



Property Breakfast, London, 6th December 2017

Healthy cities and sustainable communities: What are the opportunities for the property sector?

“ Everyone understands the value, but how do you quantify it? ”

“ We can facilitate an environment that keeps people away from hospitals ”

“ Social return on investment reporting is helpful and provides a direction of travel ”

Our third breakfast for the property sector took place in the City of London, and brought together representatives from a range of developers, investors, occupiers and planning consultants.

The presentations at the event came from BRE's Cathy Crawley, who spoke about the development of a Healthy Cities Index.

This has been created by BRE working with the government of Dubai, and will be launched in the early part of 2018. It provides an assessment of global cities against a set of indicators that measure the impact of the urban environment on health and wellbeing. It is an agenda setter for cities, governments and planners identifying their unique health challenges and priority areas for action.

Martin Gettings, Head of Sustainability for Canary Wharf Group, then spoke about their vision to create places that are healthy, thriving, sustainable and future-ready. The Canary Wharf development equates to a small city, similar in numbers of people to the city of Oxford. It is, however, a development that contains a few things that you might not expect, including a now diverse mix of tenants & occupiers from

the financial & technology sectors, along with residential development, a university and media organisations with a surprising level of biodiversity for an urban location. The underlying feature of all this is quality placemaking, with 100% renewable energy, responsible sourcing and health & wellbeing at the core.

Attendees then broke off into discussion groups and here are some of the key comments and discussion points.



We're the leaders in this!



Health benefits may not come for 20+ years on a development – how do we bring forward a better understanding of the benefits to attract the investment now?

- Using a common language of metrics to quantify the benefits of good building and community design.
- Breaking down the silos between health and built environment professionals and integrate design and planning measures known to support health and wellbeing into policies and projects.
- Being clear on the causal evidence of the impact of policy, design and development choices in the urban environment on health.



Planning policy is key, and the relationship between planners, health professionals, investors and developers is a crucial one.



We need to understand future needs to stay abreast of the changes in lifestyles and avoid unintended consequences such as social isolation, loneliness etc.

More information

For more on BRE's services for the property sector go to www.bregroup.com/sectors/property
For more on Canary Wharf's vision for sustainable placemaking go to www.canarywharf.com/corporate-responsibility