



Economic Assessment Network Launch

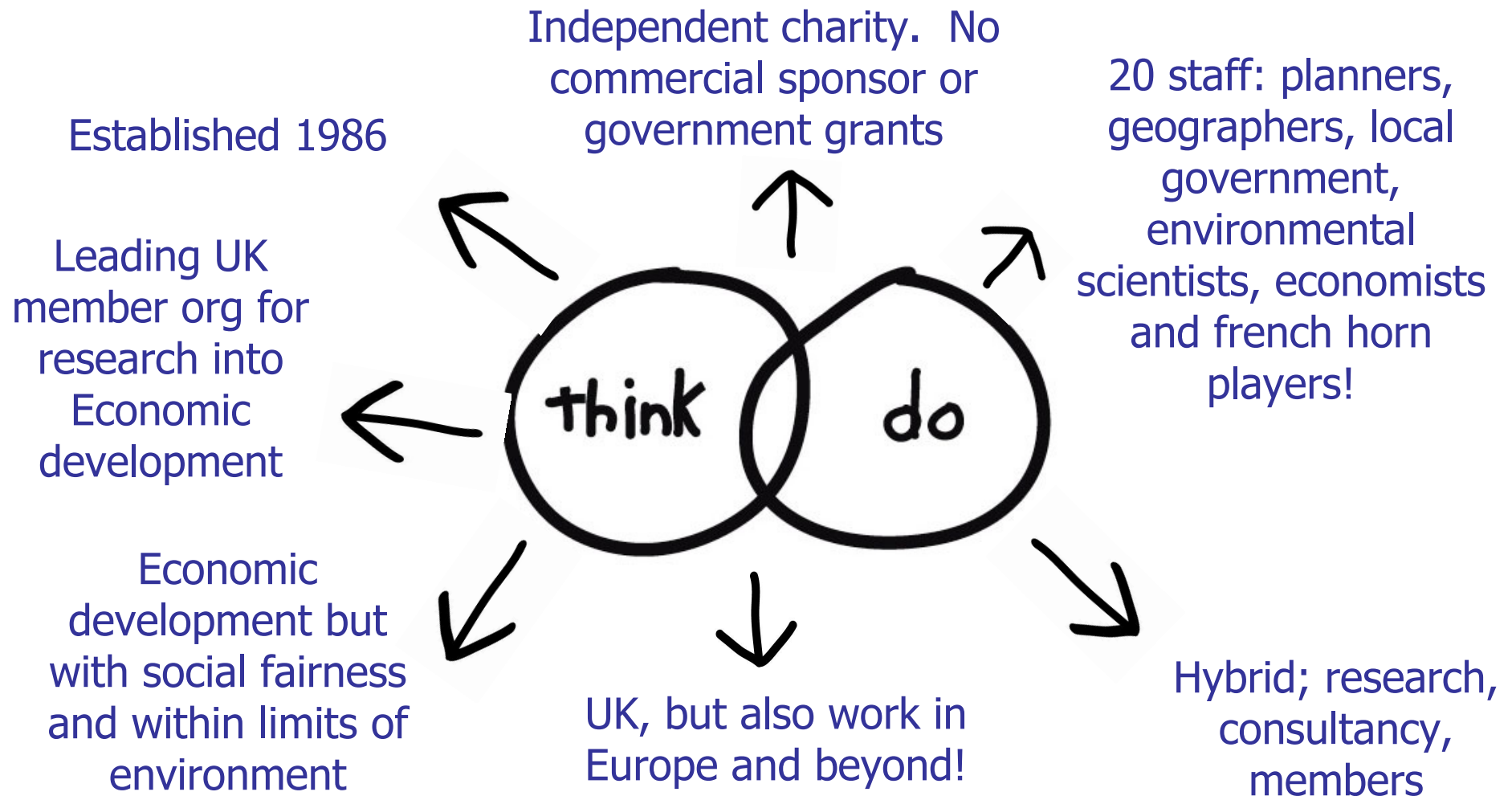
Thursday 25th February 2010

Welcome from the Chair

Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, CLES



What is CLES?





