Developing CAA for the future

- including area-based value for money assessments

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MJ conference

19th February 2010

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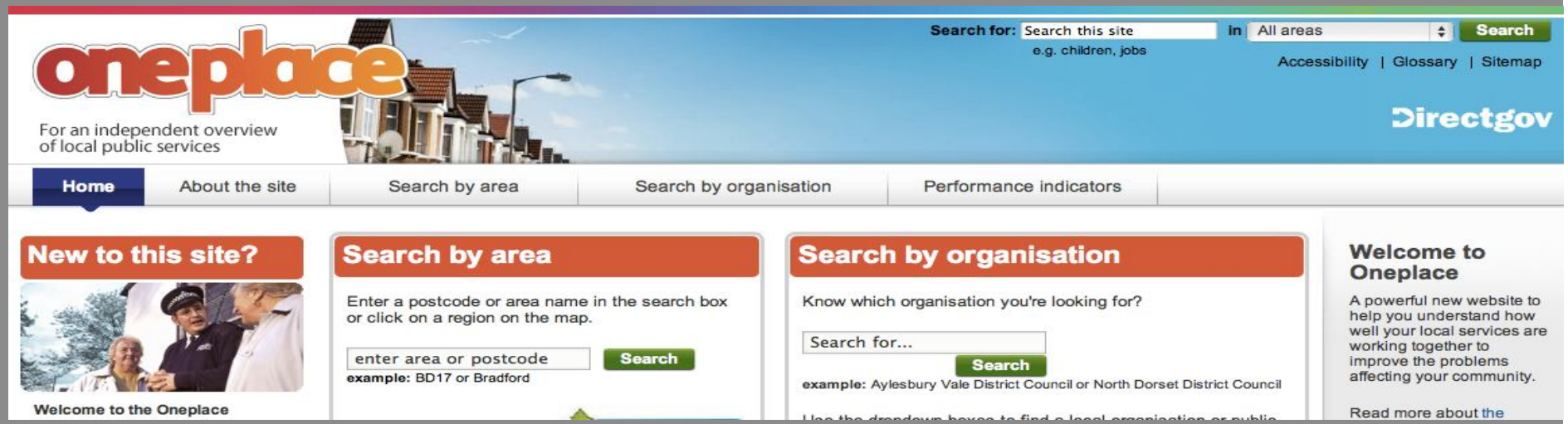
What I will cover today

1) Policy evolution on local places
2) Strengths & weaknesses of CAA
3) The challenges we face
4) A completely different CAA – principles & key features
5) Other policy changes needed

CAA and the shift to holistic approach to places

- 2000 LG Act - (Sustainable) Community Strategies
- Councils as “place-shapers”
- Local Area Agreements
- BVPI Survey to Place Survey
- Council PIs to Quality of Life PIs
- From CPA to CAA
- One Place website
- Total Place – tracking the money / reconfiguring services



