

**WAVES AHEAD
CONFERENCE 2015
WORKSHOP
SMARTER
TOOLKIT**

Introduction to the Smarter Toolkit

Fundamentally, what we mean by being “smarter” is making more effective use of resources, assets and opportunities. Being smarter involves realising the opportunities offered by the emerging and vibrant information/“[sharing economy](#)”, driving its development and using the tools it provides to improve communications and manage resources and assets more productively.

For the purposes of the conference workshops, “becoming smarter” includes the following 5 key areas

- 1. Exploring digital opportunities to do things differently**
- 2. Maximise sharing of available infrastructure and assets**
- 3. Using “smart” (clever) technology to optimise doing tasks**
- 4. Reducing unnecessary effort and duplication**
- 5. Communicating better**

This toolkit includes a set of questions for each of the 5 areas listed above. You will be presented with an idea for a real partnership project that has the potential to be smarter but needs your help to refine it. Please work through some or all of the questions so you can discuss any plausible answers to these questions and suggest any opportunities that might be possible. We would encourage you to be innovative, challenge how things are “normally done” and see together, in partnership how much smarter your ideas could be.

NB: The ideas and questions posed in this smart tool kit are designed merely as a seed for discussion and to help you start to explore smarter thinking and collaboration. There are no “right answers” to the questions. You may well also have a number of other ideas yourself that could also be explored around the 5 key “smarter” areas listed above.

Why are all the ideas about food and drink?



Smart is a big theme with many solutions and the conference is only a short event so we came up with a simple, tangible topic for delegates to focus on and to explore the idea of becoming smarter.

Food and Drink. We all eat it, many of us spend a lot of time thinking about it; what's in it, if it's safe and healthy to eat, where it came from, how it should be cooked or prepared, whether we can afford it, how we can share it or sell it to others, if we can grow it, how we dispose of it..... Some really important business decisions are made over lunch and some of the best project ideas have started with a chat over piece of cake.

From farmers' markets and food tourism to casserole clubs and food poverty, food and drink is everywhere and there are some great ideas for local projects and initiatives out there, but are we all being smart enough about it and making the most of what we have to achieve the best outcomes?

Food and drink cross cuts with every Partnership so every delegate will have something to contribute.

1. Exploring digital opportunities to do things differently

- 1.1. Have you made use of the latest mobile and flexible working opportunities?
- 1.2. Have you looked at shared information and feedback on the availability of digital platforms and apps and the opportunities these offer?
- 1.3. Could you create or design an app or platform for your specific purpose (or is there already something almost perfect out there you could make use of?)
- 1.4. Are there any opportunities for E-learning / distance learning?
- 1.5. Could a digital platform be designed and then used to apply for, and to access your services and information?

2. Maximise sharing of available infrastructure and assets

- 2.1. Is there an opportunity for enabling shared use of public premises?
- 2.2. Have you considered whether there are 'empty' public premises that could be temporarily utilised?
- 2.3. Are there any opportunities for sharing assets with others?
- 2.4. Is there opportunity for community involvement in taking on management and use of a public space or infrastructure?
- 2.5. Have you considered making use of a public sector hosted digital platform (designed for shared use)?

3. Using “smart” (clever) technology to optimise doing tasks

- 3.1. Have you considered using smarter, efficient vehicles/transport?
- 3.2. Could smart metering /monitoring systems be used?
- 3.3. Could smartphones and/or tablets be used?
- 3.4. Have you considered using smart payments?
(incl. contactless, pay on smartphone, e-billing systems)
- 3.5. Could you use interactive technology to engage and collaborate?
(events & meetings)

4. Reducing unnecessary effort and duplication

- 4.1. Is anyone else already doing the same thing as you? Can you share resources?
- 4.2. Could you share news, information and best practice through social media?
- 4.3. Could you collaborate and share information using cloud-based operating systems (eg Google Docs)?
- 4.4. Could you collect live data directly onto a digital / web platform?
- 4.5. Could an online platform, network or group be created to link people together to discuss similar ideas, like minded themes and/or to achieve collaborative goals?
- 4.6. Have you looked for any openly shared information, research, data, ideas or examples of best practice that could help you?

5. Communicating better

- 5.1. Have you considered using online meeting organisation and event management apps (eg eventbrite, doodle etc..)?
- 5.2. Have you considered using web-based newsletters / mailing list applications e.g. MailChimp?
- 5.3. Have you considered using video conferencing and conference calls instead of traditional meetings?
- 5.4. Have you considered using an online platform to network, coordinate and manage your tasks/project, for example Taskrabbit, Trello etc...?
- 5.5. Could you communicate and/or network through social media?