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# Spatial Economics Research Centre

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## (Super) City Rankings

I was away at the end of last week so I missed the HSBC report on super cities that will [lead the UK manufacturing resurgence](#): Bristol and Glasgow, Newcastle, London, Leeds, Brighton and Liverpool.

I don't think these kind of rankings are very useful for policy. I may be cynical, but I think the rule when constructing these things is to pick a few places that are safe(ish) bets (London and Bristol on the basis of current performance, Leeds and Brighton on the basis of trends) then a couple of random(ish) ones to generate interest (Liverpool and Newcastle).

I assume a process like this lead to [McKinsey Global Institute](#) predicting Edinburgh, Durham and Belfast as having higher GDP per capita than New York and London by 2025 (see table 1 in the executive summary).

As for policy, unless large inflexible investments *have* to be made, then I think it is far better to remain [spatially and sectorially neutral](#).

Posted by [Prof Henry G. Overman](#) on [Monday, June 06, 2011](#)

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