

The power of community

Tony Armstrong. Chief Executive, Locality
[@antlondon](#)



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Locality

We believe in the power of community to create a fairer society.

We know that local community organisations help create successful and self-confident neighbourhoods and support local people

We support community organisations to be strong and successful





Our network has huge strength, reach and influence



More than
600
community
members



7,000
supporters have
signed up to join
our movement

Combined
income of
£372
million



More than **150**
associate members
including local authorities,
housing associations, private
businesses, academic
institutions and individuals

Combined
earned
income of
£261
million

The network
owns
£779
million
worth of assets



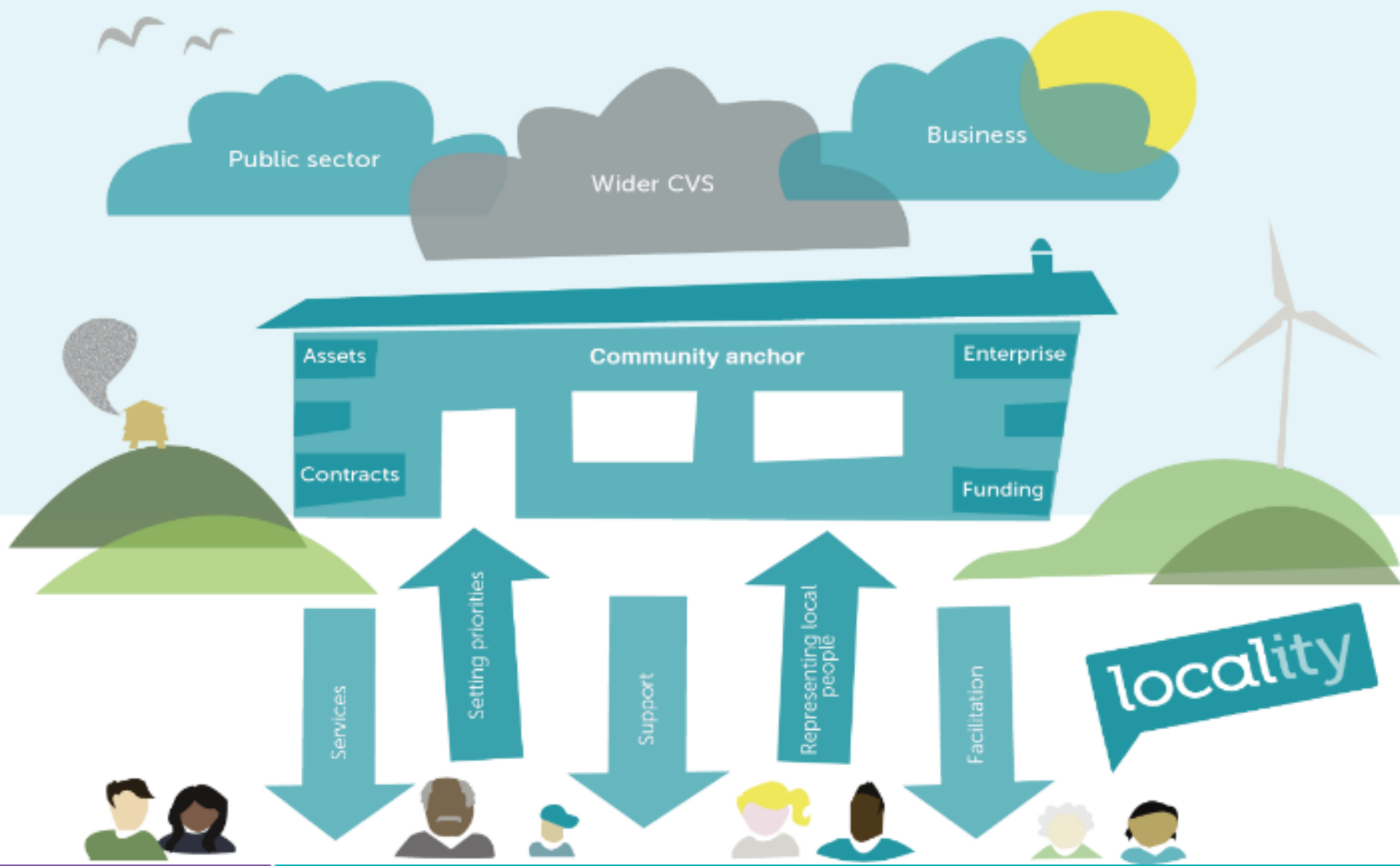
Our network mobilises the talents and
passions of thousands of local people, building
community pride and self-determination

