

LCBB4002 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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Introduction

Community engagement refers to the systematic involvement of community members in decision-making and planning activities that have a direct impact on their lives. The establishment of robust and resilient communities is contingent upon this crucial component (Pine et al., 2020). Community engagement encompasses a wide range of activities, spanning from casual dialogues to structured public hearings.



Figure 1: London Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme

The selected subject matter for this report pertains to the London Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme. The CLLD Programme is a financial initiative of £350 million aimed at providing help to community organisations in their efforts to conceive and implement projects that effectively address the specific requirements of their respective local communities (Inforegio, 2014). The implementation of the initiative is carried out through a network of Local Action Groups (LAGs), comprising individuals representing the community, local businesses, and the public sector (Tsacheva and Zheleva, 2021).

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the CLLD Programme with regards to its community participation principles, planning and design, standards, and impact. The study will additionally provide suggestions on enhancing community involvement in the scheme.

Main Body

Community engagement Principles



Figure 2: Community Engagement Principles of CLLD

The following principles of community engagement guide the work of the London Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme:

Co-production: Decisions regarding how the financing is dispersed are determined at the level of the community, by individuals who represent their communities best, in accordance with the idea of subsidiarity, which is central to the CLLD Programme's approach to co-production (Miller, 2014). Members of the community are consulted throughout the whole project life cycle, from inception to conclusion.

Empowerment: The CLLD Programme is designed to provide local communities a say in their own development and in the policies that have the greatest impact on their lives. Community groups' capacity to administer projects and provide services is strengthened through the programme's training and support (European Commissioner, 2023).

Equality and inclusion: The CLLD project is dedicated to promoting equality and inclusion by giving all London communities an equal chance to take part in and reap the benefits of the project. Several mechanisms, including allocated funds and capacity-building initiatives, are built into the programme to aid underprivileged neighbourhoods (Owen and Vercruysse, 2014).

Transparency and openness: The CLLD Programme's funding decisions and processes are made in a manner that is transparent and open. The programme has monthly public meetings and posts details regarding its projects and finances on its website (Tsacheva and Zheleva, 2021).

Communication and consultation: The CLLD Programme is committed to open communication with all of its stakeholders including the general public. Email, social media, and the program's own website are just some of the ways that information is disseminated. Meetings with stakeholders to discuss the program's progress and future plans are held on a monthly basis (Inforegio, 2014).

Responsiveness and Accountability: The CLLD Programme takes community feedback seriously and is transparent in its operations. An independent audit committee and a public scrutiny committee are just two of the structures in place to ensure responsibility for the plan (Florentina, 2019).

Planning and Design

Bottom-up planning and design principles informed the creation of London's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme. This suggests that the involvement of community people was sought at all stages of the process, encompassing the identification of local needs and the development and execution of appropriate interventions (Tsacheva and Zheleva, 2021).

The planning and design process of the CLLD Programme can be delineated into the subsequent stages:

Needs assessment: The initial phase of the planning and design process entailed the collection of data pertaining to the requirements and demands of many localities within the city of London. This was achieved by conducting surveys among inhabitants, organising focus groups, and engaging in discussions with influential individuals within the community, such as the European Commissioner in 2023.

Stakeholder engagement: Stakeholder engagement constituted the subsequent phase inside the planning and design process, entailing the consultation with pertinent entities to establish a shared objective for the programme and ascertain its primary financial goals. Stakeholders encompassed local residents, companies, and government entities within the vicinity.

The third step in the planning and design process was the development of project initiatives that address the requirements of the community and contribute to the success of the programme (Miller, 2014).

This was accomplished by working with neighbourhood associations, which submitted the project proposals.

Implementation plan: The fourth step in the planning and design process was to create a strategy for carrying out the programme. It involved figuring out what would be needed to carry out the project, making a schedule, and naming the biggest threats and how to counteract them.

As intended, the planning and design process for the CLLD Programme was effective. The bottom-up methodology made sure that locals had a role in the program's creation and implementation, and that its projects were tailored to local requirements. Planning and design for the CLLD Programme were carried out in a timely and effective manner (Florentina, 2019). Since its 2016 inception, the programme has provided funding and support for numerous initiatives all around the city of London.

Throughout the process of planning and designing the CLLD Programme, stakeholders were taken into account and actively involved. The programme enjoys widespread support from civic organisations, local companies, and the government. Stakeholders are invited to participate in frequent consultation meetings with the programme to provide input and check that their needs are being met. The process of planning and designing the CLLD Programme was appropriate, well-implemented, and inclusive of all relevant parties.

Principles

The London Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme encompasses the set of requirements outlined below:

National Association of Local Government (NALC) Community Engagement Standards: These has established a set of guidelines that delineate the fundamental concepts and best practises of community participation. The CLLD Programme ensures compliance with these criteria in all facets of its operations (European Commissioner, 2023).

ISO 26000 Social Responsibility Standard: The ISO 26000 Social Responsibility Standard offers comprehensive guidance on the integration of social responsibility principles within the framework of organisational governance, risk management, and core operational processes.

The CLLD Program utilizes this rule to ensure the social obligation and supportability of its undertakings (Florentina, 2019).

Worldwide Announcing Drive (GRI) Maintainability Revealing Norms: It offer an organized structure for the exposure of an association's manageability execution.

