

Data as an enabler of the 12 elements

Below are examples of how data can support the 12 elements of place-based change.

Element	How data enables this
Subsidiarity elements	
1.1 Community-governed structures	Data governance sits within community structures. Communities have a say in what data is collected, who can access it, and how it is interpreted and used.
1.2 Responsive to local context	Local data enables services to adapt to community needs. Community insights reveal what standard datasets miss.
1.3 Valuing local knowledge	Community insights are positioned as equal to other data types. Stories and lived experience are valued as evidence alongside statistics.
1.4 Investing in local leadership	Through building local capacity to collect, analyse, unlock and use data. Creating paid roles for researchers and community data collectors.
Accountability elements	
2.1 Shared decision-making	Shared data enables shared decisions. When all partners can access and interpret the same evidence, decision-making power shifts.
2.2 Transparency in resource use	Open data about funding, spending, and outcomes. Communities can see what and where the money and resources is going and whether they're making a difference.
2.3 Mutual accountability	Shared measurement means shared accountability. Partners agree together what success looks like and track it together.
2.4 Continuous feedback loops	Data flows both ways. Community insights reach decision-makers; results flow back to community. This is the core mechanism of responsive systems.
Partnership elements	
3.1 Shared vision and purpose	Shared data creates shared understanding. When partners look at the same picture of community, alignment becomes possible.
3.2 Cross-sector collaboration	Combining data across sectors reveals the full picture. Service data + government data + community insights = an understanding that no single partner could achieve alone.
3.3 Trust and reciprocity	Trust grows when data is shared openly and used ethically. Reciprocity means data flows in all directions – not extracted from community but shared with community.
3.4 Equitable contribution and influence	All partners contribute data, and all partners have a say in what it means. Community knowledge sits alongside institutional data as equal evidence.

Empowering communities through data

- Data and the 12 elements

The 12 elements of place-based change