Our network employs **10,900** staff

Our network has mobilised **33,500** volunteers who work

340,000 hours a week – that's a total value of **£196m**
per year

Community anchor organisations



What we do





**The context:
Global trends**

Long-term UK austerity

2010 Long term budget set to reduce overall public spending by 10.1%

Councils hardest hit – local government funding cut 49% so far

IFS 2015: 'easy efficiency savings have been identified and delivered, while demand and wage pressures continue to increase'

2018 First Local Authority (Northamptonshire County Council) effectively goes bust.





Brexit

Lack of “bandwidth” for ANYTHING else
Uncertainty

Toxic divisions

Key concerns for our members

- Community cohesion
- Economic inclusion
- Stronger local decision making

Practical issues unresolved:

- Funding
- Exchange programs
- Economic support
- Procurement/ state aid rules



“People are just that tired... they’ve seen that no one’s been listening to them.”³

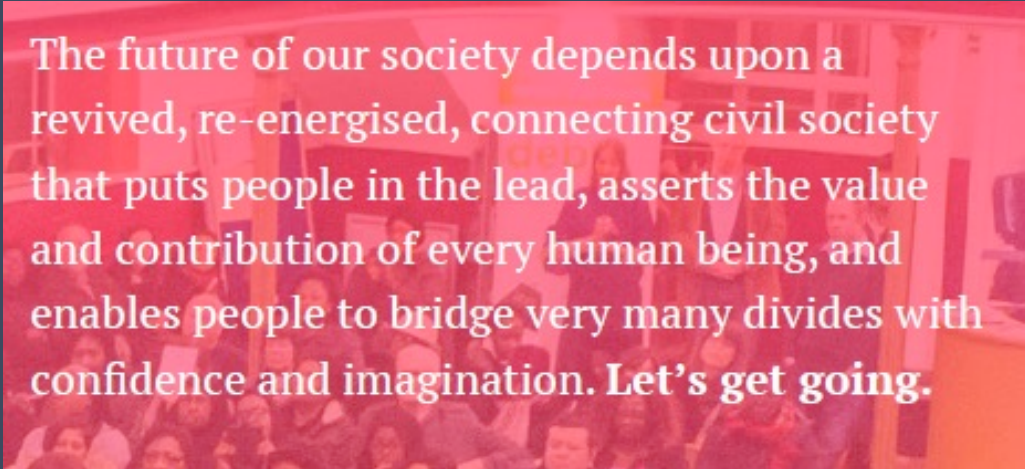
“My hope is that civil society is part of the fabric of a future Britain.”²

**“I’d like to see more power being given to the people.”⁴
“[We need] a punk era.”⁵**

“People can’t volunteer if they have to feed their children.”⁶

“How can we rise to the challenge - what are the moonshots of today?”⁸

“It’s about being brave - change is coming, we can either let it happen to us or be in front of it.”⁷



The future of our society depends upon a revived, re-energised, connecting civil society that puts people in the lead, asserts the value and contribution of every human being, and enables people to bridge very many divides with confidence and imagination. **Let’s get going.**

We believe in the **power of community** to create a fairer society.

What does it mean?

- Economic power
- Decision making power
- People powered services
- Attitude!

