



# The WATER CITY

*Bringing heart back to communities by renewing their access to an age old resource*

**F**our hundred years ago a Dutch engineer dreamed of building a network of canals across the marshlands of the Lower Lea Valley in order to bring prosperity to the scattered hamlets of East London. In the centre of his map he sketched Bromley Hall – clearly recognizable as the building that stands there today, newly restored by local sustainable regeneration company Leaside Regeneration.

Two hundred years passed before these dreams became a reality and

**Authorities are investing heavily in consulting with schools and building their capacity as articulate critics**

the docks and waterways of the Thames and Lea began to power the East London economy – literally in the case of the eighteenth century House Mill, which still stands in Bromley by Bow. It harnessed the energy of the tides to mill grain for a distillery and the chemical industry.

When the docks, mills, distilleries and factories began to close thirty years ago, the waterways became derelict and forgotten, adding to the fragmentation and disconnection of neighbourhoods along their banks in Bow, Poplar and Blackwall to the west and Stratford, West Ham and Canning Town to the east.

Our vision is to rediscover the rivers, canals and docks of East London and to create a Water City for the 21st Century which is a fantastic place in which to live and work. Critical to this vision is our desire to capture the

entrepreneurial energy of East London's remarkable communities and to enable them to co create the Water City with the world's finest architects, designers, economists... and in the process to transform the economic opportunities and life chances of East Londoners for ever.

This vision is becoming widely shared by local communities, public sector organizations and business. Creating the Water City forms one of the key focal points of the mission of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and, alongside them, the London Development Agency and Greater London Authority. The Water City Group, led by Lord Mawson of Bromley-by-Bow, is a consortium of local community based organizations, including Leaside Regeneration, Poplar HARCA and the Bromley by Bow Centre, which brings a social entrepreneurial