



Growing  
Redbridge  
Together



**REDBRIDGE GROWTH COMMISSION**

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# Foreword

Sophia de Sousa, Chair, LB Redbridge Growth Commission

**The Redbridge Growth Commission has created the opportunity for an important local conversation about the future of Redbridge at a very particular moment in time. As we face the global climate emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit and the increasing demand for housing in the UK, we are collectively facing both challenges and uncertainties. We are also re-evaluating our relationship with our environment and with each other, and there is a growing awareness of both the things we have in common, and the tensions and inequalities that divide us.**

Against this backdrop, it is clear that Redbridge cannot just take a business as usual approach to growth. Now more than ever we need to see change as a positive force.

The Growth Commission was established to enable an engaged conversation and collaborative approach to shaping future growth in our borough. While it was important to be aware and responsive to all of these national and global issues, we wanted to explore ways to ensure growth in Redbridge is right for us, for our rich and diverse tapestry of local people, organisations and places.

We Commissioners stepped in as independent enablers to support an open and honest conversation. We have put our heads together with yours and, using our collective experience, knowledge, creativity and initiatives, we have tried to be ambitious about what is achievable, and about how to unlock a more engaged and collaborative approach.

We have had the opportunity to personally speak to so many different stakeholders in this conversation, including council officers, elected members, local residents, business owners, developers, community and voluntary sector groups and networks. We have been

“Growth is transformative. How can we make it purposefully transformative?”

struck by the generosity of spirit and sense of opportunity that people have brought to the conversation. We have also seen a genuine interest in working together to make change in Redbridge as positive and beneficial as possible, and to ensure that no-one is left behind. As one local resident put it so beautifully,

We Commissioners have been impressed and inspired by what we have seen in Redbridge, and firmly believe that all of the ingredients are already at your fingertips to build on what is special about the borough as a whole, and on the uniqueness and diversity of the people and places within it.

We now share recommendations and ideas that have emerged from our conversations with you. They represent a collective contribution from everyone who has engaged with the Growth Commission. How you choose to prioritise and use these recommendations will require ongoing discussion, joint decision-making and collaborative action from the council, elected members, local businesses, groups and people as well as working effectively with external partners and delivery bodies.

As we Commissioners step away, our hope is that these recommendations plant the seeds for a more engaged, participatory and collaborative approach to delivering good, green and sustainable growth in Redbridge that you can nurture.

As the Growth Commission Chair and a Redbridge resident, I am hugely grateful to everyone who took part. I am also excited by what is possible here in Redbridge and am convinced that we can lead the way to a new normal by being ambitious and exceptional.




# Commissioning Team



**Sophia de Sousa (Chair) – CEO, The Glass-House Community Led Design**

Sophia has been Chief Executive at The Glass-House since 2005 and is an impassioned champion of design quality and equality. She advocates and enables design processes that empower organisations and communities to work openly and collaboratively, and that unlock potential in both places and people. She has extensive experience in delivering strategic support, training and practical resources for community groups and professionals, and is also a leader in the field of community-led, participatory and co-design research. Sophia sits on a number of panels and advisory groups. She is passionate about cross-sector and interdisciplinary working, and about finding opportunity in complexity and diversity.



**Sir Steve Bullock DL**

Steve chairs the London Borough of Sutton’s ALMO, the Sutton Housing Partnership, and the Housing & Finance Institute (HFI) which seeks to boost the capacity of the sector and secure increased delivery. He also works with some individual local councils on improvement and recently was appointed to Chair LACE (Pan-London Accommodation Collaborative Enterprise) a new approach to tackling homelessness through acquiring modular temporary accommodation. He was previously London Councils’ Executive lead on Housing, a member of the Mayor of London’s Homes for Londoners Board and chair of the Local Government Association’s Commercial Board.



**Yashmin Harun BEM – Chair, Muslimah Sports Association**

A ground breaker and multi-award-winning leader within the sports industry, Yashmin established Muslimah Sports Association in 2014 and has grown it to deliver over 15 grassroots sports activities to BAME women. She is the first Asian woman to become an independent director at British Fencing and to serve on the London FA Council and become an elected Board Director. Yashmin is a key member of the FA’s Working Group for Asian Females in Football and Sporting Equals BASPA Leadership Group. She has over 20 years banking experience operating across front, middle, back and head office roles, particular expertise in building relations, communication and working across national and cultural boundaries.



