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Community Wealth Building Summit 2019



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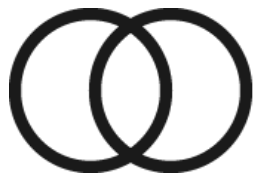
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Universities building community wealth

Frances Jones
Associate Director, CLES



CLES

progressive economics
for people and place



@fecjones

@CLESthinkdo



Community wealth building in the HE sector

What is the potential for universities to build community wealth?

- Universities are significant employers in many places
- Their spending power, estate and assets are considerable
- Beyond this they have potential to have a defining influence on local economies through business incubation, knowledge exchange, skills development



Community wealth building in the HE sector

Where is it happening? Where isn't it?

- Anchor institution is a familiar term – but few connect it to local economic agency
- Many (all?) universities have initiatives to generate local social and economic benefit
- There are some examples of intentional community wealth building approaches in the sector
- Limited recognition of the local economic agency of universities in the wider economic development sector



Community wealth building in the HE sector

What are the challenges to community wealth building in the HE sector?

- Few institutional drivers
- A financial, regulatory and policy context that militates against a local focus
- But high levels of commitment to HE as a public good remain Civic Universities Commission has very powerfully put the local back on the agenda

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