

Reading list

Background: putting community leadership into context

- [*The community paradigm: why public services need radical change and how it can be achieved.*](#) New Local (2019). This report highlights that prevailing 'State' and 'Market' paradigms for the design and delivery of public services have left people across the country feeling like passive clients of services rather than active participants in their local areas. It calls for a new and radical shift towards a 'Community Paradigm', with increased civic participation and greater collective responsibility for improving neighbourhood outcomes. The authors argue that this will only be achieved when a process of genuine devolution of both power and resources to communities is undertaken.
- [*Think big, act small: Ostrom's radical vision for community power.*](#) New Local (2020). Distilling insights from the work of Nobel prize winning economist Elinor Ostrom, this report produces a set of core principles for the community power agenda. These include: Locality, that decision making systems be designed for specific places; Autonomy, to ensure that the rights of communities to create and run local systems are respected; and Diversity, where acknowledgement of the differences of each community fosters varied solutions to local problems.

Community and neighbourhood governance

- [*Double devo: the case for empowering neighbourhoods as well as regions.*](#) Onward (2021). Double devolution makes the case that strengthening the UK's governance arrangements must look beyond Britain's cities and regions to community and neighbourhood governance. It considers the role of town and parish councils, and ways to empower them to level up the communities they represent.
- [*Impacts of Neighbourhood Planning in England \(Executive Summary\).*](#) Parker, G., Wargent, M., Salter, K., Dobson, M., Lynn, T. and Yuille, A. (2020). This report for the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government reviews the neighbourhood planning system. It finds that although neighbourhood planning provides clear benefits to communities and the built environment where conditions are supportive, there are burdens and obstacles that require addressing. Issues deserving further attention are found relating to support and funding for communities embarking on the planning process.
- [*People power: findings from the commission on the future of localism.*](#) Localism Commission (2018). Locality, in partnership with Power to Change, established the Commission on the Future of Localism in 2017, to consider how to reinvigorate the localism agenda. Over nine months, the commission gathered evidence from community leaders, organisations and policymakers, identifying the need for action across the four domains of localism: institutions, powers, relationships and community capacity, and ultimately making proposals in each.
- [*Taking back control of our streets.*](#) New Social Covenant Unit (2022). A collaboration with Locality and Create Streets, this New Social Covenant Unit paper argues that we need to allow communities a greater say in local development. This includes an extension of neighbourhood planning to give communities more powers; promoting community ownership; and encouraging developers to build better homes. It suggests that the implementation of its proposals would secure more much needed houses.

- [*Trusting the people: the case for community-powered conservatism*](#). Baillie, S., Cates, M., Fletcher, N., Gideon, J., Gullis, J., Howell, P., Mayhew, J., Milla, R., Mullan, K. and Stevenson, J. – members of the New Social Covenant Unit (2021). Ten newly elected Conservative MPs published this paper on ‘community power’ in collaboration with the New Social Covenant Unit. It argues that trusting local people could produce striking results: from transforming public services, improving economic outcomes to building stronger, more resilient communities.
- [*We’re right here campaign*](#). A national campaign to shift power to communities, *We’re Right Here* is driven by six community leaders committed to improving the areas where they live and work. The campaign is calling for a Community Power Act, a major piece of legislation which would establish three new community rights: a community right to buy; a community right to shape public services; and a community right to control investment.
- [*Why don’t local people have a greater say in their neighbourhoods?*](#) The Conversation (2019). Professor Gavin Parker, who led the review of neighbourhood planning on behalf of MHCLG, gives an overview of the neighbourhood planning process and some of the challenges it poses for communities. He ends with some tips for local people thinking of producing a plan, and stresses how important it is to develop and maintain strong relationships with key partners at every stage.

Case studies in local government ‘next practice’

- [*A citizen-led approach to health and care: lessons from the Wigan Deal*](#). The King’s Fund (2019). Public services in Wigan have been through a process of major transformation, based on the idea of building a different relationship with local people. This new approach to delivering services has become known as the ‘Wigan Deal’. It has resulted in substantial public savings while protecting or improving outcomes. This report evaluates the ‘Deal’ and highlights what can be learned from this innovative experiment in ‘asset based’ working and how it can be applied to different contexts and geographies.
- [*Big Local relationships with public agencies*](#). Local Trust (2022). This report uses the Big Local programme to understand how communities relate to four different types of public agencies: local authorities, housing associations, school and health agencies. As well as looking at the outcomes and effectiveness of these relationships, the research looks at how communities and public agencies can work best together, now and in the future.
- [*Y2: Building a participatory ecosystem in Barking and Dagenham through the Every One Every Day initiative*](#). This report outlines the experience, learning and data emerging from the Every One Every Day initiative, a unique systems approach to creating resident participation at scale across the borough of Barking and Dagenham. The premise is that local residents can make their neighbourhoods better places to live, and so with Every One Every Day, residents co-design every project, co-produce every outcome, and are at the front line of the evaluation process.