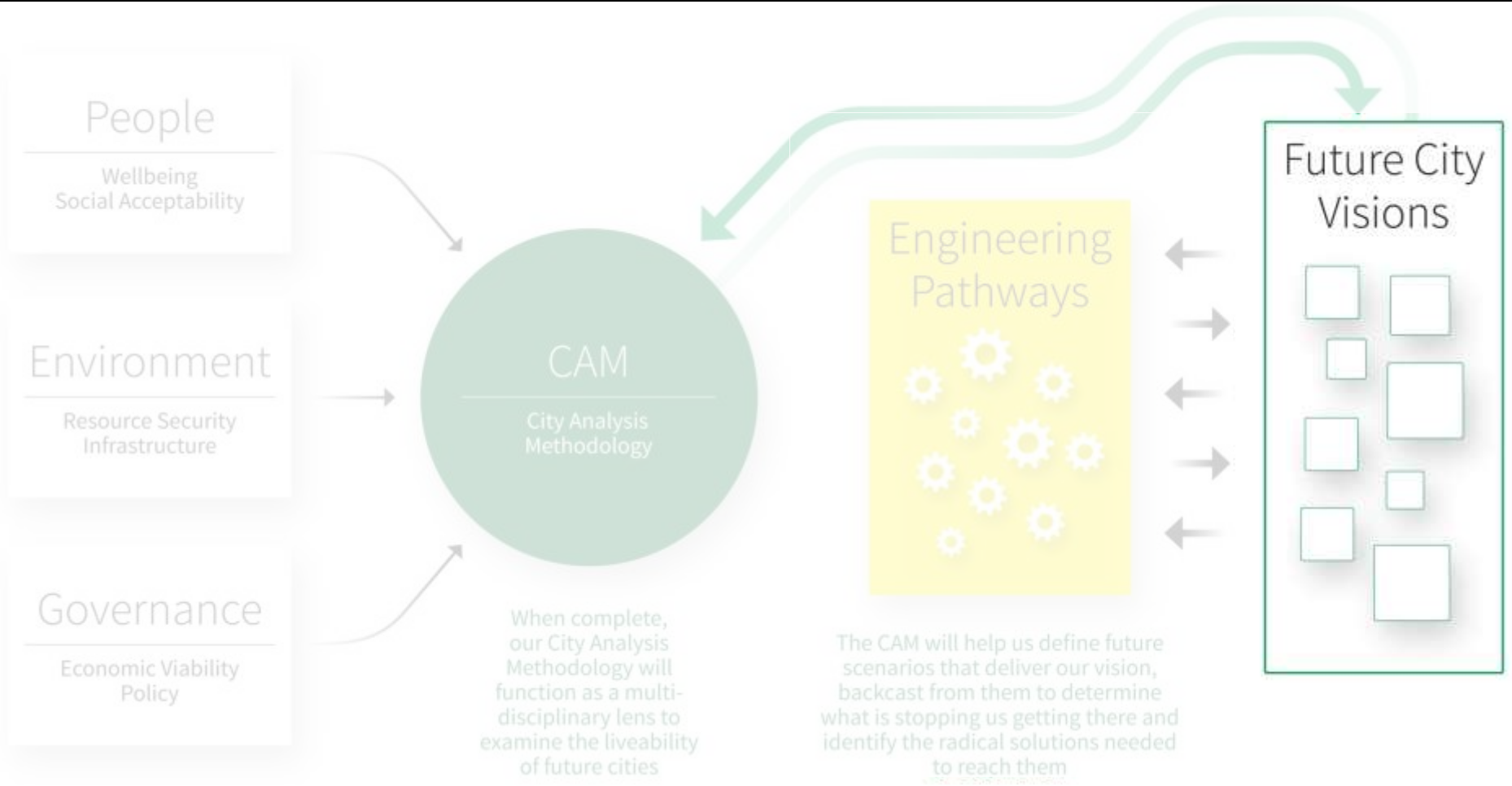
*envisioning 80%-reduced-carbon resource-secure cities, working back from there to explore what's stopping us getting there,*

*creating the necessary engineering responses, and proving the concept of a viable and socially acceptable alternative future.*

