

# Community Wealth Building

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A n i n t r o d u c t i o n

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**CLES**  
the national organisation  
for local economies

# A b o u t C L E S

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CLES is the national organisation for local economies.

Established in 1986, we are a Manchester-based [charity](#) working towards a future where local economies benefit people, place and the planet.

This will happen when wealth and power serve local people, rather than the other way around, enabling communities to flourish.

We have an international reputation for our pioneering work on community wealth building and are recognised as the curators of the movement in the UK

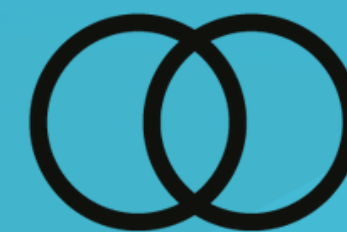


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# What is community wealth building?

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- A set of **guiding principles** to help us build a more **inclusive economy**.
- An economy where more **wealth** and **opportunity** is retained for the **benefit** of **local people**.



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This is about challenging our current economic model



Overly heated property market

Driving narrow economic growth



Exclusive FDI

Producing little benefit for local communities



Extractive companies

Hording wealth for distant shareholders

# Which is failing to deliver for people, place and planet



## Life expectancy

Recently stalled for first time in century



## Poverty

Increasing, and now at a record high



## Destitution

Data shows big rise



## Climate Emergency

Escalating rapidly



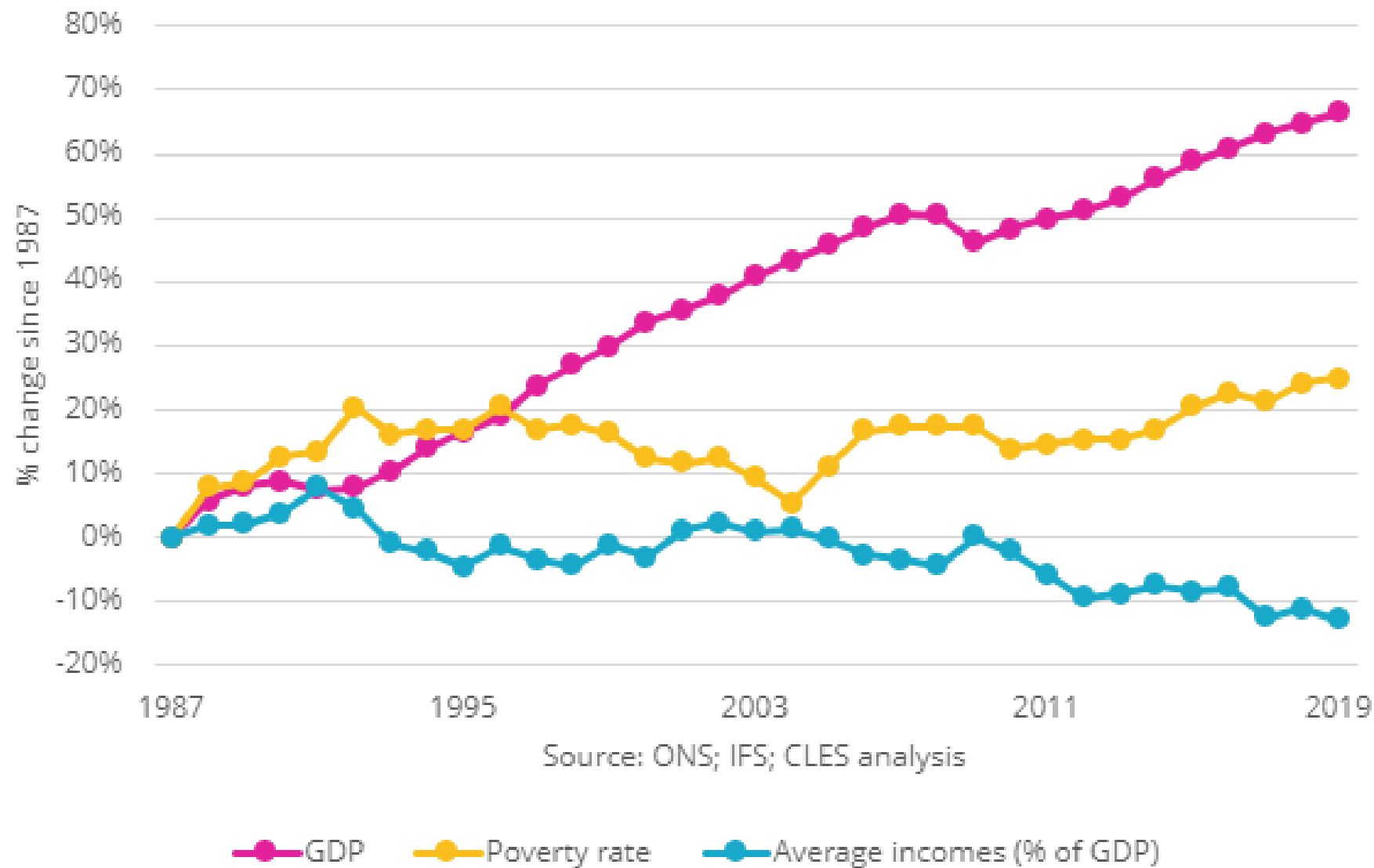
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# Our economy is exclusive

It's not a given that even if your economy grows (as measured by GDP) that all people will benefit.

While GDP has increased, incomes have fallen and poverty rates have climbed.

This means that **wealth is not benefitting the communities that create it.**



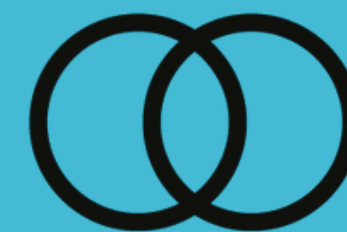
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# The power of anchor institutions

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- Local government
- The NHS
- Universities and colleges
- Housing associations
- Police fire rescue
- Large private businesses...



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# Strategic vision

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- Minimise extraction build prosperity for all.
- Decouple success from GVA growth
- Use a broader set of metrics to measure progress.



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# THE PILLARS OF COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Socially  
productive  
use of land &  
property



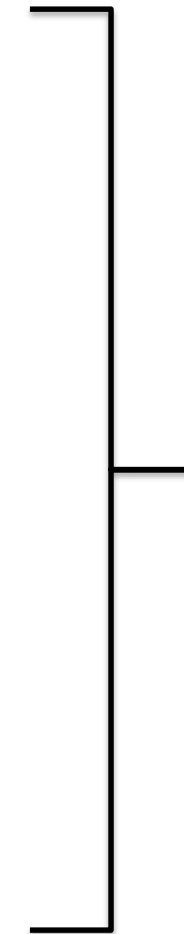
Making  
financial  
power work  
for local  
places



Fair  
employment  
& just labour  
markets



Progressive  
procurement



Plural ownership  
of the economy



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# Impact: does it work?

- CLES currently measuring impact
- Preston model shows improvements in mental health, life satisfaction and wages
- Peer review evidence published in the Lancet



# Thanks for listening

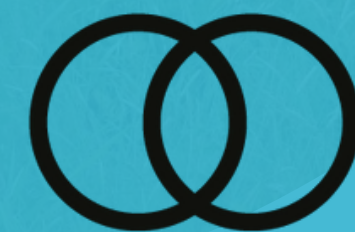
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## GET IN TOUCH:

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