

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS – WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE ‘BACKBONE ORGANISATION’?

A Backbone Organisation is the ‘central organisation’ that instigates, champions, develops, convenes and drives strategic partnerships seeking to tackle complexity and deliver transformational outcomes to improve their place and / or peoples’ lives. Predominantly, but not exclusively, it is the Local Authority that provides the backbone organisation for many of the strategic partnerships operating within their locality; examples include Town / City Centre Regeneration Partnerships; Place-Making Partnerships; Skills & Employability Partnerships; etc. Every strategic partnership costs time and money; and brings high expectations from key partners. The question arises around how to make it work and worth all the effort? For the Backbone Organisation, the stakes are high. As such, they need a relentless and sustained focus on both Strategic Relationship Management and Strategic Partnership Development to truly unleash strategic partnership potential.

