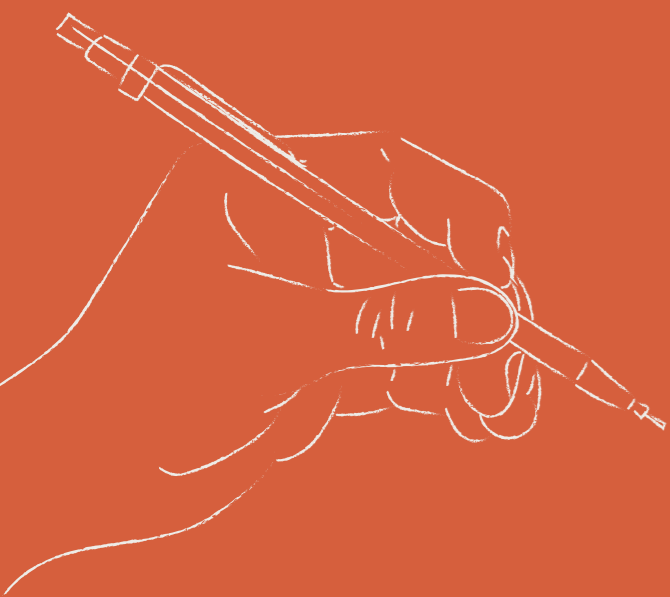


**Leeds**  
**LIVEABLE**  
**cities**  
**MANifesto**

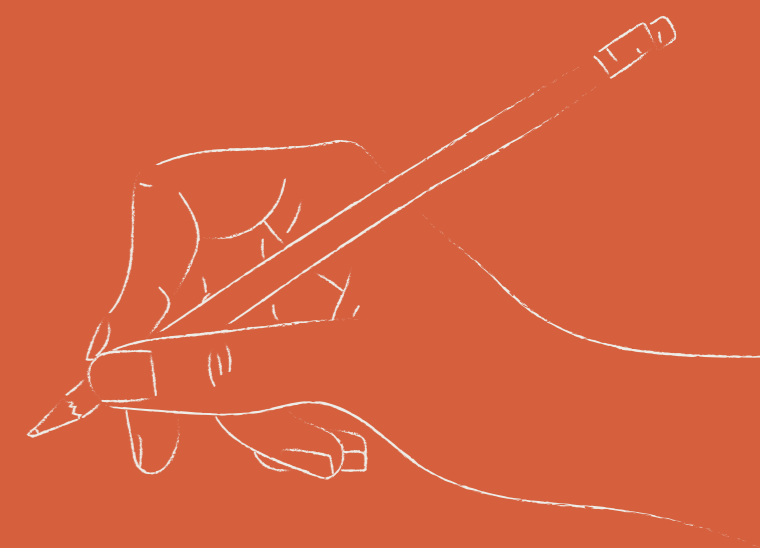




THIS MANIFESTO IS A  
CONSTANTLY EVOLVING  
RESOURCE, WRITTEN BY  
MANY HANDS.

IT HAS BEEN COMPILED THROUGH  
AN OPEN COLLABORATION  
PROCESS OF CONTRIBUTION  
AND EDITING WITHIN A DIGITAL  
DOCUMENT.

THIS IS THE FIRST SENTENCE  
IN WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE  
A GROWING CONVERSATION  
WITH THE PEOPLE OF LEEDS.



# WHAT IS LIVEABILITY?

A liveable city allows its inhabitants to flourish. Like all living things, humans require a diverse range of environmental conditions to support good living. We may think of it like an ecosystem.

These diverse conditions interweave and mutually reinforce to produce a supportive life system. The effect is greater than the sum of its parts and a deficiency in a particular area has a compounding effect upon other elements.

When we are in a liveable city, we know it. However, when we try to articulate what makes it liveable, it becomes a slippery concept that's difficult to grasp. It is a feeling.

This sense of liveability is felt and expressed in ways as nuanced and diverse as a city's inhabitants. However, from this complexity we can draw some golden threads that are fundamental to the health of an urban ecosystem, allowing humans to thrive in this habitat.

Within this Manifesto we have highlighted some of these fundamental conditions and principles. A liveable city is...

## AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED APPROACH TO LIVEABILITY

We live in an age of information, and there is a growing evidence base for liveability emerging from the formal, natural, and social sciences. We're increasingly able to model and predict the impacts and benefits of interventions throughout the complex ecosystem of a city, and use evidence to power decisions for our future.

In the face of multiple crises, there is an imperative to better align the art, and the science, of city planning. There is an untapped opportunity to activate this insight in the prioritisation of ideas and interventions to make Leeds a more liveable city - to make decisions with authenticity.

Future Cities theory often feels intangible. This document seeks to ground the theory in some practical neighbourhood-scale interventions that illustrate the bigger-picture; underpinned by rigorous insight.

Through these interventions we hope to communicate the ethos and principles of a transformative city-scale vision, demonstrating what a liveability revolution could look like on the ground, with investment in integrated, multi-use solutions.

"I FIND IT STRIKING THAT THE QUALITY OF THE URBAN HABITAT OF HOMO SAPIENS IS SO **WEAKLY RESEARCHED** COMPARED TO THE HABITATS OF GORILLAS, ELEPHANTS, AND BENGAL TIGERS AND PANDA BEARS IN CHINA... YOU HARDLY SEE ANYTHING ON THE HABITAT OF MAN IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT"

Jan Gehl





AN  
iNNOVATIVE  
city

A  
COMMON  
city

A  
fair  
city

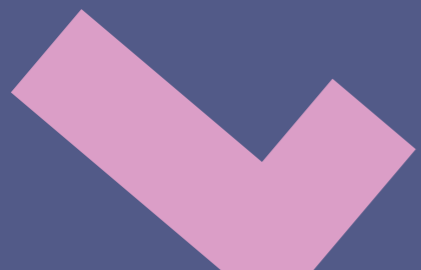
A  
playFUL  
city

A  
zero carbon  
city

A  
bio  
city

A  
compact  
city

A  
city  
with roots





"URBAN SOCIETY IS RUNNING OUT OF OPTIONS TO MERELY 'ADJUST', AND THEREFORE HAS TO LOOK INTO OPTIONS FOR DELIBERATE TRANSFORMATION IN THE FACE OF MULTIPLE CRISES"

Paul Chatterton



# AN innovative city

We are at a crossroads in history, and many of our assumptions, systems, and logics, devised for centuries gone by, are failing to stand up to the challenges of our times. The age of 'survival of the fittest' is over, and the age of 'survival of the symbiotic' is here.