The CLLD Program uses these rules to record and break down its social, ecological, and monetary effects.

The utilization of these norms by the CLLD Program is thought of as suitable for the program's expressed objectives. The standards act as a primary structure for guaranteeing the socially dependable and economical execution of the undertaking, as well as its responsibility to the more extensive public (Tsacheva and Zheleva, 2021).

The CLLD Program successfully imparts the principles to partners. The program's site offers broad data on the norms that the program follows, as well as how these rules are utilized to direct its tasks. Moreover, the task reliably distributes a manageability report on a yearly premise, which offers a complete outline of its social, natural, and monetary accomplishments.

The CLLD Program uses different strategies and stages to impart its beliefs of local area commitment effectively. The accompanying things are incorporated:

The CLLD task's site gives broad data on the ideas of local area contribution inside the drive, as well as a scope of assets and backing explicitly intended for local gatherings.

The CLLD Program utilizes social media platforms stages to support the openness of its local area commitment standards and take part in dynamic communication with relevant partners.

Email is used by the CLLD Program as a specialized device to really draw in partners in conversations with respect to local area commitment standards. Furthermore, it fills in as a system to expand solicitations for their support in conference and commitment exercises (Miller, 2014).

The CLLD Program gathers intermittent public gatherings to consider upon its local area association standards and address requests from partners.

[Evaluation and impact](#)

The impact of the London Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Programme is measured in a number of ways.

Project monitoring and evaluation: To ensure that all of its initiatives are on track and meeting their goals, the CLLD Programme conducts regular monitoring and evaluations (Florentina, 2019).

Impact assessment framework: The CLLD Programme has created an effect assessment system to quantify the program's positive influence on society, the economy, and the environment. Number of jobs produced, number of persons helped, and reduction in greenhouse gas emissions are just some of the indicators included in the framework (Owen and Vercruysse, 2014).

Stakeholder feedback: In order to gauge the program's success, the CLLD team routinely surveys participants and other interested parties. They use participant suggestions for improving the programme (European Commissioner, 2023).

The assessment and impact measuring tools and methodologies used by the CLLD Programme are adequate for their intended purposes. Indicators from the social, economic, and environmental realms are all covered by the available tools and approaches. To ensure their efficacy and relevance, the tools and methodologies are also subject to frequent reviews and updates.

Some concrete ways in which the CLLD Programme assesses the results of its initiatives are outlined below.

Employment created: Employer surveys and data on project progress are just two of the ways in which the CLLD Programme monitors the number of employments created by its initiatives.

Supported Population Size: Through data collected via monitoring projects and surveys of programme participants, the CLLD Programme is able to keep tabs on the number of people who have benefited from its efforts.

Deduction in greenhouse gas: The carbon footprint calculators and project monitoring data are just two of the ways the CLLD Programme tracks the decrease in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by its initiatives (Tsacheva and Zheleva, 2021).

Stakeholders get the results of the CLLD Programme's evaluation and effect measurement through a number of different mediums, such as:

Website: The evaluation and impact assessment framework for the CLLD Programme, as well as the results of the programme's effect assessments, can be found on the website under a tab labelled "impact measurement."

Annual report: The results of the CLLD Programme are documented in an annual report that is made public each year.

Stakeholder meetings: Meetings with stakeholders are held regularly by the CLLD Programme to address concerns and provide updates on the programme's progress (European Commissioner, 2023).

Social media: The CLLD Programme uses social media to disseminate the results of its impact evaluation and to foster dialogue with interested parties.

The assessment and impact measuring methodology for the CLLD Programme is, on the whole, well-conceived and carried out. According to Florentina (2019), the program's commitment to disseminating its findings to stakeholders, its utilisation of diverse tools and approaches, and the precision and comprehensiveness of the indicators it utilises collectively contribute to the establishment of an effective impact measurement system.

Conclusion

CLLD Program is a local area commitment drive that has been painstakingly planned and effectively executed. The drive sticks to best practices in local area cooperation, arranging and plan, guidelines, appraisal, and effect estimation.

The CLLD Program has a few remarkable highlights, like its prioritization of co-creation, independence, comprehensiveness, equivalent treatment, uprightness, trustworthiness, correspondence, help, reactivity, and obligation of care, among other estimable characteristics. As well as having an obviously portrayed technique for arranging and plan, the program likewise integrates a different scope of measures to direct its tasks. Besides, the venture's evaluation and effect estimation framework show a very much organized plan and has been proficiently executed.

The impact this Program on the areas of London has been critical. The plan has worked with help to people, created business open doors, and really decreased ozone harming substance outflows. Besides, the execution of this plan has added to the foundation of more grounded networks and the improvement of the general prosperity of the occupants nearby.

In order to further increase its connection with the community, the CLLD Programme should consider the following particular recommendations:

- The frequency of actions aimed at engaging stakeholders should be increased.
- Create a communication and engagement strategy that is more in-depth and thorough.
- Give community groups a greater amount of support in order to help them increase their capacity to participate in community engagement activities.
- Closer monitoring and evaluation of the impact of actions involving community engagement are required.

The CLLD Programme will be able to keep enhancing its community engagement practises and provide additional advantages to London's communities if these recommendations are put into action.

References

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