

## **UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF ALL LONDONERS**

A provocation to the London Plan

This response to the 'New London Plan' is from London YMCA, an organisation which has, for over 170 years, aimed to unlock the potential of all Londoners. YMCA has a long heritage of repeatedly innovating to build the relevant social infrastructure of the age. We believe that delivering societal well-being requires a "whole community" and intersectional approach, having long recognised these challenges cannot be overcome through a targeted & deficit approach alone. We believe it is important to recognise that the 21st century has brought, and will continue to bring, unprecedented change and will, like the industrial revolution, require innovation and experimentation in our economy, societal infrastructure and institutions.

We believe it is essential to recognise the scale of scientific progress in our understanding of the human condition and social injustice - in fact it can be argued it is a scientific revolution waiting to reveal itself - which has significantly outpaced our capacity to create policy and implement. This increasing gap between our understanding of the challenges and our capacity to make a difference is no longer acceptable. We, the London YMCA, believe London must lead the way in using our exponentially increased understanding of the human condition to transform London into a world class 21st Century thriving, equitable, just and eudaemonic city for all. We believe that, in order to do that, London needs to lead the way with bold new experiments in our social & well-being infrastructure.







Therefore, potential for a new human development institution to research this interplay and prototype relational products.



## **UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF 8M LONDONERS**

LONDON YMCA SOCIETAL WELL-BEING LAB London to trailblaze a well-being lab that can informally test, experiment and prototype new social development institutions and activities for the well-being of London. Based on the Toronto-Google Sidewalk Labs partnership - with the focus on harnessing human capacity, rather than technology - using a YMCA existing space, combined with our in-house informal education insitution and research capacity, to provide an informal hub at the centre of a networked neighbourhood. LONDON YMCA UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME TRIAL London to differentiate itself from most UBI trials (which are lead by city governments and universities) to partner with YMCA's well-being Lab - capturing the more informal everyday capacity creation of this trial. This neighbourhood scale innovative universal basic income trial would be linked to a mutual credit and complementary currency scheme, as well as our human development gyms and reskilling centres. LONDON YMCA INTERGENERATIONAL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD BASED CARE MODEL London should spearhead solutions to providing spaces where its diverse population interact and build trust. YMCA could build on existing offer of accessible, affordable, high quality early years and day care to create intergenerational nursing home/ nurseries building up Londoner's capacity to care from an early age. This is an integral part of the human development gym, which would create a team-based curriculum for children to encourage the skills we want in our Londoners: courage, care, craft, creativity etc. LONDON YMCA CO-OPERATIVES/ CO-LIVING/ APPRENTICESHIP CAMPUS YMCA has a rich tapestry of social and supported housing developments. Diverse increasingly complex challenges - from land-prices to loneliness - require innovative models. YMCA to use its expertise in supported housing and community infrastructure to deliver communal living models that support tenants - and the wider neighbourhood - to thrive. These models will be inclusive and intergenerational: with rooms available for all ages and targetting those who could otherwise not afford to live in London. Apprentices in particular will be catered for, and have A CALL FOR LONDON access to our re-skilling and development gyms. TO LEAD ON BOLD EXPERIMENTS LONDON YMCA / TFL PARTNERSHIP FOR WELL-BEING & INCLUSIVE TRANSPORT London should enhance its transport system, recognising the impact this could have on citizens whose average commute is 74.2 minutes. This new innovative 'well-being' transport will include a range of tools such as: advanced sensorsand real-time data to track and improve system functioning; guides and wayfinding to encourage active transport; increased (and inclusive) opportunity for skill-enhancement through a distributed human development learning programme. LDN BELONG LONDON YMCA TO PROTOTYPE INNOVATIVE FINANCING/ MANAGEMENT MODELS FOR SPORTS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PARKS YMCA to use expertise in recreational spaces and services to both reimagine what an outcome-based park would look like and test innovative funding mechanisms. Funding, accounting and regulatory models drive London, with parks budgets being cut (due to difficulties in accounting for non-financial value) and structural barriers to taking ownership of public spaces. YMCA will help to deliver multi-faceted social values whether through innovative land-value capture mechanisms; systems financing based on cost-reduction for the NHS or diversified spaces to provide resource-generating activities (solar powered vertical agriculture and horticulture training model). LONDON YMCAS TO CREATE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT / RE-SKILLING GYMS YMCA's story is one of creating the activities to bring well-being to all. With the 21st century delivering unprecedented change (from life-expectancy to economic opportunities) we need to radically rethink how we support Wellbeing programme, LSE, human development. YMCA will therefore trial a novel form of gym where membership involves belonging to future societal well-being. In practice Happiness Institute , Denmark this would drastically shape what activities and membership models we Strava metro, global offer: from 'good gym' type activities to a membership based on courage. Nightingale housing, Australia Wellville Communities, US City of Learning, Chicago Fitbit, global Eco School, global Buurtzog Neighbourhood Care,