## **pioneering, 'pilfering' AND PLANNING**

The liveable city is unafraid to experiment with big ideas, and is bold enough to imagine beyond the current frame of reference. It draws ideas from the cutting edge and the grass roots, and supercharges them with municipal resources.

Creativity, experimentation, and imagination are the lifeblood of solutions to the big questions of the 21st Century. Intelligent cities borrow and steal the best ideas from one another, and Leeds can learn from elsewhere in the pursuit of an urban renaissance - as well as set an example for others to admire.

Bold strategic moves in the short term are required to unlock and enable benefits down the road - it requires vision and commitment. Leeds must devise a 50-year urban strategy - a liveable city roadmap with measurable targets - in open collaboration and constant revision with its citizens.

## **seize the moment**

In response to Coronavirus, Amsterdam has committed to using Kate Raworth's 'doughnut' economic model to shape an economic recovery that is socially just and in balance with the planet, while Milan has committed to turning 35km of streets over to cyclists and pedestrians. Leeds needs to stay ahead, before it gets left behind.

# interventions

## A New city park

The expansion of Penny Pocket Park including a radical rethink of the road network to reclaim the streets and create a bold new city park for the Eastside of Leeds.

## the garden library

There are plans for a new British Library of The North to open in Leeds. We proposed to locate the Library in this area of the city, providing a new destination on the edge of the city park. This key piece of social infrastructure would seek to reinvent the role of a library, adapting it to the needs of 21st century society. The Garden Library is a place that focuses on connection rather than consumption; connection to place, connection to community and connection to the natural world.

## citizens' assembly

In order to ensure that Leeds embraces pioneering ideas and new technology, we recommend that Leeds holds a series of citizens assemblies to collectively debate emergent ideas and technologies. We recommend that the first of such should focus on the adoption of Kate Raworth's Doughnut Model. A community needs a platform where they can hold such assemblies, where healthy discussion, idea sharing and expression of opinion can be had. The Commons and the Garden Library offer such a space.

### The Doughnut Model

The adoption of the doughnut model can re-orientate our experiences of the high street, and build a new set of social values - beyond reductive, extractive and transactional consumer culture - towards connection. It can be more diverse, inclusive, humane and exciting. A place geared towards social interactions and cultural exchange.

## activated arches

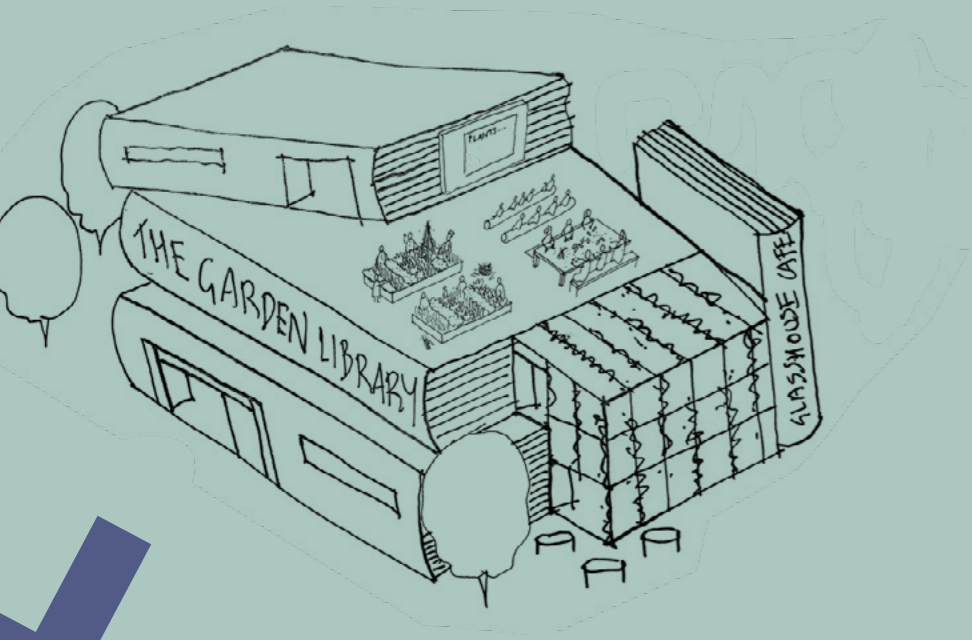
As has already been achieved further down the viaduct, we would like to see the arches opposite the Garden Library re-purposed for workshops and skill-sharing, where people can try out activities they would previously not have had the chance to, and new ideas can be born.

## feel the heat

Leeds' District Heat Network is a step towards an innovative city and is something we believe should be showcased. We therefore propose a botanical glasshouse as part of the Garden Library which harnesses its heat and puts it on display.

- 1 Expansion of Penny Pocket Park**  
A bold new city park for the Eastside of Leeds.
- 2 The Garden Library**  
A library for a 21st Century society.
- 3 Citizens Assembly in The Commons**  
A place to gather, share, discuss and express new ideas.
- 4 Activated Arches**  
Busy your hands and discover possibilities through workshops and skill-sharing.
- 5 Feel the Heat**  
A botanical glasshouse which puts the power of the District Heat Network on display.





# A COMMON city

## COMMONS

Commons that historically supported and ensured community wellbeing, have been incrementally eroded over generations - so much so, that now the very idea of the Commons is a little hazy. However, the 21st Century is reimagining Commons and the role they can play in our lives. It is a category and approach to organising society that is expanding, broadening and deepening.

Movements are building in areas such as citizen led housing, community owned land and infrastructure, localised economies and local currencies. Moreover, radically new ways of doing democracy are being activated through experiments in popular assemblies, participatory budgets, and citizens forums.

A Liveable Leeds would reinvigorate our involvement in its urban commons, build its portfolio of commonly owned urban resources and assets, and enhance the capacity of our commons for community wealth building. These commons will help to make the city more social, humane and resilient.

## INHABITATION

A liveable city is one where people can inhabit public space, as though it were an extension of their living room. There must be places to relax, socialise, share ideas, and bask in the life of the city.

These places must be sympathetic to the local climatic conditions, and offer opportunities to inhabit cosy social spaces in the city throughout the seasons.

## INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

A liveable city is one in which inhabitants can fully engage in the social, cultural, and civic life of the city - where they have skin in the game.

We know that many minority groups are under-represented and excluded from the planning process; and for the average citizen, the agents driving change are remote and the pace of transformation can be dizzying. Feeling divorced from your environment leads to a huge number of social problems.

