

# What's Big Local all about?

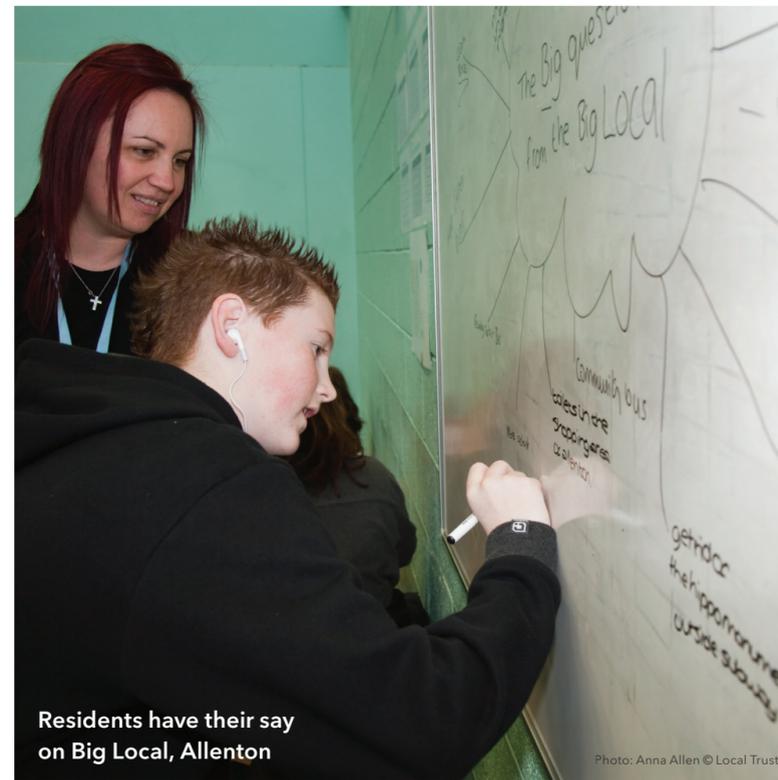


## Welcome...

...to Local Trust's brief guide to Big Local!

This guide will help everybody involved in Big Local understand what the programme aims to achieve, how it works and where to find support. In this overview you can find:

- **background** on Big Local and the organisation running it, Local Trust
- a **summary** of the Big Local pathway and the steps to make it happen
- **signposts** showing where to go for support



Residents have their say on Big Local, Allenton

Photo: Anna Allen © Local Trust

## Big Local reps

The role of a rep is to help your area achieve your vision for your Big Local area through support, advice and appropriate challenge. Rep support includes guiding your area through the Big Local pathway, often working through your Big Local partnership. The rep also represents Local Trust in your area. They report back to Local Trust and partners to make sure we use your experiences to improve how Big Local works.



To get in touch go to [www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)



## What's Big Local?

Big Local is an exciting opportunity for residents in 150 areas around England to use at least £1m to make a massive and lasting positive difference to their communities. It's about bringing together all the local talent, ambitions, skills and energy from individuals, groups and organisations who want to make their area an even better place to live.

Big Local is being run by Local Trust, which is working with the Big Lottery Fund and a range of partners providing expert advice and support for residents.

## What's it not about?

It's NOT about the government or a national organisation telling you what to do.

It's NOT about individual groups fixing their favourite problem without talking to a wide range of different people who live and work in the community.

It's NOT about short-term thinking - you've got 10 years or more to plan and deliver the best options for your area.



## Who are the key people?

You are. Unlike lots of big initiatives, this is about putting residents in charge. You have to make sure everybody in your area can input on the plans and decisions - and you get access to lots of support, including a Big Local rep - but this is basically your shout.

You have at least £1m and at least 10 years to make it happen.

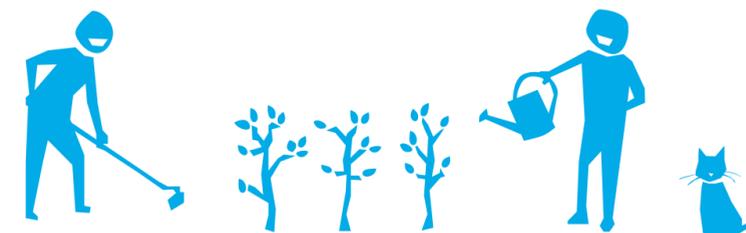
“It's a fantastic opportunity - the benefits are endless. We often see ourselves as the forgotten estate so this can give our residents the chance to improve what they want to improve and hopefully leave a legacy behind.”

Debbie Peacock  
Greatfield Big Local steering group, Hull



## Other support

You will see from our website and newsletters that there is a range of other support available to you - events to meet and share ideas with people from other Big Local areas, help with distributing funding through locally trusted organisations, opportunities for individuals to become 'star people' (residents with ideas that support and improve their area), and help with working out whether Big Local is making a difference or not.



