

Studio UrbanArea LLP

Experience of working with communities

As a collaborative planning and design practice, a mix of professional partners and associates, we have extensive experience of working with the voluntary and community sector for over 25 years. We have specialist experience in housing-led development, master planning and urban regeneration with a focus on sustainability, affordability and design quality. This is particularly in more complex urban development contexts. Collectively we have recent experience in community-led development at a variety of different scales and stages in the planning, design and development process. We have current knowledge and experience of the establishment of appropriate legal entities linked to finance options, ranging from self-funded, grants, assets, loans or innovative products. We have supported partnership working and the use of special purpose vehicles between community groups, registered providers and private developers. Our core skills are in planning and design necessary to secure planning consent and to access funding opportunities for project delivery.

Involvement in community led or self-build developments (especially housing projects)

We have led in the establishment of community land trusts, and worked in partnerships delivering self-build, custom-build and co-housing projects in the region. When groups are just starting out we have experiences of group formation, sharing visions and the management of collaborative group dynamics. In thinking about funding, we have experience in finding sites or buildings, sourcing finance, undertaking due diligence, testing viability and incorporating this into a business plan. At the planning and design stages we have developed initial sketch options for housing, undertaken sustainability and energy assessments, reviewed access arrangements, compliance with planning and building regulations, leading to detailed design (to BIM level 2). In supporting construction, we have strong relationships with development agents, supporting project management, sourcing of materials and extended regional and specialist supply chain. Post-construction, we have additional experience in property maintenance process, retrofitting and the incorporation of renewable energy and additional income generation.

Areas where they work	All Areas		
Services they can provide	Community Development adviser Funding/Finance adviser Planning adviser	Services they can offer through other providers	Legal advisor (Community & Housing) Legal advisor (Property, Planning, Construction) Technical Co-ordinator Land/Valuation adviser Architectural Design adviser Cost (Quantity Surveyor) adviser Construction Project Manager
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Legal Status:	Limited Liability Partnership	VAT Registered	No