

What would it take for Merseyside to meet everyone's needs within planetary boundaries?

A participatory civic infrastructure for regenerative and just circular transition



Our goal is to help communities across Merseyside co-create fair, regenerative local economies through the lens of Doughnut Economics. Starting at neighbourhood level and working across all boroughs, the process is rooted in each community's social needs while respecting and regenerating the planet.

WHY NEIGHBOURHOODS

Neighbourhoods are where people experience the economy in everyday life — through housing, food, transport, work, health, education, safety, community spaces and access to nature. By starting at neighbourhood level, CFC can listen to people in the places they already are, understand what matters locally, and build Neighbourhood Doughnuts that reflect real lived experience rather than top-down assumptions.

Each neighbourhood Doughnut becomes a practical picture of local needs, strengths and opportunities for action. Together, these Doughnuts can help neighbourhood managers, communities, partners and decision-makers see where support is needed, where local energy already exists, and where small projects could make a meaningful difference.

WHY THIS MATTERS

This is about more than a project. It is about giving communities a real voice, strengthening civic agency and showing that participation and democracy can feel practical, local and meaningful.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS

1

Reach people where they already are

online offline

Schools, youth centres, parks, coffee shops, pubs, workplaces, community spaces, social media.

2

Run Doughnut Conversations + Doughnut Civic Praxis Labs

We gather lived experience, ideas, concerns and hopes from diverse residents — including young people — through two activations: Doughnut Conversations, which are 20–30 minute guided conversations, and Doughnut Civic Praxis Labs, which are 2–3 hour workshops. These insights are turned into neighbourhood intelligence, helping communities visualise what is needed, what is already working, and where action could make the biggest difference.

3

Create Neighbourhood Doughnuts

What people share is visualised in their neighbourhood Doughnut, with each neighbourhood developing its own distinct Doughnut. These reveal social needs, local pressures and opportunities for action at neighbourhood level. Through the Doughnut Intelligence Tool, developed throughout the process, neighbourhood Doughnuts will be aggregated into Borough Doughnuts, and Borough Doughnuts will then form the Merseyside Doughnut.

4

Launch the participatory budget platform

Once the Doughnuts have been developed, residents will access their neighbourhood Doughnut through the Circular Futures Merseyside Platform — a participatory budgeting platform.

5

Submit ideas + vote locally

The platform is where residents (including young people) can explore local needs, submit project ideas based on neighbourhood needs and vote for the projects they want to see in their area.

6

Selected ideas become Circular Mission Prototypes

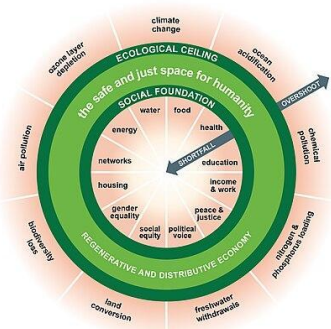
The chosen ideas become local Circular Mission Prototypes, receiving funding and further support to be implemented.

7

Turn learning into policy + investment

At the end, the full process — from Doughnut development to participatory budgeting, community voting and prototype delivery — will be packaged as learning to inform policy and future investment. Our goal is for the selected prototypes to grow into ongoing neighbourhood projects and initiatives, rooted in local needs and sustained through partners, funders and community ownership.

WHAT IS DOUGHNUT ECONOMICS?



Developed by economist Kate Raworth, Doughnut Economics helps us rethink economies so everyone can meet their needs within planetary boundaries. It shows where communities are falling short socially and where ecological limits are under pressure.

The aim is a safe and just space for everyone.