

# Community anchors – changing the dynamics of community empowerment?

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#communityempowerment



# Scene-setting 1: the community anchor organisation 'model' as 3 aspirations ...

- (1) Community-led or controlled:** robust local community governance' – Board + networks; and, financial self-sufficiency built around community ownership.
- (2) Holistic, 'inherently complex':** local economic & sustainable development; local social and welfare development: partnerships; local leadership and advocacy.
- (3) Committed and responsive to local community:** relevant to context; looking to the future; locally-credible.

In Scotland: most often ... Community Development Trust;  
Community-controlled Housing Associations

**Community sector** as 'rich, diverse and wider body' of groups and organisations ...

Empowering people and places

# Scene-setting 2: on-going research process

## **Emerging body of research on community anchors:**

- Community anchors – 2000s (New Labour)
- *Practice-based research*: Scottish Community Alliance, Development Trust Association Scotland, GWSFHA
- *University-based research*: Community housing associations (McKee, 2012); 3 in-depth case-studies (Henderson, 2014)

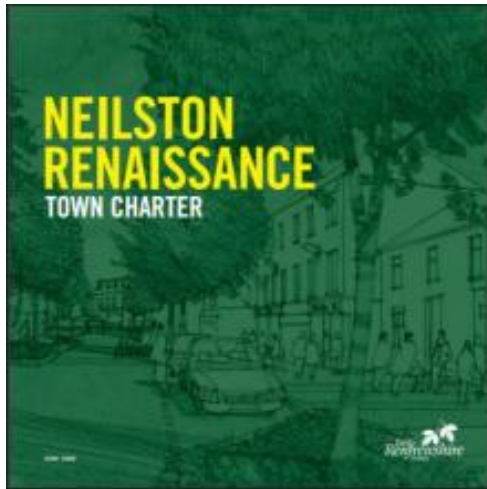
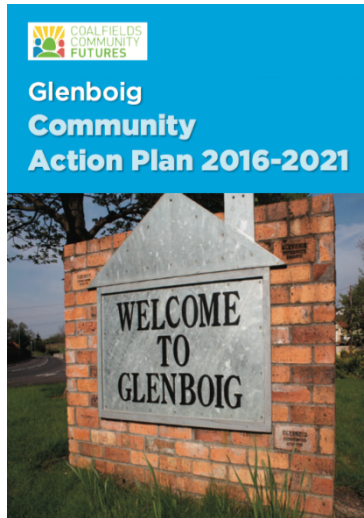
## **What Works Scotland research** (Henderson, Revell & Escobar, 2018):

- 6 exemplars – urban, rural, remote, low-income, mixed
- Advisory group – from national membership bodies
- Emphasis on wider ongoing dialogue and consultation
- Participatory, appreciative, critical, pragmatic ...

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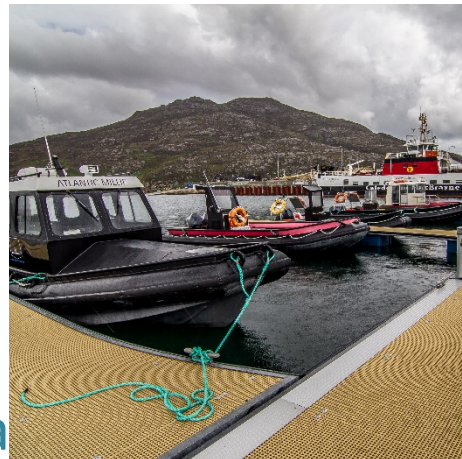
# Insight 2: imagining community-led regeneration



Empowering people and places

# Insight 3: changing the dynamic between communities and state?

*Another driver of collaboration is when citizens can see that their participation in collaborative policy formation will actually produce results and influence important decisions that affect their lives. Collaborative policymaking will be most successful when strong local and regional government capacities are matched by a strong and well-organised civil society ... Ansell et al. (2017)*



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# What next ...

- (1) **Aspiration:** potential for further action research that continues to develop and sustain 'dialogue and research' across key stakeholders – community sector, public services, policy-makers
- (2) **New Discussion Paper:** early 2019 ... building from the research and events and discussion that follow ...
- (3) **Finding funding to support this developing work ...**
- (4) **Key challenge:** are we ready to *seriously invest in networks of diverse community anchors as community-led 'hubs for local democratic, social, economic and sustainable development ...*

# Resources

- What Works Scotland Community Anchor think-piece (2015)
- What Works Scotland Community Anchor research – Report, Executive Summary, Policy & Practice Briefing (2018)
- *Next ... a Discussion Paper – early 2019*
- [whatworksscotland.ac.uk](http://whatworksscotland.ac.uk)
- [@WWScot](https://twitter.com/WWScot)