Economic power: Community ownership

Community ownership can unlock the power of community. It creates genuine community control, strengthens the local economy, supports community-led regeneration and transforms local services.

It can strengthen organisational balance sheets enabling greater inward investment in an area.

And provides independent income for community organisations strengthening their status.





GRAND
OPENING OF
OUR NEW











The assets in community hands

Community centres, managed workspace, function rooms, industrial buildings, visitor centres, health centres, shops, marina, sports facilities, training facilities, shops, cafes, cinemas, radio stations, TV stations, nightclubs, pubs, housing, green space, car parks, community centres, live/work space, health centres, hotel, nursery, transport (buses, bikes, trains) wind turbine, hydro dams, restaurant, arts centre, recycling centres, chocolate factories, jam factories, textile factories, swimming pools, piers, and a mortuary, a prison, and a bomb bunker (all non-operational...)

How much community control?



Low level of community control

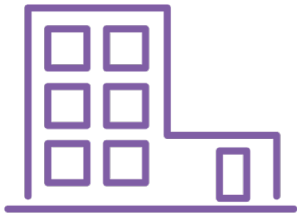
Community **consulted about** assets

Community **permitted to use** assets

Community **managing** assets

Community **owning** assets

High level of community control



Moving assets from public and private sector to community ownership



Community Asset transfer:

Local Government can transfer assets to community organisations below market value



Community Right to Bid:

Legal powers for community to register Assets of Community Value and trigger a 6 month moratorium on private sales

Our campaign

Save our
Spaces



Our valued community spaces and buildings face an uncertain future. And there are risks in community ownership

- Community ownership is a powerful tool. But there is a lack of funding and support for communities to do this.
- Need more powers for local communities as local govt has a lot of the power
- We are providing training and support for councils to adopt community asset transfer
- Austerity pressures on local govt leading to threat of closure or sales...



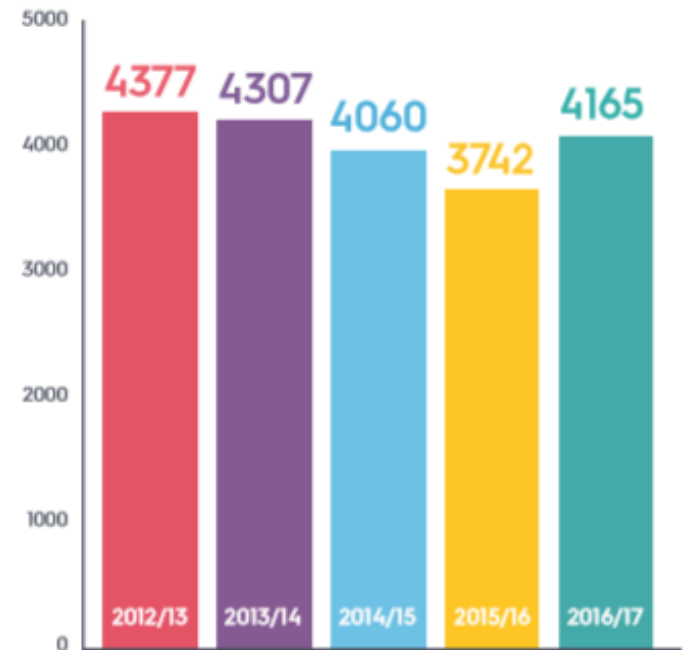
We are losing approx. 4000 publicly owned assets each year



4,131

average number of publicly owned buildings and spaces sold off each year

The rate of sale has been consistently high over the last five years



What we are calling for

Save our
Spaces



1. Central government to kickstart a central Community Ownership Fund
2. Revised legislation to give communities a genuine 'right of first refusal' when buildings with community potential are being sold on the open market
3. For every local authority to establish and embed a Community Asset Transfer strategy and support communities with the process
4. And more protection for existing community owned projects





Powerful communities, strong economies and great public services

Community organisations play a unique role in the local service landscape:

- They know the place and the people
- They are committed, passionate and there for the long-term
- They are adaptable, cost-effective and responsive





Every £1 of income generated by Halifax Opportunities Trust at Jubilee Children's Centre **creates £2.43** for the local economy



Every £1 of income generated by Bradford Trident **creates £2.52** for the local economy.



