

Urban Dynamics

Horizon scanning



Introduction

The migration to urban living is a long term trend which has been shaping society for millennia. With more than half the global population living in urban areas and 1.5 million people added to the global urban population every day, this is a trend which doesn't appear to be slowing down. Cities are the engines of economic growth and productivity. In order to remain competitive, it is crucial to understand the business opportunities and risks associated with these changing environments.

Our Osborne Clarke experts have gathered together their predictions on how the urban space will develop in the coming months and years. Their choices reflect the changes accelerated by the pandemic, the impact of an ageing population, the increased need for businesses to reach their net zero targets and the role of transformative technology throughout our urban spaces.

Smart Cities

- Technology will play a crucial role in measuring and understanding data to identify carbon reduction opportunities with 'climate tech' becoming the new 'proptech'.
- Given the well-known influx of data into the built environment, data ethics will soon become a strategic issue. Data standards and greater consistency in how certain data types are reported on will soon be demanded.
- A large chunk of budgets for operators or spacemakers will be spent on trying to build and drive community – including by the integration and use of technology to facilitate this.
- The impact of geopolitics on energy networks has heightened concern around energy security. Being able to generate onsite in a secure and cost effective way will soon be seen as crucial by operators, developers and investors alike.

Future of Work

- As part of the drive to net zero (particularly post COP27) employers will 'greenify' workforce benefit offerings. The international governing regulatory framework will change to make this a business imperative.
- Working from anywhere models remain popular as employees continue to take advantage of hybrid working models enabling moving and working abroad. To accommodate changing demands and expectations of the workforce businesses will implement short term working abroad policies.
- We will see a faster transition to atypical working models including use of a contingent workforce, PEO's (Professional Employer Organisation's) and EOR's (Employer of Record's). Regulation will adapt to accommodate changes to the workforce.
- There will be rapid take up in respect of new and creative workforce technologies – at all stages of the employment lifecycle. The EU's proposed Artificial Intelligence Act will pave the way for new business considerations.
- The working population will become increasingly older, changing the focus in respect of benefit provision, reskilling and upskilling, flexible working arrangements and digital inclusion of an ageing working population.

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Urban Mobility

- We will see a significant uptick in local authorities tendering for platform providers to enable mobility as a service (MaaS) solutions in their area and new entrants to the MaaS platform market (on a local and national level).
- There will be a shift away from individual attempts to harness data in relation to connected and autonomous vehicles, towards a collective approach.
- A raft of electric vehicle (EV) regulation and legislation across the globe will accelerate the roll out of EV charging infrastructure as part of the road to net zero by 2050 affecting a broader range of businesses than those traditionally involved in the EV market to date. These will need to be considered in the planning and carrying out of works to new and existing developments.
- A shift in air mobility investment from electric vertical take off and landing (eVTOL) technology and developing the aircrafts themselves, to building the infrastructure, will allow for the operation of networks of eVTOLs within the next 12 months.
- We will see movement in CAVs interoperability and standards for connectivity, leading to a rise in standard essential patents (SEPs). This could result in English courts playing an active role in setting FRAND terms; patent pools; and negotiating licences with SEP holders.

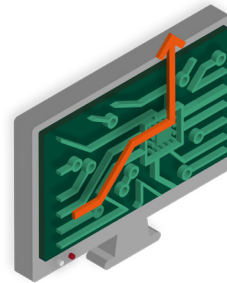
About Osborne Clarke

We immerse ourselves in the global issues that are transforming the landscape of how we live, work and do business. Focusing on the transformation drivers that will have the biggest impact on our clients, we use this insight to help you thrive, ensure agility and strengthen the resilience of your business. We are at your side, working closely with you to bring value, share new products and apply digital solutions. Together we'll be ready for what's next.



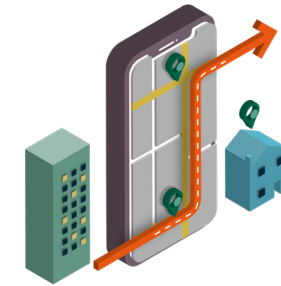
Decarbonisation

Carbon neutral imperatives are increasingly at the heart of business strategies. This will often require a radical rethink along your entire supply chain, from initial use of carbon all the way through to customer delivery. We will bring our expertise and track record to support you with every step along your decarbonisation journey.



Digitalisation

Businesses are fast being re-shaped to fully exploit the possibilities of digital technology, but timely delivery is vital. Our lawyers are experts in advising on delivering a digitalisation strategy: from procuring digital infrastructure and technology to implementing a data strategy, or responding to a cybersecurity crisis. We support you as you expand or transform your business through technology.



Urban Dynamics

The vast majority of businesses operate in and benefit from the urban environment. The extent to which you understand and engage with urban dynamics will have a significant impact on your continued success. We understand that the way in which cities are designed, built and managed offers extraordinary opportunities. Our legal advice is focused on helping you to realise these opportunities.

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