



# Spatial Economics Research Centre

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

## San Francisco versus Birmingham

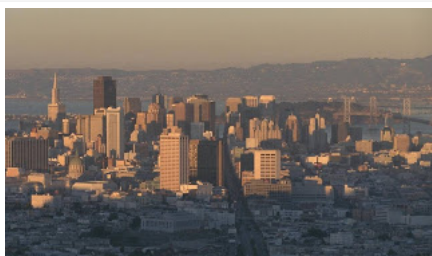
I am in San Francisco for work. I am reminded of research by my colleagues Paul Cheshire and Christian Hilber that reports that commercial rents in Birmingham are twice those in San Francisco (mostly because Birmingham's planning restrictions are more restrictive than San Francisco - itself a highly regulated city for the US).

Rather than risk offending anyone, let me simply finish with a couple of pictures for you to compare and contrast for yourselves.

Birmingham:



San Fran:



Posted by [Prof Henry G. Overman](#) on [Wednesday, November 18, 2009](#)

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Alex said...

In a recent article (<http://www.futureagenda.org/?cat=14>) Prof Richard Burdett highlights the practical benefits of dense, compact cities, such as Hong Kong and Manhattan, as efficient urban models for future cities. I suppose in this case, the two cities you put forward are the exact opposite of how we could hope our cities will be built in the future ?

18 November 2009 at 15:45

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