Digital Civics

Peter Wright and Patrick Olivier

Open Lab
Research at Open Lab

• Interdisciplinary
• Human-centred, socially engaged
• Working with citizens
The Digital Civics Context

Financial Collapse

Austerity

Public Sector Cuts
The Digital Civics Context

Financial Collapse

Austerity

Public Sector Cuts

More computing power in our pockets than took us to the moon

Global digital networks

Connected citizens
The Digital Civics Challenge

What role can digital innovation play in:

Helping organisations deliver not only better but more resilient in the context of dwindling resources

Engaging citizens and communities more effectively in the design and use of digital services

Providing local solutions that scale?
Transactional and relational models of service position

Transactional models
An authority determines the need and delivers a service to citizens which is monitored for its effectiveness

Relational models
Communities can be brought together to identify their own needs, commission their own services,
The Digital Civics Programme

Funded by EPSRC “Digitally connected citizens” priority area

- Centre for Doctoral Training (55 PhD students over 5 years)
- Digital Economy Research Centre (25 Researchers)
- Newcastle + Northumbria

Partners
- Local Councils, NGOs, local communities

Application Areas

- Public Health,
- Social Care,
- Education,
- Local Democracy and Planning
Transactional to Relational: An example
App Movement: Commission your own app

https://app-movement.com/about
Other Commissioning Platforms: Event Movement

https://library.eventmovement.co.uk/home
Other Commissioning Platforms: Bootlegger
Examples of other live projects

- Refugees in Lebanon
- ParkLife Learn
- Participatory Budgeting
- Blue House Roundabout
- Solidarity Movements Athens
- Neighbourhood Planning
- Etc…

https://digitalcivics.io
Thank you

Peter Wright

Digital Civics
Open Lab