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community, opportunity, prosperity

Challenges and Opportunities for Local Strategic Partnerships

9th National Conference 14 July 2010

Control Shift Returning Power to Local Communities
Conservative Policy Green Paper No9, 2009

"Alongside the economic crisis we face the crisis of our broken society and a crisis of confidence in our political system.."

Power and control has been sucked to the centre sapping responsibility & initiative from people and economy unbalanced;

"Localism holds the key"

- Decentralise responsibility and power;
- Give people more power & control - when people know their actions can make a real difference they are more motivated to get involved;
- Incentivise to LAs - move to an economy built from strong, vibrant, local economies;

Thinking from think tanks

Localis: "Small State, Big Society"

- more efficient & effective state determines both future size of state & strength of society - not simply reduce size of state to increase strength of society;

- Allow service design to emerge rather than prescription from centre;

- Use economic flow & demand to challenge economies of scale;

- Community groups can deliver savings – needs LG to enable & support;

- Joined up services encourage shared responsibility & innovation, offer savings – but should focus on delivering better services not just cost cutting;

Centre for Policy Studies: "Magna Carta for Localism": trial Foundation Councils

- Focus on: tacking unemployment, community care, local prevention of crime, ASB, troubled families and offender management;

- Involves: improved sharing of data and expertise; split strategic commissioning from operational delivery; funding to LA as ABG rather than to police force;

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David Cameron and Nick Clegg's foreword in the Coalition's programme

"We share a conviction that the **days of big government are over**; that centralisation and top-down control have proved a failure.

We believe that the **time has come to disperse power more widely in Britain** … it is our ambition to distribute power and opportunity to people rather than hoarding authority within government. That way, we can build the **free, fair and responsible society** we want to see".

The Coalition:
our programme
for government

What is the Coalition's vision? The Coalition's programme for government has a mutually reinforcing set of values, Big Society outcomes and means of achieving them …

Values

Freedom
Frameworks that support social responsibility and civil liberties

Fairness
Those who cannot, we always help

Responsibility
Those who can, do

A Big Society matched by Big Citizens

Means

Decentralisation & Localism

Public Service Reform

Political Reform

Smaller State

Deficit Reduction & Economic Recovery

A successful Big Society will deliver economic prosperity and opportunity for all, strong families and communities, and a thriving democracy characterised by real power in the hands of every citizen.

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The Big Society

"Only when people and communities are given more power and take more responsibility can we achieve fairness and opportunity for all" [1]

This will be a society with:

- high levels of decentralisation, transparency and accountability;
- mass engagement in social action - active and passive citizens;
- galvanising action to mend broken society;

About Empowering the Citizen & Sharing Power.

Government role: identify what systemic changes can be made in order to help communities (where ever they are) to take the initiative themselves;

1. Building the Big Society

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Some key principles

- Social responsibility
- Decentralisation
- Accountability
- Transparency & data

and they're all connected;

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Redistribution of power from central state to individuals and local communities implies

- Removing central requirements, **less** central guidance & prescription;
- **Public involvement** not centrally required strategies e.g. planning;
- Public bodies becoming more **accountable** to public e.g. elected individual for police, referendum for Mayors in 12 cities..
- **Increasing role** of voluntary organisations and social enterprises;
- Enabling public to hold local bodies to account - **transparency & data;**

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What decentralisation is the Coalition already planning?

The Coalition's programme for government sets out plans to decentralise to all levels:

Individuals	Local communities/ neighbourhoods / civic society	Front line professionals (such as GPs, police officers, and teachers)	Local institutions (such as schools)	Local Government

How the local performance framework might change - less need for "top down elements"

- Framework designed with sector to restrict scope for more performance management demands on local areas; *But seen by sector as top-down*;
- From 1200 to a **national indicator set** of 170; *But Leicester and Leicestershire TP Pilot found local partners reporting 1100 centrally;*
- "everything is a priority" to agreed priorities **LAA**; *Endorsed by LGA as "powerful and effective" but seen as "bureaucratic and centralised"*
- joint independent assessment regime – **CAA – now abolished**; *LGA "Delivering More for Less" reported scope for significant savings;*
- Regional improvement & efficiency strategy; *Potential to streamline improvement landscape;*

