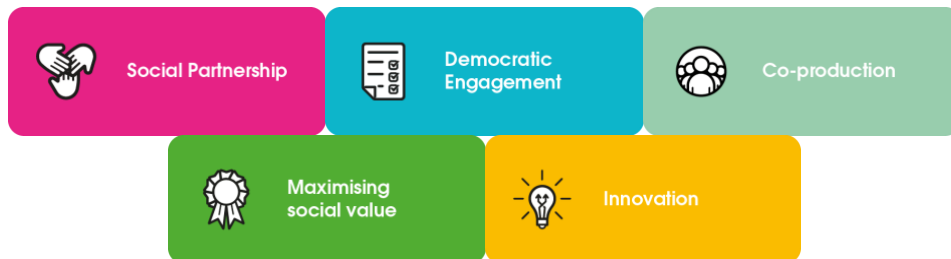




COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING



Wigan Council

Let's Innovate



There is so much talent and creativity which exists in Wigan Borough amongst our residents, local businesses, and VCFSE sector organisations. In early 2022, we launched Let's Innovate to enable local people to develop their own solutions to challenges and opportunities identified in the public sector, take ownership and determine how investment should be spent.

Inspired by the SOUP model popular in the USA, Let's Innovate is a small but powerful way of creating a collaborative situation to bring entrepreneurialism directly into communities, inspire new ideas and democratically allocate funding.

Presenters are given five minutes to pitch an idea which responds to the Let's Innovate theme and criteria that has been published in advance. Audience members are encouraged to vote for the idea they think deserves to be awarded £5,000 of investment from Wigan Council.

The Let's Innovate pitch event also provides attendees with the opportunity to meet like-minded people and presenters the chance to network where they can build connections, find new opportunities to collaborate or receive invaluable support and advice as a result.

For the first Let's Innovate event, we looked for projects which provide unpaid carers in central Wigan and the surrounding areas with the opportunity to have respite, relax, have fun, connect with people in similar situations and maintain their health and wellbeing.



Carers were actively engaged in priority setting and decision making from the outset; their feedback determined the criteria for project proposals, volunteers formed the shortlisting panel and local carers attended the pitch event to cast their vote and have their say. Together, they decided which idea would have the most impact for carers: 'Respite in the Tranquillity of Amberswood Nature Reserve' by Groundwork will support carers to enjoy and access nature and wildlife during dedicated sessions, by providing free transport to a local beauty spot, equipment, refreshments, and guides.

Let's Innovate will continue throughout the year with a new theme each time.

For further information contact:

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