

## BUILDINGS: Sustainable Development

Today's population is growing rapidly with more people living longer than ever before. In order to keep up with this growth, new buildings and spaces need to be created but it is important to think about the impact of this growth on the world around us and on future generations.

Buildings and developments do not always need to be built from scratch as it is possible to convert or renovate older buildings to serve the same or a newer purpose. The Millennium Dome in London or the Baltic Mill in Newcastle are great examples of the renovation and regeneration of a building and area.

### Activity

Individually or in small groups of 3-4, think about and select an interesting, unused building or piece of land in your area (e.g. old factory, closed shop, waste parkland) and plan a regeneration scheme for it. For example, you could turn an old unused factory into a skate park.

### Think about:

- the current use of the building or land
- what it could be used for now – think about how the building structure can be used in its present form and how it can be developed in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way into something else?
- how will you fund the regeneration – can you do the labour yourself with help from friends and family, and can you source materials locally and cheaply?

Now devise and plan out your regeneration scheme. You can present your scheme in a number of formats (e.g. A3 drawings of landscape and aerial views, a written report or you could even build a scaled model of your design!).

Once you have created and planned your scheme, present it to the rest of the class. Once all of the schemes have been presented, the class can vote on the one they found most effective and discuss why.