## Who is Local Trust?



“Local Trust wants you to plan and lead Big Local in your area and we also want you to have access to the right support along the way. So remember that you can get help from your rep, from local organisations, and our website has lots of brilliant tips from people across all the Big Local areas.”

Debbie Ladds  
Chief executive, Local Trust

Local Trust is the organisation running Big Local. Big Local funding comes from a £200m endowment from the Big Lottery Fund. Local Trust's mission is to enable people to make their communities better places to live. We do this by helping them develop and use their skills and confidence to identify what matters most to them, and to take action to change things for the better, now and in the future. We provide a mix of funding and support to enable long-term sustainable change, maximise impact and make the best use of resources.

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## Contact us

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[www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

To help make Big Local a success, we ask you to follow a clear set of steps that will guide you on your journey. We have called this the **Big Local pathway**.

# Big Local pathway

Here's a summary of the pathway. Your Big Local rep will support you at each step, and the signposts point you to more detailed information and support available on the Local Trust website. [www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

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## Getting people involved

The first step is to spread the word about Big Local and make sure residents know how they can get involved. This might include creating publicity material about Big Local, using networks of community members to spread the word, using existing local newsletters or events, and finding individuals and people working in local organisations who might be interested in playing a role.



DOWNLOAD THESE GUIDES

*Start the conversation*  
*Getting Started funding (Wave 2 and 3: next 100 areas)*  
*Bringing everyone together: why diversity matters for Big Local*  
[www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

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## Exploring your Big Local vision

This is about thinking through how your area might change for the better. What do people like now? What should change? What would people like to build on? What can you do to build on what is already good about your area and the existing talents, skills and abilities of people locally?



At this stage, not everyone's vision will be the same and the idea is not to arrive at a shared vision yet but simply to create a profile of your area (what your area is like now) and, importantly, to engage a wide range of people and groups about their hopes and visions for the future.

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## Forming your Big Local partnership

Once visions have been collected, the next stage is to create a Big Local partnership to guide the overall direction of Big Local in your area. A diverse range of residents and local organisations should continue to be actively involved. All the work in steps one and two will have contributed to the development of this partnership.



The majority of partnership members will be residents, but the partnership might include people from local organisations that are involved with your area as well. Membership of the partnership will change over time in response to your Big Local activities and should be reviewed annually.

DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE

*Making Big Local happen* | [www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

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## Creating a Big Local plan

The next thing to do is to move from a range of visions and ideas to a shared long-term vision and plan. Think big! Your plan needs to build on what is already good about your area, provide community-wide benefit, respond to local needs, and explain how you will meet Big Local's four outcomes (see below).

You have at least £1m funding and your plan will propose how best to use it over the next 10 years and more.

DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE

*Spaces for everyone: the Big Local guide to environment, people and place*  
[www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

### Big Local's four outcomes

- 1 Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- 2 People will have increased skills and confidence so that they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future.
- 3 The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- 4 People will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

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## Delivering your Big Local plan

Delivering your agreed plan will involve a range of activities, such as creating a small grants programme for your area, using 'social investment' loans, and paying for specialist services like training. If you don't understand what some of these things are then don't worry – your rep can help you, and there are explanations and guides on the Local Trust website.

DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE

*Making Big Local happen*  
*Big Local guide to social investment*  
[www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

Big Local partnerships will also decide whether there are suitable locally trusted organisations who can administer the different types of funding, or whether they want Local Trust to help.



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## Collecting the evidence

Local Trust wants to ensure that your Big Local area is able to learn from and adapt your activities as you go along. This is really about taking the time to reflect on your work.

Local Trust will ask to receive reports showing key activities, achievements and funding distributed. This will help you reflect upon how things are going and ensure that you make progress towards the outcomes in your 10-year plan.

DOWNLOAD THIS GUIDE

*Checking your progress*  
[www.localtrust.org.uk](http://www.localtrust.org.uk)

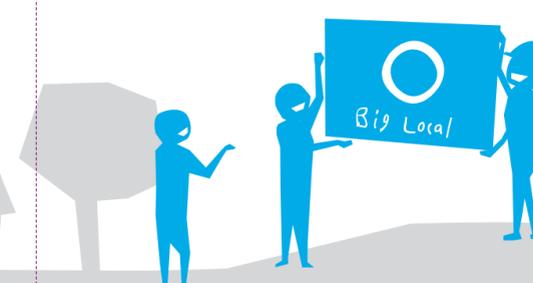


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## Reviewing your Big Local plan and partnership

The Big Local partnership and Big Local plan will be reviewed annually. This will ensure open, critical reflection on how your partnership is working to achieve the outcomes set out in your plan.

The review will check whether your plan remains relevant and continues to address your area's priorities and is meeting the Big Local outcomes.



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