Promoting local democracy - Involving and reconnecting communities

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Sustainable Community Strategy

A diverse, enterprising, learning, accessible and sustainable borough.

A 2030 vision for North Tyneside

Engagement

To increase, engagement, cohesion and social capital in North Tyneside

Closing the gap

No one disadvantaged by where they live. A quality of life better than most of England

Building for the future

Groundbreaking physical investment. To deliver quality of life

Transformation

Service, people, customer culture change

A programme to transform the organisation and deliver the resources to implement our plan for North Tyneside

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Social Capital
- the fuel that makes **local** regeneration sustainable

knowing and empowering your community

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What is social capital?

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Does social capital matter?

- Trust facilitates social transaction
- Problems solved through co-operation
- Sounding board for values and ideas
- Provides social address book

Why is social capital important?

- **High social capital can be good for children's behaviour, development and educational success**
- **Areas with high social capital are cleaner, safer and friendlier**
- **People who are active in their community or belong to groups and clubs tend to enjoy better health**

National indicator 4 –

The % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their area

The need to be clear

What type of social capital do you need to build?

- Bonding
- Bridging, and
- Linking

Making the connection..

- Labour 2006 - double devolution aimed to empower individuals and communities

- Conservatism - Broken Britain was/is a key policy narrative

"Policy makers need to be as concerned with levels of General Well Being – as they are with GDP, wellbeing is the challenge of our times."

'D.Cameron 2006'

..At all levels

- Regional capacity building
  - Sounding board events (NEEP and RIEP)
  - Regional good practice
  - Integration of neighbourhood policing and management
  - Evidence of links: regeneration, social capital and community engagement

Neighbourhood policing - Neighbourhood management

- The police are doing NHP well
- Some have seen the opportunity to integrate
- The case for integrated neighbourhood management is yet to be made.

Sustainable local regeneration projects

- Case studies of local regeneration projects
- Effective community engagement develops linking social capital, enabling communities to influence decision-makers.
- Linking social capital generated as a result regeneration projects can have wider more lasting benefits

Implications for local agencies

- Wellbeing powers Local Government Act 2000/Power of Competence?
- Community facing schools
- Public open space
- Community hubs
- Community engagement
- Community policing

To engage the people of North Tyneside in shaping their future

Assertive Citizens – Empowered Communities

National government pilot - Empowering People - North Tyneside

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Empowerment
The five point plan

- Engagement as a first principle of decision making
- Nurturing community assets
- Embedding integration and cohesion
- Commitment to neighbourhood working
- Council programme of engagement

North Tyneside Vision

"Our communities are buzzing with activity, people are confident and motivated to make where they live a great place. Our social networks interact and build on solid community foundations and great partnership working. Our communities influence the shape of our borough"

Tenants lead the way

- 200 tenants shape their service
- Setting the direction of standards
- New tenant involvement compact

Residents panel

- Developing our Anti-social Behaviour Strategy
- Roads and pavements Participatory budgeting
- Sports and Leisure

Young people

- Young Mayor
- 50 member Youth Council
- 4000 children/young people shape the Children's Plan
- 'Area Youth Forums – Connected to Region
- Young People's Well Being Fund – 'The Dosh Posse' assess applications
- Detached youth work – Phoenix Project

Wallsend park

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Senior management volunteering scheme

State of the area events, now developing area forums to take participatory budgeting further

Partners in Cabinet

Young Mayor, Cabinet and Youth Area Forums

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Recommendations

- Measurement and evaluation
- Training and support
- Improvement
- Community focused citizen governance

Lessons to learn

- Include communities in change at the beginning - listen to what they are telling you

- Don’t be too rigid, the outcome may not be what you expect - go with the flow as far as you can

- Develop the natural leaders in your community and facilitate those who are initally shy

Lessons to learn

- Partnership is everything
- Communities are the expert in their neighbourhoods
- People don’t expect the earth, explain the constraints and they may very well come up with a solution

Questions