

Plan review feedback for Central Boston

Thank you for submitting your plan review to Local Trust. This feedback is about your [plan review](#) process to see what you have learned, what the challenges are, the difference you have made and reflect on the legacy you have achieved in your Big Local area.

We use your plan review in the assessment process for final plans and funding agreements for your area. This helps us understand how we can support you more effectively as you come towards the end of the Big Local programme and [close out](#).

The research team will be in touch with you when you're near to finish spending, to gather your experiences of what has been achieved and learnt. This will contribute towards a lasting record of learning from the Big Local programme, to promote more investment into resident-led initiatives and better understand how Big Local works in practice. This will be a source of evidence for what works and what can be achieved for any similar community-led change projects.

What we liked about your plan review:

- It's great that you updated your community profile, making good use of the latest data on Local Insight, including the release of the 2021 Census findings. This has helped you to further your knowledge of the most up to date community needs.
- You have collected data on how many residents attended groups and activities, how many residents completed surveys and how many followers engage on social media. This recorded information is really good to track community engagement across your projects and contribute to your overall 'Big Local story' of achievements.
- You used a variety of methods and tools as part of your review, such as surveys, short quotes, and data from Local Insight. It is good to use different methods to gather feedback, to get a broad picture on how priorities are being met.

'Make It Happen' support or events that might be of interest:

- You might want to take a look at ['Practical ways for communities to navigate the energy crisis'](#) to help reduce fuel poverty for those in your community. The link contains signposting information to support, such as free leaflets and fuel vouchers.
- There is free bespoke support with the Directory of Social Change, that offers either one-off or a series of workshops on various topics, such as strategic planning and decision making. Email support@localtrust.org.uk if you'd like to find out more.

Resources available to support you:

Make It Happen support: We have developed some [‘Make It Happen’](#) support offers to support areas achieve their ambitions and for those wanting to work with some expert support partners to boost their work. We also have an [events calendar](#) where you can find out more and register for learning events and support.

Close out guidance: We have put together some [close out guidance](#) information for partnerships and LTOs regarding preparations and a close out checklist.

Supporting areas to measure change: Measuring the change that you are making in your Big Local area can be difficult, but it is important to be able to show the difference you have made. You might be measuring change already or just starting out. Wherever you are in your journey, the research team at Local Trust can offer support. [Read more here on our measuring change support.](#)

Local Trust’s website: We have a range of [tools and resources](#) on our website that can help you with your plan review, so take a look if you need some new ideas or inspiration from other areas. We update these resources and add new ones from time to time, so keep checking!

Local Insight: Local Insight allows you to access open source data on social, economic, and demographic indicators about your area. It is a useful tool for getting a broad understanding of your area, especially during the planning and reviewing stages to provide evidence of why your projects are needed and who they will help. Read the [how to use Local Insight guide](#) on our website to learn more about the site.

Free research guide for community groups: Ambition and Greater Manchester CVO have produced a useful guide to doing [research in communities](#) by community groups and local residents. It contains great tips and links to other free resources.

Local Trust’s research on Big Local: We carry out research on Big Local which you might find interesting and relevant to your area. All of the reports and summaries are available under the [research and evaluation page](#) on our website.

Sharing your research and evaluations:

If you have any reports or data from research and evaluations that you have carried out in your area in between your plan reviews, please share them with us. We are always interested in your research and in sharing information and learning across areas.

Contact the research team:

If you’d like advice or support on any of these resources or would like to talk to us about your feedback, please get in touch at research@localtrust.org.uk