

A Framework for Regional Investment in Wales: A proposal for a community-led local development approach

The Welsh Government is committed to a community-led local development approach, so communities and local people are empowered to develop their own solutions and are effectively engaged in determining how investment is targeted and how community assets are used within their local area.

Community-led local development is a mechanism for delivering the four priority areas and cross-cutting themes and helping achieve national and regional goals from a community level up.

The approach will be pan-Wales, place-based applied effectively in urban, rural, post-industrial and coastal areas. There will need to be funding available to help build capacity, provide seed funding for pilots and support the mainstreaming of successful projects.

The future model will be based on the following principles:

<i>Local area-based approach</i>	Solutions are adapted flexibly to meet their diverse needs and opportunities - at the right time and place.
<i>Partnership participatory approaches and co-production</i>	Co-responsibility and ownership. No one interest group e.g. public/private/third sector dominates. The partnership mobilises the knowledge, energy and resources of local people.
<i>Integrated multi-sectoral strategies</i>	Actions reinforce each other and build on the strengths of the area. Linkages are improved horizontally with other local stakeholders & vertically with other levels in delivery / supply chains.
<i>Innovation</i>	In a local context, the method generates new ways of thinking and doing - new markets, new products, services, ways of working and social innovation..
<i>Networking and co-operation</i>	Local areas and communities network & co-operate, learn from each other, share best practice and find allies for strengthening their position in a global context.

Communities will be empowered to identify needs and opportunities. Communities will be engaged as part of a circular approach with others as part of a local strategy.



A funded outreach and empowerment function, facilitated by a local partnership, is crucial to engage, empower and enable local people to co-produce innovative solutions. Local partnerships must establish progression routes for successful initiatives, including sharing learning and training and networking opportunities with other partnerships across Wales, the UK and internationally.

Often community-led local development projects take years to achieve outcomes, for example, job creation. Monitoring and evaluation methods must take into account this longer-term timeframe to achieve outcomes.