

PRESS RELEASE

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Partnerships critical to effective estate renewal, says Future of London

Estate renewal must be viable for those delivering it and valuable to those receiving it, or it risks falling short of its potential to effectively meet housing need, says Future of London, but finding common ground has been difficult. Whether it's called too slow to meet urgent housing demand or too fast for existing residents; too convoluted by councils and home-builders or too opaque by communities, estate regeneration 'as-is' is being reassessed by a range of voices.

As part of that effort, on Thursday 6 November, policy network Future of London will bring together more than 150 cross-sector practitioners working on estate renewal in London to assess successes, identify pitfalls and explore new approaches.

London's local authorities are under increasing pressure to deliver homes to meet the capital's growth. The Mayor's Further Alterations to the London Plan set a minimum target of 49,000 new homes per year to 2036, and in the face of reduced grant and escalating land values, estate renewal is an increasingly important option for meeting that target.

The Greater London Authority and central government are adding tools to support estate renewal and other housing programmes via the £200m London Housing Bank, the £150m Estate Regeneration Fund, and 20 potential Housing Zones to streamline delivery.

Still, it will take more than that to assure those "valuable and viable" schemes, says Future of London director Lisa Taylor: "Estate renewal is often branded too slow to meet urgent housing need but too fast to satisfy resident concerns. Whatever the perceptions, councils, developers, contractors and affected communities can all struggle with the complexities involved.

"With current demand, this is the perfect opportunity for our network of boroughs, housing associations and private-sector partners to examine both strategic and front-line issues, to help identify how estate renewal can work really effectively for the capital."

The conference – Delivering Estate Renewal – will take a two-pronged approach to exploring effective ways forward: focusing partly on strategic issues such as funding, planning and delivery models; and partly on 'front-line' issues such as design standards, community consultation and area integration.

The conference and ensuing report will highlight where and how estate renewal is working and where the pitfalls are; how different kinds of partnerships are aiding delivery and how this infill-focused approach can be optimised to provide quality housing and communities for Londoners – urgently and in future.

This event is now fully subscribed. It is co-sponsored by Lend Lease, GVA, Countryside, Pollard Thomas Edwards, London Communications Agency, Lovell and Lewis Silkin.

Ends –

Editor: **Future of London** is an independent not-for-profit policy network focused on the challenges facing regeneration, housing, infrastructure and economic development practitioners in the Capital. FoL is a borough-led membership organisation with a number of external partners, and provides bespoke career development, expert-led research, and timely visits, events and networking.

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