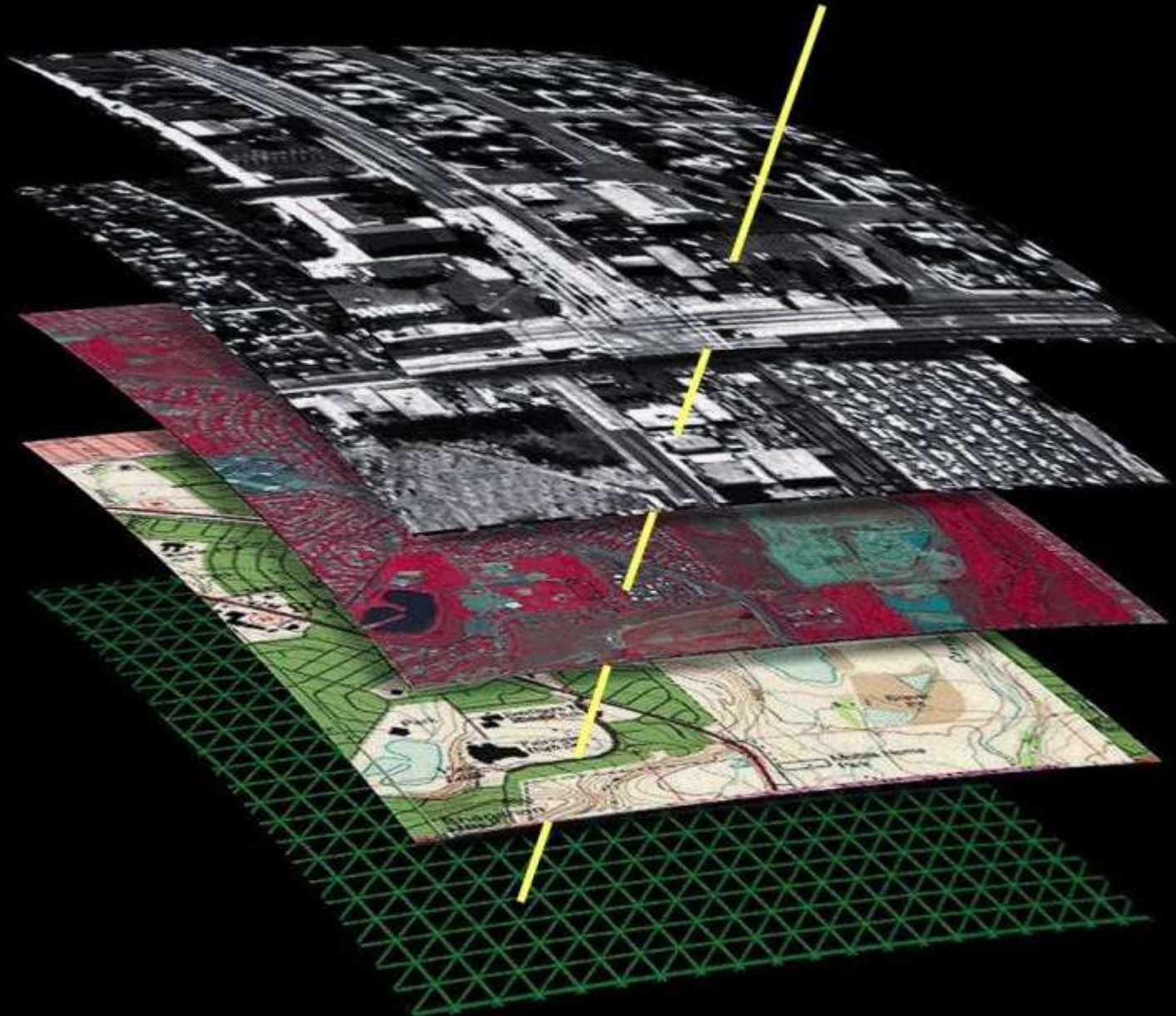
# Future Visions



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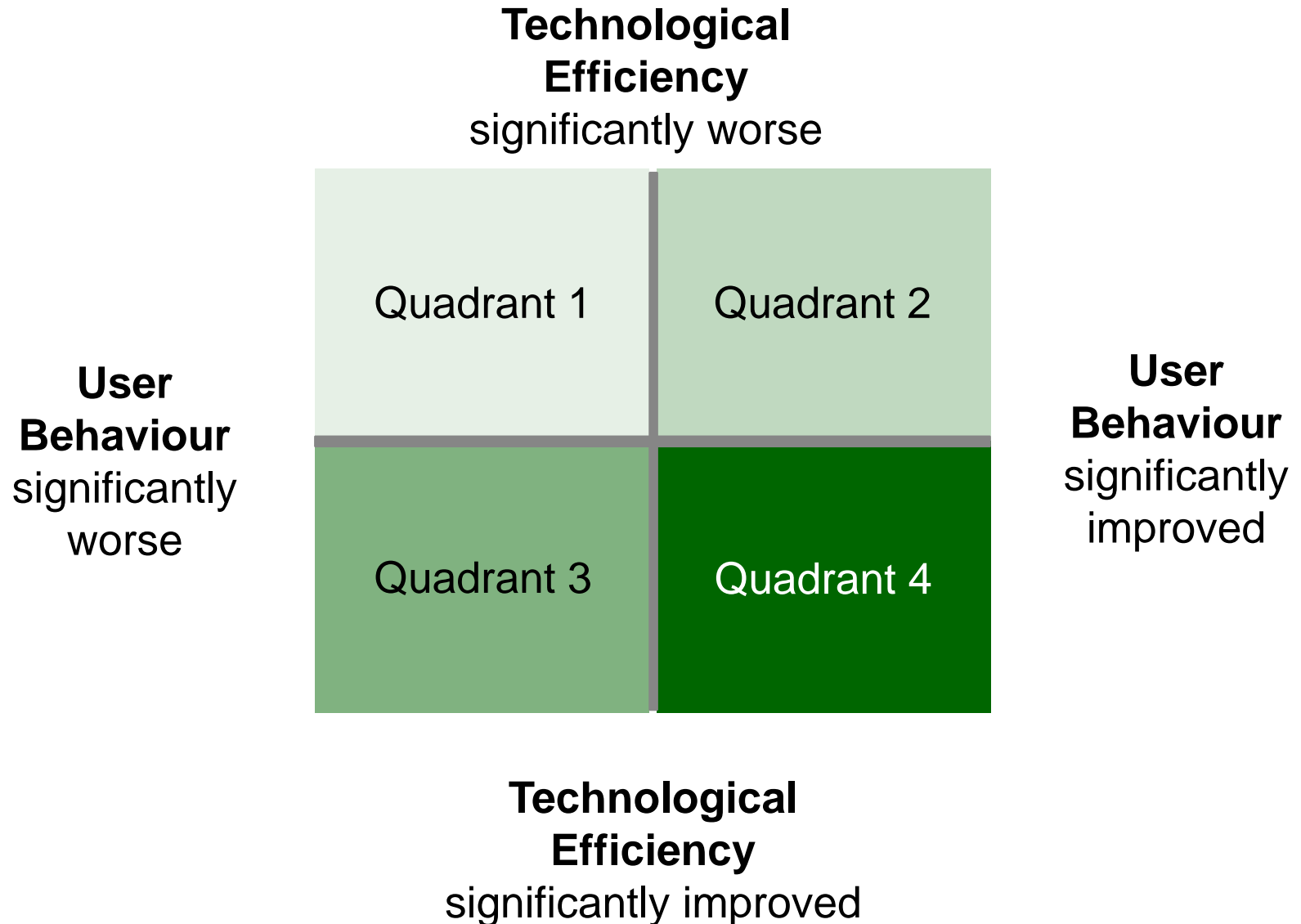


# A City Viewed Through Different Lenses



# Axes of Uncertainty

Final thoughts from the  
*Urban Futures* project ...  
and why it's not that simple



