Co-operative Neighbourhoods: Working Together
TO-MORROW
A PEACEFUL PATH TO REAL REFORM

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Original edition with commentary by
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FIGURE 1 French Student Poster. In English, I participate; you participate; he participates; we participate; you participate . . . They profit.
Communities in control:
real people, real power

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Cm 7427 £33.45
BIG SOCIETY
NOT BIG GOVERNMENT

Non-Zero-Sum Game

My Interests
“I Win”

Overlapping
Interests
“Win-Win”

Your Interests
“You Lose”

We are partners – we win (or lose) together
Co-operation as political opportunity

Opportunities:

• Rhetorically, community offers a positive alternative to divisive policy agendas

• Practically, a re-engagement with community provides ways of rebuilding trust and solidarity

To achieve this, we need:

1. A clear, conceptual understanding of how a co-operative inspired localism agenda differs from what has gone before

2. To share practical ways of advancing it by working together
Conceptual clarity

- Neoliberal co-operation
  - Co-operation as a substitute for state welfare
  - Co-operative housing as a route to private ownership
  - Co-operatives as removed from local democracy

- Liberal co-operation
  - Co-operatives working with, rather than instead of, the state
  - Co-operatives inform political bargaining in a pluralist democracy
  - Co-operatives as part of a mixed economy/mixed welfare model

- Communitarian co-operation
  - Emphasis on the ownership of assets and economic activity
  - A challenge to broader market activity founded in collective and democratic organisation
  - The building blocks of a new society
  - Influence of federalist models of organisation
Co-operative Council models

• Awarding public service contracts to co-operatives and social enterprises
• Joining up services and focusing them on needs as defined by users and communities
• Devolving budgets to communities and co-designing and co-delivering services with them
  • Harnessing citizens emotional and political drives to combat apathy
  • Encouraging people’s sense of collective responsibility
  • Promoting and maintaining solidarity
Questions arising

1. Should we encourage collective action by communities, and if so, how?

2. Should we promote co-design and co-delivery of services, and if so, how?
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#coopneighbourhoods

9.30 arrival and refreshments

10.00 introduction to morning session - service innovation and co-operative working in austerity

10.15 Caroline Emmerson & David Webb (CHAT Trust/ Newcastle University) – Reclaim the Lanes

10.30 Caroline Gore-Booth (Giroscope Ltd) – collaborating around self-help housing in Hull

10.40 Q & A (clarifications, initial reflections)

10.50 Alan Barlow (WIA Greening Wingrove Project) – Wingrove’s community innovation fund

11.00 Armelle Tardiveau (Newcastle University) – co-designing Fenham’s pocket park

11.10 Q & A

11.25 Coffee and pastries

11.45 Annabel Davidson Knight (Collaborate CIC) – reflections on promoting a culture change in public services

12.00 Table discussions: how can we activate communities and work together to achieve community-led outcomes? Each table is also asked to produce one question for the panel discussion

12.45 Panel Discussion guided by questions from the tables and key themes from the presentations

13.15 Lunch and networking

14.00 Introduction to afternoon session

14.10 Tony Durcan (Newcastle City Council) – digital transformation of services in Newcastle

14.20 Mark Criddle (MySociety) – some reflections on using digital to reform public services

14.30 Q & A (clarifications, initial reflections)

14.45 Rob Webb & Andy Cox (Transmit Enterprise CIC) – Poverty Spotlight as a grassroots engagement tool?

15.00 Digital Civics – digital innovation and opportunities for collaboration

15.10 Q & A

15.25 Tea and coffee

15.40 Table discussions: how digital might contribute to co-designed & co-delivered services.

16.10 feedback and future directions

16.30 Soft close, wine and opportunities for informal discussions

17.30 Close