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CAA: strengths & weaknesses

Strengths

Not CPA

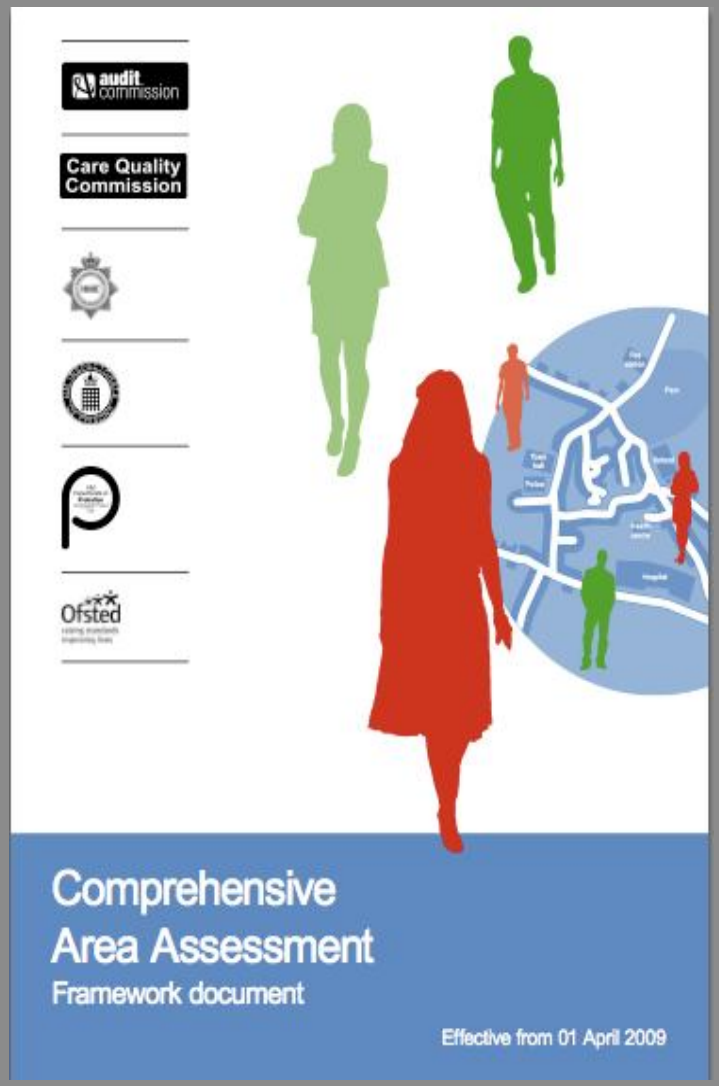
Multi-agency

Less burden

Accurate

Independent

“One Place”



Weaknesses

Not CAA !

VFM – by agency

Burden still great

So what factor ?

No citizens / users

Who noticed ?

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Dramatic challenges we face

Place & Partnerships but also…

- Economic crisis & value for money
- Climate catastrophe response
- Demographic changes
- Devolving to localities
- Citizen involvement & social cohesion
- Decline in trust in politics

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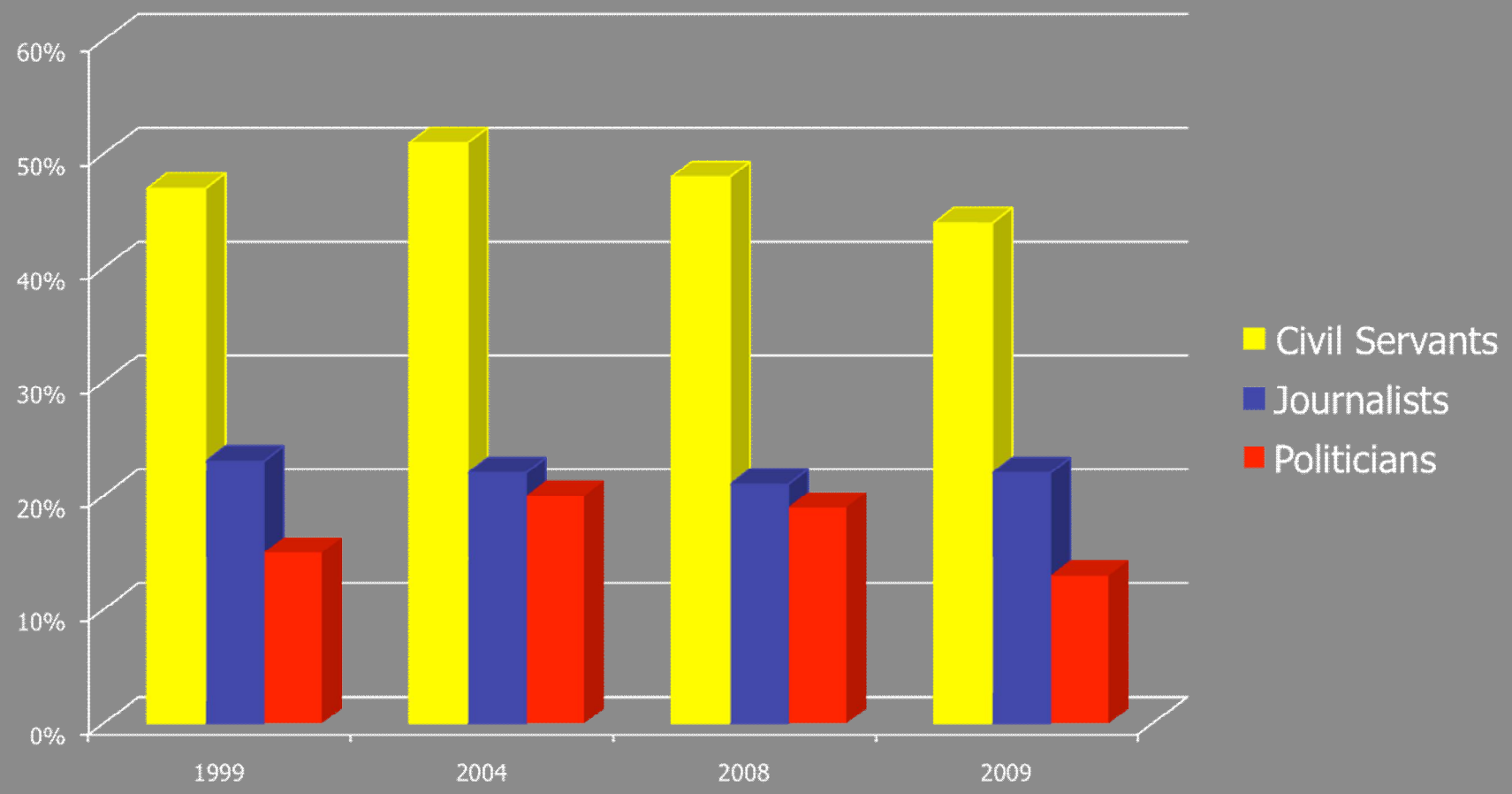
Trust in politicians