CLEES Research and policy work

Place resilience:

- o Norfolk Fellowship international research project
- o CLEES resilience in 5 Pilot areas (12 Local Authorities)
- o 2 further pilots planned, + Dandenong, Melbourne

Economic and social tools

- o Economic footprint of public sector in Manchester, Swindon, West Lothian
- o Sustainable benefits of 'progressive' public spend
- o Social return on investment modelling and Social network analysis

Economic Policy work:

- o North West England Integrated Regional Strategy Review
- o Innovative places and clusters (South East England)



CLEES Research and policy work

Futures work:

- Future city game (with British council) – Moscow, Pilsen, Blackburn, Riga
- Local economic future scenarios

Green Economy:

- Understanding skills potential of low carbon economy
- Green skills/green new deal

Financing economies/regeneration

- Equity finance/changing behaviours to venture capital

Poverty/economic inclusion

- Links between health and worklessness/economy
- Local authority and poverty policy



About today

- Hear from Central Government about their hopes for Local Economic Assessment
- Consider the challenges of Local Economic Assessment
- Discuss Local Economic Assessments with colleagues and network
- Shape the capacity building activities of this Local Economic Assessment Network



Programme

- LEA, local economic resilience and the purpose of the Network
- Opening Plenary: LEA, performance and effective service delivery
- The challenges of LEA so far
- Support mechanisms available for LEA
- Experiences of two local authorities to date
- Developing network activities (discussion)



Local Economic Assessment, local economic resilience and the purpose of the network

Neil McInroy, Chief Executive, CLES



“Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act places a new duty on county councils and unitary district authorities to prepare an economic assessment of the economic conditions of their area”



A reminder of where this has come from

- o **July 2007: The Review of Sub-National Economic Development and Regeneration (SNR)**
 - 'a ratcheting up of the significance of local economic development'*
- o **SNR developed as a result of:**
 - o Concern about dual and unequal places
 - o Complexity of strategy, funding, partnerships
 - o Unclear regionalism and lines of accountability
- o **Three key elements to SNR**
 - o Statutory Local Economic Assessments
 - o (Integrated) Regional Strategies
 - o Economic Prosperity Boards and other sub-regional mechanisms



Why is LEA good?

- Statutory recognition for economic development function – AT LAST!
- Recognises links between economics and other aspects of place
- Enables consistent and comparable local economic evidence bases
- Provides opportunity for in-house economic knowledge and assessment
- Provides the intelligence for improved economic development interventions



What strategic issues does LEA address?

- Enables cross-authority and partner recognition of the importance of local economic development
- Presents a new way of thinking about local economic strategy
- Presents a mechanism for discussing 'development' as opposed to just 'growth'
- Enables a consideration of a wider resilience of place
 - Plan to link our resilience work and pilots to this network



APSE/CLES Pilot Performance Network for LED

- Set up February 2009
- Primarily data and evidence focused
- Mechanism for comparing authority performance on suite of LED indicators – using APSE PN framework
- 23 local authority members
- 1 round of data analysed and three network discussions



Lessons learnt from Performance Network

- Data collection is just the starting point.
- No shortage of data and evidence – so any network needs to add value
- Difficult to develop comparable LED indicators
 - Very varied local economic picture
 - Economic development not like other Local Authority services
 - Different scales of assessments (City Region, Sub Region, MAA etc)
- Network engagement needs to be both face to face and virtual
- The need of practitioners is not just for performance discussions but wider LEA discussions



A Network for Local Economic Assessment

Purpose

'To provide economic development practitioners with capacity building support to overcome strategic challenges and enable the compilation of focused and effective local economic assessments'

'Information AND intelligence rich assessments'



A Network for Local Economic Assessment

- Will help you overcome some of the key challenges identified in LEA to date
- Will provide you with the opportunity to meet and learn lessons from other localities
- Will provide a range of activities potentially including:
 - *How to make you place resilient*
 - *Theme specific discussions*
 - *Action learning sets*
 - *Bespoke briefings and research*



A Network for Local Economic Assessment

- What we specifically do through the network is for you to decide.....
- We are just the facilitators.....
- Network activities for discussion later on this morning.....
- Free to join and participate
 - Any additional briefings will be charged as part of CLEES membership