**Imandeep Kaur – Director, Civic Square**

Throughout her career, Immy has focused on convening and building community, the role of citizens in radical systemic change, and how we together create more democratic, distributed, open source social and civic infrastructure. Through this work she has discovered much about economic justice and broader injustices, the pivotal role of land and social/civic infrastructure in neighbourhoods, and the value extracted from communities through our broken investment models. It continues to be an ongoing journey of discovery, emergence and learning together. Immy is co-founder of CIVIC SQUARE, which is a public square, neighbourhood lab, and creative + participatory platform focused on regenerative civic and social infrastructure within neighbourhoods.



**David Ubaka – Founder, DUP Limited**

David is a chartered architect, urban designer and developer - with specialisms in Transport, Heritage Housing and Public Realm. In 2012 he founded D.U.P Limited an independent placemaking and development company with offices in London and Glasgow. D.U.P gives strategic advice to public, private and third sector clients on urban regeneration, placemaking and transport infrastructure policy and projects. Prior to establishing his consultancy, he was an Architect for a number of architectural practises in Scotland and the South East utilised for his heritage, commercial and housing design experience. David sits on a number of panels and advisory groups.



**Bethia McNeil – CEO, Centre for Youth Impact**

Bethia McNeil is Chief Executive of the Centre for Youth Impact, and has been with the Centre since its launch in September 2014. Prior to joining the team to set up the Centre, Bethia worked at the Dartington Social Research Unit, the Young Foundation, the National Youth Agency and NIACE (now the Learning and Work Institute), in a variety of policy and research roles. She has also worked in further and higher education as a teacher and trainer. Bethia is particularly interested in the relationship between quality and impact in youth work and provision for young people, and in the theory and practice of measurement, especially within collaboratives. Bethia is a 2012 Clore Social Fellow and a Senior Visiting Fellow at Nottingham Trent University.

# Introduction

The Redbridge Growth Commission 'Growing Redbridge Together' was established in response to growing pressures to deliver housing against a backdrop of disconnection between the borough's Brave New Towns vision for growth and resident concerns around poor or over-development, alongside worries about infrastructure and change. The drivers for growth have changed since the borough's vision was produced, with the emerging London Plan significantly increasing the borough's housing target, and the anticipated Planning White Paper signposting an even greater emphasis on the delivery of new homes. This Commission therefore provides a timely opportunity to consider the ways in which our growth can be truly sustainable, creating the spaces that will allow our local economy to thrive and for our communities to feel the tangible benefits of regeneration.

The Commission was conceived as an opportunity for Redbridge to do something different; working with a team of six independent commissioners to lead a series of conversations with individuals, community groups, businesses and those who have a direct stake in the borough's growth to listen, learn and challenge the council to think differently, creatively and collaboratively about how to 'do growth better'.

Working intensively over a three month period, commissioners have gathered a wealth of understanding to shape ways in which Redbridge can grow better, reaching out into collective professional networks and drawing on best practice research and innovation from the UK and beyond to plant the seeds for a more participatory approach to growth.

The Commission has run during unprecedented times, with engagement running entirely online and including in-depth discussions with Members, officers, residents and community groups. During two phases of engagement that ran from June through August, Commissioners met with over 200 people in a series of individual and group sessions and workshop activities including dedicated sessions with young people. Over

30 organisations were represented in these sessions including resident groups, businesses, charities, religious groups, architects, volunteer groups developers, and education institutions. Redbridge is on a journey of transition, from a leafy suburb to a more mixed economy as part of an outer London borough. Collectively, local communities understand that new homes are needed; the challenge posed is for housing development to be set in the context of good growth. This means developing a strong and confident approach to development which is more demanding in terms of quality and community benefit.

This report sets out the key findings from the Commission, with a set of recommendations and areas for additional exploration which will help deliver growth in a more collaborative and effective way, and strengthen our relationships with local residents and stakeholders.