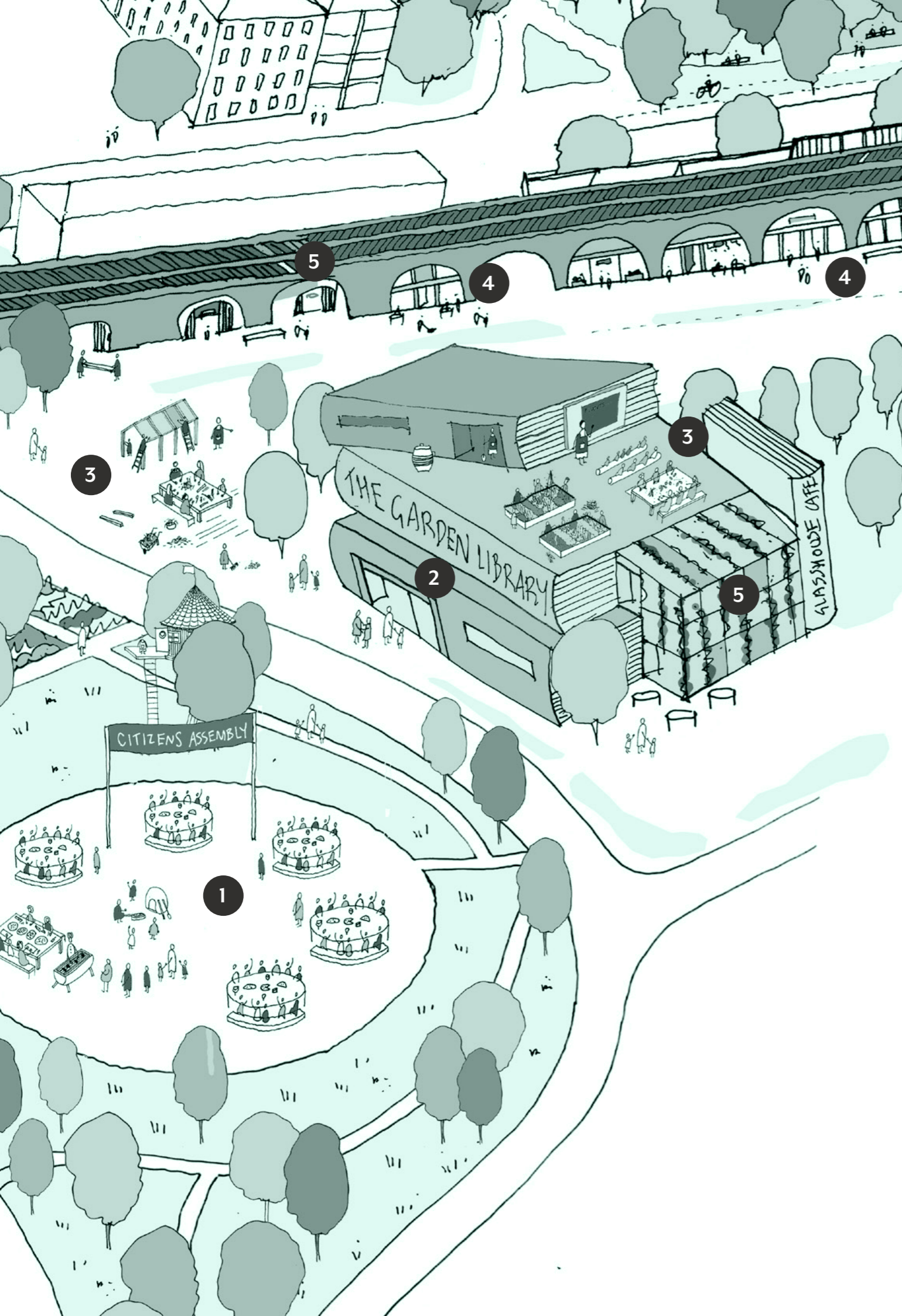
Active citizenship is key to a healthy city, and places work best when everybody is involved with building them. To create a Liveable Leeds we need to engage all sections of society in meaningful ways, at the earliest stages.

This requires building the systems, institutions and infrastructure (network of spaces, politics and people) to enable an empowered participation in the 'making' of the city, and incubate civic and cultural innovation.



**"CITIES HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF PROVIDING SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY, ONLY BECAUSE, AND ONLY WHEN, THEY ARE CREATED BY EVERYBODY."**

Jane Jacobs



# interventions

## the commons

The Commons is an urban space owned and curated by the people, for the people. It is a flexible, democratic space that can be utilised for events and interventions, however big or small. The Commons is an experimental platform for testing new ideas and exploring new forms of citizen participation.

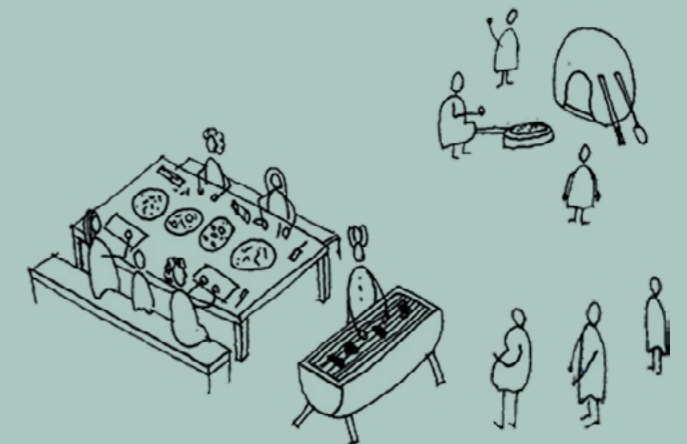
## the garden library

A library for the 21st century. The Garden Library is a place that focuses on connection rather than consumption. It is a community hub that utilises books and plants to bring people together. The Garden Library is a place for meeting, learning and sharing, with a whole host of workshops and events aimed at empowering and engaging all sectors of society.

## the glasshouse cafe

The Glasshouse Cafe stands as a monument to the innovative district heat network which runs beneath it. A botanical glasshouse which harnesses the heat from the network and puts it on display. Basked in natural light and warm all year round, the Glasshouse Cafe is a cosy place to hang out amongst tropical greenery, sipping a cuppa or reading a book.

- 1 **The Commons**  
A commonly owned urban space, curated by the people, for the people.
- 2 **The Garden Library**  
A community hub that utilises books and plants to bring people together.
- 3 **Community Workshops**  
Sharing skills and knowledge; empowering citizens through active participation.
- 4 **Spill-out Spaces**  
Places to bask in the life of the city.
- 5 **Cosy Places**  
Like the Glasshouse Cafe or the snug spaces beneath the rumble of the railway arches.





# A fair city

## EQUALITY AND A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY

A liveable city is an equal one, where the basic needs of all are met, allowing all citizens to thrive and work towards their goals and aspirations.

