COMMUNITY INVESTMENT CONFERENCE 2026

HACT

WHO GETS TO LEAD CHANGE?

MEETING ROOM 4

Emma Stewart, **Cook for Good**

Claude Hendrickson MBE, **We're Right Here**

Kavita Kumar, **Green Square Accord**

SNG Sovereign Network Group
orbit
FUSION 21
Peabody
Family Fund 2 Business Services

WHAT IS COOK FOR CHANGE?

Cook for Change is a fully funded, founder-led programme, designed to drive wider social change through food and cooking. After a hugely successful pilot last year, we're rolling it out with a new cohort in 2026.



YouTube https://youtu.be/5wh2v9lcf-8?si=ScudgQfRpkWgZ35s AND same video is also on the website in its full form, on the What is Cook for Change page https://www.cookforgood.uk/cookforchange/what-is-cook-for-change

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Community Investment Conference 2026

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Claude Hendrickson MBE
Leeds community Homes

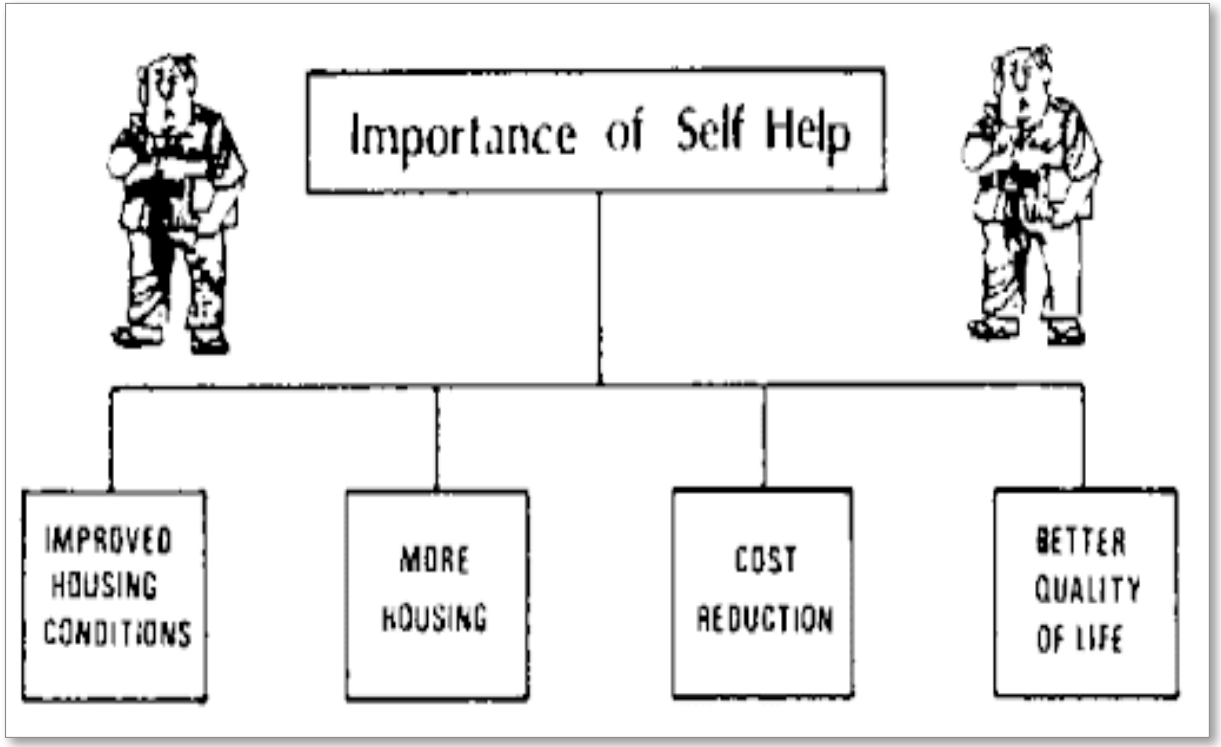
WE'RE RIGHT HERE.

Read our full report

(or scroll down to the executive summary)

Community-led housing is nothing new

- Custom build
- Self build
- Empty homes
- Housing co-ops
- Co-housing
- Community land trusts



These models have always existed
— **but haven’t always been available to all.**

Community dreams go unrealised





Museum of Broken Dreams by We're Right Here, House of Commons, September 202

We want to see power shifted from Whitehall to local people who know there area best

We were really pleased to see the **English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act** include the Community Right to Buy making it easier for local people to protect the spaces that matter to them. And a duty for all local areas to establish neighbourhood governance arrangements pushing power out of Whitehall, beyond our Mayors and local authorities and into our communities. **But for this Act to truly live up to its potential we need to see**:

