

# **Anchor Institutions and Community Wealth Building Bulletin**

**Outputs from key organisations and new evidence  
relating to Anchor Institutions and Community  
Wealth Building in Scotland and the UK**

**October 2025**



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 0131 314 5300

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## Recent journal articles & books (database searches)

A selection of articles published between July 2025 - September 2025, relating to Anchor Organisations and Community Wealth Building.

These references were retrieved by searching the bibliographic databases: Medline, Scopus and ProQuest Sociology Collection.

Search criteria are available upon request from Knowledge Services and will be reviewed regularly to consider appropriateness and/or new areas of interest.

The searches are undertaken by PHS Knowledge Services. If you need any help obtaining the full text of any of the articles, please contact:

[phs.knowledge@phs.scot](mailto:phs.knowledge@phs.scot)

### Education Organisations as an Anchor

- Toulmin V, Tait M, Warwick T. **Anchor institutions in the changing city: the university's role in shaping the future high street**. Journal of Urban Regeneration and Renewal 2025;18:410–28.

Contributes to the debate on the role of universities within cities and develops a broader understanding of them as anchor institutions.

### Health Inequalities

- MacKinnon D, Kinossian N, Pike A, Béal V, Lang T, Rousseau M, et al. **Spatial policy since the global financial crisis**. Eur Urban Reg Stud 2025;32:243–60.

Renewed political concern about geographical inequalities in the wake of the global financial crisis raises questions about the ability of the pre-crisis model to generate more spatially balanced and inclusive economies. This article connects spatial polarisation and the 'geography of discontent' to the ongoing crisis of after the 2008 crisis.

- Noonan RJ. **What are the roots of the nation's poor health and widening health inequalities? rethinking economic growth for a fairer and healthier future**. Community Health Equity Research & Policy 2025;45:395–404.

The author discusses their belief that the pursuit of economic growth and failure to implement regulatory policies to mitigate against insecurity and health effects in society, in pursuit of innovation, productivity and growth is one key driver underpinning continuing health inequalities.

- Rose TC, Daras K, McKeown M, Lloyd Goodwin T, Manley J, Barr B. **Understanding the differential effects on employment of a community wealth building programme in England: a difference-in-differences study**. J Epidemiol Community Health 2025;79:658–63.

Preston is a relatively deprived city in England which has implemented a Community Wealth Building (CWB) programme which has been associated with improvements in local wages and wellbeing. This study estimated the effect of Preston's CWB programme on employment and examined differential effects by disability status and other equality dimensions.

## **Inclusive Economy**

- Rice HP, Höhn A, Meier P, Heppenstall A, Lomax N. **An inclusive economy dataset for wards in Great Britain using administrative and synthetic data sources**. Sci Data 2025;12:1230.

There is a lack of small-area datasets focused on economic inclusion. This study focused on the creation of a dataset describing the extent and enablers of economic inclusion in Britain. The result, the SIPHER (Systems Science in Public Health and Health Economics Research) Inclusive Economy (Ward Level) dataset, consists of 13 indicators describing economic inclusion at electoral ward level for 2019-2021.

## Wellbeing Economy

- Agrawal S, Sharma N, Agrawal R, Iazzolino G, Bruni ME. **Beyond GDP: a triple helix framework for a happiness economy**. Soc Indic Res 2025;179:67–94.

This study is one of the first attempts to recognise countries that have shifted their focus from traditional economic measures like GDP to embrace the happiness or well-being economy model. Aims to identify the variables that help build a happiness-based economy and develop strategies for countries to adopt a happiness framework.

## Recent reports and news (grey literature)

A rundown of recent publications from key organisations, published between July 2025 - September 2025.

### Anchors in a Changing Context

- Health Anchors Learning Network. **National vision, local delivery: the role of anchor organisations in a changing context**. Health Anchors Learning Network, 29 July 2025.

Explores the changing policy environment for anchor work in England and the role of anchor organisations in navigating these shifting contexts.

### Employer as an Anchor

- NHS Employers. **Inspire, attract and recruit toolkit**. NHS Employers, 2025.

