FE and Local Authorities

Risks and Opportunities

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How did we get here?

- Pre -1992
- Incorporation
- Upsides and Downsides
- Collaboration v Competition
- Learning and Skills Council
- National Targets and Priorities
- Growing unease

Localism v Provider Power

- Closer to the customer
  - Double Devolution
- Leadership and Coordination at Local (Authority) level
  - How local is local?
- An alternative future
  - Return of the FEFC

Pros and Cons

Local Authority View

- Close to the action
- Overview of community needs
- Integrated approach across services
- Democratically accountable
- Independent of producer interests
- Planning and Coordination

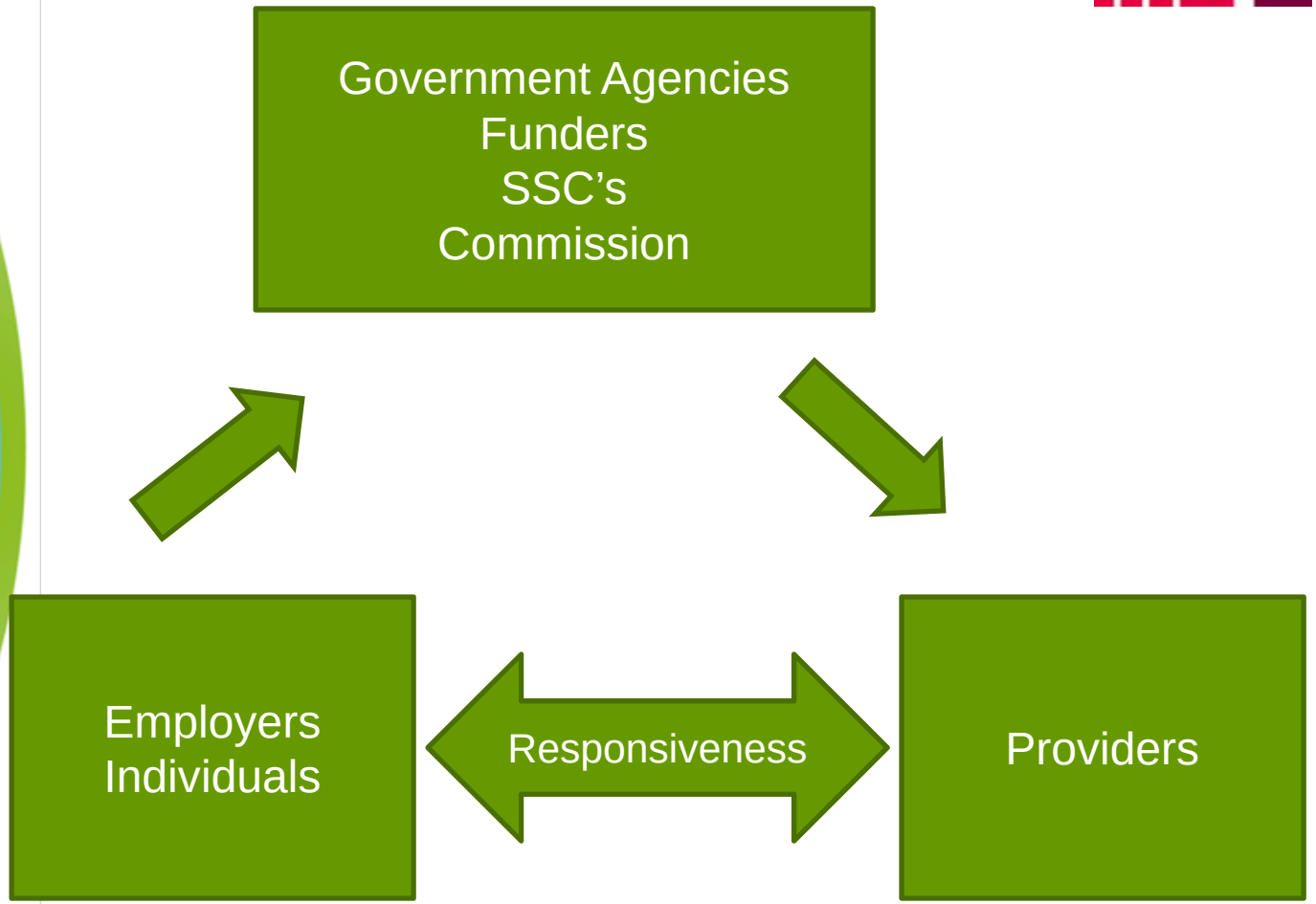
Provider View

- Not close enough
- Dialogue is everything
  - Chinese whispers
- Planning is deadweight
- Politics are a poor proxy for need
- Agility and Freedom
- Accountability with the Consumer

A question of ideology

- Planning Works
- You can get the information
- You can process it
- You can predict and plan
- Leaders know what people want
- Expert, Vision, Strategy

- Life Evolves
- Information is incomplete
- Too many variables
- Predictions are wrong
- React to needs as they occur
- Market, Delivery, Agility


Government Agencies
Funders
SSC's
Commission
Employers
Individuals
Responsiveness
Providers

Impact of credit crunch

- Failure of Markets **and** Planning
- Are skills needs more or less predictable
- If more….
- Planning, Direction, Specific, Aggregated
- If less….
- Reactive, Flexible, Generic, Customised

“Forget number crunching, data grinding, scenario planning… you just don’t need them.

In real life strategy is very straightforward. You pick a general direction and implement like hell.”

-Jack Welch Ex CEO and Chairman of General Electric

A question of accountability

- To the Government and its agencies
  - PSA, Funding Priorities, CIF, FfE
- To Local Authorities, Sub-Regions and Regions…
  - MoG, MAA
- To Skills Sectors
  - Qualifications Reform, SSA and Compacts
- To the FE Sector
  - Self Regulation

Accountability to the Mission

- Define the mission
- Which Markets, Communities, Sectors and Interest Groups to you claim to serve?
- How do you talk to them?
- What do they say?
- How does this affect your planning?
- What impact did you have?
- How would you use your freedom?

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