

# ADEPT President's Awards 2026

Entry form

## Award category

Shaping Places for People

## Project Title

North Paddington Programme

## Local authority

Westminster City Council

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

North Paddington Programme - a community led design approach to transforming public spaces in Westminster

## Shaping Places for People: How was this project an innovative response to a significant local challenge? (150 words max.)

North Paddington faces entrenched disparities across Harrow Road, Queen's Park and Westbourne, with lower qualifications, earnings and health, and higher worklessness than the city average. Our innovation was to invert the usual top-down model: we built a continuous, resident-led design and delivery process with local charities, businesses and statutory partners, moving decisions into the open and co-creating solutions people would actually use. Focusing on public realm and green space at Maida Hill Market, Westbourne Green Canalside and Queen's Park Canalside, we braided funding from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Westminster City Council. Design was made with and by residents: at Queen's Park Canalside, on-site community workshops turned felled timber into wildlife habitat and seating features, building skills and ownership. The result is a replicable approach that turns neglected spaces into community assets and embeds long-term stewardship from day one.

## Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

All three projects deliver community-led public realm improvements shaped directly by local priorities. High-quality paving, lighting, seating and biodiverse planting now provide safer, greener places to gather, rest and experience nature in central London.

At Maida Hill Market, the space has been transformed into a cleaner, greener and safer civic hub with flexible areas for trading and events, supported by an Events Manager. Fully accessible at-grade toilets, reclaimed-stone cladding, rainwater-harvesting roof design and extensive SUDS planters embed sustainability and help mitigate historic flooding.

At Westbourne Green Canalside, widened entrances, improved lighting and the removal of railings reconnect the park with the canal. New SUDS, biodiverse planting, wildlife habitats, murals and bespoke play sculptures create a more welcoming and ecologically rich space.

At Queens Park Canalside, a previously underused area now functions as a welcoming outdoor "living room" complete with huge mural. Accessibility is improved with a wider crossing and ramps.

## Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

NPP was founded on strong collaboration across council services and external partners. It brought together housing, youth services, economic development, arts and culture, planning, parks, public realm and environmental teams, working alongside charities, local businesses, the police and community groups. A dedicated partnership board coordinated this cross-sector expertise to shape priorities and

guide delivery.

For the public realm projects at Maida Hill Market, Westbourne Green Canalside and Queens Park Canalside, Westminster's Place Shaping, Parks and Public Realm teams acted jointly as client, working closely with delivery partners including LDA Design, FM Conway, WSP, Studio Weave, The Stonemasonry Company and the Canal & River Trust.

Community collaboration was integral throughout. Residents co-designed a mural, biodiversity features and play elements, and helped repurpose felled timber into on-site installations. During construction, delivery partners ensured continued access to key community facilities, including Grand Junction Community Centre and Queens Park Library, demonstrating coordinated, people-centred delivery.

**Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care, and external organisations. (150 words max.)**

The programme secured strong buy-in through hundreds of hours of engagement with residents, community leaders, health partners and local organisations. Communities shaped priorities, design decisions and, in several cases, delivery. At Westbourne Green and Queen's Park Canalside, residents designed the murals now animating each space. Maida Hill Market's successful reopening and a growing, community-led events programme show sustained local commitment.

Public Health and Adult Social Care colleagues contributed to inclusive design and activation plans, ensuring lighting, routes and fully accessible toilets meet the needs of older people, families and disabled residents. External partners including the Canal & River Trust, local schools, youth groups and traders—co-hosted engagement days, provided in-kind materials and volunteered at build days.

At Queen's Park Canalside, co-production with local groups led to renaming the site and hands-on workshops creating habitat structures from felled timber. This place-based, resident-led approach has strengthened trust, alignment and long-term stewardship

**Shaping Places for People: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)**

These three projects were enabled by drawing on a range of funding sources including from Westminster City Council, Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund and Central Government's Levelling Up Fund. Within Westminster City Council's contribution different sources and budgets were amalgamated from the Capital Programme, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 planning contributions. Long-term stewardship is also addressed by embedding community use, not only through events but also regular community gardening at Westbourne Green Canalside. Environmental Champions, a group of volunteers working with Westminster Council and Canal and River Trust, have adopted a stretch of canal towpath to dovetail sustainable management with community ownership.

**All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry**

Queens Park Canalside Reports:

<https://npcanalsidestrategy.commonplace.is/en-GB/news>

Queens Park Canalside Engagement Report

[https://res.cloudinary.com/commonplace-digital-limited/image/upload/v1770738834/projects/65c4c8a7e2941a0276703d3f/media-upload/QPC\\_mural\\_engagement\\_report.pdf/b9mihlvav4uzxfbznuv9.pdf](https://res.cloudinary.com/commonplace-digital-limited/image/upload/v1770738834/projects/65c4c8a7e2941a0276703d3f/media-upload/QPC_mural_engagement_report.pdf/b9mihlvav4uzxfbznuv9.pdf)

<https://npcanalsidestrategy.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/public-art-opportunity-at-queens-park-canalside?step=step1>

Queens Park Canalside (Yes Make Features)

[https://res.cloudinary.com/commonplace-digital-limited/image/upload/v1750950515/projects/65c4c8a7e2941a0276703d3f/media-upload/QPC\\_Engagement%20Report\\_June%202025.pdf/mfqzwimbyqade8rwipvd.pdf](https://res.cloudinary.com/commonplace-digital-limited/image/upload/v1750950515/projects/65c4c8a7e2941a0276703d3f/media-upload/QPC_Engagement%20Report_June%202025.pdf/mfqzwimbyqade8rwipvd.pdf)

Westbourne Green Canalside Mural

<https://npcanalsidestrategy.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/v3/new-public-art-opportunity-westbourne->

green-canalside?step=step1