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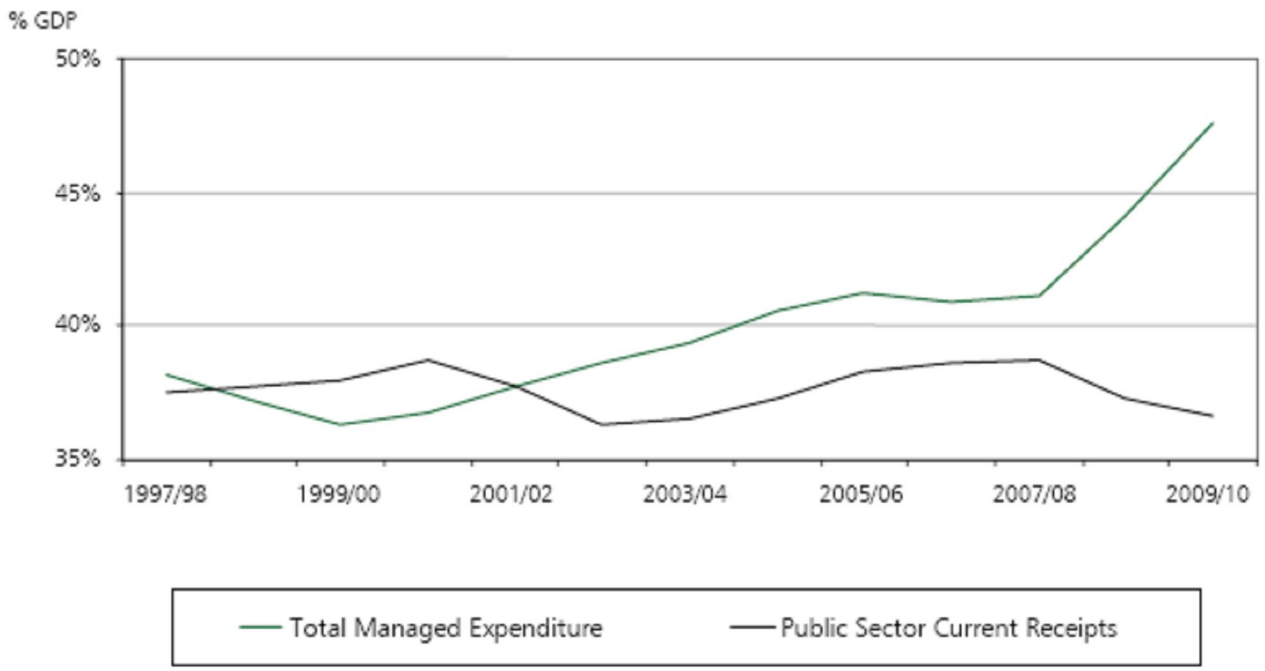
Deficit Reduction is most urgent issue. Gap between Government Expenditure and Receipts has been widening reaching 11% of GDP this year

Source: HM Treasury *The Spending Review Framework* June 2010

Chart 1.A: Total Expenditure and Current Receipts as a percentage of GDP



Source: HM Treasury[4]

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The Government have confirmed the need to work across boundaries – both locally and nationally – in the Spending Review guidance

3.9 The Government has set out its intention to promote the radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government. It will use the Spending Review to progress this, in particular through **simplifying the funding to local government and reducing the burden of centrally driven reporting requirements.** The Government will ensure that the Spending Review process **considers the needs of local government holistically, and takes account of the opportunities for frontline bodies to work together across traditional boundaries**.

HM TREASURY

The Spending Review framework

Cm 7872

June 2010

4.5. Where the achievement of a Government objective depends on more than one department, it will be important that those **departments work closely to deliver it in the most cost effective manner. In some cases this may involve additional spending by one department to realise savings in another department's budget.**

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/spending_review_framework_080610.pdf

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The Spending Review guidance also sets out tough criteria for considering Value for Money of public spending:

HM TREASURY

The Spending Review framework

Cm 7872

June 2010

- Is the activity essential to meet Government priorities?
- Does the Government need to fund this activity?
- Does the activity provide substantial economic value?
- Can the activity be targeted to those most in need?
- How can the activity be provided at lower cost?
- How can the activity be provided more effectively?
- Can the activity be provided by a non-state provider or by citizens, wholly or in partnership?
- Can non-state providers be paid to carry out the activity according to the results they achieve?
- Can local bodies as opposed to central government provide the activity?

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Much waste and unnecessary bureaucracy comes from lack of transparency of funding and multiple public bodies

Essential public sector agencies work together to:

- eliminate duplication and protect front line services;
- promote financial, social and personal responsibility - change behaviours, not just supplying a steady funding stream;
- support and enable voluntary and community sectors;
- and with the private sector – build strong, vibrant, local economies;

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Local Enterprise Partnerships

Coalition Programme - *we will support the creation of Local Enterprise Partnerships – joint local authority-business bodies brought forward by LAs themselves to promote local economic development – to replace RDAs....*

- key vehicle for delivering economic growth;
- locally owned and suit their locality;
- jointly run by local authorities and business;
- allow local areas to have greater control of local economies;
- take on some functions previously delivered through RDAs;

Government has **invited local authorities and the business community to give their views** on what partnerships should do, and how they should do it.

