TOWN:
small and medium sized towns in their functional context

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Outline of session

• Why are small towns important?
• What is the project trying to do?
• What might be the policy implications of TOWN?
Why are small towns important?

- European peculiarity
- Numerically important
- Diverse set of places
- Unknown contribution (on the whole)
- Likely role and function is changing under globalisation
Aims of TOWN

• Systematic identification (on the basis of land use data)
• Build a database of small towns and their attributes (2001-10)
• Understand socio-economic dynamics
• Identify governance conditions for ‘success’
• Policy interventions that ‘work’ for/in small towns
Key concepts

- Urban system: poly-nodal networks and urban-rural linkage
- Function: residual economy and service role
- Multi-faceted notion of ‘success’ (smart, green and inclusive?)
- Territorial capital, soft governance and partnership
TOWN in Wales....

- Project: April 2012 to March 2014
- Welsh case study: Autumn 2012 to Spring 2013
- Nested territorial case studies
- Smaller towns – 32% of population plus 20% ‘rural’
Implications?

• Policy areas implicated
  – Spatial (land use) planning
  – Regional (spatial) development (especially economic development)
  – Location policy for services (of general interest)

• European policy implications

• Policy implications in Wales?
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