

## **Community Devolution – Cabinet Report Appendix 1 (Case study examples)**

### **Edinburgh – Participatory budgeting (Canny wi' cash)**

Canny wi' Cash is one of a number of projects funded through Edinburgh's Reshaping Care for Older People Change Fund Partnership. The aim for the Partnership is to encourage a shift from reactive to anticipatory and preventative care of older people. Canny wi' Cash is an example of using participatory budgeting as a means to empower people affected by budget decisions to make the decisions themselves.

The team used a distributed participatory budgeting approach to decide on the allocation of funding to projects. The team created a voting fortnight where they would go out to where older people were and present the project ideas in an anonymised and uniform way. Over the voting fortnight, facilitators visited a range of places across the city where older people gathered: day centres, lunch clubs, drop-in centres, even an art class or two.

### **Lambeth - Consultation and engagement with the Neighbourhood Enhancement Programme (NEP)**

In 2013, Lambeth set out to involve their councillors and communities in ensuring their streets were "safe, clean, attractive and fit for purpose" through the NEP. The chief focus was on speed limits and traffic calming; parking and loading; crossings; cycling facilities; public realm; seating; bins; greenery; signage and street clutter.

Residents were engaged through:

1. A postcard and outreach campaign using the strapline 'wish you were here?'
2. A co-design phase, where councillors and officers met and worked with residents to convert the set of proposals and concerns into practical solutions.
3. A public consultation phase – after drawing up plans based on discussions with residents, all residents were formally consulted.

### **Brighton and Hove – Neighbourhood decision making schemes**

A consultation asking residents what they thought about the idea of neighbourhood decision making ran from November 2011 to end of January 2012. The results showed almost 90% of respondents felt they wanted more influence over what happens in their area and 68% said they would get involved in governance.

Two pilot areas started a one year trial of neighbourhood decision making in September 2012 until December 2013. Both pilots were given some funding which residents decided how to spend on local projects.

- **Whitehawk, Manor Farm and the Bristol Estate (now collectively known as DueEast)**

This area used existing local community groups to form a Neighbourhood Council. DueEast was granted charitable status in December 2013. In January 2014 DueEast in partnership with Serendipity Enterprise Solutions (SES) successfully bid to jointly deliver the Community Development commissioned services in the area from July 2014 onwards.

- **Hollingdean and Stanmer ward**

There were no existing groups in the area and so throughout the year democratic events were held where local residents, businesses, and services worked together in new ways. A group called 'Off the Ground' was set up to manage the pilot after the trial period.

## **Barnsley**

Community devolution in its current form has been in place in Barnsley since 2013 following a review of area governance arrangements. In 2013 the council created Area Councils and Ward Alliances.

Barnsley has 6 Area Councils have been divided along 'natural lines of connectivity' and encompass between 2 and 5 wards. The area council commissions out services for the area based on their local intelligence. So far £2.1 million has been devolved to local area commissioning and 90% of this money has stayed in Barnsley, helping to stimulate the local economy.

Ward alliances were introduced at the same time as area councils. Elected members and community representatives sit on the alliance. Ward alliances have a budget of £10,000 per ward. The alliances are able to identify opportunities for match funding or other pots of money and in some places area councils have topped up the fund with some of their area commissioning fund. Since 2013 1500 community projects have been given funding with an average value of £1300 showing that a small amount of investment goes along way.

Barnsley have recently commissioned a social return investment report which found that for every £1 invested they had got £11 back. Barnsley won an LGA award for their community devolution work in 2016 and are now looking at how they can apply their learnings from community devolution to other service areas such as Public Health.

## **Sunderland**

In 2012 the Council rationalised its Executive and Committee arrangements to support the ambition to be a Community Leadership Council. Changes featured extensive devolution to Areas on the one hand and an increased focus on strategic aspects of community leadership on the other.

The council made numerous changes to embed this initiative;

- consolidated the role of Area Committees as local hubs of community leadership and service redesign;
- introduced Area Boards for 'Place' and 'People' as the focus of 'de-siloing' council services and decentralised governance;
- actively encouraged Area Boards to recommend bottom-up changes to current service standards and approaches and established a clearer relationship between Cabinet, Area Committees and Area Boards to aid the introduction and embedding of these arrangements.

New arrangements have been complemented by refreshed Area-based budgets with a budgetary value of over £1.5m. These are designed to enable local Councillors, working with partners and their local communities to identify the right local priorities and to act upon these speedily with minimum bureaucracy and delay. Budgets include a Ward Community Chest of £10,000 per Ward per year which often also acts as seed funder of local community activity.

Results of the initiative include improved resident satisfaction and improved Member satisfaction. The approach is actively used to tackle demand for local services, generation savings as well as increased satisfaction.

The council are keen to stress that Councillors must be at the heart of Sunderland's strategy for social and economic renewal, but to fulfil their potential as community leaders, they need a new type of support and capacity building, and a new set of tools to lead (for example, more digital support).