# In Summary

**The Commission has set out a number of recommendations to support growth in the borough, which have been set out in the following pages in some detail, but can be summarised as:**

## Underlying principles

- Taking a neighbourhood-based approach
- Building future local economies
- Enabling green & sustainable development

## Objectives for LBR organisational culture and practice

- Participatory approaches
- Culture of learning and experimentation
- Clear and transparent communication with residents
- Ongoing renewal of information, insight, strategies and policies

- 01 Outline a clear vision for good and sustainable growth that goes beyond the Borough Plan;
- 02 Place the Green agenda at the heart of growth;
- 03 Provide opportunities for community collaboration, connection and leadership that reflects and is enriched by our diverse communities;
- 04 Invest in a borough-wide network of participatory activity to shape and drive good growth and high quality design;
- 05 Open up use of small sites, using land as a platform for equitable growth to pioneer community led/built homes, community buildings, growing sites and pocket parks;
- 06 Create a cross-borough, neighbourhood level of excellent learning, skills and job opportunities that support the growth agenda;
- 07 Create a network of micro-manufacturing, enterprise and artist spaces to drive community-led business and economic activity.

# Underlying Principles

Key principles to underpin good growth were explored by Commissioners with the wide range of participants interviewed and can be summarised as follows;

## Taking a neighbourhood-based approach.

Redbridge is a diverse collection of places and spaces rich with people, history, context and assets. Celebrating the strength of our diverse community, and understanding the identity, strengths, relationships, needs and story of our places is foundational to good growth. This continuous process of mapping and understanding different places needs to inform, shape and support planning and design to balance growth with the unique identities of different neighbourhoods and parts of the borough.

This approach builds on existing assets and local context, complementing and connecting to what is already there and addressing gaps which have been identified, which will include a broad range of physical, social and community infrastructure needs and requirements of different places.

## Building future local economies.

Building future local economies ensures that growth can be powered by and benefit from a thriving local economy which is local, green and sustainable. This will mean investing in skills and knowledge, providing swift easy access to training and education to support the emerging economy and with a strong focus on green micro-manufacturing, construction and civic engagement.

Creating the conditions for start-ups, jobs and enterprise to flourish needs to reinforce investment in skills and knowledge development. It should provide the opportunities and resources for a distributed network of maker-manufacturers, entrepreneurs and artists to emerge. This is likely to require practical support, access to space, seed capital and incentives to get started and to collaborate. This network should be supported to develop and grow, ensuring that individual micro-businesses can collaborate, communicate and access opportunities to support growth, in particular in relation to improving green spaces, new development, retrofit and self-build.

"...in terms of thinking about how the borough grows, there needs to be localised options and localised input..."

"...councils are not in the business of creating jobs. But if you create the opportunity, then other people will come in and create the jobs".

## Enabling green & sustainable development.

Enabling green and sustainable development and amplifying our green and blue infrastructure strengthens the ways in which growth has a positive multiplier effect on local health and wellbeing and the environment. Creating a focus on growing the use and availability of green spaces across the borough alongside housing development, for example by creating spaces for community growing or pocket parks will ensure that more urban parts of the borough are not devoid of green space.

Small sites are the key not only to participatory growing and play areas, but also creating community-led homes. This can be enabled through appropriate mechanisms for ownership and stewardship of land and supported through building future local economies. For developments which are not community or council-led, it should be clear how developers can adhere to exemplary standards of community engagement and participation, design and quality, so that growth is shaped by people, place and the environment.

"My concern is about integrating green infrastructure...as a tool against climate change into any growth development. It's good for people's well-being"

# Objectives for LBR organisational culture and practice

The Commission were struck by the wealth of assets and energy within the council, elected membership and across Redbridge communities. The challenge posed by this commission is how to activate these things differently; reconfiguring, connecting and streamlining our practice and processes to better join up, communicate, collaborate and shape growth.

## Participatory approaches.

Increasing participatory activity across the council which embraces the agency, assets, collective wisdom and diversity of Redbridge's citizens should be built into every area of growth; understanding places, growing future local economies, delivering green developments and more. This needs to give particular prominence to seldom heard communities, including children and young people as well as bringing together the different parts of Redbridge's communities into shared spaces.

Identifying intentional and well-resourced mechanisms for enabling meaningful and diverse participation, decision-making and leadership need to be central to this work. Participatory approaches are not here solely about consultation or even co-design and co-production but about empowering it (i.e investing power and resource) in citizens and civil society.

## Culture of learning and experimentation.

Learning and experimentation should inform activity, behaviour and attitudes towards new and innovative approaches, asking not 'what happens if this goes wrong?' but 'what will we learn from this?' This is central also to transforming the culture and support offer of the council. Establishing a learning capture mechanism through which to develop, apply and grow a holistic and consistent approach to growth. Organisational development considerations could include building participatory activity into staff CPD and creating volunteering days for council staff to support local initiatives that build connections, trust and shared understanding.

