



power to
change

business in
community
hands

THE WHARTON TRUST PROFILE

EMPOWERING
PLACES

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ABOUT **POWER TO CHANGE**



Power to Change is the independent trust that strengthens communities through community business. We use our experience to bring partners together to fund, grow and back community business to make places thrive. We are curious and rigorous; we do, test and learn. And we are here to support community business, whatever the challenge.

ABOUT **RENAISI**

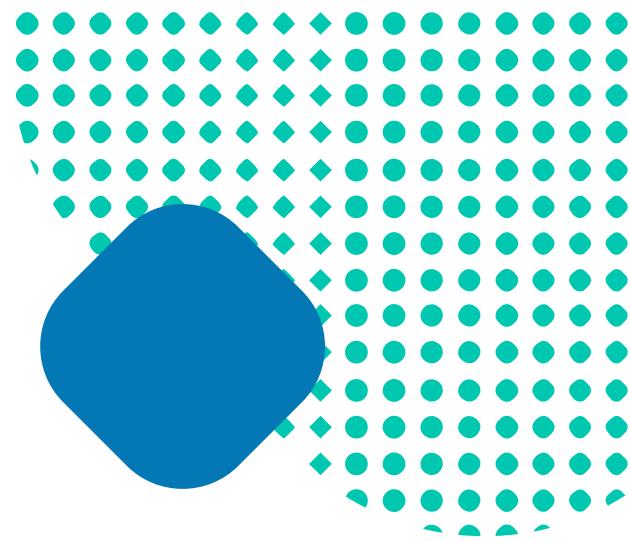


Renaisi is a social enterprise that helps people and places thrive by challenging the root causes of economic and social exclusion across the UK. They do this by empowering people to overcome barriers to employment, enabling social and private sector organisations to tackle socio-economic exclusion, challenging systems that perpetuate exclusion, and embodying approaches that lead to sustainable change.



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INTRODUCTION

Empowering Places was designed by [Power to Change](#) as an experiment to explore what happens when local anchor organisations are supported to catalyse community businesses in deprived communities in England.^{1,2}

The programme took much of what Power to Change knew about supporting the development of community businesses in other programmes. It applied this to a place, considering how the interplay between place, people and community businesses could build more resilient and prosperous communities.

The programme hypothesised that building the capacity of specific, existing local organisations could enable them to catalyse and support the growth of new community businesses. In turn, these community businesses would support and develop the social economy of their communities. The programme provided a blend of funding and capacity-building support to locally rooted ‘catalyst’ organisations in six areas of high deprivation to test this idea:³

- [B-inspired](#) in Braunstone, Leicester
- [Centre4](#) in Nunsthorpe and Bradley Park, Grimsby
- [Made in Manningham](#), incubated by [Participate](#) in Manningham, Bradford⁴
- [Real Ideas](#) in Devonport and Stonehouse, Plymouth
- [The Wharton Trust](#) in Dyke House, Hartlepool
- [Wigan and Leigh Community Charity](#) (WLCC), formally Abram Ward Community Cooperative, in Abram, Wigan

Power to Change’s decision to invest in these places was a choice to support and empower local people to shape delivery based on local priorities, meaning the context and the realities of each place play a significant part of how the programme looks and feels in those areas.

This profile for The Wharton Trust, is one in a series of six and draws on data and insight from the beginning of the programme (July 2017) to January 2023, including:

- the socio-economic context of Hartlepool, drawing on publicly available datasets and findings from research on the area
- monitoring data from the programme and feedback from qualitative interviews with Power to Change, delivery partners, catalyst staff and community businesses
- information about the catalyst – The Wharton Trust – and its Empowering Places journey.⁵

This profile is designed to tell the story of the Empowering Places investment in The Wharton Trust. Together with the other five profiles in the suite, it helps to build a picture of the similarities and differences in context and approaches across the Empowering Places areas.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wharton Trust is a well-established community organisation that actively supports the growth of resident engagement and community leadership in the area. Based in The Annexe, a community and resource centre, the trust offers a wide range of activities and services and is involved in other prominent local place-based initiatives like Big Local and Place Based Social Action.

This profile explores the social, economic and demographic context of Hartlepool; The Wharton Trust's approach to delivering Empowering Places and the programme's impact on the catalyst, community businesses and wider community; and how the legacy of Empowering Places has shaped the catalyst's future ambitions.

Key points:

- The Wharton Trust is based in the Dyke House area of Hartlepool, which sits within the top 2 per cent of deprived wards in the UK, and is in the lowest 5 per cent for employment rates in the country.
- Services run by the trust include helping community members access employment and training, promoting healthier lifestyles, youth activities, access to a community library and free use of computers and Wi-Fi.
- The trust aims to inspire and empower the local community to apply their own solutions to local problems, and Empowering Places enabled them to do this through community organising and community business support.
- The trust supported 10 community businesses by providing seed grants, wraparound business support, nurturing a mutually supportive network among the community businesses, and providing access to specialist consultancy support through the programme's provider pool.
- The community organising approach has also seen local people feel more empowered to tackle community needs and problems. More people from Dyke House are going to Wharton Trust with ideas and have embraced the concept of community organising and community business. This has led to a greater sense of pride in place, empowering their contribution to the community.
- The trust has become more commercially minded and sustainable by building its asset base and generating new sources of income. It has honed its enterprise development offer, embedded community organising in working practice and developed strategic relationships across the wider area.
- The new outward-facing approach, supported by Empowering Places, means the CEO has increasingly been drawn into wider place conversations and invited to contribute to more policy and influencing work.
- In future, the trust will leverage its position in Dyke House to continue improving and empowering local people through community organising and the social economy, and connect hyperlocal, regional and national opportunities and policies like Teesside Freeport and Levelling Up.