A study of **10 Locality members** by NEF Consulting found they collectively **enabled approximately 1,400 jobs** and **approximately £120m of gross value added** to the local economy.

The trend towards scale in public services

- Unprecedented challenges facing councils – shrinking budgets and rising demand
- Many have sought savings through outsourcing services at scale
- This means mega contracts with huge companies and predatory non profits
- Now suffering the consequences of “scale fail”





Scale fail...

- Poor quality, tick box services that don't deal with people's problems at source
- Locked into rigid, long-term contracts
- Expensive legal proceedings when things go wrong



“Failure demand”

- Locality’s research with Vanguard found that eight people with drug or alcohol dependency presented to GPs a total of 124 times.
- Broader analysis from Vanguard suggests that failure demand accounts for 80 per cent of demand into health and social care services.

The benefits of keeping it local

- Drive down long-term pressure on the public sector
- Help commissioned services add up to more than the sum of their parts
- Spread risk across range of smaller, simpler contracts
- Ensure precious public resources invest in local economy rather than leaking out



The risks

Should communities have to do everything? Can people live their lives without having to run local services?

Suspicion of Government support for communities to have more control-devolution of cuts

Are communities providing a fig leaf for ideological state withdrawal?

Community run \neq free

Devolving budgets can mean entrenching inequalities



Four things councillors can do to Keep it Local



1. **Show leadership.** Commit to being a 'Keep it Local Council' and make maximising the local impact of your services spend a key part of your council's political identity. With strong leadership from you in place, Keep it Local practice can then flow downwards through the system, be realised in commissioning frameworks, and be properly monitored and scrutinised.



3. **Be ambitious about social value.** Social value legislation has not been a game changer so far – but has potential to go much further. Make the most of the opportunity that social value provides to harness the contribution local organisations make to the local economy. You can do this by using Locality's Keep it Local: Economic Resilience Framework.

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Four things councillors can do to Keep it Local



2. **Join up the system.** Our research has identified that commissioning remains fractured and disconnected, in particular the relationship between 'innovative' commissioners and 'risk averse' procurement officers. Councillors need to show leadership and provide political cover for officers to try new approaches, so we can join up the system and embed a consistent place-based approach.



4. **Help community organisations show they can step up.** We know that local authorities can be sceptical about the capacity of local organisations to take on commissioning opportunities. If you believe in your local providers, support them to tell their stories about the local impact they bring and evidence the extra bang for buck they provide.

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Calderdale Council – Staying Well



The Staying Well service supports people to engage in social activities and health services in the community.

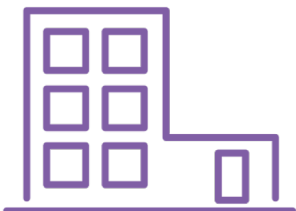


Piloted in four areas now extended to cover Calderdale. Brings together the Council's neighbourhood teams with the voluntary sector.



Supported by NHS Calderdale CCG, the service contributes to the reduction of inappropriate referrals and appointments

Plymouth City Council – One System



Created ONE system and ONE budget with CCG, PCC to create £600mn “cradle to grave” integrated fund



Whole system of service designed around the needs of people, rather than a fragmented market built around the needs of commissioners and services



Recognised commissioning disadvantaged small local providers; changed culture, use “alliance contract” for complex needs

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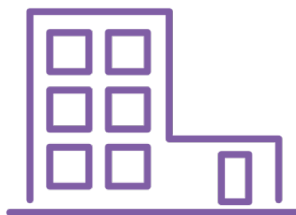
Shropshire Council – Libraries



