

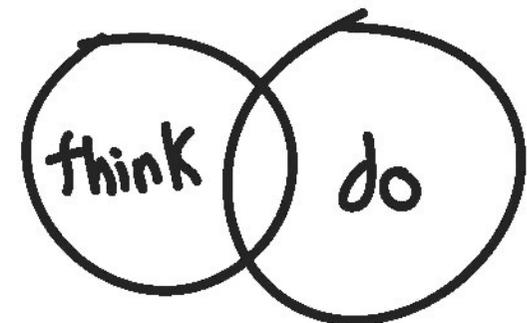


Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Local Enterprise Partnerships

10th September 2010

Neil McInroy
Chief Executive





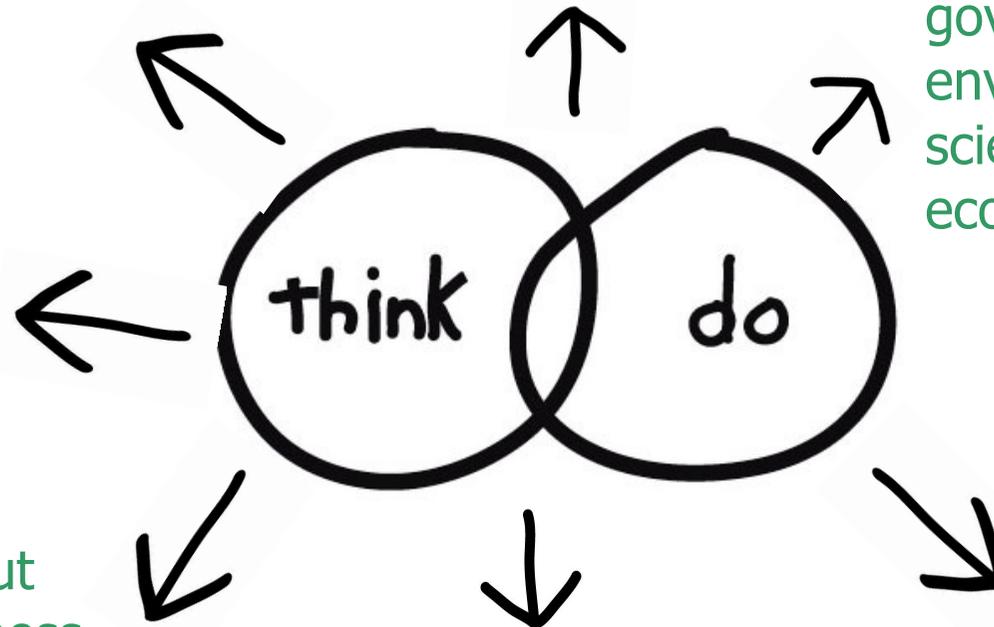
What is CLEES?

Established 1986

Independent charity. No commercial sponsor or government grants

20 staff: planners, geographers, local government, environmental scientists, economists.

Leading UK member org for research into Economic development



Economic development but with social fairness and within limits of environment

UK, but also work in Europe and beyond!

Hybrid; research, consultancy, members



Local Economic Assessment Network

- Purpose of the Network was to provide capacity building and peer learning opportunities for practitioners involved in producing Local Economic Assessments
 - Local Economic Assessments are still important but.....
 - Over the last few months local authorities have been busy working with partners to put together proposals for the new Local Enterprise Partnerships.
 - Felt it would be useful to use the LEA network to bring practitioners together to share experiences and outcomes



Local Economic Assessment Network

- Network will continue to be reactive to new Government policy:
 - Bespoke query service
 - **Influencing role with central government**
 - Provide best practice resource
 - Website to be set up backed up with member material and CLÉS research

- Network is intended to be practitioner driven

- Aim is to complement any other local economic development activities.
But..... this is your network!



Local Enterprise Partnerships

“LEPs will provide strategic leadership to set out local economic priorities. Partnerships will tackle issues such as planning and housing, local transport and infrastructure projects, employment and enterprise and the transition to a low carbon economy.”



Local Enterprise Partnerships

But:



Although Vince Cable suggested in many cases these will be devolved down to be managed at the local level



Local Enterprise Partnerships

- Government were looking for a quick turnaround and received 56 proposals from across the country.
- Widely thought that it is unlikely that all the initial submissions will be invited to proceed towards a detailed submission.

Therefore there are still a lot of unanswered questions:

- Most importantly – what happens if a locality's LEP is not chosen? Government have already said they do not expect County Council's to be the primary footprint for LEPs.
- What are the timescales and how does it fit into the Regional Growth Fund bidding process? Suggested the submission date for the first bids will be by the end of the year – will LEPs be up and running in time?



Local Enterprise Partnerships

Also:

- Is the social sector going to be involved – will they be able to play a role in influencing the strategic decisions?
- To what extent are the LEPs going to be able to be business led – business involvement will need resources and capacity
- There are big questions around funding – will LEPs be self funded or will the RGF be used which is only a two year funding stream
- What is going to happen to the existing RDA assets and liabilities
- How is the transition going to take place?



Local Enterprise Partnerships

- So while the initial bids are now with DCLG, still a lot of work in the coming months for both central and local government to develop the LEPs.
- Presentations today are to give a perspective from the public and the private sector – what are they hoping for?
- Still time to influence thinking. CLES are meeting with DCLG and BIS and will use the discussions and outcomes from today to feed points back to central government.



Discussion 1

In your groups, discuss and determine the most important immediate priorities for the LEPs in your locality.



Discussion 2

In light of the upcoming meetings CLEES has with both DCLG and BIS:

Discuss and decide the three key points you feel Government need to move forward with or clarify in relation to the LEPs



Moving forward

- CLEES will take the outcomes from this workshop back to central government
- If this has been useful, CLEES will continue to use the network to bring practitioners together to debate the issues
- With the agenda changing so quickly, we want to make the network as relevant as possible so if you do have ideas for areas the network should focus on please get in touch.



Ongoing support from CLEES

- More information or clarification?
- Friendly, free advice/information
- Membership – CLEES support/publications/views
- CLEES Summit

Neilmcinroy@cles.org.uk

richardmuscat@cles.org.uk

0161 236 7036

www.cles.org.uk

Twitter: @CLEStweet

Twitter: @nmcinroy

support

