

Workshop 1.1 Community-led Planning: an integrated solution to empowerment

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Community-led planning: what do we mean by it?

- Local people organising themselves to create a holistic vision for their locality
- A structured process, engaging local residents and groups, working together to debate local issues and develop solutions
- Engaging with local government and other stakeholders during the process, to validate the practicality of ideas and proposals
- Production of an action plan which is then implemented, monitored and refreshed



CLG Proposals

(Local Government Act 2007 & Community Empowerment Action Plan

1. Accessing information	Duty to involve
2. Participating in the community	Community anchors
3. Expressing your view	Consultation Citizens juries 'Representation'
4. Having an influence	Participatory budgeting
5. Challenging those in power	Petitions Neighbourhood charters
6. Getting things done	Call for action
7. Standing for office	Councillors commission
8. Taking on delivery of services	Devolved services Community anchors Transfer of assets



Potential under locality management:
local government relating directly to citizens

1. Accessing information	Duty to involve
2. Participating in the community	not relevant
3. Expressing your view	Consultation Citizens juries 'Representation'
4. Having an influence	Participatory budgeting
5. Challenging those in power	Petitions
6. Getting things done	Call for action
7. Standing for office	Councillors commission
8. Taking on delivery of services	Not relevant

Quality of 'empowerment'

Locality management – local government relating directly to citizens		
1. Accessing information	Duty to involve	√√
2. Participating in the community		
3. Expressing your view	Consultation Citizens juries 'Representation'	√√
4. Having an influence	Participatory budgeting	√
5. Challenging those in power	Petitions	√
6. Getting things done	Call for action	√√
7. Standing for office	Councillors commission	√
8. Taking on delivery of services		

Potential under community governance model: collective action at neighbourhood level

1. Accessing information	Duty to involve
2. Participating in the community	Community anchors/parish partnerships
3. Expressing your view	Community-led planning
4. Having an influence	Action plans from community-led planning
5. Challenging those in power	Community-led plans, backed up with parish & neighbourhood charters or community-led planning protocols
6. Getting things done	Call for action based on evidence from community-led plans
7. Standing for office	Community governance + democratically elected members
8. Taking on delivery of services	Community anchors/parish partnerships Transfer of assets

Quality of empowerment

Community governance – collective action at neighbourhood/parish level		
1. Accessing information	Duty to involve	√√√
2. Participating in the community	Community anchors/parish partnerships	√√√
3. Expressing your view	Community-led planning	√√√
4. Having an influence	Action plans from community-led planning	√√
5. Challenging those in power	Community-led plans, backed up with parish & neighbourhood charters or community-led planning protocols	√√
6. Getting things done	Call for action based on evidence from community-led plans	√√√
7. Standing for office	Community governance + democratically elected members	√√√
8. Taking on delivery of services	Community anchors/parish partnerships Transfer of assets	√√√

Is the government's definition of empowerment consistent and right?

'Community empowerment is the giving of confidence, skills and power to communities to shape and influence what public bodies do for or with them' (*Empowerment Action Plan*)

'Community empowerment: helping citizens and communities to acquire the confidence, skills and power to enable them to shape and influence their local place and services, alongside providing support to national and local government agencies to develop, promote and deliver effective engagement and empowerment opportunities' (*CLG Research pack*)

'Community empowerment is about people and government, working together to make life better. It involves more people being able to influence decisions about their communities, and more people taking responsibility for tackling local problems, rather than expecting others to' (*CLG website*)



Do the indicators capture the key factors?
Are they distinct or interactive?

NI 1 (Cohesion) % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area

NI 2 (Belonging) % of people who feel that they belong to their neighbourhood

NI 3 (Civic participation) Civic Participation in the local area (having a formal decision-making role such as councillor or school governor or being a member of a decision-making group; disaggregated by equalities groups)

And...



NI 4 (Empowerment) % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality

NI 5 (Satisfaction) Overall/ general satisfaction with the local area

NI 6 (Volunteering) Participation in regular volunteering

NI 7 (Third sector) Environment for a thriving third sector



The 'Duty to Involve': will this boost empowerment?

- **Involve whom? 'Representatives of local persons'**
- **In what? 'The functions of local (and some other) authorities'**
- **By? Informing, consulting and 'involving in other ways'**
- **Obligation? To consider and judge as appropriate and cost effective**
- **Judged by Comprehensive Area Assessment – through the Audit Commission reviewing authorities' self-assessments**
- **Statutory guidance imminent**
- **CDF preparing non-statutory guidance**

Questions

1. Can genuine empowerment work without collective action at neighbourhood level?
2. What are the advantages and limitations of adopting a community-led planning approach to empowerment?
3. Given that CLP fulfils a major part of government policy on empowerment and involvement, why is CLP not better acknowledged and made use of in government policy?
4. How can we overcome some of the limitations to 'sell' the concept of community-led planning to local government?
5. What priorities would you like to see addressed in the Community Empowerment White Paper?

