

A Pluriversal Recovery Plan

More than 60 community groups and campaigners contributed to the ***Just Space Community-Led Recovery Plan***, published on Monday 4 April 2022.

During Covid19, the Just Space network (formed to support diverse groups to participate in London planning that's dominated by town planners and developers) created its own Community-Led Recovery Plan - a set of 44 policies that is a call for action for a positively different post-pandemic London, a people-centred not development-centred city. The Plan aims to reverse the inequalities that the pandemic has brutally exposed.

Great care was taken to record diverse and divergent positions through a series of workshop debates. Designed to minimise bias, an empathic understanding of each other's knowledge and lived experiences was distilled into a collective vision and coherent set of policies. One participant named the approach '**pluriversal**'.

The importance of hearing all voices in the future planning of London is seen as a vital part of recovery. Radical change is needed to move from development that serves a small minority of financial interests at the expense of existing communities. The Recovery Plan calls for action by community organisations as well as by the Authorities.

The document ranges from the personal to the collective, from neighbourhood to city-wide. The 44 policy positions converge on strong demands for

- **A Caring City:** With an emphasis on the Care economy, London must take care of people and nature, also seen in the need to care for the inherited building stock, as opposed to demolition.
- **Visibility & Influence For All:** Coinciding with the Black Lives Matter movement, the pandemic raised awareness of systemic inequalities and the value of activism. Diverse and bottom-up democratic structures must be resourced to enable community organisations to become active agents of change.
- **A City Of Local Neighbourhoods:** Pandemic experiences show the urgent need for a 'Lifetime Neighbourhood' approach so more needs can be met without travel, especially driving. People and communities also want to live in a place through all stages of life, not face displacement.
- **Priority For Climate And Nature:** The urgency of the environmental crisis, not only climate change but our whole relationship with nature, buildings, food, transport. A crucial issue in transforming the environment is 'just transition'.

Wendy Davis of Rooms of Our Own said:

‘Under Covid, it has been the low-paid workers, the cleaners, the carers, the delivery drivers who have been absolutely vital to us. A definition of lockdown: the middle classes stay at home and the working classes bring things to them. The Covid lockdown has made us value the care workers, and now is the time to reward them.’

Michael Edwards Honorary Professor, the Bartlett School of Planning, UCL said:

‘What is needed is an emergency programme: something like post-war reconstruction. Special measures are called for and this is recognised by the many who say the future must be different from the past.’

Notes to editors:

1. DOWNLOAD copies of the recovery plan: JustSpace.org.uk/recovery
For a printed copy please email your address to contact@JustSpace.org.uk
2. **Contacts**

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3. **The Just Space network** was founded in 2007 to bring a large number of community voices together to participate in the Examinations in Public of the London Plan, where participation is rare from those most affected by the policy on the ground. The Network brings together a wide range of groups, some with a London-wide remit such as the London Tenants Federation, London Forum of Civic and Amenity Societies and Friends of the Earth, others locally-based community groups like Deptford Neighbourhood Action, Grove Park Youth Club, Latin Elephant and special interest local campaigns such as Morning Lane People's Space. **Just Space** also has close links with London Universities (e.g. UCL and King's College) whose staff and students undertake research that the network can use and shape to support grass roots evidence, while students gain from working in direct contact with communities.
4. The Recovery Plan follows on from ***Towards a Community-Led Plan for London*** published in 2016, produced by Just Space over two years and aimed mainly at the incoming Mayor of London.
<https://justspacelondon.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/just-space-a4-community-led-london-plan.pdf>