Partnerships should continue to evolve without central prescription

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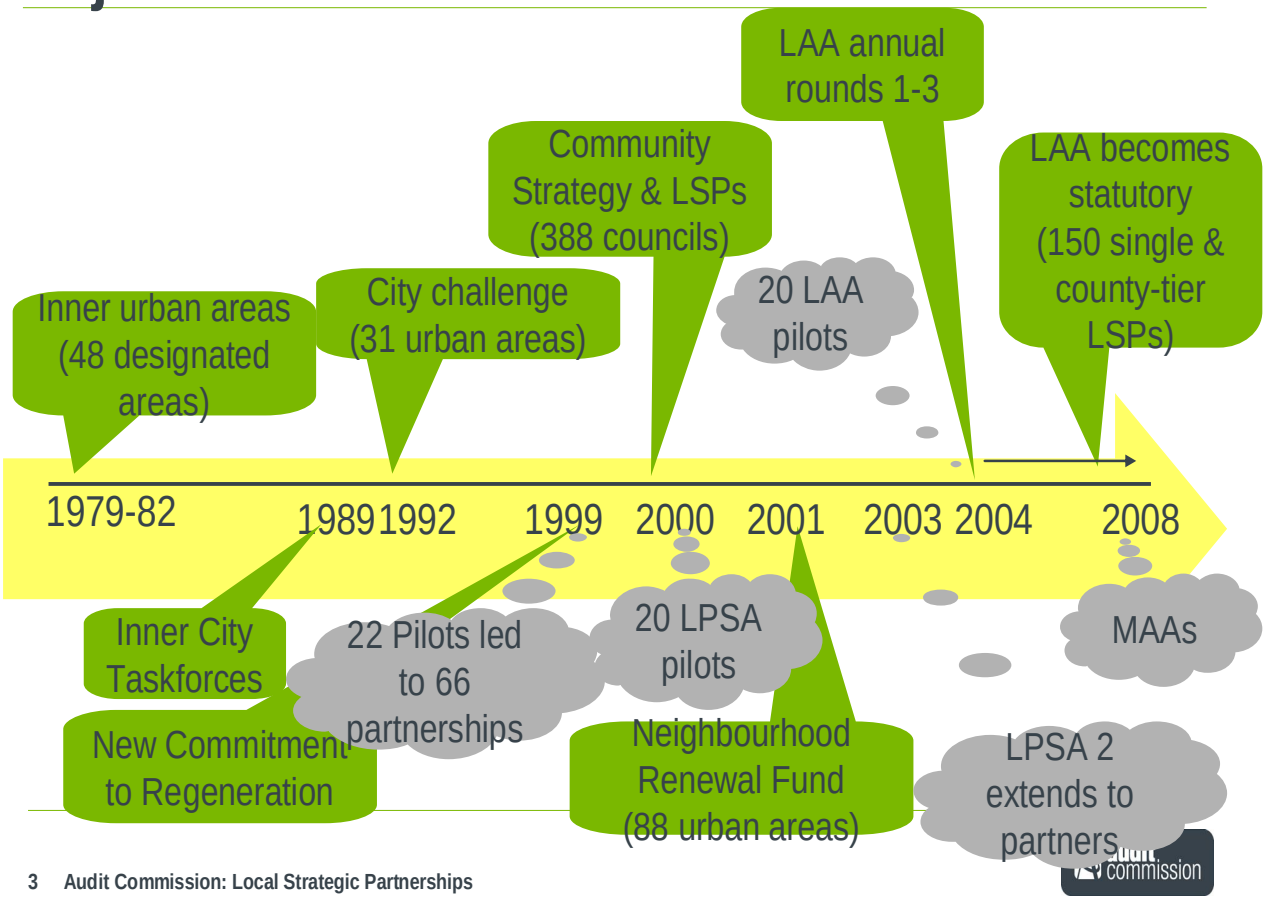
The history of local partnership working reflects changing national and local policy objectives



Future?

Government takes voluntarist, streamlining approach

Partnerships thriving where local bodies and people want them and believe they will make a difference

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…would expect Local Strategic Partnerships to have a key role in ensuring that services are commissioned as well as they can be and their 'place shaping' role