

# How Communities and Local Government Supports Democratic Renewal

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National  
Empowerment  
Partnership

**Neighbourhoods<sup>NW</sup>**  
The power to improve your neighbourhoods



North West Empowerment and Efficiency Partnership



LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
INFORMATION UNIT

north west  
together **we can**

A simple white smile icon consisting of a curved line.

### Empowerment and Engagement:

- What is the issue?
- What is the approach?
- PSAs
- Legal framework
- CAA and the duty to involve
- What activities CLG promotes?
- Support



## What is the issue?

More than **90% of people believe the accountability** of their councils could be improved.

Only **40% of people in England agree that they can influence decisions in their local area.**

## What is the approach?

To pass power into the hands of local communities:

- generate a more vibrant local democracy,
  - representative and participative;
  - make politics more attractive and respected;
  - strong third sector role.
- give more control over local decisions and services,
  - creating a wider pool of active citizens.

PSA 21: “to build more cohesive empowered communities”.

National Indicator 4: “% of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality”.

85 LAAs adopted it; 14 adopted it as a Local Indicator.

Measured in Place survey – national picture to be made available soon.

## **Duty to involve:**

to inform, consult and involve as appropriate

Involvement should be co-ordinated across partner authorities and be timely, accessible, and involve communities, including “hard to reach” groups.

**Extension to the Duty to involve:** Duty to be extended to partners.

## **Other Powers:**

**Councillor call for action:** to refer to overview and scrutiny committee.

**Petitions and Duty to promote Democracy:** new duties on local authorities.

## CAA and the duty to involve

What are the CAA and the duty to involve looking for?:

- Is the duty to involve implemented effectively?
- Is engagement, empowerment embedded as standard practice?
- Is engagement being co-ordinated across the partnership?
- How far do partners engage with all communities, including third sector?
- How well are needs of community understood and has the community been involved in establishing the area's priorities?
- How well do people feel listened to, does their input make a difference? Is progress on priorities reviewed?



## What activities CLG promotes?

Asset Transfer

Participatory Budgeting

Community Contracts

Councillors for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Take Part Pathfinders

Youth Advisors

LINKs extension projects

- GOs
- Regional Empowerment Partnerships with Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships:
  - improve take up of effective practices and target support.
  - work with LAs, LSPs on NI4 and Duty to involve.
- National initiatives, agencies and other empowerment bodies: Participatory Budgeting Unit, Asset Transfer Unit, Young Advisors.
- Network of Empowering Authorities: 18 authorities showcasing excellent practice, promoting learning, influencing policy (*The Framework for an Ideal Empowering Authority*). Salford and Cumbria.
- CDF: guide to duty to involve, case studies.



## Contact

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