



MUCH Vision and Values

Purpose

This document sets out the vision and values/principles that MUCH (Manchester Urban Cohousing) will use to guide all our developments, decisions, processes and policies.

Vision

MUCH will be a mutually supportive and sustainable¹ co-housing community for people aged over 50 in a suitable location, ideally in the South Manchester area. The community will consist of around 15 to 20 homes for 18 to 30 people with communal facilities.

Guiding Principles

We aspire to:

1. Create co-housing which enables residents to continue to thrive and promotes their wellbeing, including positive solutions to isolation, loneliness and vulnerability. We will offer a supportive environment to enable members to live in their own homes until they are no longer able to sustain an independent life, even with support. We will ensure from the design stage that homes and shared spaces are adaptable to meet the future mobility and other needs of residents;
2. Commit to embrace and respect diversity of sexual orientation, gender, physical ability, race, ethnicity, religious belief and income level. We will strive to offer a range of tenure options to ensure that lack of wealth or income is not a barrier to occupancy;

¹ The term sustainable is used to cover environmental, community and economic sustainability issues relating to Much Manchester and the individuals living there. We appreciate that this means different things to different people and that our views and behaviour are likely to develop and change over time.

3. Commit to communications, relationships, actions and behaviour that are honest, direct, respectful, non-judgemental, non-violent, appreciative of different perspectives, compassionate and caring;
4. Promote equal access to power - in both internal and external relationships and structures - and take equal responsibility for governance.²
5. Commit to living sustainably within planetary limits, including minimising the unnecessary consumption of resources, and using renewable technologies and resources for designing, building and living in our community. The site will be accessible, as far as foreseeable, by good public transport;
6. Create a balance between interdependence as a community and independence for individuals, including designing personal and communal space to reflect these aspirations.
7. Pay attention to aesthetic qualities in the plan, design and management of our shared environment and value opportunities for creativity in everyday life;
8. Contribute actively to the surrounding community and have a positive social impact on the city and wider society;
9. Commit to an ethical policy to guide all our interactions, including procurement³, with external organisations. We will also source goods and services locally wherever possible;
10. Incorporate facilities that will enable members to continue paid and/or unpaid work wherever possible or affordable.

History:

*Much Vision and Values Dec13 review Oct 14.doc agreed by MUCH in General Meeting on 1/12/13.
PPP-PRI-MUCH Vision and Values May 19 – GW.docx agreed by MUCH in General Meeting 19/5/19*

Next review: May 2021

² Governance means how we manage ourselves, including our management structure, our policies such as membership policy, and our processes such as consensus decision making.

³ Procurement broadly means the activities and processes we use to obtain goods and services, including professional services such as architects. It involves all the related activities such as market research, commissioning, tendering, contract negotiation and purchasing,