

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION

Authorities increasingly recognise that public planning works best when the public are involved in the planning. They are working hard to build trust by engaging citizens earlier upstream in the planning process, involving residents and businesses more collaboratively in co-design processes, and taking a broader community wealth building approach to rethink how all of their activities can support and strengthen existing communities. Community Engagement and Participation placements may involve:

- Acting as a bridge between the Council and the community, identifying and bringing together community ambassadors.
- Developing strategies to give underrepresented groups a voice in the planning process.
- Building the capacity of local residents and community groups to interpret and influence changes to their neighbourhoods.
- Enabling community participation in the co-production of design proposals, masterplans and policies.
- Carrying out internal workshops and training across the Council to encourage collaborative working.
- Preparing new guidance for community engagement and community wealth-building best practice.
- Engaging local residents in proposals for new council-led housing or estate renewal, and running estate ballots.
- Establishing community engagement spaces such as urban rooms.
- Planning and delivering communication and engagement to support development of a Local Plan.
- Using models of participative democracy such as citizens' assemblies to shape major new strategies or policies.
- Supporting community wealth building and economic development of town centres in collaboration with local businesses and residents.
- Developing long-term stewardship models and supporting community management organisations.