

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**

July 2026



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Recent journal articles & books (database searches)

A selection of articles published between April - June 2026, 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:

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Community Wealth Building

- Ahmed R, Rose TC, Hollingsworth B, O'Sullivan V, Barr B. **Local government procurement costs and Community Wealth Building Initiatives in England.**

Annals of Public and Cooperative Economics 2026;97:537–50.

Examines whether locally-focused procurement leads to higher costs. The study was motivated by the Community Wealth Building Initiatives introduced by Preston City Council in which social value to the local economy is considered in procurement decisions. Results indicated that local procurement does not necessarily increase costs and may help support small local businesses.

- Barr B, Rose T, Daras K, Prinos I, Mckeown M, Manley J, et al. **The health and health inequalities impact of a place-based community wealth initiative, a mixed-methods study.** Public Health Res (Southampt) 2026;14:1–24.

The City of Preston initiated a Community Wealth Building strategy in 2012. This paper investigated the health impacts of this approach up to 2019, during which time the city focused on progressive procurement and the adoption of the Living Wage by employers in the local area.

Inclusive Growth

- McCormack M. **Consideration of growth, regimes and inclusive local development post-Brexit. Local Economy**.2026;40:163–83.

Examines economic growth in post-Brexit Britain. Focuses on policy initiatives such as Growth Deals, Levelling Up and creating Sustainable Prosperity. The paper looks at the effectiveness of these policies in tackling regional disparities and boosting inclusive growth.

Recent reports and news (grey literature)

A rundown of recent publications from key organisations, published between April - June 2026.

Anchor Networks

- Health Anchors Learning Network. **From strategy to action: 3 years of anchor work at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board**. HALN, April 2026.

In 2022, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTM) set out its first formal Anchor Strategy. The strategy established clear objectives and accompanying goals across five key areas of focus: employment; procurement; capital, estates and facilities; environment; and corporate. This blog reviews progress so far.

- Health Anchors Learning Network. **Widening Access at Swansea Bay: Improving population health through employment opportunities**. HALN, May 2026.

Swansea Bay University Health Board has committed to being an anchor institution. This case study showcases the impact that this focus has achieved locally by highlighting three initiatives from their Widening Access work, as well as looking at the future for the Health Board as it aims to maximise its impact as a local anchor institution.

Community Wealth Building

- Centre for Local Economics. **Scottish Community Wealth Fund**. CLES, April 2026.

CLES partnered with the Scottish Community Coalition on Energy to explore what their proposal for a Scottish Community Wealth Fund would look like in practice. A Scottish Community Wealth Fund would increase the level of local community benefits, while also creating a complementary national fund and ethical investment strand to build long-term shared wealth.

Health Anchors Learning Network. **The County Durham Pound: driving social value and economic opportunity through regional partnership**. HALN, May 2026.

Explores how a group of local organisations formed the County Durham Pound, creating a place-based approach to community wealth building using procurement and a commitment to social value, as a means of tackling inequality.

Devolution

- The Productivity Institute. **Cumbria and devolution: unlocking productivity through place**-based governance. The Productivity Institute, April 2026.

This Insights Paper examines the evolving landscape of devolution in Cumbria and outlines key considerations for local leaders and regional stakeholders. It highlights critical questions regarding governance structures, socio-economic impacts, local leadership perceptions, and the suitability of mayoral models for predominantly rural areas.

Local Regeneration

- Joseph Rowntree Foundation. **Supporting just and regenerative futures in the North East**. JRF, April 2026.

Explains how the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's regional programme is supporting people building a just and regenerative future in the North-East of England.

- Local Policy Innovation Partnership Hub. **Communities in their places: evidence review**. Local Policy Innovation Partnership Hub, 2026.

This evidence review suggests that communities are central to addressing local economic, social and environmental challenges, but their ability to do so varies depending on policy frameworks, resources and local capacity.

Place-based Innovation

- Innovation and Research Causcus. **Global insights into innovation district development: a comparative study of local to national collaboration and co-design**. Innovation and Research Causcus, 2026.

With increasing devolution in the UK, place-based R&D and innovation policy has risen to the top of the UK policy agenda. In this report, we consider the lessons for place-based innovation policy from a series of international Innovation Districts spanning the USA, Europe, Australia, the Middle East and the Far East.

Youth Unemployment

- The Health Foundation. **How local action can help tackle rising NEET rates – and deliver economic growth**. The Health Foundation, June 2026.

Looks at possible measures to tackle the increase in youth unemployment, while ensuring inclusive local growth remains a priority.

Wealth Inequality

- Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland. **Sharing our wealth: what the public think about wealth inequality in Scotland**. Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland, 2026.

A new national study from Wellbeing Economy Alliance Scotland has found overwhelming concern about wealth inequality and strong backing for fairer taxation of wealth, including among people in higher-income households, challenging the common assumption that such reforms lack public support.

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

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