

**LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY**

and

**LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY**

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**Memorandum of Understanding  
(MoU)**

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**Loughborough  
University**

## BETWEEN

- (1) **LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY** an exempt charity established by Royal Charter with number RC000332 and whose office is at Ashby Road, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 3TU (“**LU**” or “**LU LDN**”); and
  - (2) **LONDON BOROUGH OF HACKNEY** a London unitary local authority created by statute and incorporated and registered in England and Wales whose registered office is at Hackney of Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA (“**LBH**”),
- each a “**party**” and together the “**parties**”.

### 1 This Memorandum of Understanding:

- a. signifies a statement of intent of the parties named above to respectively operate certain of its activities in an aligned manner but is not a legally binding document, and the parties understand that none of the content set out herein is legally enforceable between the parties.
- b. recognises the intention of London Borough of Hackney and Loughborough University to establish an informal relationship and describes their intention to operate in the way set out below for their mutual benefit.

### 2 The parties understand that any form of collaboration or other formal interaction or exchange between the parties will be governed by separate, formal legal agreements, which shall be negotiated in good faith between the parties and executed prior to commencement of any such activity.

### 3 The Parties recognise the value of this Memorandum of Understanding to each other.

## A. PURPOSE

Both Parties aim to collaborate to strengthen health and wellbeing and to help create vibrant and inclusive communities.

- LBH further, wishes to create links with LU’s LDN to allow it to fulfil its aims of:
  - building community wealth and creating the opportunities for local businesses and residents so they are the first to benefit as the economy recovers and reopens as the COVID 19 pandemic recedes by ensuring more of the jobs, opportunities, growth and money spent in Hackney stays in Hackney as part of a fairer, greener local economy; and
  - building a more environmentally sustainable borough with a net zero target to decarbonise the whole borough through reducing pollution, switching to clean energy, increasing recycling and growing a circular zero waste economy.

## B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTEREST

As set out in its [Inclusive Economy Strategy](#), LBH aims to:

- connect residents with high quality employment support and opportunities to learn new skills, get good quality, well paid work so as to achieve progression through their career and working life;
- champion and support local businesses and social enterprise and protect and maximise the delivery of affordable workspace;
- support local neighbourhoods and town centres to thrive and to be inclusive and resilient places.

This becomes more important in the context of the impacts of the COVID-19 on certain sectors, business and the labour market. People who were already economically vulnerable prior to the pandemic are likely to be affected more due to the fact that the lowest paid sectors of the economy (retail and hospitality) have been impacted most and will likely take the longest to recover. LBH's focus will be on rebuilding a local economy that both addresses the climate emergency need for a transition to net zero as stated above and the long-term systemic issues such as inequality of opportunity, in-work poverty, precarious employment, feelings of being on the sidelines while growth and prosperity happen to others.

The impact of economic growth in Hackney over recent years has been primarily a growth either in highly skilled roles, many being self-employed, or low skilled entry level positions often facing zero hours contracts. The challenge and opportunity for LBH, working together with local strategic partners, is to ensure residents have the skills required to access the higher level roles and to ensure that pathways are in place to enable residents to access opportunities, particularly those groups facing labour market disadvantage.

LBH is developing and strengthening partnerships with Higher Education institutions to collaborate on research and data collection, which will inform efforts to address the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills gap in Hackney, maximise the growth of the intermediate skills economy in the borough and ensure our smaller businesses can survive and thrive. LBH is aiming to create a series of links with Universities and Colleges in or around Hackney as follows:

- between relevant employment support and brokerage programmes.
- ensure there is a two-way connection between organisations and local talent which have invested in a higher education.
- Building a talent pool informed accurately by university enrolment and alumni data to contribute to employment and skills pathways, develop graduates by giving them access to relevant networks, training opportunities and paid work experience/internships in skilled STEM professions.

