



**Good Practice**

**Objective**

<p><b>Investing in Communities project</b></p>	<p>To work closely with communities to help them develop an understanding of the planning system, what it is, how it operates and how they can get involved - specifically through a more integrated approach to Community Led Planning.</p>
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**Detail**

Using [HM Treasury Invest to Save funding](#) the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNP), working in partnership with [Cumbria Rural Housing Trust](#) (CRHT) and [Action with Communities in Cumbria](#) (ACC), established the Investing in Communities project (IiC).

The project looked into better integration of community led action plan evidence into policy and associated delivery. ACC, as the rural community council for Cumbria worked closely with the LDNP, to get communities to think about their needs and aspirations, in terms of future development. The provision of local housing was a key issue amongst those communities. Through IiC, CRHT developed their community enabling role. This aims to encourage local communities to be proactive by engaging with the housing needs survey and find land suitable for development in their community. It is CRHT's role to carry out the surveys, so as to establish up to date need. The IiC was able to fund the significant cost implications for gaps in the Parish wide surveys. However, the lack of housing need evidence at the local level had serious implications on our ability to implement our housing policy effectively and consistently.

The nature of rural enabling work means outcomes take time. Although there are no definite deliverables at this time, it is clear that this partnership approach to working with communities in this manner has already provided numerous examples of communities taking action to provide local solutions.

Several affordable housing schemes are progressing from these discussions. Bootle on the west coast of Cumbria is one scheme with a lot of community support where the parish is working within a cluster group on [community led planning](#).

[Investing In Communities – what is it about?](#)

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Rural Affordable Housing  
Project

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