

# OrganicLea



- Workers coop (est. 2001) - 23 members
- NE London
- former council plant nursery
- Turnover £750K



# Aims/ Activities



- **We Grow:** Organic Market Garden & Plant Nursery
- **We Sell:** Box Scheme, Market Stalls, Restaurants
- **We Support Others to Do the Same:**
  - Volunteering Programme
  - Learning and skills
  - Outreach Gardening
- **We Work for Wider Change**





# MARKET GARDEN CITY

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

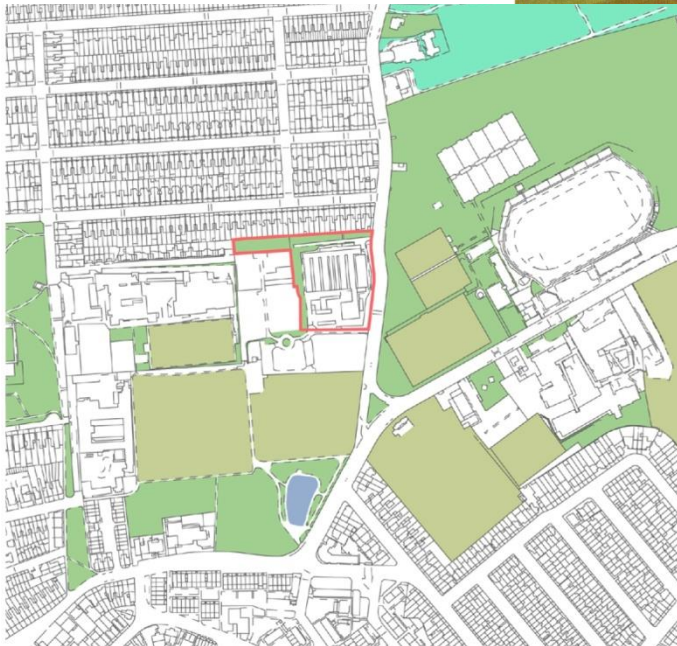
STAGE 2

An integrated proposal for two flagship projects leading  
London's future as a Market Garden City

Project Overview

February 2020

Issue 1  
OrganicLea



# OrganicLea's Peri-Urban Horticulture Model



- Market Garden

Commercial fruit and veg production incorporating both trainees and volunteers alongside professional growers

- Horticulture Training Centre  
Practical work based accredited learning



# Training



- Volunteering Programme – 300+ / yr
- Horticulture Courses: City & Guilds Level 1 & 2
  - 108 trainees completing (2019)
  - 50% progressing onto employment or further learning
- Work Placements / Traineeships / Apprenticeship



# OrganicLea Farm Start: Incubation & Support



- Access to Land
- Grower Mentoring
- Marketing Access & Support
- Some Capital
- Enterprise Support



# Farm Start Challenges



- Access to Land & Capital
- Resources – For Farm Starters and Programme
- Tension between flexibility & structure
- Ensuring Progression/ Succession
- Generating Sustainable Livelihoods from “Real Farming”





# Farm Start Successes / Triumphs



- Livelihoods, skills & enterprises
- Tonnes more local agroecological produce
- Sustained interest from all areas
- National Farm Start Network





# Potential for Peri Urban Farming



- Huge demand – OrganicLea's box scheme has grown from 350/wk to 750/wk in the last 3 years
- Local authority glasshouses and other suitable public land
- Partnership between London councils and county councils to support County Farms to supply London market
- Carbon sequestration and biodiversity through good land management

# What next for OrganicLea?



- Expand our operation – find 30-50 acres of farmland
- Develop our vocational Training Centre for London supporting people into food growing livelihoods
- Work with others to pursue the Market Garden City vision