1. GUIDE TO SOURCES OF DATA AND INSIGHT



The English Indices of Deprivation, managed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, provide a comprehensive measure of relative deprivation in small areas or neighbourhoods called lower-layer super output areas (LSOAs) in England. The Index of Multiple Deprivation is based on 39 separate indicators organised across seven domains of deprivation. The domains are combined and weighted to produce an overall measure of multiple deprivation experienced by people living in an area. Every LSOA in England is ranked based on their level of deprivation relative to other areas.⁶

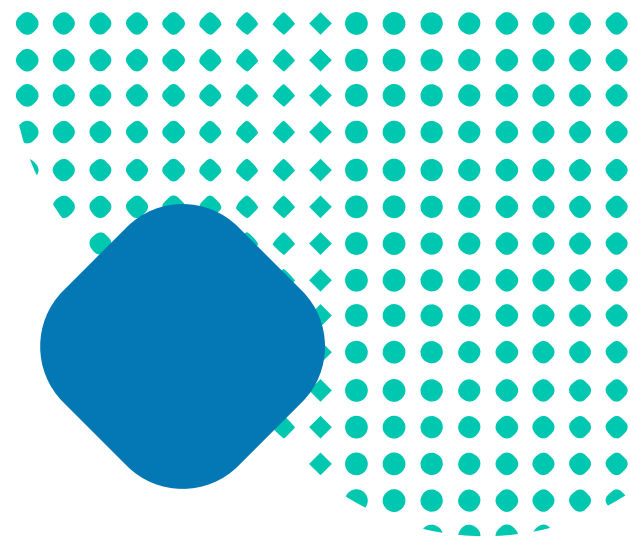
Local Insight is a hub for place-based neighbourhood level data to help decision-makers in organisations working for social good. It is provided by Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI), a spin-out consultancy from Oxford University, and holds more than 1,000 neighbourhood level indicators drawing together social, economic and demographic data from more than 50 sources.⁷

The Thriving Places Index draws on a broad range of indicators in public sector datasets measuring key factors that influence wellbeing. The index is managed by the not-for-profit place-based consultancy the Centre for Thriving Places, and provides a comparative 'dashboard' of measures under three broad categories – local conditions, equality and sustainability – with a more detailed breakdown of factors driving the distinctive local experience.⁸

Place Analytics distils thousands of datasets on people, businesses, markets and the environment, providing insight into the performance of places and the levers that fundamentally affect them. It is provided by specialist business advisors Grant Thornton UK to help organisations across all sectors contribute to building a vibrant economy, by creating places where people and businesses can flourish.⁹

UK Social Fabric Index maps community strength in different parts of the UK, and is produced by Onward – a non-profit think tank supported by Power to Change. The index analyses data in four categories – economic value, relationships, positive norms and physical infrastructure – each drawing on several comparative measures of local community experience.¹⁰

The programme evaluation took a realist approach to understanding impact and what has contributed to it, focusing on the experiences of those involved. It drew mainly on interviews and video ethnography with catalysts, community businesses, tech leads and stakeholders in the local areas, and interviews with programme delivery leads at Power to Change and Co-operatives UK. Researchers tracked relevant findings to develop a comprehensive understanding of the development and impact of the programme.



2. DYKE HOUSE, HARTLEPOOL



2.1 Context

Dyke House is a one square mile sized estate in north Hartlepool, a short distance from Hartlepool town centre and the marina. It has a primary school, college and several small shops.

Hartlepool has an average score rank of 21 in the Index of Multiple Deprivation and has at least one neighbourhood in the 10 per cent most deprived areas in the country.

Local Insight ¹¹	
Population	14,895
Household income, after housing costs England average: £27,311	£19,300
White British (%) England: 79.8%	97%
Age under 25 (%) England: 31%	33.6%
Age 65+ (%) England: 18.2%	16.2%

The Wharton Trust profile Empowering Places

Thriving Places Index ¹²	Hartlepool
Health equality e.g. life expectancy at birth	2.56
Mental and physical health e.g. child obesity rate, conceptions in under 18s, illness and disability, prevalence of depression, anxiety and other health indicators	2.26
Education and learning e.g. adults with no qualifications, life-long learning, educational attainment of children, childcare quality and school readiness	4.95
Work and local economy e.g. income deprivation affecting different sections of the population, employment and percentage with low income	1.92
Place and environment local environment, housing, transport and safety, e.g. green land cover, air pollution, journey times to key services, housing affordability ratio and crime severity index	5.04
Subjective happiness Life satisfaction scores from Measures of National Well-being Dashboard: Quality of Life in the UK (ONS)	7.6

Index scores range from 0 to 10. Scores are colour coded to reflect how an area scores compared with others in England, with higher scores indicating that a place is doing better in that domain.

