


Spatial Planning, & Health



Tim Madelin
Senior Public Health
Strategist, NHS Tower
Hamlets

Back to the future?

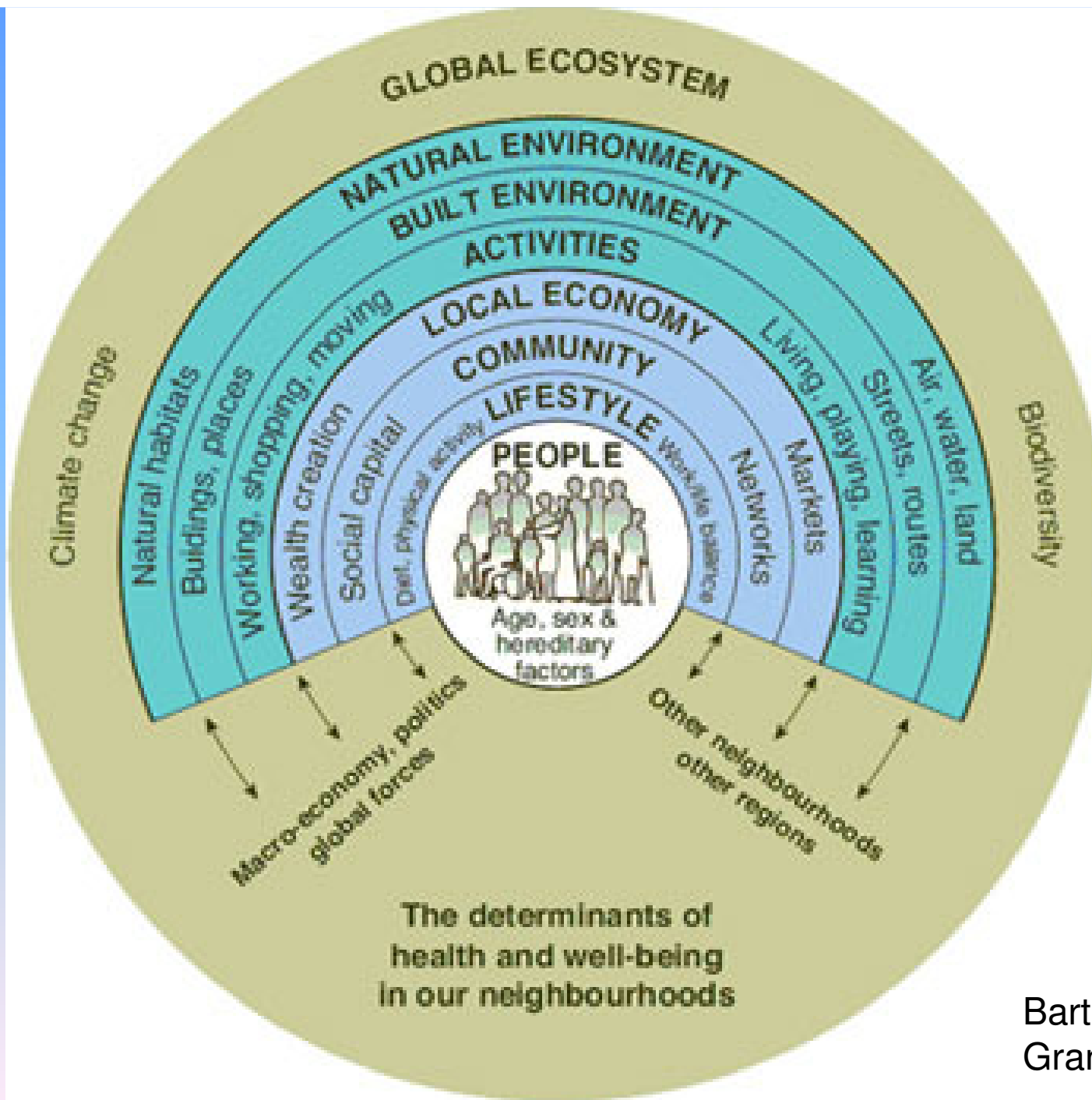
- Local Government has always been at forefront of public health
- Industrial revolution  urbanisation
- Realised need to tackle poor sanitation, housing & unhealthy food
- City of Liverpool - Liverpool Sanitary Act 1846
- Public Health Act 1848