MORI Poll –Do you generally trust these groups to tell the truth or not?



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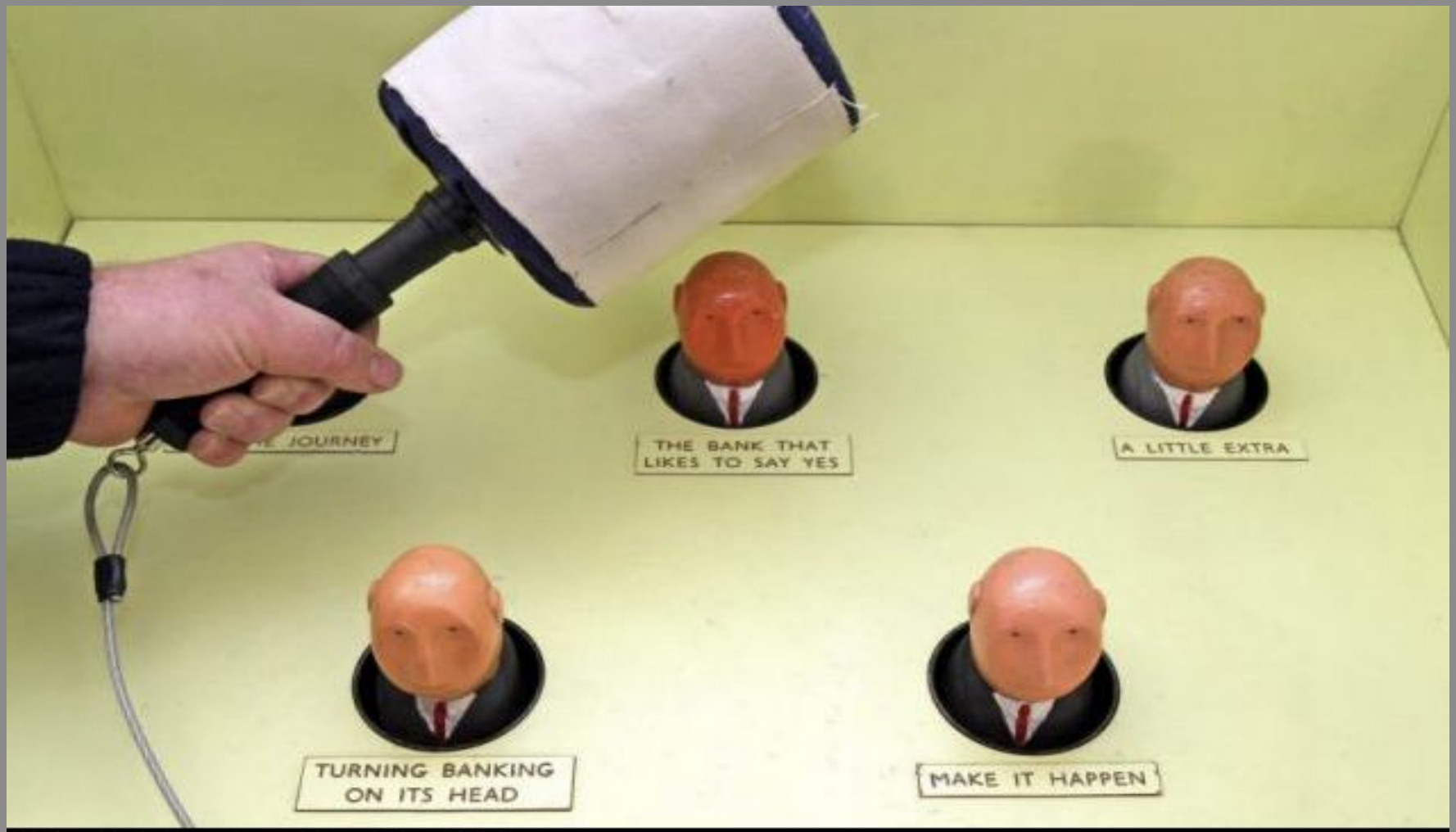
Trust in bankers?



