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| **Imagine – connecting communities through research****Work Package 2: The historical context of civic engagement**This document gives a brief outline of the *Imagine* research project as a whole, then describes the Historical Work Package (Work Package 2) coordinated by Durham University. Within Work Package 2 (WP2), there is a Tyneside element and a Coventry element. |
| **Background to the *Imagine* project** The *Imagine* research project started in January 2013 and lasts for five years. Its full title is: *The social, historical, cultural and democratic context of civic engagement: Imagining different communities and making them happen*. It comprises four work packages, each led by a different University, and involving several other universities and community partners. Work Package 1 is led by Brighton (social); Work Package 2 by Durham (historical); Work Package 3 by Sheffield (cultural) and Work Package 4 by Edinburgh (democratic).  Work Package 2 (from January 2014 for two years) will involve community-based participatory research, demographic and policy analysis - revisiting the sites of two Community Development Projects (1960s/70s) on Tyneside (coordinated by Durham University) and one in Coventry (coordinated by Warwick University). **Work Package 2: The historical context of civic engagement**This Work Package is coordinated by Sarah Banks, Durham University and runs from the 1st January 2014 to the 31st December 2015.**Project team*****Durham University, Centre for Social Justice and Community Action:*** Sarah Banks (overall and NE coordinator), Dave Byrne (statistics & N. Shields CDP), Fred Robinson (policy), Lena Dominelli (advisor community engagement, minority groups), Gary Craig (advisor Benwell CDP), Andrea Armstrong (RA), Pauline Harrison (Secretary)***Warwick University****:* Alice Mah and Mick Carpenter (co-coordinators, Hillfields), John Benington (advisor Hillfields CDP), Ben Kyneswood (RA), TBC (Secretary) ***Community and other partners****:* *North East* (coordinated by Judith Green): Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives - Discovery Museum, Living History North East (across both Tyneside areas); Search Project, Riverside Health Project, Patchwork Youth Project, St James’ Centre for Culture and Heritage, Pendower Good Neighbour Project, W. Newcastle Picture History Collection, Newcastle City Council (Benwell); Meadow Well Connected, Cedarwood Trust, Phoenix Detached Youth Project, Remembering the Past: Resourcing the Future, N. Tyneside Council (North Shields); *Coventry:* Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, African Caribbean Community Organisation Ltd, WATCH (Working Actively to Change Hillfields), Hillz FM (local radio station)***International consultant/advisors*** –Sue Hyatt, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (CDP archive), Harvinder Bedi, Development Support Team, Pune, India (international perspectives on community engagement)**Description**This work package will be based in Tyneside (Benwell and North Shields) and Coventry (Hillfields). These three areas were all part of the Community Development Project (CDP) in the late 1960s/early 1970s. This was the first British government-funded programme to tackle poverty in areas that were regarded as ‘deprived’. It involved community workers and researchers working with local people to investigate the causes of, and solutions to, social and economic problems faced by people living in those areas. Not surprisingly, the participants in the CDPs came to the conclusion that the problems did not lie with the people or the areas, but with market forces that were resulting in declining heavy industry and government policies that were failing to tackle high unemployment, poor housing and social facilities. Since the 1970s, these areas have been subject to numerous regeneration programmes, with varying degrees of resident involvement.  We will produce snapshots of changing conditions and attitudes in these areas over time, from the different (and sometimes conflicting) perspectives of local people, policy makers and politicians. We will work with a range of community-based organisations to revisit the past history of government policy and community activity in their areas. Community-based projects involving older and younger people and those from a range of ethnic and religious backgrounds will include producing films, drama performances, booklets, community radio programmes and exhibitions. **Aims, objectives and research questions**This project will explore the historical evolution of imaginings of community from the perspective of different participants/stakeholders. It will examine the imagining, planning and impact of each local CDP and track subsequent area-based regeneration projects/programmes to the present. In particular we will examine the plans for ‘manufacturing’ or ‘developing’ communities according to visions of policy makers and politicians and the extent to which these cohered with, influenced or were challenged by realities, aspirations and actions of residents, community workers, other professionals and agencies.  *Aims:* * To explore changing inter-relationships between ‘imagined communities’ of politicians, policy-makers, professionals and residents in community-based regeneration from the late 1960s to the present;
* to use the insights from this project and the three other components to engage in imaginings of future communities.