## Reasons why it's not that simple

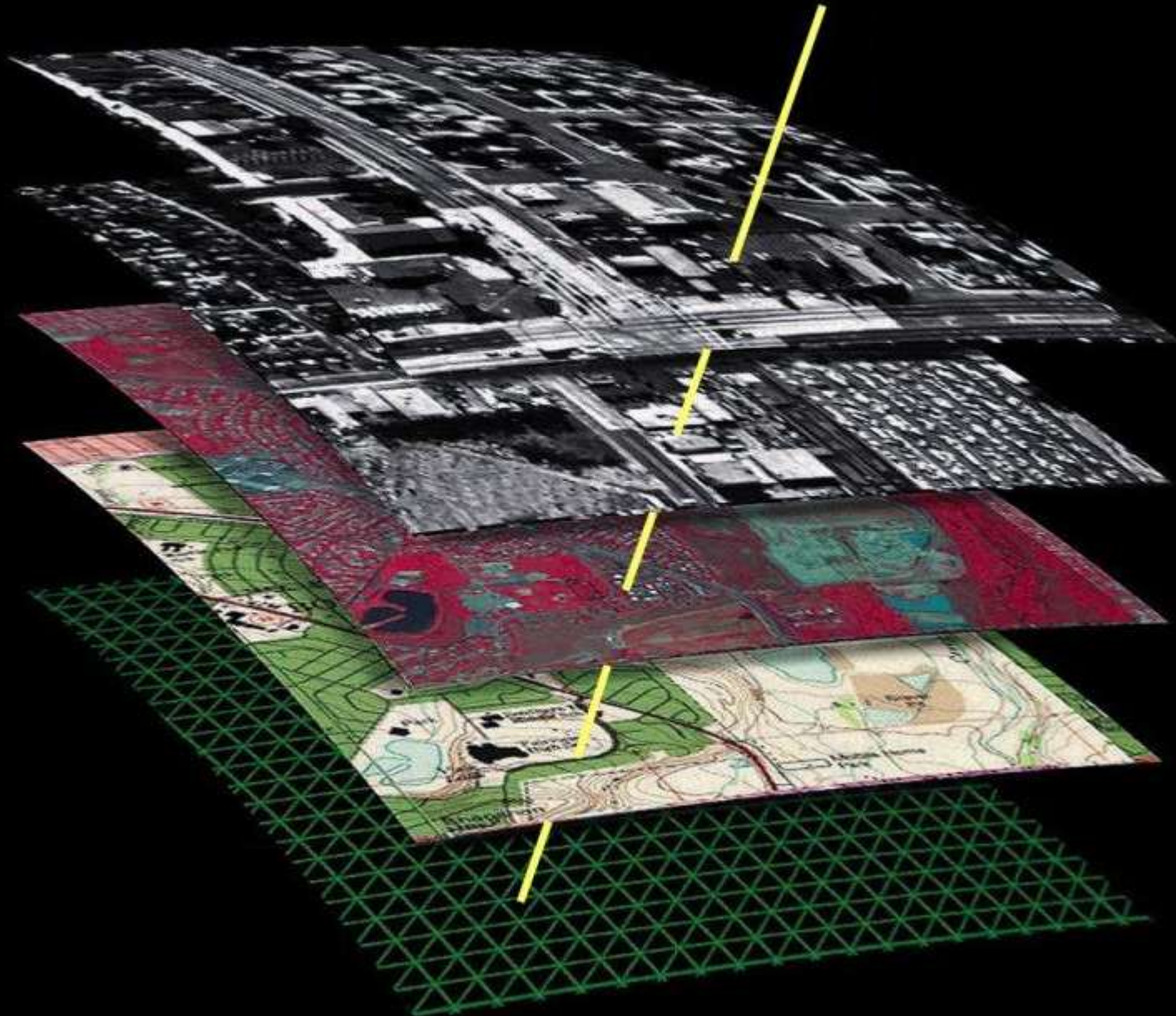
The axes aren't independent  
*though this might not matter*