Key: ● Very low (below 3.5) ● Below average (3.5–4.5) ● Medium (4.5–5.5)
● Above average (5.5–6.5) ● Very high (above 6.5)

Place Analytics: Local authority area compared with England average ¹³	Hartlepool
Housing affordability	80%–100%
Community assets	Lowest 5%
Employment rate (age 16–64)	Lowest 5%
Business formation	60%–80%
Happiness and wellbeing	Lowest 5%

Each category is benchmarked using multiple measures and scored (in percentile form) relative to other catalyst areas. The higher the score, the better the place performed.

Percentile key: ● 80–100% Very high ● 60–80% High ● 40–60% Above average ● 20–40% Average
● 5–20% Low ● <5% Very low

UK Social Fabric Index ¹⁴						
Local authority	Social fabric score	Relationship score	Physical infrastructure	Civic institutions	Economic value	Positive social norms
Hartlepool	0.37	0.24	0.48	0.38	0.44	0.33
Plymouth	0.45	0.30	0.53	0.46	0.49	0.47
North East Lincolnshire	0.38	0.27	0.50	0.38	0.40	0.36
Leicester	0.42	0.21	0.59	0.49	0.36	0.45
Bradford	0.43	0.28	0.58	0.43	0.43	0.43
Wigan	0.46	0.33	0.57	0.45	0.53	0.45

Scores are graded from zero to one, with those closer to one indicating the stronger social fabric.

Social fabric score: strength of social fabric across all five threads: relationship, physical infrastructure, civic institutions, economic value and positive social norms

Relationship score: clusters of social groups of people in communities and community-owned assets

Physical infrastructure: physical assets in communities which facilitate, structure and organise people within a community

Civic institutions: health of democracy and governance at both local and national level, considering quality, trust and satisfaction

Economic value: tangible assets which hold a monetary and/or economic value to an individual or family within a community

Positive social norms: personal wellbeing and cultural attitudes of individuals and families in a community, including people’s wider habits, behaviours and activities

Key: The colour coding reflects the comparative performance of each place in each category. The highest score for each category is dark green, the lowest is dark red.

Community

Hartlepool is rated highly for access to services, in the top 80–100 per cent in the North East, and the top 60–80 per cent nationally when all categories are considered.¹⁵

In a 2020 survey, 67 per cent of people in Dyke House considered it a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.¹⁶

The survey also found 63 per cent of people in Dyke House feeling ‘satisfied with their life nowadays’, compared with 58 per cent in the matched comparison site. More people rated their health as good or very good in 2019 (63%) than in 2018 (59%).

Challenges

- In 2020, only 15 per cent of people surveyed felt they ‘belonged’ to their local neighbourhood, a 5 per cent decrease from 2018.¹⁷
- Limiting long term illness grew a little, from 29 per cent in 2018 to 31 per cent in 2020.¹⁸
- The Thriving Places Index rates health across Hartlepool as being poor, with risky behaviours – such as a smoking and drinking – a particular health concern.¹⁹

Voluntary and community sector

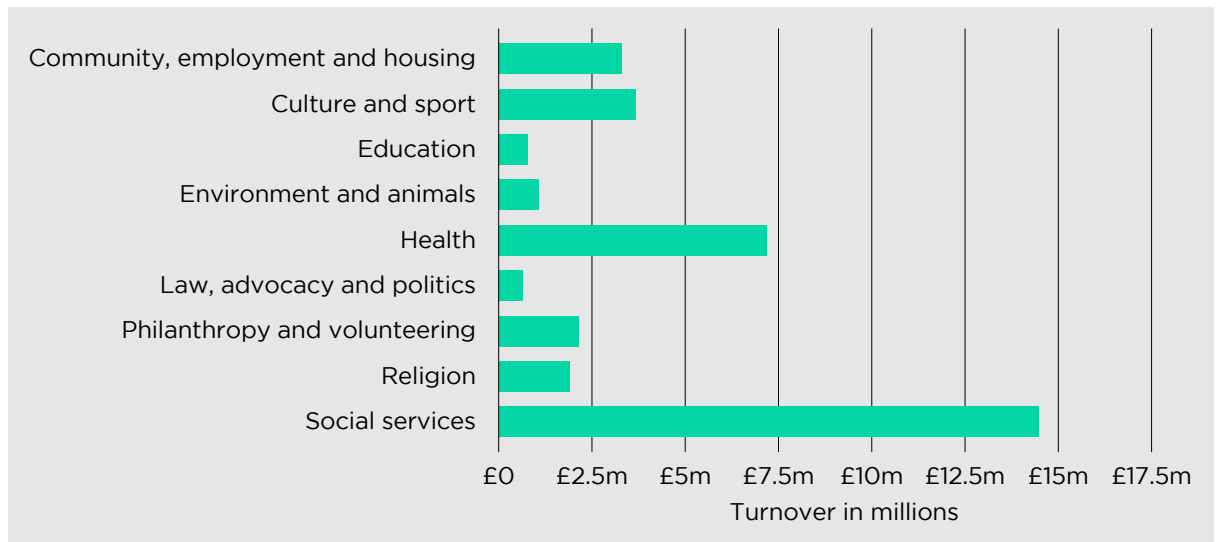
Turnover data is available for 126 voluntary and community sector organisations in Hartlepool for the 2020/21 financial year. The combined turnover of these organisations was £22.42 million.²⁰ This includes some schools, religious organisations, grant-making foundations and international aid organisations.

