
BUILDING CITIZENSHIP ... IN YOUR 'GLOBAL' TOWN OR CITY?

When investigating our citizenship in the context of a place [this could be our immediate neighbourhood, a town or a wider region], we need to be aware that:

- every place world-wide is experiencing change and development. Factors that influence our citizenship are continually changing, so our sense of citizenship is constantly evolving;
- every place has connections to people in other places in different parts of the world. If we are to understand our own local citizenship we need to see it in the context of our inter-dependence and wider global relationships.

The activities on these pages aim to enable students to explore their experiences of citizenship in their 'changing and global' town/city, and to look ahead to the future to think about a vision for the kind of town/city they would like to have. These initial activities offer students an opportunity to explore a number of overview issues for their town/city. They aim to investigate the 'bigger picture'. As a follow-up students might move on to explore their own role as citizens in bringing about change and contributing to a better future.

What are the issues?

This framework is designed to support students in an enquiry about their own place [ie its processes, policies, communities etc] to enable an exploration of citizenship issues at a town/city scale.

The framework might also be applied to localities at a range of different scales.

an outward-looking approach?

These are questions to find out the extent to which communities, groups and organisations in this locality respond to issues in the wider region/world and learn from experiences in other places.

a sense of belonging for all?

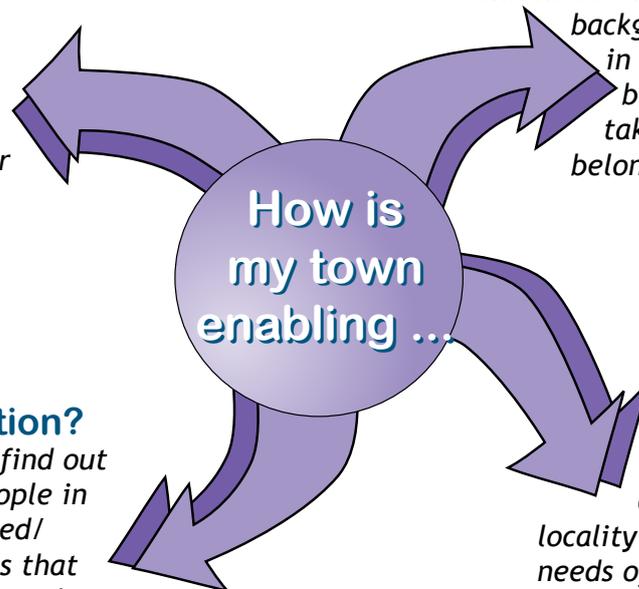
These are questions to find out the extent to which people from different backgrounds and communities in this locality feel as if they belong. What steps are being taken to build this sense of belonging?

greater participation?

These are questions to find out the extent to which people in this locality feel included/represented in decisions that affect them and feel that they can contribute to change. What steps are being taken to enable and encourage people to get involved and to contribute their ideas?

a sustainable future?

These are questions to find out the extent to which this locality is planning to meet the needs of its population in the future. What kind of place will this be to live in, in fifty or a hundred years time?



What's your City Vision?

“ *The most important goal for me would be to ensure that all the citizens of this city feel a sense of ownership over it.* ”

A resident from Derry/Londonderry, Northern Ireland.

 <p><i>Names and symbols are important to people. To 'build citizenship' we need to take this seriously.</i></p>	 <p><i>'Building citizenship' isn't just about sitting around in circles being serious - it's about having fun!</i></p>
 <p><i>Citizenship is about basic needs like jobs and incomes too - without these other things can be irrelevant.</i></p>	 <p><i>Having a vision of where you are trying to get to is important and it's worth investing in this.</i></p>
 <p><i>People from all sectors of society [ie business, education, community etc] have something important to contribute to the 'building of citizenship'.</i></p>	 <p><i>It's important that people and groups in the community 'get on with the job of building citizenship' and don't wait for politicians or the Council to take a lead.</i></p>
 <p><i>'Building citizenship' needs to embrace the needs of a diverse community and the many different identities that exist within this community.</i></p>	 <p><i>Young people are the future - in order to 'build citizenship' it is important to create opportunities to build their confidence and enable participation.</i></p>
 <p><i>The process of involving people and giving them a say in what might happen in the future is essential for 'building citizenship'.</i></p>	

These Visions were the result of a major consultation amongst residents of Derry, Northern Ireland, about the future of their city. The consultation was carried out by a partnership that included the Council and other organisations in the city. These Visions and further activities are shared in a Tide~ pack entitled 'Building new citizenship - learning from change in Derry/Londonderry',

The Derry Visions shown above could be copied onto card and cut out. Using these cards students might:

- choose the 3 visions from Derry that they feel people in their own town/city would most agree with for their own place. Different responses and views can be discussed amongst the group.
- develop their own City Visions. What would be their top priority?
- discuss practical actions that they would like to see happening to enable some of these visions to become a reality.

Investigating citizenship in your 'global' place ...