Local commissioning and invest to save approach



£520,000 investment to redesign service, build community capacity, focus on prevention to reducing overall demand o



Libraries transformed into community hubs managed by local community orgs

People Power: Local decision making

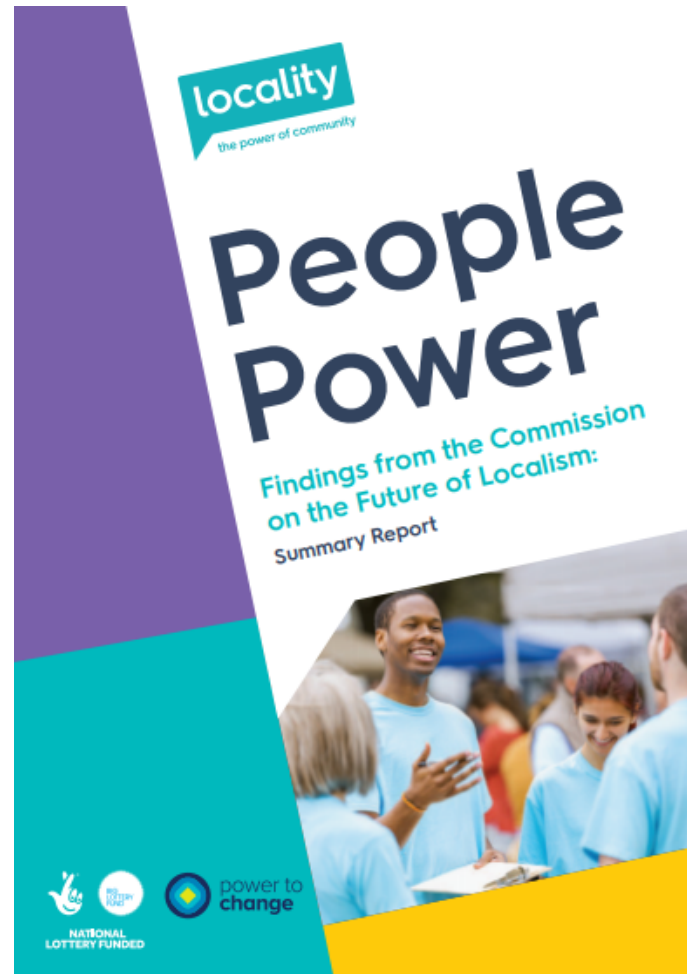
We need a fundamentally different approach to power: power doesn't belong to decision makers to 'give away' it belongs in our communities. The task of our political system should be to support and harness the power of community.



“ It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.”

Sir Winston Churchill, 1947

The Localism Commission



Challenges of representative democracy



A lack of power and control

80% feel they have not much or no control over decisions that affect the country

71% they have not much or no control over the important decisions that affect their neighbourhood and local community

70% say that Brexit will give them either the same, or even less control, over decisions that affect their local neighbourhood or community.

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The balance of power is the wrong way around

Currently has most say

25%

49%

3%

National Government

Local Government

Local People

Should have most say

3%

26%

57%

Why localism?



Policy making around place=
better social, economic and
environmental outcomes



Involvement in local action =
improved health and wellbeing



Connections and belonging
= better civic engagement and
improved community
cohesion

Building local power: key challenges



Equality in participation.



Capacity and resources.



Connections to other powers.

The future of democracy and localism needs...

- **Strong community organisations:** building capacity and participation in communities
- **Common ownership and spaces for participation**
- **Political and economic systems** to transfer meaningful power & Culture change in government and policy making





Power can no longer be viewed as belonging to decision-makers to be 'given away'. We must find a radical new way to involve people from every community, every street and every home across the country in the decisions that affect them"

Lord Kerslake, Chair of the
Commission on the Future of
Localism

Seize the power- the attitude

Don't wait for permission

Don't wait for someone else to solve something

But don't let politicians off the hook

Just bloody get on with it...

Welcome to
Centre 