Since its launch on September 21<sup>st</sup> 2015 LU LDN has sought to build a unique research and learning environment built on the foundation of innovation and entrepreneurship. Its enterprising outlook, unique curriculum, and commitment to inter-disciplinary, international and impactful research have all combined to make it an extremely successful venture for the university. It seeks to deliver real social, economic and educational value for the community in

which it is located and works in consultation with the local community to deliver mutually beneficial activities that transform lives and communities.

LU LDN has built a strong programme of postgraduate teaching and research, with particular strengths in design and innovation, innovation and entrepreneurship, sports business, international diplomacy and management, and the creative and digital industries.

One of the drivers for the University in establishing the campus on the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park was to be part of the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. To be part of that legacy is to be part of not just the transformation of UK sport but also the area in and around the games' site and London itself. LU LDN works closely with neighbouring local authorities and is committed to developing a collaborative research culture and a programme of enterprise and innovation with local businesses and community partners. A central theme of LU LDN's research and enterprise work is focused on inclusive innovation, reflected in a number of projects including the Global Disability Innovation Hub, a Fair Energy research project, and partnering with UCL on participatory innovation in East London. LU LDN is also a founding member of the new Inclusive Innovation District for the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: Shift; a dynamic, living testbed which brings together thought leaders from academia, business and the local community for the benefit of the local community.

### C. It is the intent of both LU AND LBH to

1. **Build a leadership culture that has a shared understanding of the role of the both Parties in addressing the cross-cutting challenges and inequalities faced by our communities and** is intellectually curious about what can be achieved to make a positive impact. This will be reflected in the development, agreement and delivery of a joint work plan that will be created by the Parties' principal personnel and detailed in a separate document. It is intended that the work plan will be reviewed and amended as required from time to time during the course of the programme.
2. **Build an evidence base of what works, and of how to translate theoretical and applied research into delivery activities.** To do this both Parties are committed to close the gap between research and practice, so that decision makers understand how to apply research to Hackney's context. This will be reflected in the development of a range of collaborative research projects which, once agreed, the Parties will enter into a project agreement.
3. **Ensure that the approach to collaborating with communities to co-create solutions becomes embedded, robust and credible,** underpinned by consistent research methods, training and sharing of learning.
4. **Ensure that work undertaken contributes towards area-based approaches to place-shaping,** maximising ways to contribute to civic life and an inclusive economy through research in communities and with local businesses, appropriate skills development and their wider role as anchor institutions that share the ambition to create economic jobs and opportunities in the local community.

### D PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

FOR LU:

Graham Hitchen  
Ben Cole  
Benjamin Dobie

FOR LBH:

Sonia Khan  
Dujon Harvey  
Michael Toyer

- The principal contacts will report to co-signatories on a six-monthly basis on progress and impact. The co-signatories will report to their respective boards.
- The Parties' principal contacts will meet bi-monthly to review and monitor key performance indicators under this MOU. As part of the meetings, the Parties are to determine any necessary revision to ensure any joint work remains on track. These meetings will also identify communication priorities and actions.
- The Parties' principal contacts will provide advice and constructive challenge to the collaborative partnership and programme of activities.
- The Parties and its representatives must declare any interest which could give rise to conflicts in relation to the programme of work under this MOU and/or resulting agreements.
- Observers may attend the bi-monthly meetings by prior arrangement.

## COMMENCEMENT / EXPIRY

The duration of this MOU is for 3 years, in the first instance, commencing on the date of the second signatory of this MOU and will be reviewed by the Parties three (3) months prior to its expiry as to either its termination or extension thereafter. Each Party may discontinue the cooperation upon 3 months written notice being given to the other Party. The MOU may also be discontinued at any time by mutual consent of the Parties.

Discontinuance of this MOU shall not affect any existing separate formal agreements executed between the Parties.

Date Memorandum is to take effect on the latest date signed below

Signed:	Signed:
Date:	Date:
Name: Loughborough University	Name: London Borough of Hackney