On the Growth Commission...  
 "There's got to be a lot more opportunities for us to drop into these kinds of conversations that we're having now."

"We've all got different backgrounds...I think when you get a lot of different disciplines in the room and start to have these conversations we learn off each other."

## Clear and transparent communication with residents.

Clear and transparent communication, supported by participatory approaches and empowering residents and civil society will help to grow trust and ensure that residents understand the growth agenda and council's obligations, and can participate in delivering and shaping Redbridge's vision for growth. Appreciating the range of ways in which our communities receive and process information will require diversifying the ways in which we communicate, including creative and visual approaches that build the growth narrative.

## Ongoing renewal of

Behind the 'delivery' of growth sits a range of strategies, policies and infrastructure. This needs to be reflective of the new principles of growth in Redbridge and available to residents in an accessible, dynamic (i.e real-time/live) form. These changes need to be reflected in the council's business as usual and visual approaches that build

the growth narrative.

"...[it's] about trying to get the message across to people in a way that they can understand it"

"Data is power. Information is power. And that is what we [residents] need."

## Recommendations

Each recommendation set out is underpinned by a range of actions that will support delivery. Additional ideas to explore emerged from the broad range of conversations that were held with commissioners, residents, business and community groups, as well as external consultees from Commissioner networks. An appendix provides detail of further reading and insights which can be used as a wider resource to support delivery. It is perhaps worth noting that there is a great deal of cross-over and interconnection between these recommendation areas.

# 01

Outline a clear vision for good and sustainable growth which goes beyond the existing Borough Plan



**Articulate the ambitious vision that has emerged through the Growth Commission to create a borough narrative and sense of possibility; providing leadership and ambition to build on the Brave New Towns vision to introduce a framework for good growth.**

### Actions:

- Be ambitious and demanding of all development activity in the borough to drive up quality and positive community outcomes throughout the development process;
- Produce a roadmap which outlines our vision for growth which goes beyond the existing borough plan: what success might look like and how we want to get there;
- Grow a coalition of individuals, community groups and organisations reflecting the rich diversity of our borough who want to support the delivery of the vision;
- Engage with civic, community, charity, commercial, governmental and other prospective partners.

### Further ideas to explore:

- Develop a clear vision for the role and practice of participation which is understood by the council, partners, residents, businesses and community groups;
- Create shared spaces for council officers, local groups and organisations to develop and share ideas;
- Embed growth commission recommendations and activity into emerging council policies and strategy.

# 02

Place the green agenda  
at the heart of growth

**This builds on Redbridge's much valued wealth of green spaces and waterways and prioritises the use of sustainable technologies in the borough.**

## Actions

- Test new forms of equitable green investment for community-led (urban) development with a focus on radically more sustainable and democratic space: green walkable streets, zero carbon transport, high quality homes and infrastructure for low carbon living;
- Position the borough for new jobs and opportunities in the green and sustainable sector, eg the proposed GLA Clean Technology Centre;
- Support community and commercial retro-fit of existing housing stock, raising awareness and enabling access to national and London-based funding opportunities.

## Further ideas to explore:

- Create incentives/promote opportunities for those who want to build sustainably, using environmentally sustainable approaches and technologies into all development (at every scale, led by any sector) by building and supporting a network of specialist contractors;
- Create renewable resources to generate power – wind and solar networks;
- Create safer cycle lanes and safer biking route for children to ride to school;
- Identify ways in which funds can be leveraged to tackle climate change and offset the negative impacts of growth (i.e carbon offset);
- Provide incentives for people to shop eco-friendly and locally.



# 03

Provide opportunities for community collaboration, connection and leadership that reflects and is enriched by our diverse communities.

**This acknowledges that diversity is a strength for Redbridge and that with the right tools and motivation, our communities can take responsibility for shaping and leading activities that deliver growth. Explore the ways in which funding can be leveraged to promote community benefit as part of good growth.**

## Actions:

- Create the mechanisms for resident empowerment and participation that promotes inclusive neighbourhoods; building co-operation between different cultural groups and people of all ages;
- Create online and in-person spaces to act as a living repository of news, information, insights and documents that will enable people from across Redbridge and local neighbourhoods to explore issue and contribute to decision making;
- Support and enable sharing and collaborative economy approaches and networks such as car shares, community volunteering and voucher schemes, mutual aid groups and more;
- Establish a community trust organisation to champion participatory approaches, and bring together a network of organisations or initiatives to empower neighbourhoods to shape investment in their areas.