Today many Loiners still fall short of their daily needs - things such as food, housing and energy - despite the fact that our society puts too much pressure on our planetary life support systems, resulting in climate breakdown and the 6th mass extinction.

20th Century economics has lost its purpose, and pushed society into deepening inequality and towards ecological collapse.

The world is waking up to the fact that economic thinking that fixates on GDP and growth is inconsistent with the capacity of a finite planet, and is ignorant of the complexities of the real economy and the nuances of a good life worth living. It is like a doctor testing the health of a patient by only reading their blood pressure.

We need a new model to measure the health of our cities - a triple bottom line economics that's sustainable ecologically, socially, and financially. One that's about thriving in balance. This approach will enable Leeds to turn the tide of growing inequality, and create opportunities for all - meeting the needs of people, within the means of the planet.

## INCLUSIVE DIVERSITY

In nature, monocultures are unstable and lack resilience - a boom in one species is followed by a collapse. Biodiversity is key to ecological resilience, and so too in human habitats.

Leeds is more culturally diverse than ever before, and with the ever-changing population comes a responsibility to ensure that the city works for everyone. We must embrace diversity of use and representation in our cities, and ensure a Liveable Leeds is shaped by all. This requires a re-imagination of who, and what, our city is for.

An economics fit for the 21st Century can re-orientate our experiences of our high streets and town centres, and build a new set of social values - beyond extractive and transactional consumer culture - towards connection. They can be spaces geared towards social interaction and cultural exchange - more diverse, inclusive, humane and exciting - more diverse, inclusive, humane and exciting.

"TODAY WE HAVE ECONOMIES THAT NEED TO GROW, WHETHER OR NOT THEY MAKE US THRIVE. WHAT WE NEED ARE ECONOMIES THAT MAKE US THRIVE, WHETHER OR NOT THEY GROW."

Kate Raworth



# interventions

Addressing economic and social inequality is a complex issue that doesn't come with quick fixes. However, some initial interventions could include:

## free public transport for ALL

By doing this, restrictions to mobility are lifted from the poorest people in the city. This will free up money for people to spend on addressing their other basic needs. It will also allow people to easily travel to find work. The scheme could include buses and bikes to encourage sustainable modes of travel which also support healthy lifestyle choices.

Additionally, measures should be put in place to include people from every sector of society in the planning process. By doing this, the future east side of Leeds City Centre will meet the needs of society as a whole. Potential interventions that could be made to increase diversity in the planning process include:

## An Urban Room

An Urban Room could be set up within The Commons to encourage participation in the planning process. The Urban Room could act as an exhibition hall and learning space, giving people the chance to play an active role in designing their city's future. It could be a pop-up structure, designed and built through a series of community workshops. In this sense, the Urban Room stands as a physical manifestation of the processes it represents; collaboration and inclusivity.

## Digital Outreach

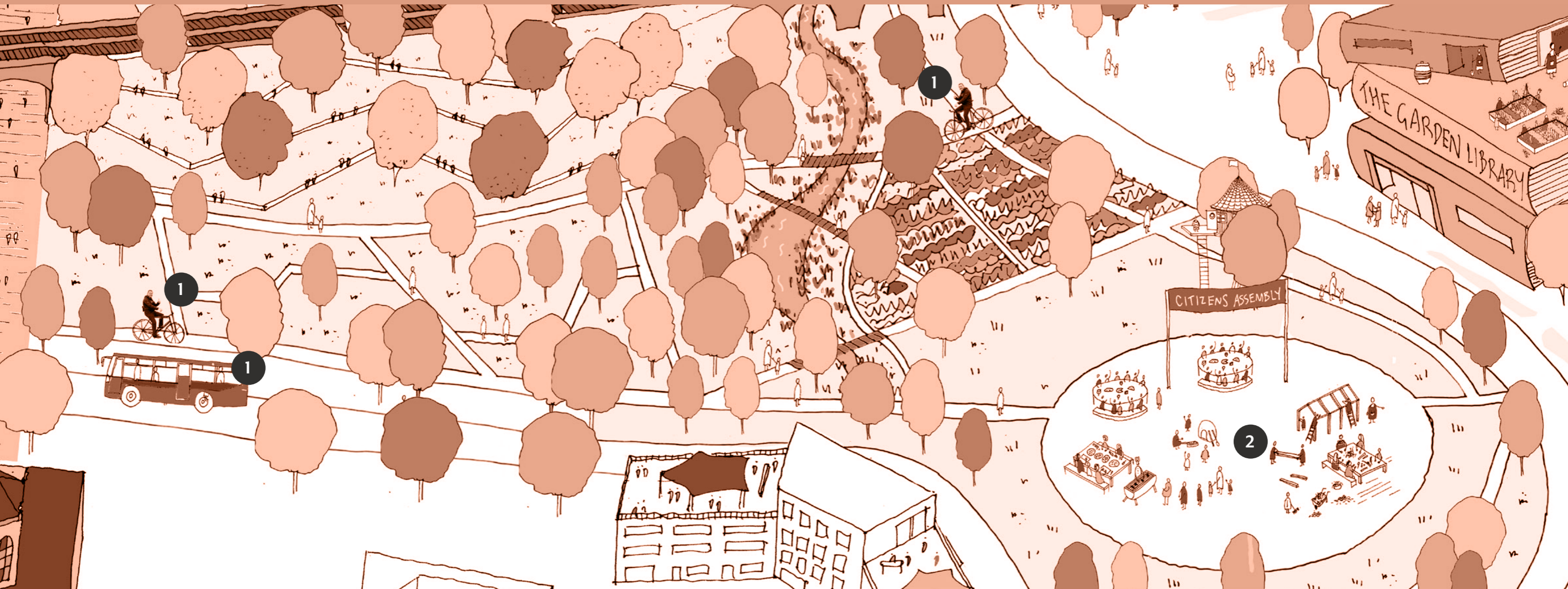
A website should be set up to offer the community a chance to express their thoughts and ideas online. A strong social media presence is also important for continuous engagement with the community. This will help to target the younger population (under 18-year olds) for whom technology is second nature.

## 1 Free Public Transport

Buses and bike sharing for all.

## 2 The Urban Room

Built by the people, a pop-up structure to encourage participation in the planning process.





"WE ARE NEVER MORE FULLY ALIVE, MORE COMPLETELY OURSELVES, OR MORE DEEPLY ENGROSSED IN ANYTHING THAN WHEN WE ARE PLAYING."

Charles Schaefer

# A playful city

The liveable city is playful. It is fun! ... it is liberating! ... it is exuberant! ... It gives opportunities for us to use our amazing bodies and brains in reinvigorating and creative ways. A liveable city is a place where we all play, young and old.

