

Appendix 1. Connected Communities - Connected to Decision Making

Stakeholder	Benefit / Outcomes
Cheshire East Communities	<p>Improved Public Health outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased physical activity • Increased levels of healthy eating • Reduced levels of obesity • Reduced smoking prevalence • Reduced levels of harmful drinking and binge drinking • Improved emotional health and wellbeing <p>Reduced health inequalities: The total funding of £400,000 was targeted at communities in Cheshire East with highest levels of health inequalities, with the aim of reducing disparity.</p> <p>Increased community engagement: Our communities have been engaged in the whole process which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-designing our local PB model 'You Decide' • Developing local project proposals to meet local needs and to build on our local assets • Presenting project proposals to local residents and communities during Decision Days • Voting on projects which most meet local need • Playing a role in the monitoring and evaluation of commissioned projects. <p>Increased community empowerment and democracy: Our communities/residents have been given the power to make funding decisions based on their perceptions of local need. As such PB has encouraged more people to take an active part in their community, therefore, offering greater community cohesion, as diverse people, sometimes meeting for the first time, make decisions together. This in turn empowers them to take positive action themselves e.g. by developing their own projects, resulting in greater ownership by the community over their area.</p> <p>Increased community capacity: The PB process has provided resources and supported the development of activities, which have strengthened the skills, abilities and confidence of our residents and local community groups to take effective action and leading roles in the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Cheshire East PB model • community based public health projects • and Local Community Networks. <p>Ultimately, communities with capacity are more confident, organised, cohesive and influential, and mean that community members are likely to enjoy a better quality of life.</p> <p>This means Cheshire East communities will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work more effectively with public bodies to come up with solutions to problems or opportunities • do more to set up and run projects or initiatives • encourage people to support each other. <p>Better understanding of the complexities of setting public budgets and choosing between competing priorities, in a time of financial restraint and tough budget</p>

	<p>choices. PB can be used to prioritise budgets and target resources more effectively at key services. Involving the community not only gives them greater understanding of the financial situation, but enables them to be part of the solution.</p> <p>Connected communities: A key area of feedback that we have received from our local residents is that they feel more connected as a result of attending Decision Days in their communities. PB has enabled residents to understand more about what assets are available locally, including projects, organisations, facilities, services, people etc.</p>
Voluntary and Community Groups /Organisations (VCOs)	<p>Capacity building for smaller VCOs: Supporting groups and organisations who don't have the capacity and infrastructure to participate in a higher tier of commissioning and more formal tender processes. Access to PB Grants has enabled VCOs to grow, develop and potentially be able to access and participate in wider commissioning opportunities in the future. Monthly support sessions have been established in some areas to support development of VCO with governance, funding etc. Already a number of new groups have benefitted from these drop in sessions run in partnership with Communities Team and CVS.</p>
Councillors	<p>Strengthening and renewing democracy: PB builds relationships between residents, councillors and officers; providing a stronger role for councillors as community leaders and demonstrating transparency and accountability to local people. This in turn develops mutual trust and confidence in representative democracy and encourages more people to take an active part in their community.</p>
Commissioners	<p>Increased insight and understanding of local needs via 'meaningful' consultation and engagement: through closer relationships and engagement with local residents and communities, especially with expenditure cuts requiring difficult decisions to be taken. PB techniques can be valuable in determining the opinions of residents, business or other stakeholders.</p> <p>Asset Mapping: Commissioners now have a greater knowledge and understanding of local assets, with closer relationships with the market, particularly smaller VCOs who have less capacity to engage in formal procurement/tender processes.</p> <p>Market Development: Capacity building for VCOs supports them to become commission ready, and more able to partner with larger infrastructure organisations or lead tenders themselves. This creates greater competition in the market, higher quality tender submissions, and therefore higher quality service provision. This also supports commissioning requirements of the Social Value Act in terms of building the local market, employment, and local CVOs etc.</p> <p>Community Based Commissioning Guidance: The PB programme is a key element of the Cheshire East Connecting Communities Strategy, and plans are in place to use the learning from PB to inform the development of a Community Based Commissioning Guidance. Learning from the local PB programme is currently being used to develop plans to engage communities in the decision making processes for the re-commissioning of tendered Substance Misuse Services.</p>