# The Role of Peer Challenge in Locality Self-Evaluation

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**Or**

**What does it look like to a critical friend (for people) to live here, do business or visit (this place)?**

**Now (assessment) and future prospects (improvement plans)**

# Coverage

- Area Assessment
- Hambleton position and experience
- Messages

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# Area Assessment

- Quality of partnership delivery against local (Sustainable Communities) priorities

The questions are

- Can this this be addressed for both people and places across the spatial geography of large (County) areas?

and/or

- Is there the quality time to do it within the assessment regime?

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# Role of Strategic Partnerships

- In two tier areas – area assessment = County/LAA level

- County partnerships can not drive outcomes without coordination and partnership with District based LSPs

Questions

- Should District based LSPs have a sense of there own local area assessment?
- Can the key questions be answered without this input?

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# Hambleton Position

- Some form of peer review of the LSP a consideration –
  - developmental and
  - concern that contribution to local quality of life issues being underplayed
- IDeA pilots were an opportunity
- Not picked up initially but later in the pilot process

# A local area assessment with peer challenge

- Self awareness and external challenge as ingredients of continuous improvement
- Captures the story – successes and areas for improvement
- Focused on partnership agenda not any one partner

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# A local area assessment with peer challenge

- Gave focus to outcome based improvement planning not available from CAA Area Assessment
- A learning opportunity form others ‘in the field’
- Why wait to be inspected or assessed?
- Done well it provides evidence based challenge – to learn and improve

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# Hambleton Experience

- Assessment and review owned by the whole partnership
- Tells the LSP story against local priorities
- Identifies the value added
- Dedicated independent resource to lead, coordinate and challenge the draft
- Not a District Council assessment

# Hambleton Experience

- ‘LSP champions’ to provide views, evidence and meet deadlines
- Short timescale to compile
- Self evaluation started to identify the gaps for improvement action
- Strengthened role of partners

# Hambleton Experience

- Peer Team had the mix of skills required
- Review focused on chosen areas informed by highest priorities (economic downturn, active participation in health activities, affordable housing and homelessness)
- External review provided reality check - challenged the assessment and evidence
- Openness of partners

# Hambleton Experience

- Intense process
- Strengths and areas for improvement established in a  short time
- Review sharpened up the improvement plan
- Trigger for change and renewed energy
- Follow up support on challenging the final improvement plan

# Final messages

- Positive sector lead practice – both the local area assessment, peer challenge and improvement plan
- Honesty is the only policy
- Good experience for the LSP
- Community recognition gives it status

# Final messages

- Local and County based area assessment strikes a balance
- Evidence for the assessors they should not have to repeat
- Too resource intensive?– do it to the Community Plan cycle, annual reporting etc
- Self regulation we can cope with but use it
- Does it reduce the burden of assessment?