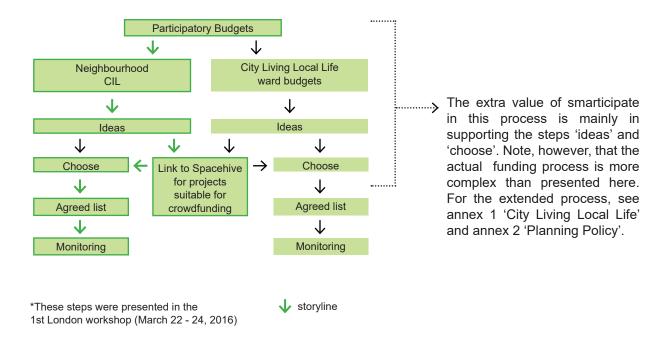


Use Case Scenarios

2. Community Infrastructure Levy / City Living, Local Life urban story 'Resident-initiated plan'

Resident-driven initiatives build stronger connections between residents in local neighbourhoods. Governments often enthusiastically begin programmes to support such initiatives, only to discover later that they require a lot of time from participants - including civil servants - with the consequence that the programmes and their budgets are cancelled after the next elections. A legally-binding tax, like the Community Infrastructure Levy, is different because it operates independently of election cycles. The challenge, however, is in deciding how to divide the resulting funds.

The scheme below shows the general steps for resident-initiated projects in which initiators apply for a participatory budget via the Neighbourhood CIL or the CLLL*:



Synopsis urban story

A group of active residents has a great idea: a new football field in the Borough. Smarticipate provides automatic feedback by outlining the basics: the current owner of their selected site, environmental restrictions, etc. The feedback indicates that it's not possible to develop on the site and therefore proposes alternative locations. The group chooses one of the alternatives and estimates the costs of constructing the field. Smarticipate provides a quick scan to determine which funds are available to support their plan. In this case, the football field is eligible to apply for funding to the Neighbourhood CIL. The project is accepted, but commitment from a broader group is required before co-financing is approved. The group therefore decides to use the Spacehive crowdfunding platform. They upload their idea to Spacehive and receive feedback: to apply, females must also be part the proposal. The group decided to use RBKC's postal code notification system to mobilise female participants. Their modified initiative is then added to Spacehive, with a successful result. Council officially decides to co-finance the project via the NCIL, and construction on the field begins. Smarticipate finishes by identifying main issues from the entire process and linking them to the Planning Policy steps.





Football is life. That's why a group of passionate fathers and sons in this super-urbanised part of London founded the Kensington Lions football team. Currently there's hardly any space on the street to play. They therefore come up with the idea to build a neighbourhood football field.



Scene 2

Igor and his son Serge live in front of an abandoned property that used to contain a car garage. They agree that it's a perfect place for the field because a lot of other football-loving fathers and sons live nearby. It's also close to the underground, making it easy for footballers from further away to reach.



Scene 3

Tony's son is not only a talented midfielder but knows a lot about the latest technology gadgets. He discovers the smarticipate tool, which demonstrates if an idea is possible on a given site. He therefore uploads the football field proposal to the city's 3D model.

Challenge: To create awareness of the smarticipate tool, since people may not know about the tool or where to find it.





The automatic feedback from smarticipate is disappointing. Although a sport field is needed in the area and the land is available and owned by the borough, the area's air quality is a problem - particularly the high levels of NO2. That means the site isn't suitable for functions like primary education and outdoor sports.

Challenge: This type of information is important because citizens put a lot of energy, time and money in ideas - usually without having access to fundamental information, like a link to the London Air Quality Network.



Scene 5

Happily, smarticipate proposes two alternative locations. The group is immediately happy with the Tavistock Road location because their famous pub, where they always watch Premier League games, is on the other side of the street.

Technical note: Smarticipate shouldn't simply state that something isn't possible. In those cases it should also provide possible alternatives, either with real-time feedback or a link to a real professional who can help them.



Scene 6

They decide to go for this location. However, now the project needs funding. Peter works at a construction company and uses his software to make a first cost calculation, which totals £30,000.





Smarticipate offers a quick scan to determine which fund or sponsor fits their plan. They get direct feedback: their project fulfils the policy goals for a healthy city and social cohesion, and the estimated budget is in line with typical NCIL budgets.

Technical note: Smarticipate provides information and contact details



Scene 8

The group uploads the project for the NCIL and they receive feedback from the local Councillor. It is accepted and added to the project list, but wider commitment is required to demonstrate the project's social importance. To get the project funded, 50% of the budget must be provided by crowdfunding.



Scene 9

To source crowdfunding, the group presents their idea on Spacehive. The feedback from Spacehive's verification system is to the point: the selected site is perfect, but since when do only men and boys play football? More politically, the group should broaden the group of participants, future users and supporters to include females.

Technical note: Spacehive has a project verification system that is performed by Locality and ATCM. These are organisations with experience in a broad range of projects. It would be interesting to find a way to link this with smarticipate.





They pitch the idea via the notification tool from My RBKC and Facebook in order to mobilize women and girls. It's a success! The group is now much larger and very mixed. They submit the revised initiative to Spacehive, where it is verified so that fundraising can begin. They hit their fundraising goal in only 48 hours.



Scene 11

Council officially decides to co-finance the project and realisation begins. The football field opens with its first match.



Scene 12

Smarticipate identifies issues from the entire interactive process and plugs them in the planning policy from the Borough.

Technical note: Automatically-generated report based on an interactive process, including general trends and tendencies.



Step two: Kow does it work?

Supported throughout by Council officers, the allocation of funding typically follows this process:

Councillors consult with their ward residents to identify needs, key community issues and local goals which could be addressed as part of City living, Local Life.

This can take place through ward surveys, public meetings and events or by encouraging residents to approach their ward councillors with ideas and suggestions.



A resident or community group approaches their ward councillor or the Community Engagement Team with an idea for project.



With guidance from City living, Local Life support officers, the resident or organisation submits an application form either by post or online.



The completed application form is assessed by City Living, Local Life officers and ward councillors, according to its sustainability, how well it meets local priorities and the five aims of the initiative.



Once all two or three ward councillors have approved the application via e-mail or signature, the project is funded.



Once projects have been funded, groups are expected to keep records of how the project or activity is running, including expenditure, and to provide officers and councillors with updates on their progress.

For more information on support and guidance, please see back page.

