

11th March 2025

Community Catalyst Updated Tender Specification Note of explanation.

It is important to Adur and Worthing Councils that we listen to local voluntary and community groups and we have demonstrated that commitment throughout the commissioning process.

Since publishing the Community Catalyst Tender Specification in February, we have received a range of feedback from representatives of local voluntary and community groups who are keen to understand the changes to infrastructure support and how the new model for 2025-8 will support and enable them.

In response to this feedback we have reviewed the tender specification to make more explicit aspects of the new model that speak to the needs and concerns of local groups.

In particular, we need to draw bidders' close attention to the following amendments:

1. Supporting and enabling existing groups as well as making space for new and different groups of people to get involved in community action.

This was always the intention of the commission but in response to feedback we have made this more explicit in Section 1.3.

2. Addressing the needs and concerns of local groups and organisations.

The new infrastructure model was always intended to address the needs and concerns described in our [discovery research](#) and feedback from the wider system. We have made this more explicit in Section 1.3 by highlighting a focus on:

- evolving models of participation and volunteering; community space; and funding and resourcing
- enabling and supporting grassroots and community leaders to experiment and innovate in place

3. Year 1: from 'two pilot neighbourhoods' to 'pilots in the neighbourhoods'

Existing groups and organisations have been positive about the opportunity to experiment in the neighbourhood.

We now understand that the infrastructure model needs to provide opportunities in Year 1-3 for groups from across Adur and Worthing to be supported and enabled to experiment in the neighbourhood(s).

Section 1.3 now describes 'pilots in the neighbourhoods' rather than 'pilot neighbourhoods' - this is a subtle change but is significant because it means we would like to see experiments or pilots being supported across a range of neighbourhoods in Year 1.

A key challenge for bidders will be to demonstrate how they will resource and facilitate neighbourhood experiments and peer-to-peer learning networks across the borough and district from Year 1.

4. Peer-to-peer learning network opportunities for all local groups across Adur and Worthing.

As described above, Section 2.3.3. now describes a peer-to-peer learning network approach that will provide opportunities for all local groups across Adur and Worthing to participate from year 1.

5. Partnership with the councils is about supporting and enabling community leaders

Section 2.3.2. emphasises that 'partnership with the councils' is about supporting and enabling existing and new groups and community leaders by helping to create a more friendly operating environment (removing obstacles etc...)

6. The importance of supporting people through change.

Finally, feedback has highlighted the need to bring people on the change journey. Our current infrastructure model was commissioned in 2019 and the model for 2025-8 will require winning hearts and minds (shifting mindsets and ways of working).

We are looking for a partner who can support existing groups through this change and we have drawn attention to this in Question 2 of the quality questions. We have also given this question the greatest weighting (20%) because we know **change can only happen at the speed of trust.**