Small- to medium-sized organisations with a turnover between £5,000 and £5 million are most relevant to the programme, as these are the organisations that Empowering Places catalyst organisations are most likely to partner with or influence in their local area.

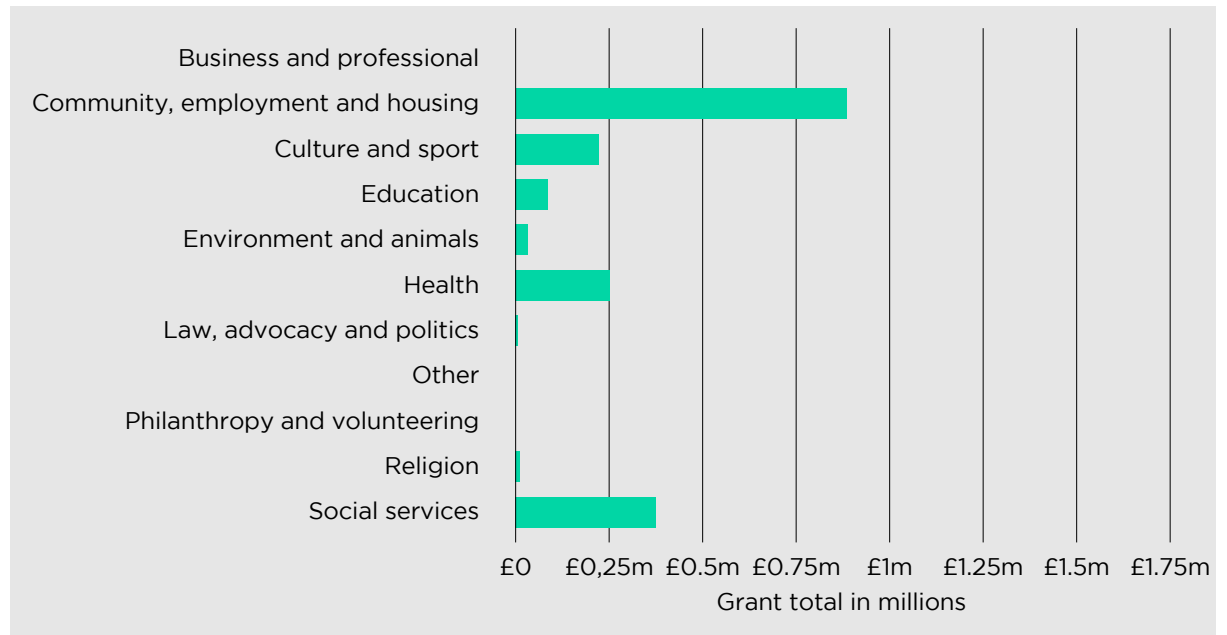
Of the total number of organisations for which turnover data is available from 2020/21, 135 were in this category and had a combined turnover of £30.4 million, accounting for the majority (85.5%) of the total £35.5 million turnover.²¹

Profitability data for 170 non-profits in Hartlepool in the 2020/21 financial year demonstrates that 46.4 per cent of organisations experienced a loss. The following chart shows turnover by sector in 2020/21 – social services, with 53 organisations, had the highest turnover at £14.5 million, followed by health with 11 organisations and a turnover of £7.2 million.²²

Turnover by sector in Hartlepool in 2020/21²³



Grant funding in Hartlepool by sector in 2020/21²⁴



Funding landscape

In 2020/21, Hartlepool received a total of £3.2 million in grant funding, representing 0.06 per cent of national grant funding provided that year. The above chart depicts grant funding in Hartlepool by sector in 2020/21, where community, employment and housing received the most.²⁵

The following table gives an overview of the funding landscape in Hartlepool, based on the available data.

Hartlepool is home to several prominent place-based initiatives such as resident-led programme Big Local, also managed by Wharton Trust, and Hartlepool Action Lab funded by Joseph Rowntree Foundation and part of the DCMS and National Lottery Community Fund Place-Based Social Action programme. Active links are being made between the programmes, with enterprise and employment being identified as a priority for the local area.

Funding	Hartlepool ²⁶
Top five significant funders and amounts between 2017-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Lottery Community Fund (£4.2 million) Sport England (£1.2 million) Power to Change (£963,000) Tudor Trust (£784,000) County Durham Community Foundation (£400,000)

3.

