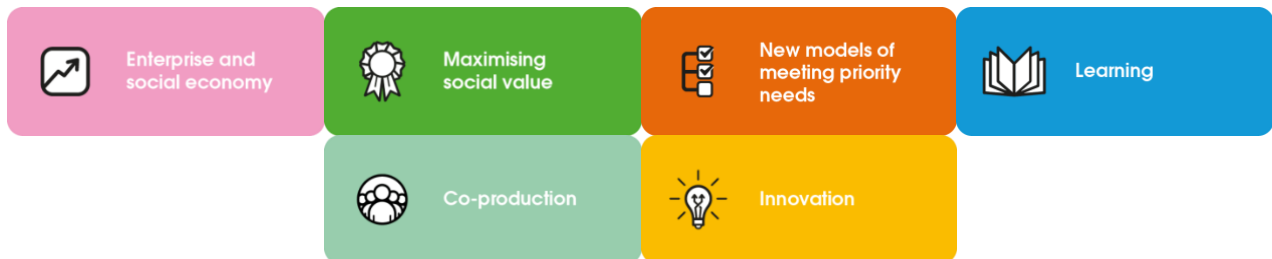


COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Stevenage Borough Council

Community Wealth Building Together



This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Summary

In July 2021, Stevenage Borough Council (SBC), were supported by the Hertfordshire Growth Board and collaborated with colleagues from all district and borough councils, as well as the county council, to convene a working group exploring opportunities to develop a partnership approach to Community Wealth Building (CWB) throughout Hertfordshire. This initial activity culminated with a successful bid to the UK Community Renewal Fund.

Background

Funding is being used to support local businesses and voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations as well as examining both the strategic planning and procurement opportunities across the county. Each district and borough in Hertfordshire have been provided with funding that they are able to utilise to deliver against the defined outputs and outcomes of the programme. In Stevenage we have been working closely with our Social Inclusion Partnership, one of the thematic groups of our wider Stevenage Together Partnership, to develop a joined up approach to CWB and the partnership itself.

Additionally, we have been working with business support organisations to provide both workshop and one to one provision for organisations to:

- Expand their reach
- Improve their ability to attract further funding
- Develop their business planning and sustainability
- Look at their sustainability
- Remove the barriers to entry for VCSE organisations in accessing this kind of business support.

Achievements to Date

- Secured over £700,000 in funding to support the development of CWB across Hertfordshire.
- Working with the Centre for Local Economic Studies to help develop understanding of CWB and Social Value.
- Alongside Dacorum Borough Council exploring opportunities to take learning from their approach to strategic planning as part of their revised Supplementary Planning Document.
- Commissioning the University of Hertfordshire, as a key local anchor institution, to work alongside us to deliver the programme's evaluation.

Next Steps

The Community Renewal Fund activities will finish by the end of the Summer 2022, with a full evaluation and further feasibility studies due to complete by the end of the year. Beyond this we will be exploring further opportunities to build on this work, especially around the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

For further information contact:

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