

## SELF PROJECT IDEA

*'Develop more participative and sustainable local communities, using innovative, cooperative (business) models for public-private partnership and the joint provision of services and (formerly public) tasks.'*

Suffolk County Council is interested in joining the discussion with Emmen and other like-minded organisations connected with the idea of developing SELF projects for Interreg funding.

Since we are unable to attend the partner meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April, I am taking this opportunity to write with more detail about our ambitions here in Suffolk – relating to the subject of participative and sustainable communities. I would welcome the opportunity for you to feed this letter into the meeting discussion this week, and to talk with you separately about the project fit. You will see from the information below that we are interested in a transferable model that empowers communities to take over and develop services.

## WHO WE ARE

**Suffolk County Council is a local government administration organisation** (with an annual budget of €580,000,000) to represent and provide public services to 732,000 inhabitants. In the current context of reduced budgets, supporting economic recovery and managing demand for services, both now and in the future, Suffolk County Council recognises the need to change the way services are delivered. Divestment/transfer of services out of the public sector has already happened with public library provision and highways maintenance, for example.

## TRANSFORMATION PROJECTS

In order to deliver more effective, efficient and cheaper services, Suffolk is working on ten transformation projects related to different service areas – such as highways, adult care services, children's services, health and social care intervention, education, emergency services etc. Across The Local response Programme is the tenth programme which is described below

### What is the Local Response Programme, and what does it aim to do?

The Local Response programme is different from the other transformation programmes in that it could be considered an enabler and a transformation programme in its own right. As an enabler Local Response aims to support our services to deliver its community or locality functions. As a driver for transformation it is about having a co-ordinated approach to working with communities to reduce demand and support local political leadership. There are four elements which have been defined within the programme:

1. Keep need out of the system
2. Manage need in an integrated way
3. Deliver services locally – allowing for local variation
4. Provide public service leadership

### 3 Deliver services locally – allowing for local variation

The inclusion of the **Local Variation** element within the programme is a recognition that each community is different and whilst they may share issues or problems with other areas, often the activity to help solve or address these issues needs to come from within the local community itself. The starting point for this element of Local Response has been in Highways. The programme is supporting the Highways team to develop its community response as part of its broader

transformation. We are at the early stages of developing a model, based on good practice in East Sussex. The intention is to develop a model which will define and communicate effectively the core service provided by the Council through its contract and **have a clear offer of how it will support communities who might want to fund or deliver additional highways services**. The model will be co-produced with local stakeholders building on existing work that is already underway.

There is potential for the principles of Local Variation to have wider application on other county council and indeed wider public services. The starting point is Highways and public realm services, however the intention is to see if a similar model may assist other services which are targeted at individuals as well as community place based services. For example Adult and Children Care services. A dialogue has not yet commenced with these service areas but as part of Local Response there is potential to explore how we better define and communicate the core care services and then develop a model which provides a clear pathway in which individuals can be supported to 'self help'.