

# The Central Activities Zone

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# A brief history of London

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- The Romans
- The Anglo Saxons
- William the Conqueror
- The City becomes England's most powerful self-governing institution
- Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, Common Council evolve into a powerful institution

# Later history

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- 'London' expands to the west and east
- Elizabethan efforts to discourage development outside the City
- Gradual evolution of 'suburban' Covent Garden, Westminster, Soho and Mayfair
- Parish-based Poor Law and other government
  - Ad hoc bodies, commissions etc

# The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

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- 'London' becomes the world's largest city
- City of London resists Parliamentary and governmental efforts to expand it
- Eventually, Metropolitan Board of Works created (1855) as weak upper-tier
  - City and parishes choose members indirectly
- London County Council
- Greater London Council

# Central London within the modern city

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- The major core of employment and transport
- Largely evolved as the result of a series of decisions by private companies (rail), land owners/developers (eg, Duke of Westminster, John Nash), and public infrastructure (MBW, LCC)
- No 'plan' to create 'Central London'

# Central London within 10+ authorities

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- Until 1965, 'CAZ' fell within 14 different metropolitan boroughs and the City
- Now within 10
- GLC/GLA, Metropolitan Police, LT/TfL have provided overall governance
- Occasional efforts at joint committees in the 1960s and 1970s
  - Central London Partnership most recent

# Research to analyse CAZ governance needs – if any

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- Complex historical and political background
- Need to start from 'zero base'
- Interviews with borough leaders, Mayor's Office, TfL, LDA, business representatives, partnerships and BIDs
- Interviewees asked about central London's policy priorities, need (if any) for governance

# Results of interviews - 1

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- General agreement on a number of key issues facing central London, eg
  - Crossrail
  - Olympics
  - Major developments
- Wide range of views about need for governance structure
  - Some favoured new institution, others not

## Results of interviews - 2

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- Some agreement on what is not needed
  - Service-delivery body
  - Combination of GLA/borough/business representative body with 'networking' club
  - Too many meetings
- Implication is that CAZ institution could be useful, but no over-riding need for anything radical or powerful

# Conclusions

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- CAZ is the core of London's economy
- Significant potential to grow and develop as the result of new transport infrastructure, growing population etc
- No strong desire for governance institution, but some interest in the need for 'co-ordination'
- A classic London question....