



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

# Our Place!

## Big Society and Community Rights





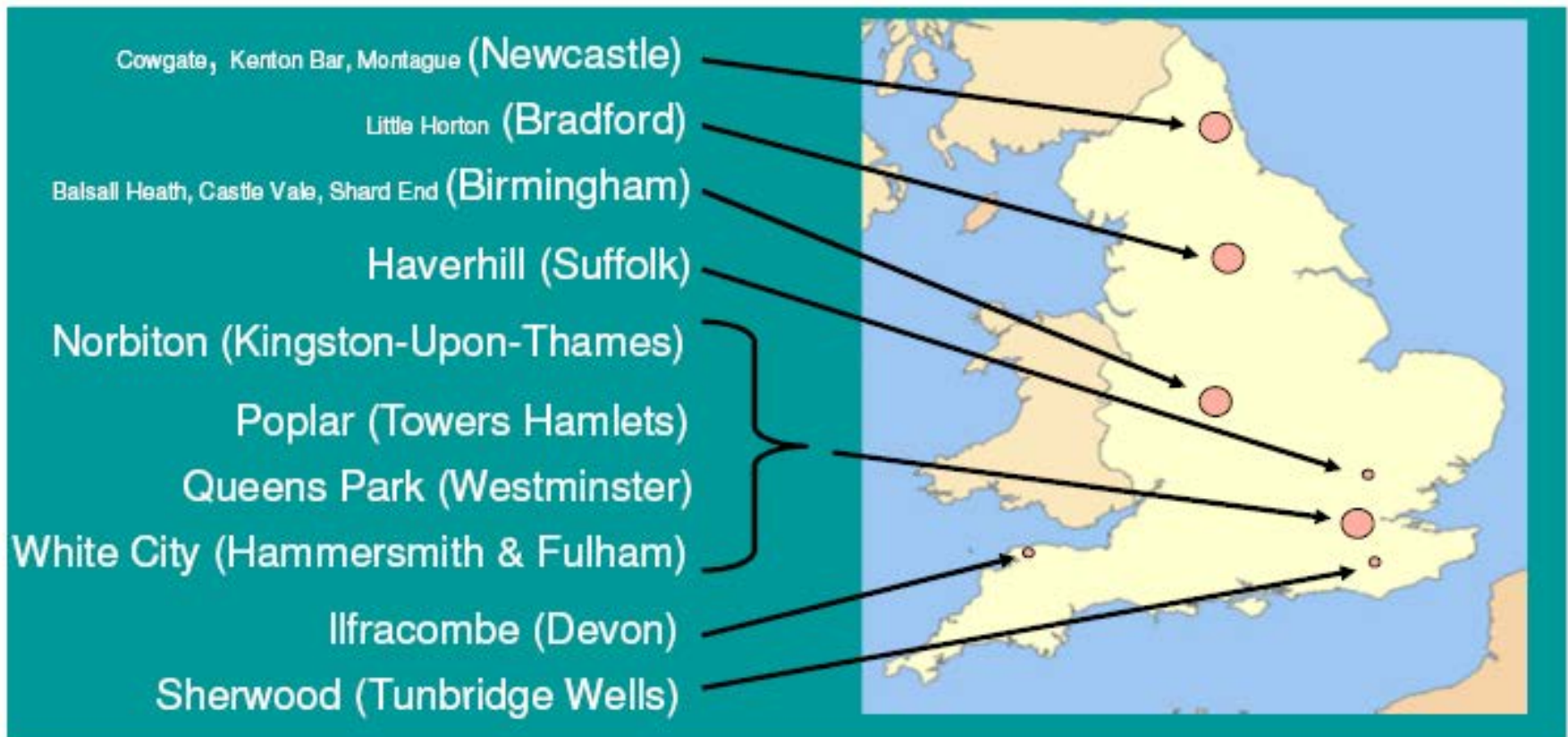
## The concept is simple....

- The **Our Place!** approach means putting the **community at the heart of decision making and bringing together the right people** - councillors, public servants, businesses, voluntary and community organisations, and the community themselves - **to revolutionise the way a neighbourhood works.**
- 12 pilot neighbourhoods have been testing this (under the name Neighbourhood Community Budgets)



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# Neighbourhood Community Budgets - supporting pioneering communities -





