Overview

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic was the most challenging period in London's recent history, resulting in profound social and economic impacts, with those already familiar with unequal living standards hardest hit. In the face of this challenge, organisations across London committed to work together as never before.

The London Anchor Institutions' Network was formed in March 2021 to tackle the long-standing social and economic inequalities exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic, and to work collectively to address the growing urgency of the climate emergency and its impacts on the city.

The founding members of the network, representing some of the city's largest institutions, pledged to leverage their procurement, recruitment and estate management capacity to support Londoners most impacted by the pandemic, and to ensure a green recovery. The idea was that by working together towards shared goals, a bigger and more positive change could be achieved than by working alone.

This partnership of public, private, faith-based, education and cultural bodies represents dozens of major organisations across the city, who collectively employ tens of thousands of people, spend billions of pounds a year and manage thousands of square metres of real estate.

The potential that this represents is immense.

Translating this potential into positive impact requires focused intent, as well as sustained commitment to new and collaborative ways of working, coordination, trust, open communication and engagement.

The importance of our work as anchor institutions extends well beyond the immediate post-pandemic era and is as relevant now as when we began.

The London Anchor Institutions' Network is London's first ever city-wide initiative committing institutions to collaborative impact at this scale.

Our focus

We will work together to build a better London for everyone – tackling inequalities, supporting 'good' economic growth that is socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable, and taking action in the face of the climate emergency.

This includes supporting our communities by:

- Buying a greater share of our goods and services from London-based micro, small, medium-sized and/or diverse businesses

- Maximising good work and progression opportunities for Londoners underrepresented in the labour market

- Helping young people to flourish through quality mentoring

- Accelerating the delivery of a cleaner, greener London by contributing to the capital's net-zero carbon goals

Our pledge

Individually, we will:

1. Critically review and improve upon our own practices across these areas, with a specific focus on our procurement, estates management, recruitment and workplace policies, and – where relevant – those of our members

2. Allocate resource within our organisations to implement changes and champion innovative practice to do so

3. Define and commit to publishing numeric targets against the above focus areas

4. Monitor and demonstrate progress against the targets we set

Supported by a dedicated programme team, collectively, we will:

1. Meet regularly at the level of decision makers to advocate and advise from the perspective of our sector or organisation to help achieve the aims set out in this charter

2. Drive and participate in collaborative work on priority areas or actions that we agree together

3. Share knowledge and best practice with peers in the network

4. Contribute to growing the evidence base about our impact as a network of anchor organisations investing in our communities

5. Move towards establishing a permanent funded organisation to support this work

Call to action

The scale of the challenges facing our city calls for new solutions and approaches. We call on all major institutions in this city to work with us to contribute to London's greater resilience, and to creating a fairer, greener and more prosperous London for all.

Signed by:

London Anchor Institutions' Network

Our members

ACC ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES

BUSINESS LDN

BDLD LONDON

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

LONDON CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

LDN CITY AIRPORT

LONDON COUNCILS

LFB LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

LONDON JEWISH FORUM
THE POSITIVE VOICE OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

LONDON SOUTH EAST COLLEGES

METROPOLITAN POLICE

MCB The Muslim Council of Britain

New City College

NEWHAM COLLEGE LONDON

NHS

Thames Water

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

TRANSPORT FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

TUC Changing the world of work for good

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Waltham Forest College