It is a dynamic place where everyday tasks such as the daily commute don't have to be filled with drudgery and pollution, but can be joyful and stimulating. A Liveable Leeds reimagines the city as a playground.

## exuberant

There must also be spaces to go beyond the ordinary and experiment with unconstrained expression, untamed revelry, and exploratory transgression. Spaces and places to let your hair down, to laugh until you cry, to celebrate until the sun comes up.

Often these spaces occur on the fringes and the margins, where rent is cheap. As our cities develop, these spaces are getting squeezed out, erased and sanitised. However, this cultural infrastructure is vital to the life of the city, and must be woven into the fabric of the place and its culture.

## stimulating

A Liveable Leeds is full of sensory richness. It is bursting with stimulating sights, sounds and smells - rambunctious gardens that are fragrant and alive, events and exhibitions that challenge and inspire. It is full of opportunities for spontaneity and surprise - to lose yourself in the aesthetic, sensuous experience of life in the city.

It is dynamic, and enables interesting things to happen. Leeds must support and protect the arts, the not-for-profit endeavours, and the spaces that enrich the cultural life of the city.



# interventions

## pop-up events

To maintain the vitality of our vision, a calendar of events is crucial. Such events might last minutes or months, appeal to infants or elderly, be heavily planned or happy accidents. Ideally they include all of these and everything in between. The important thing is giving the community something to engage with and feel a part of.



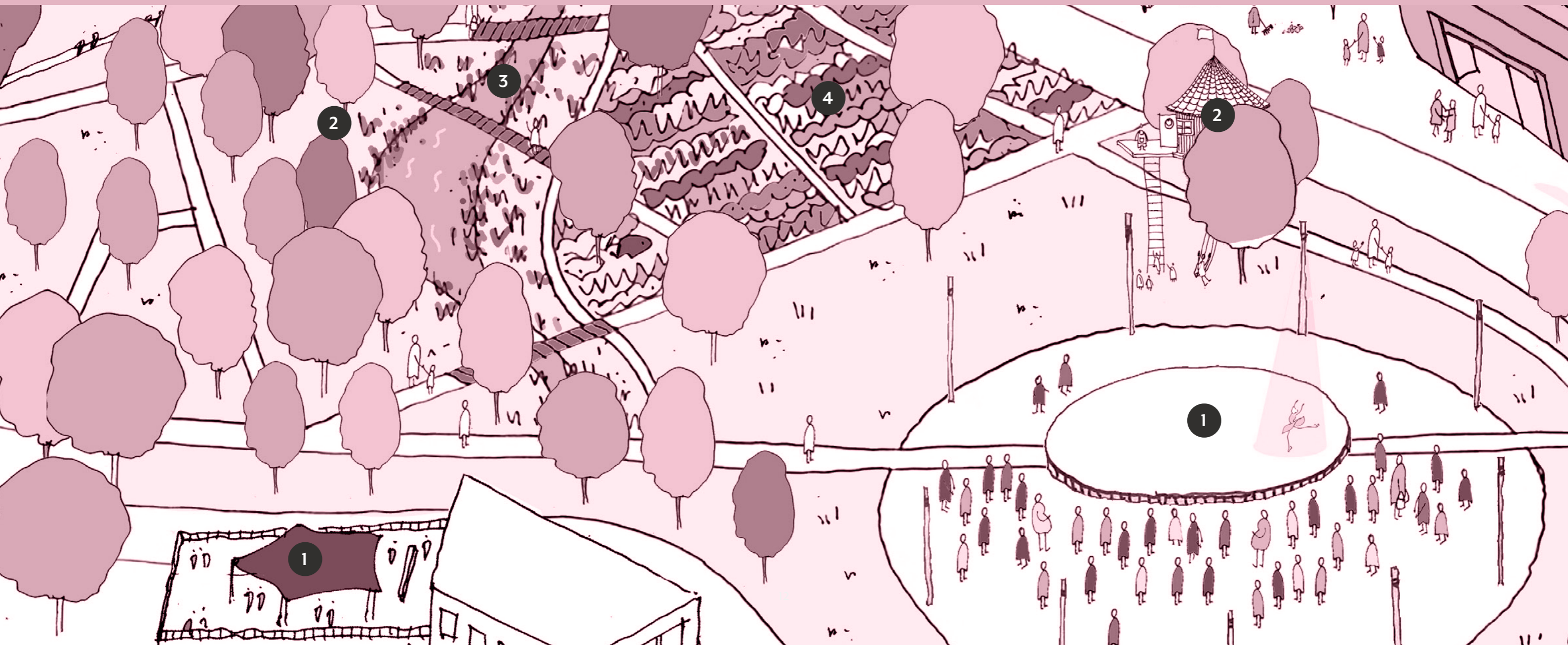
## forest Adventure

The renaturalising of Lady Beck and planting of a new urban forest gives the chance for people to reconnect with nature and rediscover their playful selves. Treehouses, dens and boardwalks, rope-swings and bridges give people of all ages an excuse to become wild again.

## A 'growing' community

As many of the railway arches are activated as spaces for workshops and for sharing skills, so too, new spaces shall be dedicated to outdoor learning and sharing. Urban gardening is a fun way to connect with each other and the natural world, where people can grow their own food and reap the rewards they sow.

- 1 Pop-up Events**  
A calendar of events for all throughout the year.
- 2 Forest Adventure**  
People of all ages the opportunity to become wild again.
- 3 Rediscovering Lady Beck**  
Giving new life to this historic stream as an accessible resource to get your feet wet.
- 4 A 'Growing' Community**  
Urban agriculture can help to grow a vibrant community, engaging all of its members.



# A zero-waste city

## zero-carbon

In March 2019, Leeds City Council declared a Climate Emergency, pledging to become net zero carbon by 2030. There is no single panacea that will allow Leeds to achieve this goal. Instead, multiple interventions must be made across the city in an integrated effort.

A Liveable Leeds must have a credible roadmap to Net Zero Carbon, and address its industrial carbon legacy by pioneering a path beyond carbon dependency, and innovating in cutting greenhouse gas emissions ahead of the pack.

Leeds should also be wise to the inequalities a zero carbon future may entrench, and ensure a just transition. This may include electrifying public transport, deep retrofitting of existing buildings, and utilising a community ownership model for the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure.

## going beyond

Carbon is the focus of today, but our burden on the living planet is multifarious. Leeds needs to think beyond carbon, take responsibility for its resource use, and get a grip on its total toxic footprint - taking account of pollution of all forms. We need to find ways of processing waste locally, rather than externalising pollution to an unseen periphery, and utilising byproducts as resources in a circular economy.