EMPOWERING PLACES

CATALYST: THE WHARTON TRUST

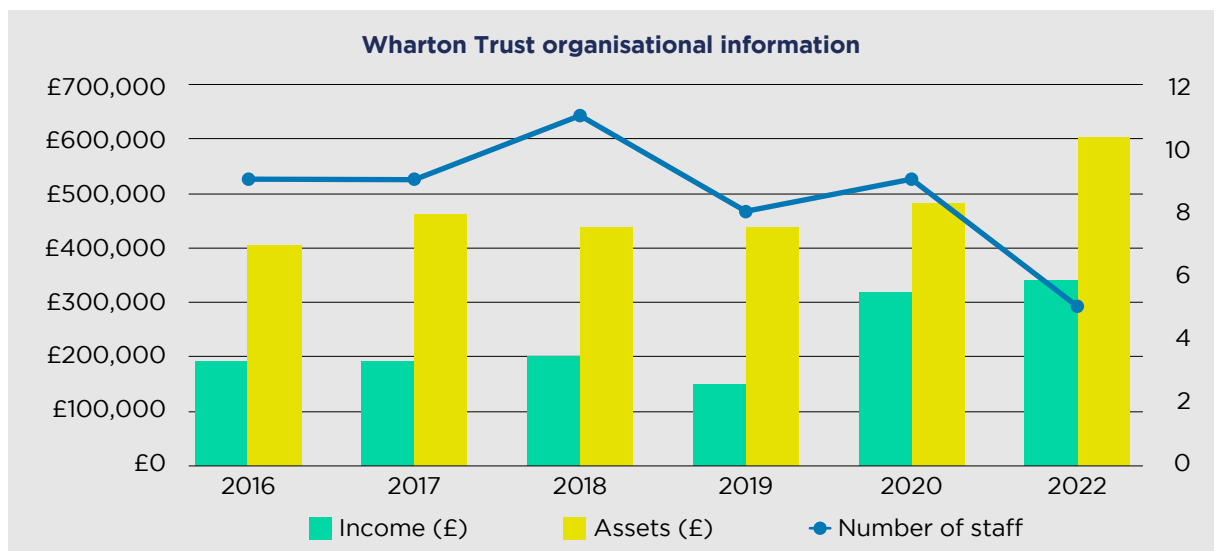
3.1 About the catalyst

The Wharton Trust is a well-established community organisation that actively supports the growth of resident engagement and community leadership in the area. Based in The Annexe and rooted in Dyke House, the Wharton Trust offers a wide range of services from its building, to serve and empower their community. This includes supporting people to access employment and training, exercise classes, nutrition advice, youth programmes, a community library and low-cost access to internet services. It continues to develop and expand initiatives to improve Dyke House – the most recent include Annexe Housing cooperative – which aims to be a better, more accountable landlord by offering more affordable rents, reinvesting rent money locally, and placing community organisers in each house to galvanise local people to improve their areas.

At the end of the 2022 financial year, The Wharton Trust employed one full-time and four part-time members of staff (all members of the community), and had:

- total income of £1,332,914
- assets worth £2,345,176
- unrestricted reserves of £50,000.

The Wharton Trust has 50 regular volunteers, and 2,000 customers/service users. The following chart shows The Wharton Trust's self-reported total income, value of assets and staff headcount between 2016 and 2020.²⁷ It did not report figures from 2021.



3.2 Empowering Places delivery

A legacy for the Empowering Places programme

The Wharton Trust aims to embed a community organising mindset across Dyke House so that residents can contribute to shaping their community, making it a better place. Its ambition is for the community to be even more inspired and empowered to apply their own solutions to local problems, or gaps in provision, using community organising and community businesses as models. The Wharton Trust aims to strengthen relationships between individuals and organisations, and cultivate community governance, accountability and ownership at the heart of Dyke House's future.

Approach to delivering Empowering Places

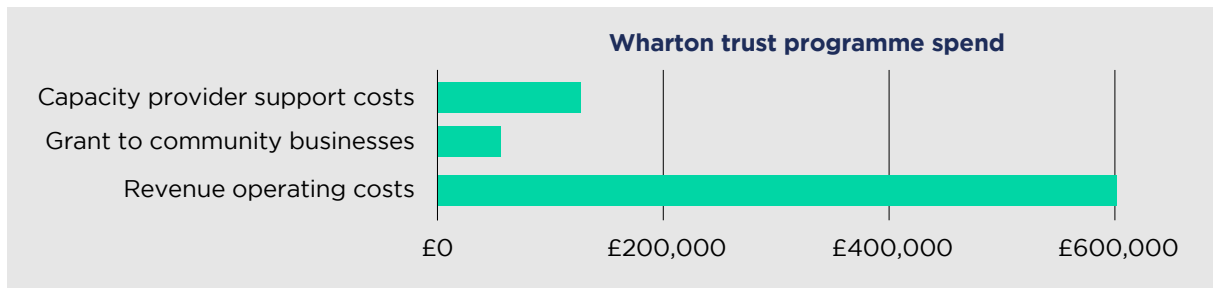
The Empowering Places evaluation has identified three approaches that catalysts have taken to developing community businesses – incubation, community-led and individual entrepreneurialism. The Wharton Trust focused on grassroots community development and championed a 'community-led' model. This involved being rooted in the local community and using a community organising approach to surface ideas with individuals, and provided relational and holistic support. The trust focused on strengthening its nascent community businesses by developing their entrepreneurial skills as well as the trust's own.

