

Leeds Sustainable Development Group

Who we are

The Leeds Sustainable Development Group (LSDG) is a network of individuals, including property professionals, developers, investors, academics and community groups, sharing a commitment to Leeds city centre and wanting to work together to make it better.

We have explored the potential for a new approach to development that will generate prosperity, well-being and environmental enhancement in ways that are very different from those of the past.

Our aim is to give Leeds city centre an even stronger image as a destination and place to settle: a place where far-sighted, co-operative people look beyond short-term self-interest and engage seriously with the challenges of the future to participate in creating a trend-setting sustainable lifestyle.

We are seeking to establish a new forum, available to everyone, to enable the development and testing of a shared vision.

LSDG's first objective is to create a self-sustaining, open and inclusive forum to enable everyone in Leeds to say what sort of place they want to live in, to put forward ideas and to participate in developing proposals and options, at a stage when it can make a difference.

To contribute to the discussion or for more information please contact –

E-mail: contact@leeds-sdg.com
Phone: 0113 213 5656

Or visit the Website: www.leeds-sdg.com where you can view all the latest news and comment on the blog page.

Leeds Sustainable Development Group
In partnership with
Leeds Civic Trust



The Current Situation in Leeds

Many parts of the City Centre South have become derelict sites, with mountains of demolition rubble and valued buildings deteriorating. Now there is the opportunity to breathe new life in to the area, whilst retaining the historic identity of Leeds, to create a truly sustainable and thriving community within the currently fractured city centre.

Precedents of sustainable development

Freiburg

The German City of Freiburg has profiled itself as a sustainable city through regulation, incentives, design, long-term commitment and policy reform. Freiburg's specific target areas include transport and decreasing energy use in buildings. Freiburg has branded itself as the 'Solar Region', generating over 8.6MW of solar module electricity. The success of Freiburg's sustainable vision and variety of projects has arisen out of a unique set of circumstances, but lessons can be learned about developing relatively high density, sustainable family housing in an appealing setting.



Amsterdam

Amsterdam's council is championing the city as 'the world's centre of expertise on sustainable mobility', with nearly 50% of residents using a bike daily or using the cargo tram and hydro buses. Amsterdam's 'smart city' project facilitates teaching of economical energy use to children, new energy management systems in homes and the construction of 'windmill parks'. The project's focus areas are 'living, working, mobility and public space'. The Smart City project implements a smart grid infrastructure to boost energy production and to allow residents greater control of their energy usage through a 'virtual power plant'.



The Vision for the future sustainable development of Leeds must bring together a whole series of initiatives:

- As its first initiative, the LSDG wishes to open up the debate on the area's future to the wider **community**
- to work in a strategic way to create a more **integrated**, logical, attractive and sustainable blend of land uses that responds to changes in demand as the economic landscape continues to evolve
- an overall **framework** for all future development which ensures that the requirements for a truly sustainable city centre are to be adopted and implemented by all those involved, in a cohesive way
- the creation or **adaptation** of 'green' buildings for living, working and leisure time following the guidance in LCC's forthcoming 'Sustainable design and construction' Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- the mitigation and adapting to flood risk in ways that enhance physical appearance as well as protecting people and property
- the improvement of existing and provision of new **green spaces** and waterways for people and wildlife
- the development of **local sources of energy** generation and water supply/reuse with local water and waste disposal, to deliver infrastructure at a neighbourhood scale
- the reduction of the impact of the car while enhancing safe **walking and cycling** routes
- the opening up of more opportunities for a greater range of people to be drawn into **education** and training, jobs and cultural experiences
- the **relocalisation of production** and changing patterns of consumption: eg. reserving suitable sites for food production, increasing capacity for repair, re-use and recycling of materials and goods within the locality
- the creation of an **exemplar** quality townscape which will be attractive to residents, workers, visitors and investors.



Crown Hotel



Bridge House



Leeds Bridge



Tetley's Brewery Indigo Blu



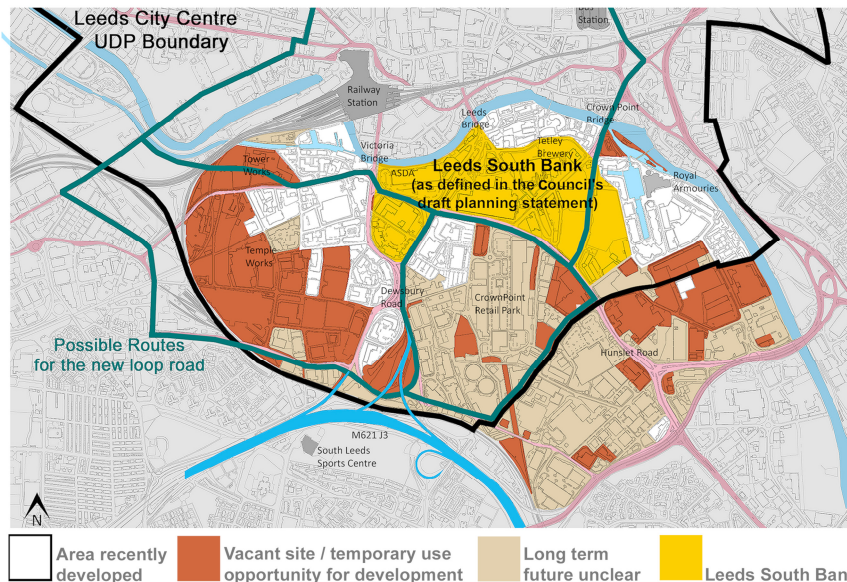
Derelict Brewery Buildings



Hunslet Road



Alf Cooke's Chadwick Lodge



Leeds City Centre South: the long view

'A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity'

The current economic circumstances and pause in development provide an opportunity to rethink and expand a longer term strategic vision for the city centre. We believe that greater public and stakeholder engagement would deliver a different kind of development in the future.

Already some ideas have been put forward in relation to the Flood Alleviation Scheme, city living and the seven themes in Leeds Civic Trust's 2009 discussion document:

- **sustaining and growing the city centre economy**
- **promoting accessible city centre living**
- **supporting diverse shopping and leisure**
- **getting around the city centre**
- **planning a pleasant and coherent city centre**
- **greening the city centre, and an energy efficient and eco-friendly city centre.**