# The pilots were led by a range of partners up and down the country





## Developing an Our Place! approach – the ingredients

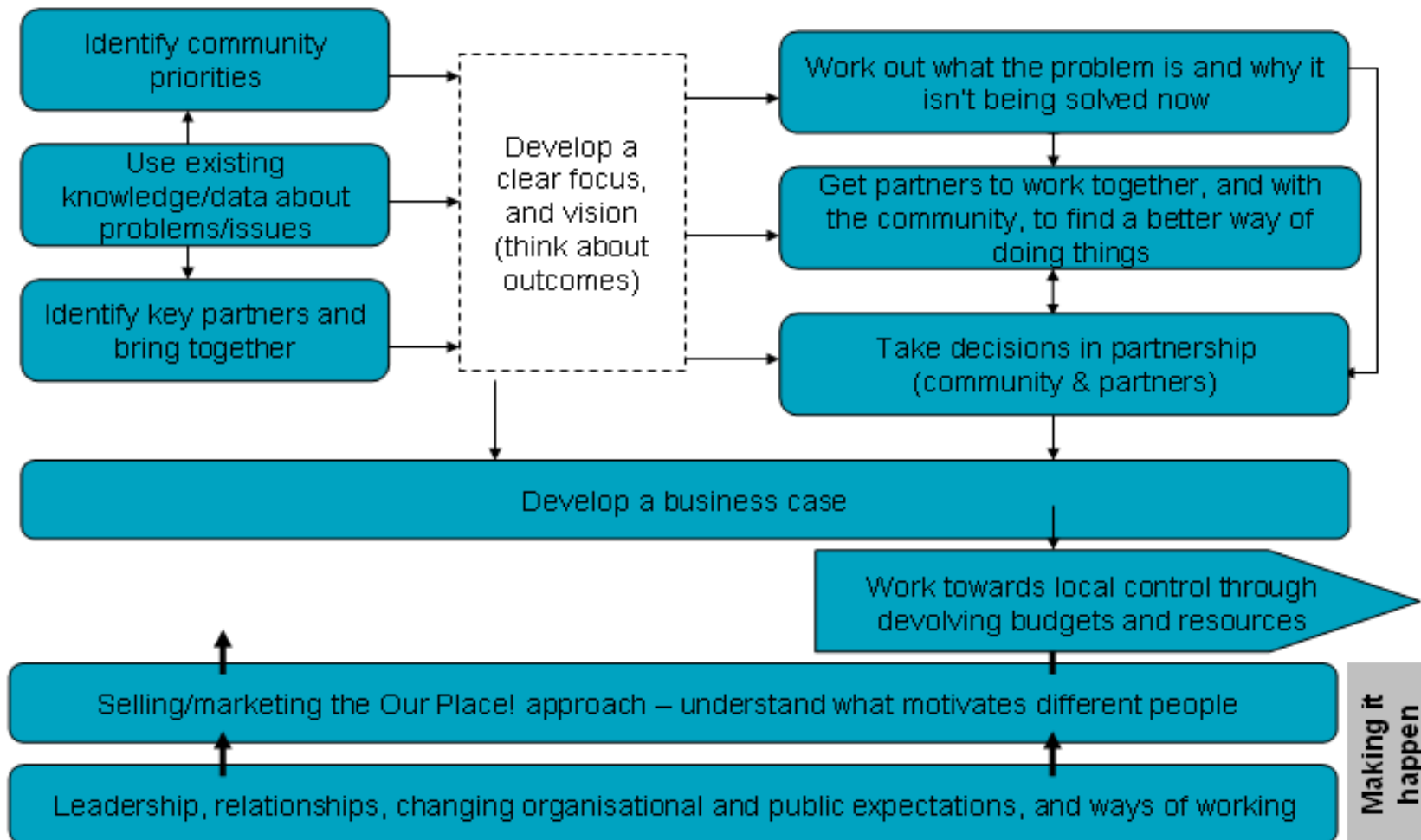
- The Our Place! pioneers used five core elements as a framework:
  - **Service definition**
  - **Resource mapping**
  - **Community involvement**
  - **Governance**
  - **Cost Benefit Analysis**



# An Our Place! approach – the building blocks

## Scoping and designing

## Establishing the building blocks





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# What we learned: Our Place! approach creates.... more powerful communities

**Communities want to be involved in and influence decisions about their neighbourhood**



**Communities are directing 'spend' in their area**

**New community role for councillors**



**Increased democratic engagement**



# What we learned: Our Place! approach generates.... better services

- **Communities are taking control of services and assets to...  
.....reduce waste**

**....tailor services to the needs of the neighbourhood**

**...and generate savings**



**Communities can help reach and influence hard to help groups**

- **Public service providers are working better together...**

**....with the community**

**....and with business**







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# What we learned: Our Place! approach makes...neighbourhood spend go further

- **Local people are coming forward to work alongside statutory services**



**Free professional support for community organisations**



- **Businesses are coming forward with 'in-kind' support**
- **New community-led social enterprises are meeting local needs and providing jobs for local people**





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## Our Place!

More information is available at:

<http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/ourplace/>

- Our Place! report
- Quick Guides
- Top Tips



## Our Place! next steps

- We want to build a movement of people taking a neighbourhood approach to tackling the issues which matter to them
- Ministers want to see at least another **100 areas** working in this way as soon as possible.
- We are making available **£4.3 million** to support other neighbourhoods – through a mix of grant and advice.



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## Our Place! Programme

- £4.3m support package (2013-14 & 2014-15)
- Mix of direct support and grant to at least 100 neighbourhoods, plus access to peer mentors, and networking opportunities
- Available to local authorities, other service providers and community organisations who have identified an issue they wish to address
- Neighbourhoods will be supported to the point of having a viable Operational Plan ready for implementation
- Aiming for the support to be as flexible as possible to reflect different starting points
- Neighbourhoods will be expected to share learning, mentor new areas and potentially become Our Place! champions



### **Timescales:**

- We have gone out to tender for a partner to run the Our Place! Support Programme
- Aim is for the support programme to be live before Christmas 2013

### **Application process – current thinking:**

- Will be an application pack & form - available on-line
- Contractor will assess applications and make recommendations to DCLG for final approval

### **Our offer leading up to Our Place! going live:**

- Advice and support from DCLG Our Place! team
- Mentoring from the Neighbourhood Community Budget pilots
- Networking events - to share learning and experience



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## Our Place! Programme

Contact us at:

[ourplace@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ourplace@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

and let us know whether you would like:

- a) to be kept up to date with Our Place! Programme developments
- b) our support in developing your proposals leading up to the Our Place! Programme going live.