## Further ideas to explore:

- Explore opportunities to bring place-based budgets together to address shared goals;
- Invest in small-scale projects, for example creating walkable routes of Redbridge and building activities and projects around parks and open spaces;
- Identify ways the council can facilitate greater civic activity eg reducing bureaucracy for community-led events;
- Create a financial structure/structures that give communities more direct control over how funds are used (participatory budgeting and support legacy opportunities);
- Consider outsourcing facilities and/or commissioning activities to strengthen neighbourhoods and assets;
- Embed growth commission recommendations and activity into emerging council policies and strategy.



# 04

Invest in a borough-wide network of participatory activity to shape and drive good growth and high quality design.

**This enables communities to share insight, create shared understanding and identify requirements that translate into tangible asks along with the mechanisms to promote and embed quality in the built environment.**

## Actions:

- **Map the borough: assets, spatial relationships and connectivity, different types of opportunity sites, different sectors, local networks and members bodies – then capture insights, identify asks and translate into requirements;**
- **Set clear, ambitious and enforceable design standards for buildings across the whole borough - creating 'growth maps', design codes and infrastructure requirements for Redbridge's communities and neighbourhoods;**
- **Establish an enforceable design charter for developers including expectations/ standards for design, quality and participatory approaches across the borough;**
- **Establish a fund using Section 106/ CIL and social value capture, to create a holistic approach to community benefit at a neighbourhood and area level, by equipping and enabling communities to shape and participate in growth, and to share both decision-making and responsibility for the distribution of funds.**

## Further ideas to explore:

- Neighbourhood mapping, including an overlay for children and young people at a local level will help to identify assets/strengths and assess locality needs that will inform housing, infrastructure and growth ensuring that it is child-friendly;
- Build on map the borough activities to co-produce tools which empower residents to shape growth in their neighbourhoods and make this available to the public;
- Establish a 'Growing up in Redbridge' survey to capture longitudinal insights into the perceptions, experiences, wellbeing and aspirations of children and young people, and to inform apprenticeship opportunities;
- Create inclusive participatory design processes for council and developer-led schemes which are clear about parameters for engagement and shared decision-making and set out processes which enable meaningful involvement from the outset;
- Fully utilise mechanisms to ensure new developments adhere to codes and standards in relation to environmental and inclusion standards, affordable and social housing, with enforceable penalties/ use of Article 4 directions where appropriate;
- Maintain information on news, opportunities and needs (including in relation to CIL requirements) on an ongoing basis.



# 05

Open up use of small sites, using land as a platform for equitable growth to pioneer community led/built homes, community buildings, growing sites and pocket parks.

**Being willing to experiment to enable new models of public participatory ownership as part of the mix to promote sustainable development; creating opportunity for communities and collectives to actively contribute to growth through self-build opportunities and creating a sense of community stewardship of place.**

## Actions:

- Create new mechanisms for the stewardship of small sites and land;
- Support citizens to transform disused, unused and 'unviable' parcels of land into new homes, businesses, allotments and parks;
- Invest in the development of new initiatives and organisations to enable small site use; positioning the council as land promoter, eg leasing directly to residents via community development companies using affordable and fair hold tenures instead of selling to speculative developers;
- Champion and enable a range of housing delivery models to achieve housing targets that make use of sites of different scale and typology, encouraging and enabling community led, co-housing, intergenerational and self-build models to achieve high quality homes for local people.

## Further ideas to explore:

- Research and design new models of public participatory ownership of land for small site/ community-built homes;
- Explore different vehicles/weigh up the various benefits of community trust, network approaches;
- Promote and enable growing in the borough (in allotments, community orchards, schools, housing estates etc) and champion and incentivise local produce;
- Build on the active allotment activity in the borough to promote what it is doing and grown involvement/membership and networks;
- Stimulate complementary activity in the borough (London Sports, Good Gym, etc.) to ensure utilisation of parks aligns growth with health and wellbeing.



# 06

Create a cross-borough, neighbourhood level of excellent learning, skills and job opportunities that support the green growth agenda.

**Building on our credentials as a borough of learning and education to boost opportunity for all our residents to gain new skills and pathways into employment, and to become a centre for specialist education and training with a focus on sustainable growth.**

## Actions:

- Explore ways to expand the borough's higher education offer to include innovative construction, zero carbon technologies and self-build;
- Invest and enable new apprenticeships for young people and residents, supporting the full range of Growth Commission recommendations;
- Create conditions and support for new businesses to make the most of community and green development opportunities.
- Identify opportunities for residents to take on leadership roles across the growth agenda, from championing good growth to protecting parks and open spaces.