The complexity isn't captured  
*this does matter*

The context is all important  
*a simple model misses this*

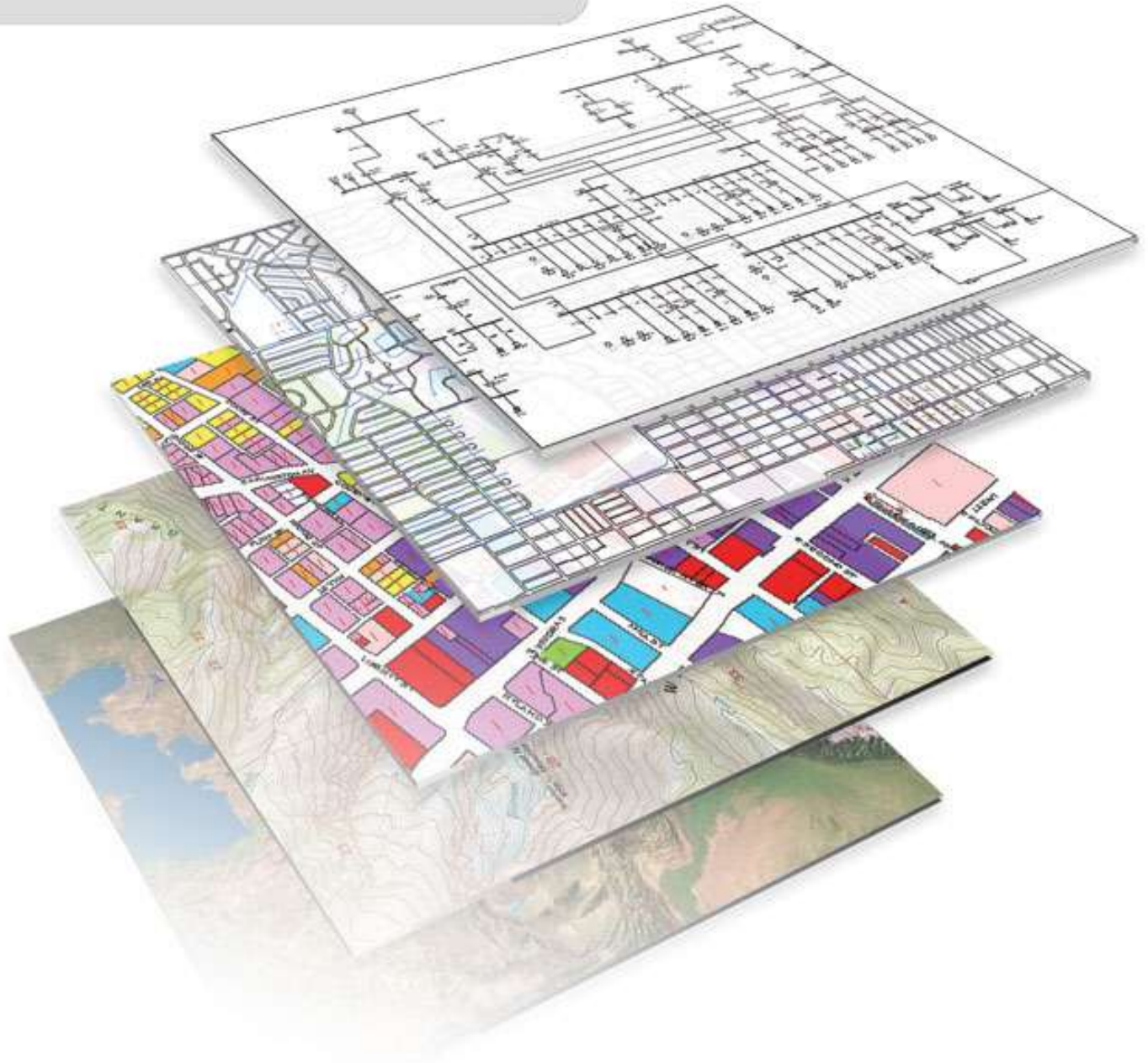
Actions cannot be treated in isolation  
*a simple view helps, but we must address  
a complex world*

# Cities as Layers of Complexity





# Cities as Disciplines See Them



## Reasons why it's not that simple

The axes aren't independent – *though this might not matter*

The complexity isn't captured – *this does matter*

The context is all important – *a simple model misses this*

Actions cannot be treated in isolation

*a simple view helps, but we must address a complex world*

*... which is why we have a Programme Grant*

What we wish to explore this afternoon are the questions that will enable us to address the complex world

*help us to develop a complex world view*

There are issues of different boundaries, different spatial and temporal scales, interdependencies, ...

*... this morning's presentations aim to fuel the debate*

[liveablecities.org.uk](https://liveablecities.org.uk)



Transforming the Engineering  
of Cities to deliver Societal  
and Planetary Wellbeing

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