Whack A Banker at Southwold Pier

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Principles for a new CAA

- **Comprehensive**
  - Sustainability/long-term
  - Demographic changes
  - Total Local Sustainable Place
- **Area**
  - Drop organisation focus, esp VFM
  - Different levels of area/place
- **Assessment**
  - Sector self assessment driven, but
  - Independent citizen/user element

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Real Local Area Agreements

- **Local**
  - All partners (3-yr SCS Action Plan & link to Community Contracts)
  - no sign off by Government !
- **Area**
  - parish/neighbourhood/any locality
  - district & unitary level
- **Agreement**
  - signed off with local people !
  - all public money coming into area (Total Place approach)

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Locality CAA Self Assessment

- Every three years (link to financial settlement)
- All three tiers/other localities
- Assess local quality of life/services, including area value for money
- Self assessment process must include peers, staff, citizens & users
- Must be widely reported to, discussed and agreed by public - not just on web !

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Information on service performance

- Merge One Place/Places Database/Spending Reports – one stop shop for public on places/services
- Retain nationally agreed (by councils/partners) set of indicators for comparison/benchmark purposes
- Range of local qualitative feedback incl. user/citizen “Amazon-style” ratings of services (like GPs)
- Non-web multi-agency local communications - leaflets, meetings, features in local media etc

What role for inspection?

- Unannounced inspections in services for most vulnerable
- Peer support (single local services improvement agency) & benchmarking information expanded programmes
- Peer intervention & support triggered by self assessment / benchmarking
- External inspection triggered from public, peer support process
- Single local places inspectorate

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Other policy changes needed

- **Reform local finances for public services**
  - End ring-fencing of finances / grants
  - Local property/land tax to fund services
- **Reform local democracy**
  - Proportional representation
  - Two new tiers – small locality for citizen involvement & unitary councils for commissioning & delivery
- **Reform local accountability**
  - End Central Government dictats to local services
  - Directly elected LSP Mk 2 absorbing council executive, responsible for all local public services
  - Elected assembly & local fora as overview/scrutiny

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