Peak District Partnership: 2023 Think Tank

Community and Business Resilience during a time of Permacrisis

Key Findings: Community-related Challenges

- Pockets of deep-seated deprivation
- Access to education, training and employment opportunities
- Cost-of-living crisis
- Fuel poverty
- Demographic imbalance
- Food poverty
- Disproportionate impact on cost-of-doing-business on micro-businesses
- Local authorities and third sector - lack of co-ordinated approach & policy coherence to addressing challenges
- Resource stretch – capacity constraints

Key Findings: Business Community Challenges

- Cost-of-doing-business costs
- Limited availability of premises – start-up and grow-on
- Lack of infrastructure – transport and digital
- Employee expectations (work/life balance)
- Impact of cost-of-living crisis on B2C businesses
- Contraction in operations
- Short-termism, compounded by support programmes
- Business motivation – lifestyle businesses
- Focus on day-to-day survival not longer-term challenges/opportunities

Key Findings: Community-related Solutions

- Effective cross-community engagement in determining vision, proposition & messaging
- Consideration of social value and environmental impact of new initiatives/developments
- Apprenticeship Training Agency?
- Ensure resource optimisation
- Inter-generational and inter-community engagement
- Identify passionate community-based enablers
- Review of key data – review of all existing strategies to identify areas of common focus
- Learn from best practice elsewhere
- Community Wealth Building Model
  - Progressive procurement
  - Social value
  - Democratising the economy
  - Real living wage
- Co-working spaces for micro-businesses
- Rent-a-Business Model?
- Lobby at a regional/national level

Key Findings: Business Community Solutions

- Collaborative approach
  - Businesses
  - Public-private-third sector for networking and touchdown spaces
  - Common priorities and a single voice
- Cross sectoral collaborations – place-based to optimise productivity
- Collaborate at a strategic level:
  - Analysis of te business community
  - Identification of investment sites
  - Social enterprise strategy
  - Future skills strategy
  - Review of business support needs
- Anchor institution procurement policy
- Fibre connectivity