The Wharton Trust tends to bring elements of its work together, with each contributing to its wider goal of empowering the local community. The combination of programmes and place-based support complement each other to do this effectively. The Empowering Places funding had specifically enabled the trust to hone its enterprise development offer, community organising skills, and strategic thinking about its own sustainability and links with wider networks.

The Wharton Trust has intentionally moved from being a traditional organisation that delivered services and activities to and for people, to an organisation that creates opportunities and support for local people to do it themselves. Its approach to delivering Empowering Places is no different.

Staff members at the trust have been trained by Community Organisers UK. This enabled the trust to use a community organising approach to help build the capacity of local people and inspire them to make change for themselves and their community. Community organising had become embedded in the trust's approach and across its work. For example, in the mission for Annexe Housing cooperative using community organisers to galvanise the wider community to improve their local neighbourhoods and places, asking people about their perceptions of the local area and what they would change, and shaping these into potential community business solutions.

People with ideas are supported directly by the trust with business growth advice, access to finance and personal mentoring, or supported to access experts through the Empowering Places provider pool. Altogether, the Wharton Trust had helped ten community businesses to establish and grow.



3.3 Support and funding

The following chart provides a breakdown of The Wharton Trust's spend across the programme. Operational and staff costs includes the cost of freelance support, and internal costs includes office rental, equipment, travel, subsistence, marketing, communications and events.

Impact of the capacity support

The Wharton Trust engaged with a mixture of support from national and local providers; national organisations such as the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) have helped with the Wharton Trust's strategic place work, including local partner engagement, asset acquisition, and community wealth building, whereas local organisations and consultants have supported community businesses with developing their business plans and accessing funding.

The Wharton Trust's strong relationship with the tech lead from CLES, has had a particular impact. They have helped the catalyst team to think more strategically about how they invest in capacity and skills, look to strengthen their longer-term sustainability, and connect them up with wider opportunities, such as linking with macro-economic plans including Levelling up and Teesside Freeport – regional development opportunities surrounding Dyke House.

Together, they have (and continue to after the programme) built outward connections and, using the influence of CLES to act as a neutral outsider, they have been able to open doors for the Wharton Trust.

“
When CLES are involved we are not just The Annexe.
 Delivery Partner

The tech lead and the catalyst team reflected that the programme transformed ‘the way they fundamentally do things, the way they think, and the ambitions for their place’ (tech lead) – from community organising, to community businesses, and now towards community governance gradually building from the housing cooperative, to establishing a parish council in the future.

3.4 Impact of Empowering Places

Impact on The Wharton Trust

The Wharton Trust is an integral and embedded part of the Dyke House community. Prior to Empowering Places, all activity took place within the square mile that forms Dyke House. While this is largely still the case, Empowering Places has enabled the Wharton Trust to be more outward facing, and provided the support and encouragement needed for it to engage with statutory services and businesses covering a wider area, including organisations whose activities inevitably impact on the lives of those living in the Dyke House community. As a result, the Wharton Trust had increasingly been drawn into wider place conversations and been asked to take part in more policy and influencing work. For example, the trust team appeared on local radio to discuss digital exclusion, and were interviewed by the Guardian, alongside nascent community business Stags, which supports men's mental health.



Dyke House are now part of wider Hartlepool consortium. We would not have been involved with that partnership without Empowering Places.

Delivery Partner

This wider engagement and newer focus on enterprise development through Empowering Places helped leverage Local Access funding into Hartlepool, which aims to establish an enterprise model for charities and social enterprises. The Wharton Trust had also been able to apply for opportunities like the Creative People and Places Partnership with support from the programme, on behalf of community business BloomInArt.

Inspiration from other catalyst organisations on the programme, particularly following the learning camp in Leicester, coupled with a drive to be more sustainable, led the Wharton Trust to use Empowering Places' capacity support and funding to develop its asset base. After 30 years of 'squatting' in its building, the trust was able to purchase the freehold of The Annexe Community Centre. It had also purchased houses for the Annexe Housing cooperative.

The trust's community organising approach, supported by Empowering Places, also generated two big ideas that will strengthen its own position and sustainability as a community hub: a community-based Wi-Fi scheme which has provoked a wider local conversation about solutions to tackle digital inequality; and the Annexe Housing cooperative, a new cooperative housing scheme, to continue a culture of empowerment and train tenants as community organisers. It is anticipated that this will increase the visibility of the trust and the benefits of community ownership, which will be instrumental to the legacy of Empowering Places.

