

Community/University Relationships and the potential for volunteering

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Municipal Involvement in Volunteering**



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OUTLINE:

- Key idea: What are the potential futures for community/ university partnerships?
- Why are we thinking about them?
- For community based organisations – sense of hope or expectation – looking for support/resources/time.
- For some community based organisations – universities are what you walk past – engagement needs a health warning.
- For students opportunities for vocational experience through work based learning.
- For City Hall – opportunities to support existing public and welfare services.

For Universities – mixed set of motivations

- Difficult to identify one set of reasons or expectations.
- Differences according to – subject/individual staff/histories/ likely to be tension between the ‘centre’ and the ‘periphery’.
- Drivers for engagement vary from: opportunity to bring in finance/research ratings/sense of commitment and responsibility.
- Different histories of governance and management from the older universities (semi detached from localities) to more modern.
- Shift in national policy to see universities as ‘anchor institutions’.
- Decline of role and capacity of local authorities in UK – potential for universities to occupy new spaces.

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For Community Based Organisations or City Hall

- Mixed set of needs and expectations – from looking for support / resources to practical / technical guidance
- Likely that expectations are higher than can be met – why
- Draw on community development ideas and practice – preparation, clarity on needs , recognition of what you bring
- Be flexible – CBO – value of informal/networks
but City Hall – need for agreements

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For Volunteers or Students:

- Opportunities to extend vocational training and education
- Development of skills, capacities and critical reflection
- Ideas of 'citizenship' and renewal of civic institutions
- Value of links with community based organisations or not for profits – civil society as counterpoint to the market / city hall
- Promotes opportunities too for learning

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