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# Tollington Initiative

## Towards a community-led strategy for regeneration

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for London Borough of Islington

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## **Tollington Initiative** Towards a Community-led Strategy for Regeneration

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The Tollington Initiative represents the first attempt to set out a multi-stranded approach to the regeneration of the Tollington Neighbourhood; integrating social, economic and physical transformation within a coherent framework. It involved a committed attempt to construct a community-led regeneration strategy for five council estates covering the largest concentration of social housing in the London Borough of Islington. A cross-disciplinary team of academics based at the university worked together to establish a holistic approach. The 'Physical Environment' team (including community engagement and consultation) was led by Steven McAdam & Christina Norton, tutors at the School of Architecture & Interior Design working with post grad and undergrad students as part of their studio work.

The approach for the physical aspects of the project concentrated on establishing a process of design and procurement using new planning tools and systems of measurement that would be able to properly involve all participants. There was therefore 'no master plan', but rather a series of inter related and interlocking projects, each of which would be able to evolve to fulfill its own particular requirements, guided by a shared vision of what Tollington could become.

The project set a benchmark for meaningful consultation. Public reviews and events held on site and at the university created a true exchange and enabled sophisticated dialogue. The vision agreed with the community laid down socio-spatial structures that could over time develop into solid action plans. The constructs included re-claiming space, building for individuation, pilot projects, re-skinning blocks, re-urbanising and de-paternalising the estate by blurring the edges whilst repolarizing, reconnecting and reprogramming the estate.

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