How can we govern cities differently? From participation to co-production.

Jam and Justice is a three-year research project that aims to test and learn about more participatory methods for urban decision-making.

We want to seize the opportunity to make devolution matter in Greater Manchester by creating spaces for social innovation and inspiring and igniting change.
The 21st Century Councillor
We are working with North West Employers and four local councils in Greater Manchester to test different ideas about roles for local elected members in their communities.

People’s Republic of Energy
Initiated by the Carbon Coop and Energy Democracy Greater Manchester, this project looks at different models that can give citizens, workers and members greater control over the governance of the energy system in Greater Manchester.

The System Doesn’t Work
This creative photography project works with community researchers to document how people engaged in local community projects understand politics beyond the ballot box, and how they think and act politically.

Mapping the Solidarity Economy
This project is kickstarting a mapping exercise to show the diversity of social economy initiatives in Greater Manchester, with a focus on below-the-radar activities.

People’s Procurement
Working with the Centre for Local Economic Strategies we are testing innovative new ways of exploring scenarios for Greater Manchester residents to have more say in how public money is spent.

The Care at Home Challenge
This project with Shared Future CIC is working with people who are directly involved in doing, or deciding about, care-at-home policy – exploring ways to bring emotional and practical considerations into decisions over healthcare delivery.

Space in Common
Running parallel to the refresh of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, we are working with the Democratic Society to model an approach to spatial planning based on identifying differences and similarities between agendas and groups across the city region.

Young People Missing from Decisions
Working with the Children’s Society this project adopts a process of youth-led design, working with young people who would not normally engage with politics, to see how they are missing from decisions that routinely affect their lives.
Our projects have been initiated by the Action Research Collective (ARC), a group of people from different walks of life, brought together by Jam and Justice to learn by doing about the process of co-production.

Our peer learning and exchange network connects us to cities across the world including Barcelona, Cape Town, Chicago, Glasgow, Gothenburg, Kisumu, Melbourne and Paris.

The Action Research Collective includes:
Adrian Ball, Alex Whinnom, Alice Toomer McAlpine, Amanda Bickerton, Andrew Burridge, Bertie Russell, Beth Perry, Catherine Durose, Dan Silver, Jez Hall, Julie Asumu, Katie Finney, Laura Williams, Liz Richardson, Paul Maher, Susanne Martikke and Vicky Simpson.

“This is the dawn of a new era, not just for this city region, but for politics in our country... we will give power and purpose to those people and places Westminster has left behind.”

– Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester Mayor

If you want to find out more about the ARC and our projects, get involved in making devolution matter, or join our mailing list, contact us:

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