Community Consultation Conference: Enabling Empowerment through Consultation?

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To cover:

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- **Policy context**

- **Empowerment and consultation**

- **Is consultation enough?**

A new PSA 21: Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities

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- **Where individuals are empowered to make a difference both to their own lives and their wider communities**
- **That maximise the benefits of diversity rather than fear it**
- **Where individuals are enabled to live active and fulfilled lives**

Big national questions

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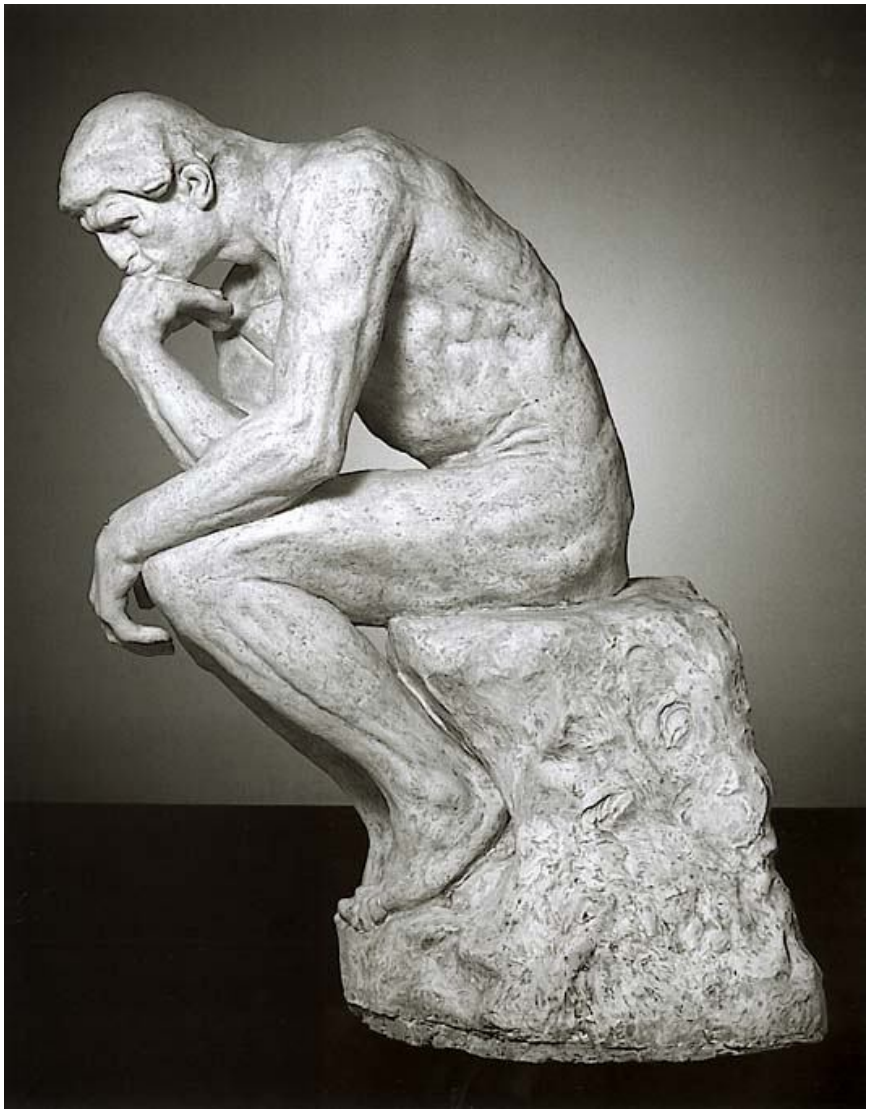
- **How to revive civic society and local democracy**
- **Improving public services**
- **Promoting work and enterprise, especially in deprived areas**
- **Strengthening local accountability**



Empowerment – some tricky concepts

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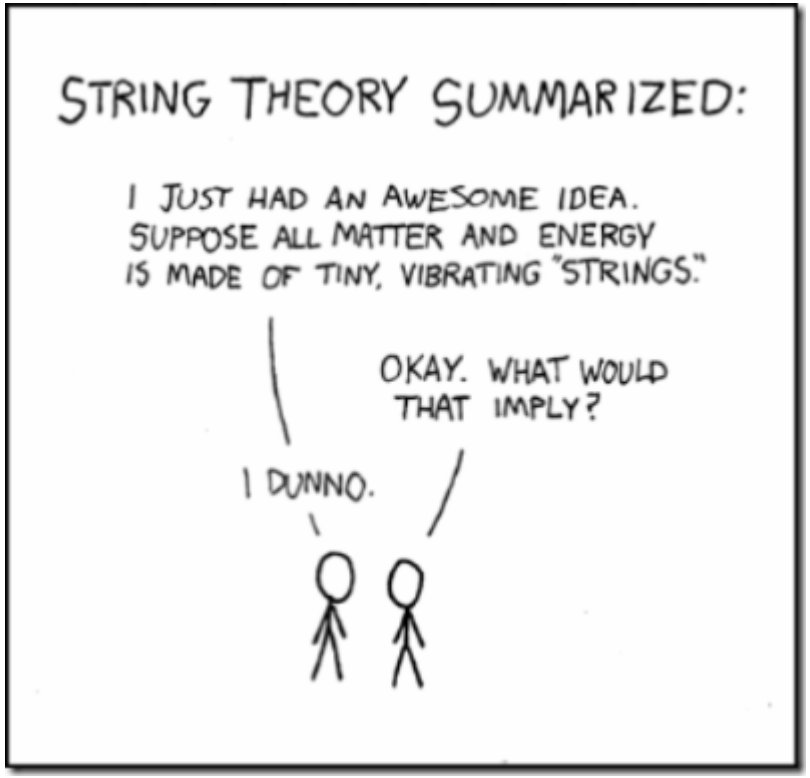

- **Subjective - extent to which people feel they have influence over local conditions and decisions**
- **Collective efficacy – petitions**
- **Co-production – involvement of third sector in service delivery**

Empowerment and consultation

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- **Using community champions**
- **Real issues**
- **Partnership-wide consultation**
- **Doing it at the right local level**

Empowerment and consultation

- Using ICT where appropriate
- Using Compact principles
- Being clear on whether this is information or decision making
- Feeding back

Empowerment and consultation

- Being creative
- Trying to reach different groups
- Using consultation as stepping stone to jobs
- Safe spaces

Is consultation alone enough?

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- **What if you only get the usual suspects**
- **What if democratic representatives feel threatened**
- **What if those consulted don't give – or get - the right answer**
- **Reaching hard to hear groups**