 *Objectives:* 1. To chart the history of regeneration in each area from the late 1960s to the present.
2. To place this in the broader context of social and economic change in the three case study areas, from the early nineteenth century, from the perspectives of residents themselves, building on existing archives and projects and using a variety of creative media.
3. To build community capacity through engaging local residents in action research and learning through connecting with each other.
4. To leave a legacy of archival materials embedded in local collections.
5. To challenge all stakeholders, including policy makers and private sector organisations, to re-imagine and develop better futures for these areas, particularly in the current climate of economic austerity.

 *Research questions:*1. In relation to the various phases of regeneration programmes in each area, what were the different visions (both in terms of process and outcome) of local residents; community development workers and other professionals; community, voluntary and private sector organisations; national and local government politicians and officers; academic researchers and media commentators?
2. What roles did these various participants/stakeholders play in the history of these areas?
3. What comparisons and lessons can be drawn from the three areas?
4. To what extent are there similarities and differences in imaginings of community over the decades and how has this influenced progress in each area?
5. What has been the extent and outcomes of activism and resistance in the three areas?
6. How have conceptions and practices of community development and community activism changed over time?
7. What lessons can we learn from the past to help us imagine and build future connected communities, especially in the current context of economic austerity?
8. To what extent are local communities able to shape their future, while anchored in global and national economic structures and heavily dependent on public policy intervention?
9. What can local people, community and voluntary organisations, academics and others learn about the ethics and politics of how to work together as co-researchers, and about the role of community-based participatory research in bringing about changes in attitudes, actions, practices and policies?

