

Community Wealth Building Dissemination Event

25th March 2022

QCAP has been working with [Development Trusts Northern Ireland \(DTNI\)](#), who are an organisation that support community development trusts and social enterprises, on a research programme into the potential of *Community Wealth Building* in the region. DTNI organised a conference on the concept and its implications for legislation, policy and practice. QCAP team members Brendan Murtagh and Andrew Grounds presented the findings from the research carried out by DTNI, Trademark and the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES). The event provided a useful platform to critically assess the way forward for central and local government as well as social enterprises working to embed community wealth building practices across Northern Ireland. The conference also reviewed the experiences of other places including Cleveland (USA), Preston (England) and North Ayrshire (Scotland). Chaired by John Campbell BBCNI Business and Economics Editor, the speakers were:

- Deirdre Hargey - Minister for Communities, Northern Ireland Executive
- Ted Howard - CEO, The Democracy Collaborative, United States
- Sarah Longlands - CEO, Centre for Local Economic Strategies
- Aine Gawthorpe - Director, Foundation Economy, Welsh Government
- Brendan Murtagh – Professor School of Natural and Built Environment, Queen’s University Belfast.

The QCAP team members used the conference to disseminate the research findings from a series of Technical Advisory Papers (TAPs) which were organised within an overarching Community Wealth Building framework completed between January and March 2022. The delivery of the 5 TAPs were informed by the DTNI survey of development trusts, area-based consultations and thematic discussions in areas such as procurement, community banking and the potential of participatory budgeting. The five papers are:

- Technical Advisory Paper 1 Plural ownership of the economy;
- Technical Advisory Paper 2 Making financial power work for local places;
- Technical Advisory Paper 3 Fair employment and just labour markets;
- Technical Advisory Paper 4 Socially productive use of land and property; and
- Technical Advisory Paper 5 Progressive procurement of goods and services.

These thematic areas are central to shaping a community wealth building policy response from the perspective of the Department for Communities (DfC) through *Engaged Communities, Regeneration, Housing, Local Government* as well as across its *own services including procurement*. All five TAP’s will be disseminated over the forthcoming months via the QCAPtunes platform and will represent a useful body of research to help the local social enterprise sector and promote more effective community wealth building practices across Northern Ireland.