## Further ideas to explore:

- Create a focus on sustainable technologies and careers as part of the higher and further education offer in the borough;
- Create partnerships with and a presence for leading education institutions and researchers in these fields;
- Introduce a skill-building programme in sectors with potential for career development and promotion as well as recognition;
- Identify ways in which learning, accreditations and development opportunities can be gained from participation in design and development processes.



# 07

Create a network of micro-manufacturing, enterprise and artist spaces to drive community-led business and economic activity.

**Celebrating our status as a borough of micro-business and generating the infrastructure as part of mixed-use growth to boost entrepreneurship and cultural enterprise.**

## Actions:

- Invest in providing and enabling the creation of small units, manufacturing/ making facilities and spaces for artists;
- Provide capacity and infrastructure to support a network of small businesses, seeing and enabling micro business and enterprise;
- Develop the support offer for existing businesses, enabling them to benefit from growth;
- Identify possible sites, empty units and meanwhile spaces, and work with organisations and networks to promote and incentivise their use.

## Further ideas to explore:

- Identify the types of space, resources and support required by the types of enterprise we want to foster (green, local, creative, innovative etc);
- Create an online venue bank connecting the local VCS with spaces and buildings in the borough;
- Provide low-level seed funding and grants to fit out space and start up micro-business;
- Resource networking and communications across the business community;
- Establish Business Improvement Districts in town centres, in particular along the Crossrail corridor to shape and strengthen the opportunities for business.



# Next steps

The recommendations set out within this report are not just there for the council to act on, they are about laying the foundations for working together to grow well. This report provides a platform to enable the council, its partners, citizens, businesses and stakeholders to come together and to take a collective view on which areas to prioritise and take forward. This could include: working together to prioritise key recommendation areas, forming groups to explore and champion specific recommendations, and exploring and building on best practice within the borough and beyond.

The appendix attached contains numerous examples of best practice, provocations and examples collated by commissioners, that combined can be used as a resource to assist in this process.

The Growing Redbridge Together conversation will continue online at <https://letstalkredbridge.uk/engagementhq.com/growth-commission>. On this space you can continue to share your ideas and will find further information about the Growth Commission activity and other activities informing and driving growth in the borough.

# Appendix

## 1. Outline a vision for good and sustainable growth

### [Kate Raworth](#)

Creator of the doughnut model of social and planetary boundaries, a visual framework for sustainable development.

### [Mariana Mazzucato](#)

Professor in the Economics of Innovation and Public Value at University College London whose work focuses on the relationship between innovation and the direction of growth.

### ARTICLES:

[Amsterdam to embrace 'doughnut' model to mend post -coronavirus economy](#)

[New Zealand's world first 'wellbeing' budget to focus on poverty and mental health](#)

[A new way to measure economic growth and progress - World Economic Forum](#)

[Future of Urban Living Policy Commission Report -Birmingham University](#)

## 2. Place the green agenda at the heart of growth

### [LETI Climate Emergency -Design Guide](#)

A guide on how new buildings can meet UK climate change targets

### [Brixton Energy](#)

Brixton Energy is a not-for-profit co-operative based in south London. They create cooperatively-owned renewable energy projects whose financial revenues stay within the local community.

### ARTICLES:

[Using data in parks -Rethinking Parks](#)

[Beyond zero-carbon: we must design for](#)

[sustainable living -Bioregional BedZED- -scale eco-village -Bioregional -Birmingham University](#)

[Inside Europe's most sustainable cities: what we could learn from Berlin and Malmö](#)

[Paris: World's largest urban rooftop farm' in progress](#)

[Creating healthy communities developing green space health audits and strategies - Tisdall Associates](#)

[London Green Spaces Commission Report](#)

## 3. Provide opportunities for community collaboration, connection and leadership that reflects and is enriched by our diverse communities

[Guide to Development Trusts and Partnerships](#)

### [The Milton Keynes Parks Trust](#)

The Parks Trust is an independent charity that care for over 6,000 acres of parkland and green space in Milton Keynes.

