

UDL: Living Local – Where Next?

Event Takeaways

- **Living local is the bedrock of a good covid recovery.** It can create more effective and intense use of places and buildings, greater and better spread economic activity, reduce pollution and carbon emissions and spread the good things in life to more people in more places.
- **Surveys shown the characteristics of good living local places people value most.** These include local green space, shops and other facilities, community and family connections and good local connections. Proximity to a station is no longer the key draw for home buyers/renters it once was. From home purchasing trends to community initiatives there is growing evidence that people will take action to ensure they live somewhere with these living local characteristics and if we are to ensure a good urban recovery, we must ensure they are prevalent in all parts of our city.
- **Covid has helped London move towards its Mayors Transport Strategy targets of a lot more walking and cycling as lockdowns have made people live more locally.** But car use trends are worrying, particularly for 1-2km journeys. Tools are needed to either make these shorter so more likely to be active, and provide better shared mobility options for those who will not walk or cycle them.
- **How buildings are designed and used needs to so places can be more productively and efficiently used in a way that creates good living local characteristics.** That is, places that foster shorter journeys, community connections, varied uses and practical connections with outdoor spaces. Barriers to innovation, whether approaches to viability testing, insurance or planning requirements should be looked into and where possible removed.
- **Infrastructure planning needs to reflect living local requirements.** This might mean more a move away from agglomeration of provision, using innovation and technology to provide better local facilities that connect across larger networks. From sports to education, health to parks we need both the quality and choice large facilities can bring and good local access for everyday use.
- **Advocating and delivering good living local is political.** At the local level, it is about supporting communities to create and maintain their own places, ensuring the benefits are available to all, not just those who can buy into it, and creating the conditions where people choose to stay and emotionally invest in an area. At the wider level, it is about making a city work better as a whole, making the most from all its assets, ensuring it is greater than the sum of all its neighbourhoods. And at the widest level, it is about making local changes that help with the climate, biodiversity and equality emergencies we all face.