



**Press release 12 March 2008**

**London's public services must work together to meet future challenges, warns new report**

A new report by the London Collaborative, a partnership led by the Young Foundation working with the Office for Public Management (OPM) and Common Purpose and funded by Capital Ambition outlines the critical challenges facing London's public sector over the next 15 years.

It will be launched by John Healey, Minister for Local Government and Merrick Cockell, Chairman of London Councils, the body that represents London local government.

London has been through a period of strong economic growth and in-migration which has confounded widespread predictions of decline made in the early 1980s. But it faces major challenges in the years ahead, including high levels of worklessness despite strong jobs growth, intensifying competition from other world cities, as well as the need to adapt to climate change.

Through future scenarios ranging from the highly probable to the highly improbable but potentially high impact, the report draws out implications of a wide range of future trends including population growth, community relations, climate change and housing and shocks to the system such as pandemics.

The report is optimistic about London's prospects, with continued growth and economic performance as the most likely scenario. But success also creates its own problems such as pressure on the city's infrastructure and rising housing costs. The report argues that London needs to find ways to:

- **Sustain the city's economic and cultural dynamism**, working across boundaries to improve London's infrastructure and manage its growth, while also improving the wellbeing of London's people and places
- **Be ready to face an uncertain future** with flexibility and resilience. This includes making sure buildings are 'future proof' and can be adapted to changing uses, and institutions are geared up to respond quickly to unexpected change
- **Work together** to act as a connected system across London's complex structure of governance and institutions. We need the ability to think ahead and act together.

The London Collaborative has been set up to help London work more effectively across organisational and geographical boundaries.

Geoff Mulgan, Director of the Young Foundation, said: “The report sets the scene for a new approach to public sector collaboration in London. It is designed to help people working in the public sector – from chief executives to managers of housing associations, leisure services or PCTs – reflect on whether their current actions and plans are future proof”

The report will be launched on **Tuesday 18 March, 8.30 – 10 am at the BT Centre, 81 Newgate Street, London EC1**. John Healey MP, Minister for Local Government and Councillor Merrick Cockell, Chairman of London Councils will speak at the event, as well as Geoff Mulgan, Andrew Campling of BT plc and Tony Travers, Director of the London Group at the LSE.. BT Government Services sponsors the Young Foundation and the London Collaborative programme.

Any members of the media wanting to attend the event or to get more information should contact Brigitte Gohdes 020 8709 9035 or email [london@youngfoundation.org](mailto:london@youngfoundation.org)

Notes to editors:

1. The report forms the first stage of work undertaken by the London Collaborative, a partnership comprising the Young Foundation, the Office for Public Management (OPM) and Common Purpose. BT is the London Collaborative's corporate sponsor.
2. The London Collaborative was been initiated and funded by all of London's public service agencies through Capital Ambition, London's Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.
3. The report is based on a wide-ranging review of evidence and discussions at a series of four workshops held throughout February this year, attended by managers and policy-makers from across London's public services.



The London Collaborative is funded by

Capital Ambition