### [Participatory Budgeting Network](#)

### [National CLT Network](#)

Community Land Trusts are set up and run by ordinary people and act as long-term stewards of housing to ensure it remains genuinely affordable based on what people earn in their area, not just for now but for every future occupier.

### [Bespoken \(a Blackwood Foundation initiative\)](#)

With over 3,200 members in over 120 countries, bespoken is a non-profit online community created by Blackwood that is focused on design and innovation that helps people who have disabilities live life to the full.

**Reconfiguring Place, The Glass-House WE design Series 2019/20**

This event series set out to enable citizens as agents of change. Each event explored ways people can work together to develop ideas and proposals that brought infrastructure together with social, cultural and economic activity, as part of a transformation process to support long-term sustainability.

**Studio Shaji**

China’s first “Taobao Village”, a farming village that has taken up e-commerce on a large scale impacting the development of rural e-commerce in China.

**ARTICLES:**

**Spaces for Connection: Fostering Creative Citizens Through Makerspaces in China**

This research project looks at different models, including neighbourhood-based community centres, hackerspaces, Fablab technology centres, and Taobao Villages, exploring the strengths of the different approaches taken.

**4. Invest in a borough-wide network of participatory activity to shape and drive good growth and high-quality design**

**Participatory City**

Participatory City work with thousands of residents in Barking and Dagenham to build networks with the aim to create the first large scale, fully inclusive practical participatory ecosystem.

**The Beautiful Ideas Company**

The Beautiful Ideas Co. CIC is a collective of local entrepreneurs and leaders that emerged from north Liverpool. They are regenerators and place-makers who believe that they key to getting things going in a place can be found in the grassroots.

**Chester Storyhouse**

Example of a project that combines partnerships across sectors and quality design to refurbish and reimagine a building with and for the benefit of the local community.

**Design Council**

The Design Council have extensive experience of convening and managing design reviews.

**ARTICLES:**

**Take Back the High Street: Putting communities in charge of their own town centres**

Various resources produced by **The Glass-House**

**5. Open up use of small sites, using land as a platform for equitable growth to pioneer community led/built homes, community buildings, growing sites and pocket parks**

**Open Systems Lab**

Open Systems Lab is a non-profit research and development lab working on open digital innovation for industry and society. They are working to transform architecture, construction and cities.

**UK Cohousing**

Cohousing communities are intentional communities, created and run by their residents. Residents come together to manage their community, share activities and regularly eat together.

**Marmalade Lane**

Marmalade Lane is an example of a cohousing community in Cambridge.

**Older Women’s Housing Co-op**

An example of community-led housing cooperative.

**Granby 4 Streets**

Granby 4 Streets is community-led regeneration of a terraced street that had been partially cleared during the housing pathfinders and gone into decline. A story of community tenacity and the power of the community collective as a regenerative force.

**Otherwise Living**

Otherwise Living is a community-led initiative looking at sustainable living and growth.

**Incredible Edible Network**

The Incredible Edible network is a network of groups doing food-related initiatives.

**ARTICLES:**

**Small Sites: Unlocking forgotten land for housing -Solidspace**

**Local Homes: Unlocking small sites to create thousands of beautiful, affordable, zero-carbon homes, and prosperous communities -Open Systems Lab/WikiHouse**

**We Can Make -Knowle West Media Centre**  
Provides information on unlocking micro-sites for development

**A Smart Commons: A New Model for Investing in the Commons -Dark Matter Labs**

**Affordable land would mean affordable housing. Here’s how we get there**

**Inside Almere: the Dutch city that’s pioneering alternative housing**

**Intergenerational Housing-Housing LIN**

**6. Create a cross-borough, neighbourhood level of excellent learning, skills and job opportunities that support the growth agenda.**

**Dark Matter Labs**

A strategic discovery, design and development lab working to transition society in response to technological revolution and climate breakdown.

**NMITE New Model Institute for Technology and Engineering**

NMITE looks to integrate the university with local objectives.

**7. Create a network of micro-manufacturing, enterprise and artist spaces to drive community led business and economic activity.**

**The Factory Knowle West Media Centre**

The Factory is an award-winning making and training space.

**Rabbits Road Press**

Rabbits Road Press is a community Risograph print studio and publishing press founded and run by OOMK. They bring together artists, designers, writers and local people.

**Micro-factories for homes a WikiHouse Toolkit**



[https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/  
regeneration-and-growth/take-part/  
redbridge-growth-commission/](https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/regeneration-and-growth/take-part/redbridge-growth-commission/)