Impact on the community and wider place

Community businesses supported by the catalyst

Community business name	Community business purpose
The Annexe	Community hub and ethical housing initiative, providing good quality housing with affordable rents and training local people to be community organisers to improve the area
BloomInArt	An award winning creative business increasing community engagement through creative arts projects. They co-produce projects to celebrate place, identity and heritage and create paid opportunities for freelance artists and a platform for local talent
Bringing Communities Together	Providing educational and creative services. Taken over by local hospice to diversify support beyond patients and reach into the wider community
Community Personal Support Service	One-to-one paid-for care provision
Grayfields Recreation Ground and Pavilion	A large asset transferred to the community with 10 sports pitches and a club house providing sports and social activities for the community
Hartlepool Ambulance Charity	Working in community partnership to improve the quality of life through medical education, enhancing the health and wellbeing of local people and fundraising together to help save local lives
LilyAnne's Coffee Bar	A social organisation operating a wellbeing café and community hub reinvesting income to support the community. This includes providing a safe space and support hub for those experiencing loneliness, homelessness, mental health problems and others
Make Dyke House Beautiful	A ward level endeavour to make Dyke House more environmentally attractive, cleaning up the neighbourhood and planting flower bulbs in new planters. Would have had an anchor contract to look after Grayfields grounds as a springboard to becoming a financially independent community business
Runfit	Non-competitive running group accessible to everyone regardless of ability
Minds for Men	Mental health and social anxiety support organisation, offering activities, events, peer support and signposting to professional help for the local community

Impact of Empowering Places on individuals, community business and the wider community

The Wharton Trust has helped the majority of community businesses with seed grants and capacity building support from the provider pool, to develop their business. For example, two local business advisors helped new community business Stags to develop a business plan which builds a model for trading sustainably in three years. The trust also provided an accelerator programme to the community business cohort, enabling them to build complementary relationships and secure council funding as a consortium to deliver mental health support to the community (through fitness, arts and culture, and peer support).

The consistent and long-term support provided by the Wharton Trust and the wider Empowering Places programme has enabled the community businesses not only to build their financial resilience but also establish themselves as leaders in their own sector.

“**Minds for Men for mental health, Runfit for fitness and wellbeing, BloomInArt for arts and culture, and LilyAnne’s as a centre for people to gather in Hartlepool**

Delivery partner

This has had a significant impact on the community and improved community knowledge, connections and relationships. For example, Stags was initially set up in response to a need for immediate mental health support, because other local providers had waiting lists of up to 12 weeks. The Wharton Trust has given Stags a space at The Annexe for three years, which the group has transformed into somewhere comfortable for group meetings, referring to it as their ‘safe haven’.

The founder spoke of working with 17 people in dire situations, one of whom was ready to take his own life. The impact of Stags support has been immediate and will be long-term (it can take months for people to come ‘out of their shell’), has helped people battling the stigma of mental illness feel they are not alone, cultivated community spirit and connectedness, and increased community engagement.

Community businesses grew the skills and confidence of many in the community and, having started out as participants and then volunteers, several started running their own programmes (e.g. Runfit and Stags), while others developed the confidence to seek employment elsewhere. The programme also helped empower other organisations, like BloomInArt which runs an annual town arts festival and delivers creative projects across Hartlepool, and which has started training others in community organising that builds engagement through arts, events and culture. This has established BloomInArt as a leading organisation in the sector.

“**BloomInArt are by far and away the single most important catalytic organisation in that creative sector**

Delivery partner

The community organising approach has also seen local people feel more empowered to tackle community needs and problems themselves. Catalyst staff have reflected that more people from Dyke House are going to Wharton Trust with ideas, and have embraced the concept of community organising and community business. This has led to a greater sense of pride in the neighbourhood and enabled more to contribute to the community there.



The identity of place, a sense of place, around Dyke House ... people are taking action on it, and recognising it, and doing things and not being reliant upon other people and are reliant on themselves

Delivery partner

3.5 The COVID-19 pandemic

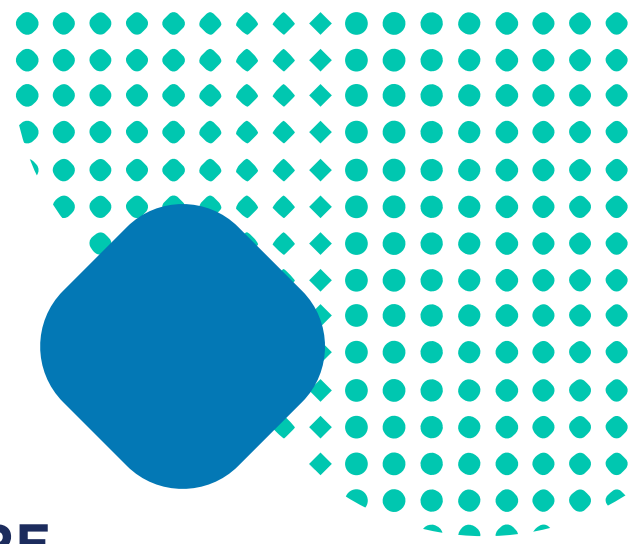
Impact on the catalyst's delivery of Empowering Places

The Wharton Trust felt the immediate impact of the pandemic by losing income from room hire. It also had to furlough three members of staff. The trust received business rates relief and a small grant from the National Emergencies Trust to help them with this financial loss. Social distancing prevented them from offering normal services to local people, and stopped people being able to use the building. The organisation mobilised its volunteers, collected food that would otherwise have gone to waste and found 350 Easter eggs to give to children. Goods were left outside the building and Wi-Fi was left on without a password, so that people felt welcome to use the space.