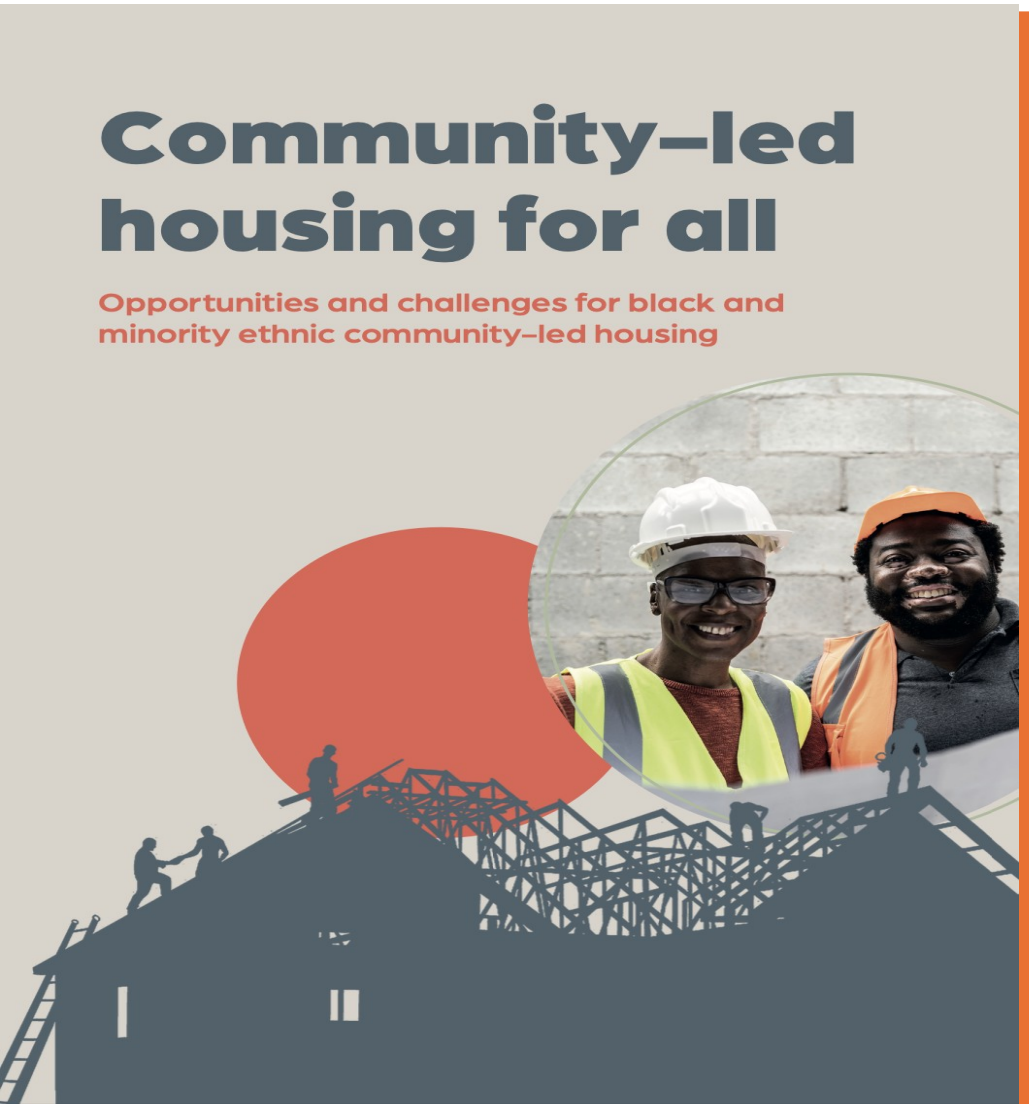
A Community Ownership Fund which will adequately support the new Community Right to Buy – The £61m Community Right to Buy Fund is a good start, but it only scratches the surface of what's needed. The former Community Ownership Fund was twelve times oversubscribed, while the new fund is less than half the £150m committed by the previous Conservative government. More investment is needed to make community ownership possible in every place.

Community-powered neighbourhood governance arrangements – Ministers have said these arrangements should bring together people driving change in their communities, but the details are still unclear. As the government develops the regulations and guidance, these arrangements must be community powered, giving local people and community organisations a meaningful role in shaping decisions alongside public officials.

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Thank you Q and A

Claude Hendrickson MBE
Leeds community Homes

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Panel discussion

Emma Stewart, **Cook for Good**

Claude Hendrickson MBE, **We're Right Here**

Kavita Kumar, **Green Square Accord**

Reflection in the room

In small groups of 2s and 3s…

1. Consider what the starting points for promoting greater community leadership and entrepreneurship can be in your organisation?

2. What helps this way of investing/working?

3. What could hold it back?



8 mins