Community-led regeneration programmes

Capital grants – key learning points

A number of key lessons have been identified for future delivery of similar community-led regeneration programmes:

Community-led regeneration projects need application support – groups need the skills and support to develop consultation methods appropriate to ascertain need and meet funders' requirements and expectations. Statutory sector applications are also often weak.

Funders need to recognise that despite investment and high uptake, there is still limited capacity in the community & voluntary sector to deliver – Oversubscription displays the need for community asset-based resources but there are consistent issues with project quality, innovation and group capacity which need addressing.

Community consultation is the key to success – a successful community consultation relating to the programme outcomes should directly feed into and inform a successful, high quality grant application.

Project development support is vital for capital projects – capital projects are very different to revenue projects, they take longer to get off the ground and require varying skills and resources. Grantees need specific development support to successfully design, deliver & maintain community-led regeneration projects.

The C&V sector needs to connect more and work in partnership to lever funding – there is often a 'mine' culture within the community and voluntary sector and funders need to encourage partnership working for the greater benefit of meeting local needs.

Northern Ireland environment link

space & place