The Wharton Trust was critical to helping local people respond to the challenges they faced during the pandemic, and helped strengthen its reputation and relationship with local people. The Wharton Trust used the pause in day-to-day delivery to drive forward strategic initiatives as part of the Empowering Places programme, such as furthering its work on assets and affordable community broadband.

Impact on community businesses

Most of the community businesses in Dyke House continued to operate with adaptations during the pandemic. BloomInArt remotely curated 'silver linings', a collaborative artwork which involved local people sending weekly contributions of poems, drawings and collages. To help people take part, BloomInArt initially sent out 100 creative packs and later delivered a further 1,000 because they were so well received. It increased their reach to care homes, a women's refuge centre, the food bank and a group working with young people living in care. Community business Stags had been using The Annexe as a meeting place and therefore had to find new ways to meet instead. Some unexpected positives included the benefit of meeting outside and the responsibility some members have taken on to arrange the meetings, even progressing from weekly to daily walks during the summer months.



4. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

4.1 Ways of working

The Wharton Trust continues to expand its ambitions and services to benefit the people of Dyke House. The Annexe Housing cooperative is a key area of focus in future and aims to buy a house on every street, placing a community organiser to help empower local people to improve their neighbourhood. While the network of community businesses has significantly improved people's quality of life in Dyke House, the trust pointed out that there remains a gap in primary care in the area, and a need for a community-owned GP surgery will continue to be a priority.

4.2 Sustainability

Having built a strong asset base, established a good reputation and relationships with key stakeholders at local and national level, and successfully sourcing funding, the Wharton Trust is confident in its resilience and optimistic about growth. It is similarly confident about the sustainability of the community businesses it supports, as they have all built a strong reputation in their sector, are embedded in the community, and are locally and nationally recognised, attracting funding from both local authorities and national funders.

“
LilyAnne's has been a real kind of connector. LilyAnne's is where everybody turns up for a meeting, you know, where everybody goes, they're a real signposting organisation

Delivery partner

Nevertheless, more funding and support from stakeholders across the social economy is needed to help deliver its ambitious plans for improving Dyke House and empowering its community. Having embedded itself in the community and made connections with regional and national partners, the Wharton Trust is proactively seeking to connect hyperlocal, regional and national level opportunities and policies. In particular the tech lead at CLES and Wharton Trust are working together on mapping the economic opportunities around Dyke House including the Teesside Freeport and broader levelling up endeavours.

“
We have to be able to articulate that the people of Dyke House need to disproportionately benefit from this investment. Otherwise levelling up doesn't exist. Levelling up is, is a couple of rich businesses getting richer. So it will be in the best interest of the combined authority to work with us to create the conditions and finesse some of the investment, so that community businesses, and our people can thrive in place.

Delivery partner

ENDNOTES



- 1 Power to Change describes itself as: 'the independent trust that strengthens communities through community business. We use our experience to bring partners together to fund, grow and back community business to make places thrive. We are curious and rigorous; we do, test, and learn. And we are here to support community business, whatever the challenge.'
- 2 Informed by the 2015 English indices of deprivation (the most recent data available at the time). Available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>
- 3 Marsh Farm Futures in Luton was the seventh member of the Empowering Places cohort; its involvement with the programme ended in August 2019, shortly after Renaisi joined as evaluators.
- 4 Originally incubated by Action for Business Ltd in Carlisle Business Centre, Manningham.
- 5 An earlier version of this profile (2021) focused on qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 6 English Indices of Deprivation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-indices-of-deprivation>
- 7 Local Insight: <https://ocsi.uk/local-insight/>
- 8 Thriving Places Index: <https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/>
- 9 Place Analytics: <https://gt-placeanalytics.co.uk/>
- 10 UK Social Fabric Index: <https://www.ukonward.com/data/social-fabric-index/>
- 11 Local Insight (2022).
- 12 Thriving Places Index (2020).
- 13 Place Analytics, local authority-wide (2019).
- 14 UK Social Fabric Index (2020).
- 15 Place Analytics, local authority-wide (2019)
- 16 Hyperlocal booster version of the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport's Community Life Survey (2021).
- 17 *ibid.*

18 *ibid.*

19 Thriving Places Index (2020).

20 MyCake analysis of Companies House and Charity Commission Data, Office for National Statistics (April 2022).

21 *ibid.*

22 MyCake analysis of Companies House and Charity Commission Data, Office for National Statistics (April 2022).

23 *ibid.*

24 *ibid.*

25 *ibid.*

26 July 2023 data from 360Giving, a charity that helps organisations to publish open, standardised grants data. For more information, see: GrantNav. This data excludes statutory funding from central government.

27 The data presented here is self-reported by the catalyst organisation in its annual monitoring reports to Power to Change, with missing data points indicating that no data was submitted.



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