 **Approach, methods and ethics**A range of third sector organisations in each area has expressed interest in participating alongside the Discovery Museum (Tyne and Wear) and The Herbert (Coventry). Support has been offered by local authorities in terms of access to records and key personnel and interest in the findings. We decided to work through existing groups and organisations in order to build on what is already happening in the areas and to leave a legacy with these organisations after the research ends.  The community partners include grassroots volunteer-led groups, as well as organisations with paid workers, and have a good track record of reaching individuals and groups that may often be excluded from civic participation, including minority ethnic groups, asylum seekers and refugees, young people outside education and employment, older people and those with disabilities. Part of the brief of the community-based work will be for the organisations involved to extend the reach of their existing work to include participants who have not been involved in the past, as well as making links between organisations working with different types of users. We are aware of the heterogeneity and dynamics of communities of place and the tensions that may exist within and between communities of place, interest and identity, and of the need to ensure that recently arrived residents, children and young people feel they can contribute to a programme of work focusing on the history of the areas. Researchers in each area will work with these organisations to set up Co-inquiry Action Research (CAR) groups to plan and implement programmes of historical and contemporary action research. This component is conceived within a community-based participatory research framework, with academics taking the lead in some aspects and community partners in others, and CAR groups in each area to draw the study together and engage in on-going dialogue and analysis. The ethical guidelines developed by the Centre for Social Justice and Community Action at Durham University as a result of two AHRC Connected Communities small grants will be used to work with all participants to agree principles and ways of working and to address issues of power, control, anonymity, ownership and conflict. The methods are mixed, including statistical presentation, qualitative and oral history interviewing, archival research, community-based peer research, walking interviews and other geo-spatial methods and arts-based activities. The work has been broken down into the following work packages, which form a linked and integrated whole.  ***WP2.1 Theoretical & programme overview*** Lead – Sarah Banks, with Mick Carpenter, Alice Mah, Lena Dominelli, Gary Craig, John Benington, Harvinder Bedi, Sue Hyatt – drawing together theoretical and methodological background from the findings of other parts of the programme as a whole, attending whole programme conferences over five years, liaison between projects, international links. ***WP2.2 Statistical presentation and policy overview*** (Byrne and Robinson) ***Statistical presentation*** (lead, Dave Byrne) - time ordered narratives describing demographic, economic and social changes in the sub-localities since 1961 – just about the peak of the UK’s industrial status owing to the large scale of employment of women in light industries, an important factor in all the study areas. The key source for data will be the decennial censuses. Considerable use was made of 1961 and 71 data in the original CDP studies and this was updated for Northern Tyneside, as supplemented by NOMIS (National Online Manpower) data by Byrne (1989). We will be able to use the 2011 Census results and therefore will have time ordered quantitative narratives of social and economic change over a fifty year period during which the UK as a whole and the study areas in particular were transformed from industrial to post-industrial in character. ***Policy overview***  (lead, Fred Robinson, with Community Partners) – an account of the development, implementation and impact of community-based regeneration policies and programmes in each area using records of central and local government, community organisations, the media and interviews with key actors, past and present, including residents who moved away. ***WP2.3 Tyneside action research*** (Sarah Banks, Andrea Armstrong, Judith Green and community partners) *and* ***WP2.4 Coventry action research*** (Alice Mah, Mick Carpenter, Researcher and community partners)WP2.3 and WP2.4 will involve: ***Creating and collecting materials and perceptions 1*** (lead Community Partners) – up to 18 community organisations and other partners have agreed a programme of activities on the theme of ‘imagining different communities’, which draws on memories, photographs, plans of the past and generates future imaginings of what is a ‘good community’ and how this can be brought about - given the lessons from the past. Use of visual and creative methods such as, oral history interviewing and reminiscence work, drama, street art, film and DVD making by older people, youth groups, minority ethnic groups, local history groups and women’s creative writing groups. ***Creating and collecting materials and perceptions  2*** (lead, Durham and Warwick Researchers) – systematic research complementing work by community partners on local attitudes, actions, projects, plans, hopes, disappointments from archive material, reports, qualitative interviews and focus groups.  Drawing together and overall analysis.***Exhibitions, archives, performances*** (lead Museums and Community Partners) - Work with local museums/galleries/theatres to create exhibitions/performances based on the community activities and linked seminars.  ***Co-inquiry action research groups*** (lead an academic and a Community Partner) – two groups of academic and community researchers, one in the North East and one in Coventry, members of which will be involved in steering and discussing the research as it develops, overseeing provision of training in oral history interviewing, DVD making, sharing of ongoing activities and findings, planning of launch and exchange visits between areas, collective analysis and dissemination planning. **Dissemination and impact**Dissemination via exhibitions, web-based materials, additions made to local, regional, national and international collections, e.g. W. Newcastle Picture History Collection, Museum archives, local libraries, CDP archive being developed by Hyatt in USA; seminars designed for local authorities and other policy makers and practitioners; academic and practitioner conference presentations; academic and local publications, briefings and toolkits. Impact on policy, practice, community capacity, academic practice in research and theorising of community engagement and regeneration.**Indicative timetable**   |

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| **Jan 2014** | **Active research starts.** Researchers appointed, Imagine groups (Co-inquiry Action Research groups) first meetings in Tyneside and Coventry, plans for launch event, statistical work and policy research starts, community groups begin planning. |
| **April 2014** | Launch event in Newcastle for all areas on 3rd April 2014, including agreement on principles, aims and plans.Community research underway, Research Associate collecting data, quarterly Imagine group meetings ongoing. |
| **Autumn 2014/Winter 2015** | Visit to Coventry by North East participants, sharing progress, ideas, plans, and lessons. Representatives attend the annual whole programme conference in Durham, 9th September 2014. Research and activities ongoing. |
| **March 2015** | Imagine groups assesses and analyse findings and materials collected to date. Discuss with Museums plans for exhibitions/related events. Research and activities ongoing. |
| **June 2015** | Community partner summary reports due.  |
| **Sept 2015** | Research and majority of activities finish. Final analysis and over view. Writing up, preparing exhibits , dissemination materials and academic articles |
| **Nov/Dec 2015**  | Exhibitions and associated policy and practice seminars in three areas. Objects selected for overall programme exhibition. **Project completed by 30 Dec.**  |
| ***[Jan 2016 – Dec 2017*** | ***Follow-on work*** *- Key participants will continue to attend annual whole programme conferences and contribute to the whole programme ]* |

Sarah Banks, s.j.banks@durham.ac.uk, 16.1.14