Town & Country Planning Act 1909

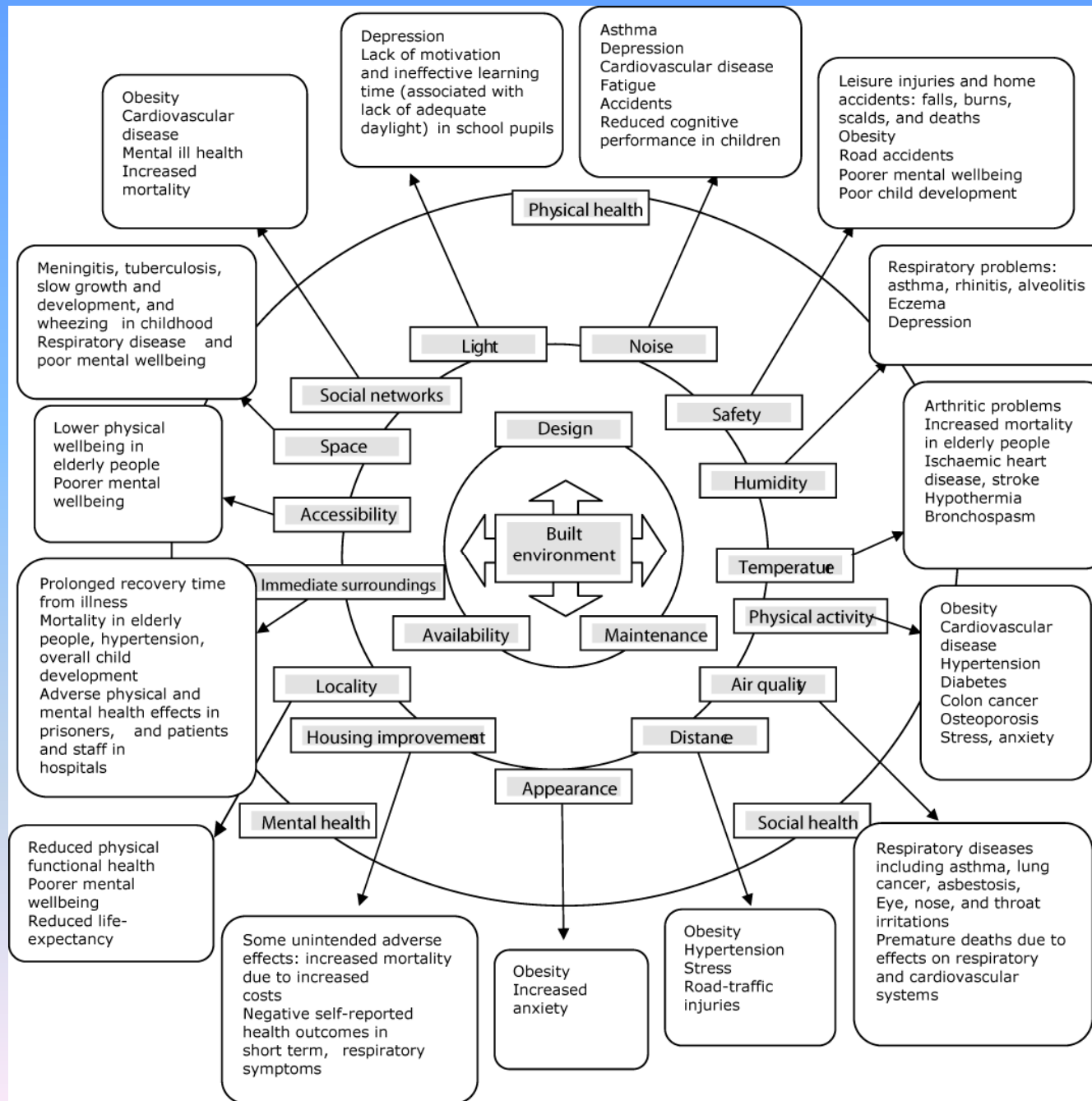
- '... the home healthy, the house beautiful, the town pleasant, the city dignified, and the suburb salubrious.'
- Forbade back-to-back housing, symbolic of the poverty of the industrial cities,
- Allowed LA to prepare schemes of town planning

Health Inequalities - Marmot policy recommendations

- Prioritise interventions that both reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change by improving:
 - active travel
 - availability of good quality spaces
 - food environment in local areas
 - energy efficiency in housing
- Fully integrate the planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality.
- Support locally developed and evidence-based community regeneration programmes that:
 - Remove barriers to community participation and action
 - Reduce social isolation



Barton & Grant, 2007)




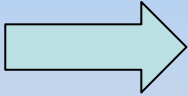
(Rao et al, 2007, Lancet)

Food and Planning

- Food Production
 - Agricultural land
 - Urban growing
- Food Retail
 - Edge of town supermarkets
 - Protection for markets
 - Over emphasis on road transport – favours large transport hubs over local food provision
 - Over concentrations of similar uses

But more than Bricks and mortar

Built environment effects

- Social processes  health behaviours
- Social capital  mental wellbeing/
resilience

Issues

- Real engagement of communities in planning process
- Market regulation or planning health neighbourhoods
 - Presumption in favour of development
 - Market distortion because of land values
- Lack of practical tools to assess health
- Localism v strategic plans

Finally

- What is good design if it isn't healthy?