If we think of the energy and material cycle of the city like an ecosystem, can it be productive and regenerative, following the example of nature's economy to create abundance, rather than extractive, consumptive, and degenerative.

"THE CLIMATE CRISIS HAS ALREADY BEEN SOLVED. WE ALREADY HAVE THE FACTS AND THE SOLUTIONS. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS TO WAKE UP AND CHANGE."

Greta Thunberg



# interventions

One intervention that should be implemented in this part of Leeds City Centre is the expansion of the District Heating Network. District heating is a concept that distributes low carbon heat and hot water to buildings across a network through underground pipes. It is possible to integrate many different renewable energy sources that will generate this heat.

In Leeds there is an energy from waste facility located to the east of the city. By burning waste that would otherwise go to landfill, this technology produces low carbon electricity by driving a turbine. Heat is released as a by-product which can be recovered to heat hot water. The site in Leeds is able to provide up to 13MW of heat (equivalent to powering ~22,000 homes) to distribute across Leeds.

There are three main benefits associated with the expansion of the district heating network in this area of Leeds City Centre:

- **Low Cost Heat**  
By having a centralised energy source, the associated maintenance and running costs are reduced. The generation is also much more efficient than the conventional individual gas boiler. The average end user is expected to see a 10-25% decrease in their energy bills.
- **Low Carbon Heat**  
An energy from waste plant has the potential to reduce Leeds carbon footprint by ~11,000 tonnes/year.
- **Improved Air Quality**  
Tapping into the district heating network negates the need for gas fired boilers in individual buildings. This reduction in combustion is likely to improve air quality in the area.

## 1 District Heating Network Expansion

Low cost heat, low carbon heat and improved air quality.

## 2 Processing Waste Locally

Library could showcase local waste recycling and energy production.

## 3 Electric Vehicles

City-wide interventions; eg, EV charging spaces and electric buses.

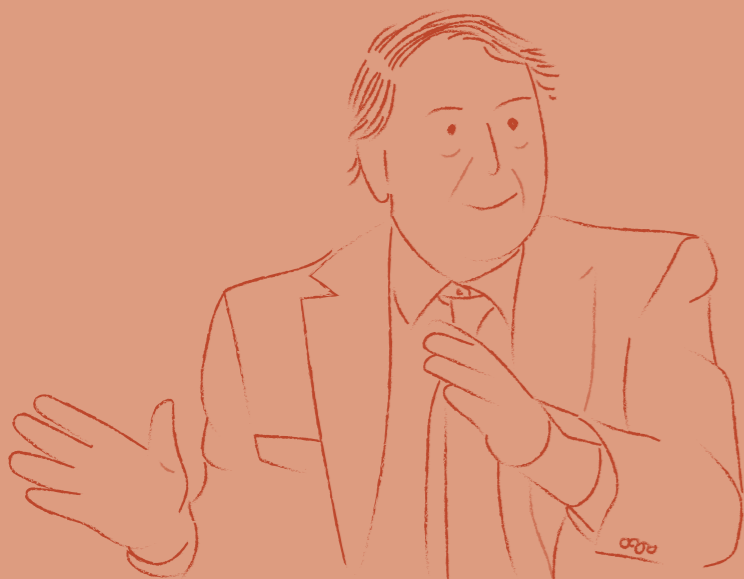
## 4 Road Removal/Diversion

Allows for sprawling green space.

## 5 Bus Rapid Transit

Improved efficiency of transport and breaks social barriers if used by all.





"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE NATURAL WORLD IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF **EXCITEMENT**; THE GREATEST SOURCE OF VISUAL **BEAUTY**; THE GREATEST SOURCE OF **INTELLECTUAL INTEREST**. IT IS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF SO MUCH IN LIFE THAT MAKES LIFE WORTH LIVING."

David Attenborough

## A bio city

A Liveable Leeds is rich with life! Both human and non-human. Leeds can become a biophilic and biomimetic city, where biological systems and multi-sensory natural environments are woven throughout the city, and into our everyday lives.

### biophilia

Leeds needs spaces and infrastructures that inspire a collective reimagining of our relationship with nature, breaking down the artificial boundaries between us and the living planet.

Biophilic urban design which establishes an interconnected network of biodiverse green and blue spaces throughout Leeds will allow us to experience the seasons changing, feel the life force of thriving habitats, and get back in touch with the living planet.

A Liveable Leeds should engender a deep reconnection, stimulate our senses, and ensure we benefit from nature's restorative and reinvigorating emotional, psychological, and physical benefits.

