



The Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLEES) is the national organisation for rebuilding local economies – developing progressive economics for people, planet and place. We work by thinking and doing, to achieve social justice and effective public services for everyone, everywhere.

We are a think and do tank, which means that our creative thinking and strategic policy activity is informed by our practice. Our experienced team are specialists in their fields, and at the forefront of pioneering work relating to Local Government, local economic development, community wealth building, system change and co-production, housing, public health, cultural assets, environmental change, place-making and planning, procurement, finance and investment, good governance and devolution, employability and skills, social value and inclusive growth.

Our activities include independent action research, evaluation and performance management, policy briefings, best practice advice and strategy development. Alongside project work, CLEES produces publications, training and events, which are available to everyone.

Our projects merge theory and practice to...

Deliver economies for all - We seek to challenge conventional local economic development thinking and practice, so that it genuinely improves the fortunes of people and communities, whilst nurturing the environment.

Build community wealth - Community wealth building aims to reorganise wealth and the local economy, from the bottom up, making it more socially and environmentally just. To enable more people to transform and take control of their local economies, CLEES has established the Community Wealth Building Centre of Excellence.

Tackle climate emergency - CLEES works to ensure “the economy” and “the environment” are not developed as discrete physical and conceptual spheres. They are, in fact, two sides of the same coin, with a deep symbiosis between the two that is now impossible to ignore.

Make public services excellent - Public services are the bedrock of well-being, environmental and economic success, but they have seen an erosion of the values they embody. Our work seeks to counter that.

Deepen democracy - CLEES works to democratise local economies, shift power to people and challenge powerful interests. In our work we seek to build democratic vitality – advancing participative and deliberative democracy.

Create great places - CLEES advocates and practices a deep consideration of how we assess aspects of planning, investment, the built environment and place making through the lens of progressive values.

General enquiries

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