



Community Wealth Building

**APSE Northern Ireland
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The Vision for Local Government



'...a strong, dynamic local government creating communities that are vibrant, healthy, prosperous, safe, sustainable and have the needs of all citizens at their core'



Transitioning...

- How do we now move forward to ensure we don't just have a plan but we can achieve outcomes
- A changing world...
- How do we harness wealth and prosperity at a local level?

The importance of local economies



- Economically inactivate – highest for a decade at 28.2 % - above the UK average of 21.2%
- Unemployment at 3.8% lowest figures ...but reflects the increase in economic inactivity figures
- 19% of those 'economically inactive did want work'

Poverty in Northern Ireland



- 110,000 children in poverty
- 220,000 adults
- 40,000 pensioners
- Most at risk of poverty are working age adults without children
- Suggests workless households a driver for poverty

How do we best support local prosperity?



- Economic prosperity can be illusive to many at a community level
- Poverty, low wages, inequalities, impact on individuals even if economic growth at a national level is 'successive'
- How do we steer this to local communities?

What levers do we have at our disposal?



- You and local businesses paying the living wage
- Training and skills
- Investments in regeneration and local areas
- Employee owned businesses? (not public service providers)
- How we spend the public pound?
- Public partners? Universities, colleges, health?
- The digital economy and digital platforms

How?



- Do you have a spend map of your local economy? Suppliers, business, partner institutions
- Do you have a clear intent on what ought to be an acceptable way of doing business?
- Scale matters!
- Collaborative networks!

Using your GPC?



- Statutory guidance on Community Planning but...
- New(ish) General Power of Competence
- Support for new enterprises and new models of new economic activity in local areas
- Procurement interface
- Value of the public pound?

Case study: Preston



- Working with CLES
- Development of the Preston Pledge with businesses and anchor institutions
- Designed to optimise social value
- Social, environmental and economic well-being of the area
- Developed concept of ‘community wealth building’

Case study: Swansea



- Apprenticeships, training and skills
- Embedded in construction contracts
- Active pledge from employers to develop options to get people into training
- 295 training opportunities and 85 into jobs
- Beyond Bricks and Mortar initiative
- Construction of new homes reflecting affordability issues of Swansea residents wages
- Active use of community benefits clauses



Community actions

- Local energy schemes to address fuel poverty
- Community banking?
- Worker led businesses – can you support development aims?
- Circular economy – supporting business who support your green aims on recycling, reuse, decarbonising local areas, air quality?

Where does this take the next stages of Community Planning?



- Can or should we embed the concept of community wealth building in future planning?
- Does this provide a pre-cursor for a bigger role for local government
- Is this a form of greater devolution and a bigger role in shaping local economies
- Do we need new powers or creatively use what we have now?

LOCAL SERVICES

LOCAL SOLUTIONS



Contact details

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