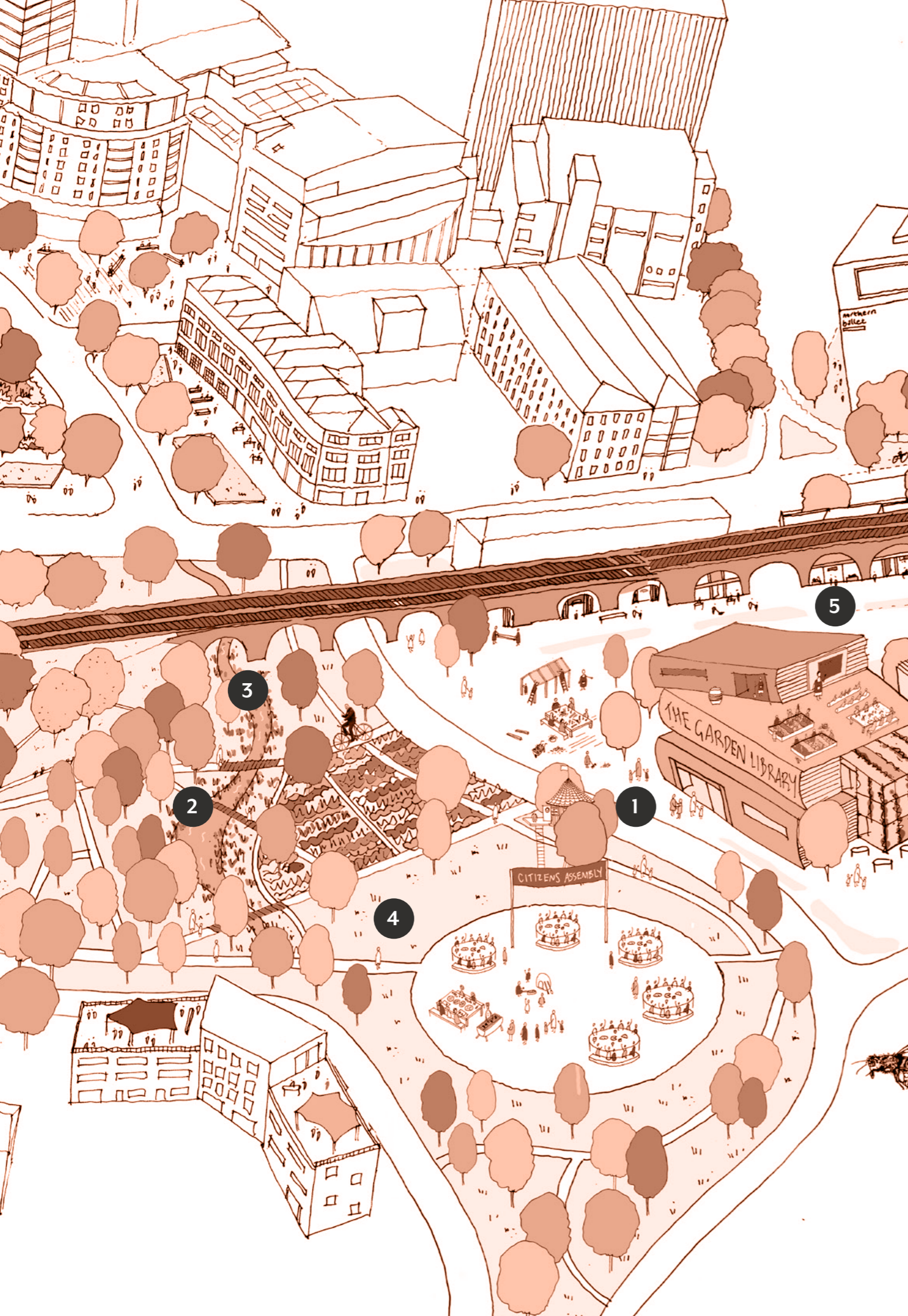
These places and experiences can re-educate our human minds and re-sensitise our human bodies. They will inspire reflection on, and engender understanding of, our interconnection and interdependence within the planetary ecosystem of living things - that there cannot be a healthy, happy and prosperous Leeds on a sick planet.

### biomimicry

The future liveable city is thought about and performs less like a machine, and more like a forest. It utilises bio-inspired design and learns from the wisdom of indigenous communities to harness nature's ingenious solutions to our urban problems, such as nutrient cycles of waste and energy.

We need buildings that act less like exhaust pipes or chimneys, and more like trees, becoming life-support systems in their own right - that clean air, harbour biodiversity, produce energy, store carbon, and capture water.





Access to natural spaces that offer respite from the pace of city living is essential. Good quality green spaces provide an opportunity to slow down and reconnect. We proposed an expanded Penny Pocket Park making it more of a destination for people living, working and socialising in Leeds. We also propose the greening of all streets through the integration of street trees, swales and green walls.

There are multiple health and wellbeing benefits associated with being in close proximity to running water, including reduced stress, increased feelings of tranquility, lower heart rate and blood pressure, and improved concentration and memory restoration. Apart from the River Aire to the south, there is a lack of water features in this area of the city. The Lady Beck is a culverted stream that runs from north to south through the area. While this beck has an important role in the industrial heritage of the city, it is hidden underground. We propose that a short section of Lady Beck should be re-naturalised to provide a focal point for an expanded Penny Pocket Park. The presence of a re-naturalised Lady Beck will make Penny Pocket Park a place to contemplate, relax and escape the bustle of the city.

Air pollution is a recurring issue in this area of Leeds City Centre, mainly due to its car-heavy nature. The air quality monitoring network shows that Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) concentrations are particularly high in the area, even breaking the legal limit of 40 microgrammes per meter cubed for some monitoring stations. Research has linked air pollution to a vast array of health issues, including increased likelihood of damage to the lungs (e.g. asthma and emphysema), the heart (e.g. heart attacks) and the brain (e.g. strokes and dementia). We propose the following interventions to improve air quality in the area:

### transport

The transport-related interventions in the area will lead to reduced transport-related air pollution. These include the closure of certain roads, the banning of private vehicles/internal combustion engine vehicles on certain roads and the expansion of the park and ride service.

### increased greening

The expansion of Penny Pocket Park and an increased number of street trees and green walls will reduce human exposure. While these interventions are likely to absorb some fine particulate matter, they are unlikely to lead to significant air quality improvements in isolation.

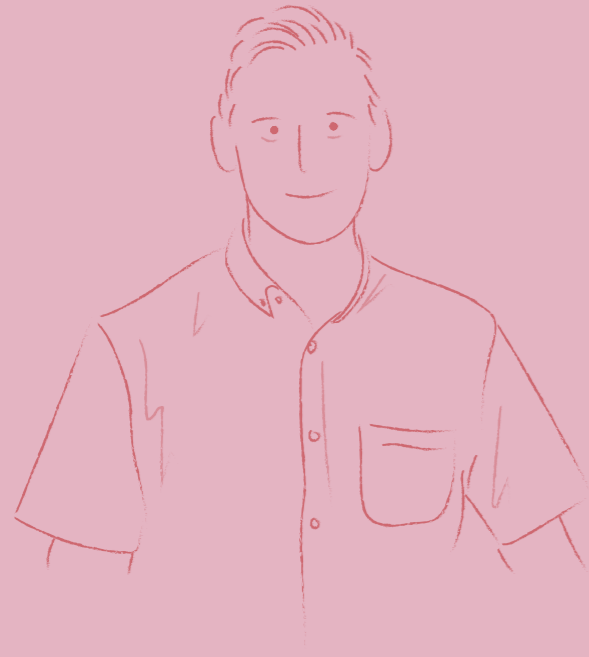
The expansion of the District Heating Network in the area will reduce the reliance on gas fired boilers for buildings in the area, therefore improving air quality.

### increased monitoring

A dispersion modelling study should be set up to locate hotspots and mitigate accordingly. Additionally, an improved air quality monitoring network should be set up.

- 1 **Greening of Streets**  
To connect green spaces and offer reconnection to nature.
- 2 **Daylighted Lady Beck**  
A place for relaxation, urban education and escape.
- 3 **Road Closures**  
Road removals to allow for a larger area of undisturbed green space and habitats.
- 4 **Expansion of Penny Pocket Park**  
Creating a sprawling network of green spaces will have a greater impact on air quality than in isolation.
- 5 **District Heating Network Expansion**  
Reduces reliance on gas-filled boilers for local buildings, improving air quality.





**"WE WERE BORN TO MOVE -  
NOT MERELY BE TRANSPORTED."**

Charles Montgomery

# A compact city

7

Leeds was once branded as "The Motorway City", and this legacy has engendered a culture of car dependency that heightens stress, generates air pollution and entrenches poverty. Stepping away from dependence on fossil fuel vehicles is an urgent imperative.

