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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 00.01 6 June 2026

PRESS RELEASE – From local spaces to greener places: Mayor of London backs Growing Green Circles launch

Aspire Community Works is pleased to announce that it has been awarded funding through the Mayor of London's Green Roots Fund for Growing Green Circles – a two-year programme transforming neglected outdoor spaces into living, thriving places where nature and communities grow together. The programme formally launches to the public this month.

Growing Green Circles will green and regenerate up to sixteen sites across London, including schools, housing estates and community spaces, beginning in Hackney and Tower Hamlets. Local residents will train in regenerative horticulture and biodiversity stewardship, with opportunities for volunteering, paid work and the creation of a network of Green Champions to support long-term community care.

Over the course of the programme, Aspire will train at least 40 local people, prioritising those furthest from the labour market, in practical green skills such as tree planting, wildlife-friendly gardening, biodiversity monitoring and sensory design. Each site will be co-designed to ensure that those who have least access to green space benefit most.

Each Growing Green Circles site will become a hub for community-led nature recovery - places to learn, plant, grow and connect. Participants will build skills, confidence and pathways into green employment, while residents shape the future of their local spaces through planting days, workshops and community events.

Dr Katharine Sutton, Director at Aspire Community Works, said today:

“Too many Londoners live with grey, underused spaces on their doorstep. Growing Green Circles will help change that. With support from the Mayor of London's Green Roots Fund, we can train local people, plant trees, restore wildlife habitats and create green spaces that improve wellbeing, air quality and opportunity. This funding lets us put skills and ownership directly into communities - the people who know their neighbourhoods best. We're proud to help sow the seeds of London's future Natural Wealth Service.”



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Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy Mete Coban said:

“The Mayor and I are proud to back the Growing Green Circles programme through the Mayor’s Green Roots Fund, helping Londoners gain the skills needed for a fairer more climate-resilient future.

This programme is about more than training – it’s giving communities the chance to reconnect with nature, improve wellbeing and take pride in the places they live.

By investing in local people and green spaces, the Mayor’s Green Roots Fund is creating real opportunities for Londoners while helping build a fairer, healthier and more sustainable city for everyone.”

-Ends

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Notes to editors

1. Aspire Community Works is a community business working in the everyday economy, delivering grounds maintenance, cleaning and environmental services while creating real opportunities for local people. A Real Living Wage employer with over fifteen years' experience, Aspire combines high-quality service delivery with a strong social purpose, supporting people into stable work and developing skills through its 'grow your own' approach. Its work is rooted in the belief that good jobs, strong communities and a better environment go hand in hand — and that practical, local action can make a lasting difference.

2. Growing Green Circles is a community-led environmental programme, launching in April, that brings people and nature together in simple, practical ways. It invites residents to get involved in improving local green spaces, learning new skills and taking part in activities that support biodiversity and wellbeing. With a focus on inclusion and local participation, the programme opens up opportunities for people to spend time outdoors, build confidence and explore pathways into green skills and employment — all while helping to shape greener, healthier neighbourhoods.

3. The Mayor of London's Green Roots Fund will invest over £12m across three years to projects that improve London's green and blue infrastructure, making neighbourhoods greener, more climate resilient and healthier. Projects will involve more Londoners in the management, maintenance and decision making about green and blue spaces in the capital. This is one of 26 projects awarded funding in Round 1. There are five rounds in total. For more detail on the Green Roots Fund and to apply for funding visit: <https://www.london.gov.uk/GreenRoots>