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Empowerment in Action

Community Led Planning in the North West

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Action with Communities in Rural England

*Supporting vibrant and sustainable rural communities through the network of Rural
Community Councils*

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.

Communities and Local Government website



A community led plan:

- Is a dialogue within the community, organised by the community itself
- Helps local people learn about their community and what makes it 'tick'
- Is holistic – social, environmental, economic, cultural
- Is inclusive, realistic, evidenced-based
- Takes up to 18 months to complete
- Results in a formal action plan that is the community's own vision for the future



A community led plan results in:

- Actions the community can take forward itself
- Actions that need external support to achieve
- Actions that require external influence over longer term statutory plans



About the process

- A structured process, externally facilitated, but led by the community
- 9 steps to creating a good quality plan
- ‘Duty to involve’ local authorities, elected members and public services
- Challenged to be inclusive through using a range of different engagement techniques
- Challenged to be realistic & evidence-based
- Self evaluation against quality criteria



The debate can be held indoors...

**.. Or outdoors –
wherever people
are willing to come
together**





**Consultation can be
informal and
participatory**

**Or in formal
debate**





**Should include all ages
and all sections of the
community**

**And if the locals
won't come to you –
meet them on their
own ground**



Why are the outcomes of community led planning so different?

- Increases participation and involvement – 90% households, all sections of the community
- Harnesses local community action to support service delivery - 47% of actions taken on by the community itself
- Levers additional resources into the community and builds confidence, skills and inclusion
- Reinvigorates active citizenship local democracy – 1.4 hours per head of population spent on the process; increase in voter turnout and election candidates
- Delivers credibility to the democratic process - evidence and mandate given to local elected members
- Genuine potential for ‘bottom-up’ meets ‘top down’; community action integrated with statutory strategic plans

For more about community led planning:

www.communityledplanning.com

**The one stop shop for resources and solutions to
turning engagement into empowerment**