## CONNECTIVITY AND MOVEMENT

A Liveable Leeds requires a radical overhaul of the city's mobility culture, to unlock an urban framework where residents can have all their needs met — be they for work, play, getting supplies, health and wellbeing, or culture — within 15 minutes of their own doorstep, using green transport options, and travelling through nourishing landscaped environments.

A Liveable Leeds gives its streets back to people, and reimagines them as sites of exchange and encounter, life and connection. They should be upgraded from harsh functional spaces, and geared towards making living in the city pleasurable.

## HUMAN SCALE

Streets and buildings should be designed at a human scale to create the dense, fine-grain, mixed-use urban forms that nurture independent businesses, and are alive with activity spilling into the street.

Designing to a human scale creates a legible townscape, and convivial spaces crucial to community formation and social cohesion. It will create a more Liveable Leeds, that is suited to the local climatic conditions - filled with cosy and intimately proportioned spaces that provide shelter from the raw Yorkshire elements.



# interventions

## power to the pedestrian

By reducing the need or desire for cars to be present in the city it allows the streets to be taken back by the people. Multilane roads can be reduced, some roads closed altogether and with this better infrastructure for pedestrians and cyclist can pop up.

Partial road closures of Duke Street and Kirkgate allows Penny Pocket park to open up and bring more green space to the city. Closing these sections, we believe will have minimal impact on the diversion routes due to the expected high shift to public transport modes of travel. Making the other section of Duke Street bus only and changing to two way direction, this further removes stress from the area still allowing access to the bus station located nearby.

## park and boat

One intervention could be a 'park and boat' system. This would allow commuters to travel from Temple Green car park, on a boat, to the city centre – a upgrade on the existing water taxi service. This service will help in relieving stress on the city centre roads and thus declining the requirement for so many motorways. Using a boat that fits canal standards we would be able to transport up to 34 people in one trip, for comparison the average single decker bus seats 31 to 50 people.

## bus rapid transport

For Leeds City as a whole, we propose having a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system. Removing cars from the city centre and making certain streets bus-only would enable us to implement a BRT. BRT is the most feasible option due to the low cost of startup and infrastructure required in comparison to a light rail/tram system.

## free public transport

Upgrading the bus network is key to allow us to fluidly travel through the city. As per the 'fair city' section, we are proposing free public transport. As well as helping to improve social inequality, this will increase the uses and demand, making public shift from private cars to public transport. This also has greater benefits by supporting our key workers and allowing them to travel where needed with no hindrance and worry about affordability. Free transport is hassle free, there is no time wasted sorting tickets and therefore has an improved efficiency. Tourism can also be helped by a free transport system, it will help bring people to the city.

## the ride

A key new verdant spine route which follows the railway viaduct, connecting the city centre with East Leeds and beyond. The ride is a wide tree-lined shared route available to all, be it for commuting or for a leisurely walk.

## 1 Reduce the Roads

Sections of Kirkgate and Duke Street will be strategically severed, enabling Penny Pocket Park to expand.

## 2 Bus-only Routes

Sections of road are to be restricted to bus travel only.

## 3 Power to the Pedestrian

Generous raised pedestrian crossings give pedestrians priority over vehicles.

## 4 The Ride

A key route which follows the railway viaduct, a verdant backbone between the city centre, east Leeds and beyond.



# A city with roots

## putting down roots

Like all things in nature, there must be balance. As well as buzz and excitement, liveable cities also need to offer comfort and familiarity. There is an easiness in life that comes with being intimately entwined with a place.

## design for connection

People need an element of continuity and stability in their lives, and connection to the invisible social glue that holds us - community and the friendly faces within it.

Leeds requires urban design that enables informal bonds to grow, engenders connection, and instills a feeling of safety and security. These are the networks, associations, and humanity that stabilise us, and make living in the city pleasurable and possible - our roots.

## dWELLing

Housing is the foundation upon which a healthy and progressive society is built. When it is in crisis, the social implications are broad and profound.

People thrive when they have a sense of control over and mastery within their living environment.

A Liveable Leeds requires robust and innovative city planning which ensures urban churn does not become too disruptive a force, and enables people to put down healthy roots - a Liveable Leeds is one in which citizens can imagine a future. Rent controls, affordable housing, and community-led housing can all be utilised as a disruptive force for good.

## celebrating roots

A sense of place, and a connection to it, depends upon the legibility and accessibility of a collective cultural narrative. Architectural landmarks, cultural events, and landscapes can communicate the historic layering of urban evolution, and engage citizens to feel part of it.

## identity

Leeds has a unique character, and distinctive local identities that should be celebrated. Individual neighbourhoods should play to their strengths, resist the tide of homogenisation and revel in their individuality.



"A CITY IS MORE THAN A  
PLACE IN SPACE, IT IS  
A DRAMA IN TIME"

Patrick Geddes



# interventions

## celebrate existing assets

Existing historical and cultural assets within the area should be honoured and celebrated. From the Minster to the Markets, the Northern Ballet to the College of Music and everything in between, these assets are integral to the identity of the place and in forging a collective cultural narrative that people can connect to.

## cultural events in the commons

The Commons could support an array of cultural events, however big or small. Whether it's an outdoor ballet performance, lauding Leeds as the home of the Northern Ballet, or a foodie festival celebrating great local produce and the adjacent Kirkgate markets, The Commons exists to support a cultural reverence of the city and the sense of deep connection to place that ensues.

## the garden library

The Garden Library is a place that focuses on connection rather than consumption. It is a community hub that utilises books and plants to bring people together. The Garden Library is a place for meeting, learning and sharing. It is a place in which everyone feels welcome. Workshops and events provide opportunities to break down social silos and forge meaningful connections with people, place and the natural world.

- 1 Celebrate Existing Historical and Cultural Assets**  
Such as the Minster and the Northern Ballet.
- 2 Expose the Lady Beck**  
Open up and celebrate this industrial heritage feature.
- 3 Cultural events within The Commons**  
Such as an outdoor performance of The Nutcracker, honouring the adjacent Northern Ballet theatre.
- 4 The Garden Library**  
A community hub that utilises books and plants to bring people together.





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animate



**BURO HAPPOLD**

**Leeds Liveable cities Manifesto**

Produced by Planit-IE and Buro Happold

"A GOOD CITY IS LIKE A  
**GOOD PARTY** - PEOPLE  
STAY LONGER THAN REALLY  
NECESSARY BECAUSE THEY  
ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES."

Jan Gehl