This resource has been developed for NHS Human Resources professionals, recruitment teams and managers to help inspire, attract and recruit the future workforce. Includes consideration of the NHS as an anchor institution.

## Health Inequalities

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies. [Essay: addressing health inequalities through employment](#). CLES, July 2025.

This is the second in a series of essays that answer key questions about the effectiveness of devolution in addressing health inequalities. Includes information about anchor institutions.

## Inclusive Growth

- The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts. [East Midlands Inclusive Growth Commission final report](#). RSA, September 2025.

Outlines the findings of the East Midlands Inclusive Growth Commission. At the heart of the commission's work is the opportunity escalator tool. This is a data-driven approach that can be used to give localised analysis to support inclusive growth policy and delivery. The toolkit can be used to build up a picture of the types of industries and occupations that would provide the broadest opportunities for inclusive growth, and the routes to helping people up the escalator.

## Measuring Impact

- Health Anchors Learning Network. [Creating a system-wide approach to anchor impact measurement in Suffolk and North East Essex ICS](#). Health Anchors Learning Network, 26 September 2025.

Explains how Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Partnership System have worked collaboratively to align local partners within the Integrated Care System around a shared approach to measuring anchor impact.

## Procurement

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies. **Public money, public purpose**. CLES, July 2025.

This guide explains how those who procure or commission goods and services can maximise public value. It outlines four key decision points in the procurement and commissioning process and illustrates how places across the UK are forging ahead in public value excellence.

- Federation of Small Businesses Scotland. **Boosting local economies: a Community Wealth Building report for the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland**. FSBS, 2025.

A report from the Federation of Small Businesses Scotland which investigates local government procurement practices and Community Wealth Building (CWB) approaches, and how they impact Scottish Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. Offers key insights and recommendations for effective CWB legislation and procurement.

- University College London. **Rethinking the economics of public procurement: towards a mission-oriented economic approach**. UCL, 2025.

Public procurement is a key tool for mission-oriented innovation policies. This paper argues for a new economic theory to understand and guide public procurement as a tool to shape markets to tackle social and ecological challenges.

## Renewable Energy

- Centre for Local Economic Strategies. **Harnessing our natural resources**. CLES, August 2025.

The Centre for Local Economic Strategies collaborated with South of Scotland Enterprise to draft a new Community Wealth Building Framework which examines how to increase the local economic, social and environmental benefits from renewable energy. The resulting draft framework uses the five pillars of Community Wealth Building to create a series of recommendations.



## Wellbeing Economy

- Centre for Cities. **Town and gown: the role of universities in city economies.** Centre for Cities, September 2025.

Sets out how local universities contribute to cities' economic development as high-skilled employers, international exporters and catalysts for city-centre regeneration and innovators.

- Institute for Welsh Affairs. **A flourishing wellbeing economy for Wales: economic priorities for the next Welsh Government.** IWA, July 2025.

This manifesto outlines the authors' beliefs that the economy should serve the wellbeing of people and communities. It argues that the Welsh Government has the power to shape a new type kind of economy – one rooted in social justice, equality, care, and environmental sustainability.

- The Scottish Government. **Scotland's wellbeing economy monitor: July 2025.** The Scottish Government, July 2025.

The Wellbeing Economy Monitor (WEM) tracks progress towards creation of a wellbeing economy using a broad range of indicators, with a particular emphasis on where the economy and economic policy play a role in contributing to wellbeing outcomes.

- The Scottish Government. **Scotland's wellbeing economy: July 2025.** The Scottish Government, July 2025.

This report describes how the Scottish Government is taking a broader view on what it means to be a successful economy, society and country. Describes the Government's approach to wellbeing and gives practical examples of where this approach has been delivered in Scotland and internationally.

## Disclaimer

All reasonable care is taken to ensure that the information we provide is accurate and we accept no responsibility for the content provided. The information provided is selective; however, the inclusion of a link does not imply approval of the contents of the website.

This is not meant as an exhaustive list of publications on these topics for the given time period, but rather a selection as seen most relevant.

## Contact

**Knowledge Services**

[phs.knowledge@phs.scot](mailto:phs.knowledge@phs.scot)