



Teesside  
University

# Becoming Civic

Embedding People and Place at Teesside University

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# Context



# Strategy and Civic Mission

Teesside University generates and applies knowledge that contributes to the economic, social and cultural success of students, partners and the communities we serve.

Through education enriched by research, innovation, and engagement with business and the professions, we transform lives and economies.

# Civic Challenges

## Challenge 1

Low Civic and Democratic Engagement. Developing trust and ensuring inclusive and meaningful engagement with these communities is one of the most significant challenges for civic engagement within the Tees Valley.

## Challenge 2

Diverse Geography and Polycentricity; there is no central city within the Tees Valley and Teesside University is the only University located within the region.

## Challenge 3

Social Fabric and Civic Imagination Infrastructure. The Tees Valley lacks a Civic Imagination Infrastructure to renew the region's social fabric and to support a collective sense of vision and pride-in-place.

# Town Boards



# Academic Enhancement Framework

Globally Connected and Socially and Ethically Engaged

- Respectful and ethical
- Integration
- World knowledge and skills
- Communication
- Equity
- Thinking glocally

# Institute for Collective Place Leadership

- Tees Valley has the potential to increase its contribution to the UK economy by over 40%
- Requires complex socio-economic challenges within the region are addressed.
- Nuanced place-based approach needed to bring together insights from local, regional and national government, business and industry, local communities, and regional universities.
- A People and Place focus for research is essential to growth within the Tees Valley, but also with in similar regions in the UK and internationally.



# Principles

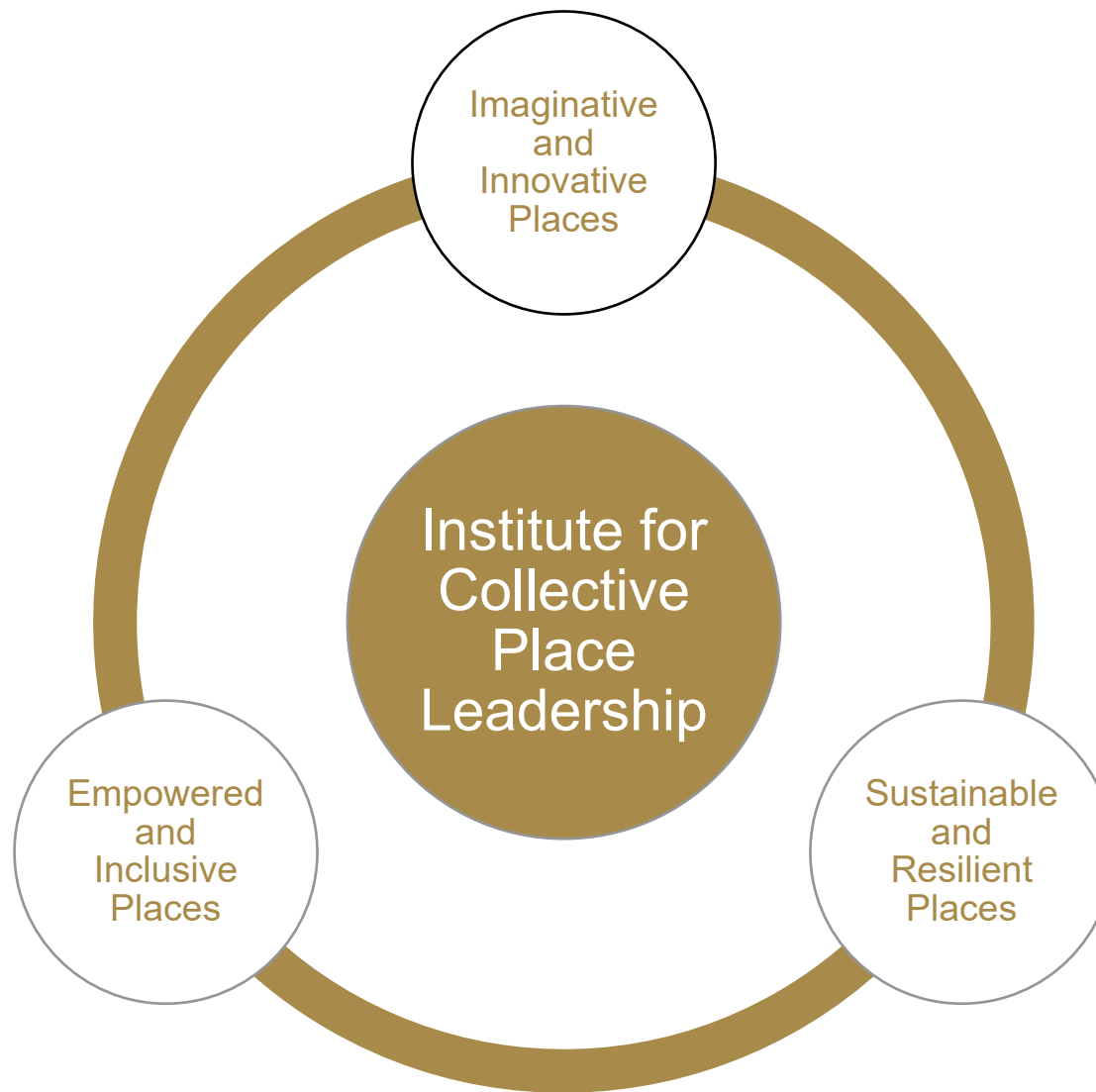
- Rebuilding the region should be grounded in the region through the gathering of insights on the **lived experiences** of people within the region.
- The region should be **empowered** to develop and deliver evidence-based solutions.
- Partnership and collaboration are central to developing a shared vision and **codesigning and coproducing** interventions and solutions.



# Research Focus

- Support **regions undergoing significant transition** and transformation to develop shared, inclusive and **prosperous futures**.
- Bring together **interdisciplinary insights** and expertise from the arts, humanities, social science, and business to deliver **transformational action-orientated research**.
- Work with **communities, businesses, and policymakers**.





## **Sustainable and Resilient Places:**

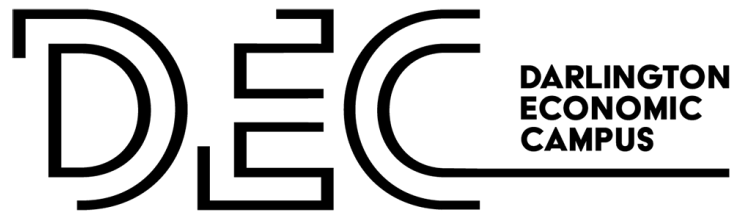
Developing resilient and responsible social and economic policy and reconnecting communities to the natural environment to support regional regeneration, a just transition to Net Zero and to address climate change.

## **Empowered and Inclusive Places:**

Enabling opportunity and addressing disadvantage for all members of society to enhance community cohesion, wellbeing, and belonging at home, at work, and in the community.

## **Imaginative and Innovative Places:**

Designing innovative and imaginative practices, experiences and products to support communities, businesses, and policymakers to imagine new ways of living and working, possible digital futures, and alternative socio-economic ecosystems.



**The Young  
Foundation**



**Arts and  
Humanities  
Research Council**



**Civic University  
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