Stimulating innovation in engagement and developing institutional cultures that support it

1. Culture and drivers of change
   - Developing a global narrative to frame our work
   - Working with funders/policy makers to incentivise effective practice
   - ‘Futures’ thinking to spot emerging trends
   - Creating a ‘pull’ for engaged practice from wider society/stakeholders

2. Research and insight
   - Sharing existing knowledge and research into engaged practices
   - Theorising engaged practice
   - Building research networks

3. Capacity building and skills development
   - Supporting more people to develop effective practice
   - Sharing expertise, knowledge & models of practice
   - Linking practice to theory

4. Impact and evidence
   - Tackling challenges around impact analysis
   - Building an evidence bank to support change

Draft framework developed by National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement (UK), Institute for Studies and Innovation in Community-University Engagement (Uvic, Canada) and Community Based Research, Canada.
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1. Culture and drivers for change

CONVERSATION STARTERS...
- What are the most pressing issues / challenges / we are dealing with in seeking to deepen universities’ productive engagement with society?
- How do we frame the ‘agenda’ for greater HE/societal engagement to mobilise involvement and change?
- What ‘theory of change’ and development practice are we working with to guide the interventions we are making?

HOW?
- Funders’ fora at conferences?
- Connecting civil society organisations to ‘build a movement’ for change
- Leadership development courses
- Innovation masterclasses bringing together cutting edge practice?

2. Research and insight

CONVERSATION STARTERS...
- What theoretical models are we using to make sense of these different challenges?
- Where are the emerging frontiers of thinking/analysis?
- How do we bridge the ‘theory-practice’ gap?

HOW?
- Establish an online community of practice that connects people and resources
- Conference wrap-arounds – developing an international seminar series to run alongside conferences, initially engagement focussed events but could easily then be translated into academic and community based conferences that focus on other areas.
- Training: Developing training in engaged practice that can be translated for different contexts.
- Study trips/ exchanges:
- Capacity building for community partners: finding a way to get community partners to meet one another and share their perspectives. Perhaps a study trip model?
- Create collaborative graduate student research opportunities
- Co-developing resources and sharing case studies to share etc

3. Capacity building and skills development

CONVERSATION STARTERS...
- What are the key challenges we are confronting around capacity building?
- How can we support each other to develop more effective practice?
- How do we connect community, student and academic communities?

CONVERSATION STARTERS...
- How can we find robust and rigorous ways to capture the influence and impacts that arise from societal engagement?
- How can we use this evidence to both ‘make the case’ for engagement, and to continually improve practice?

HOW?
- International task force on this – bringing together the best of what we know in terms of impact assessment?

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4. Impact and evidence

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