



# Looking and Learning

1. **The Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth** provides core principles for achieving excellence in new housing developments under four Cs. The process brought together a diverse group such as developers, members, officers and other agencies with the aim of developing the skills needed to create sustainable communities.

2. **Eco-towns study tour** To help councillors in local authorities with proposals for eco-towns, TCPA and URBED were commissioned by CLG to organise a two day study tour to leading edge Dutch examples of new settlements.

3. **University of Cambridge study tour** URBED organised visits to Freiburg, Germany and Amersfoort, the Netherlands for

the University to learn from best practice and to gain inspiration for a major urban extension of some 2,500 homes on land owned by the University.

4. **City of Ely Masterplan** To assist with continuing work on a masterplan for Ely, URBED organised a study tour for the Delivery Group to the towns of Witney and Cirencester.

5. **The TEN Group** is now in its sixth year of bringing together senior planning and regeneration officers from London authorities to gain inspiration, pick each others brains and learn about other approaches.

6. **Harlow Renaissance** used the Looking and Learning process to enable its new board to get to know each other as well as come up with a first draft of an action plan for growth.

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URBED has developed an innovative process for capacity building and visioning to enable local authorities, developers and community groups to work better together, particularly in building successful new communities. It is based on the concepts of 'experiential learning' and 'action learning sets'. The process starts by understanding local opportunities and constraints. We then identify comparable places (in both the UK and overseas) from which lessons can be drawn. Informed briefing packs, study tours with expert input and facilitated feedback sessions maximise the opportunities for learning. Reports and Power-Point presentations enable the group to share the outcomes with others. In the process, participants have gained inspiration, broken down institutional barriers, begun to build better teams and relationships, and had memorable experiences.