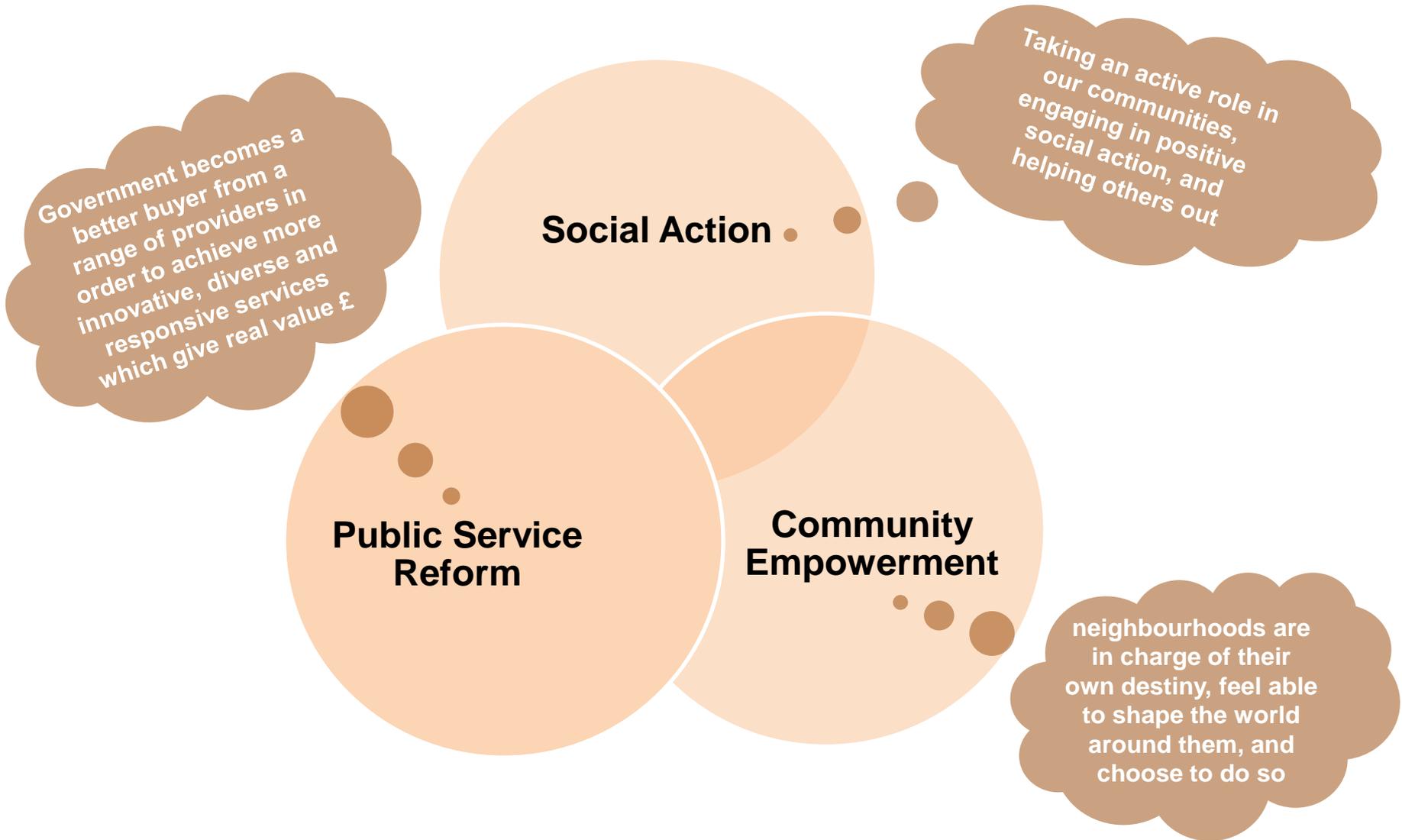


BIG SOCIETY OR BIG EXCUSE?



Terminology...

Localism

Is the ethos...

Doing everything at the lowest possible level and only involving central government if absolutely necessary

Decentralisation

Is the process...

Giving away power to individuals, professionals, communities and local institutions

Big Society

Is the vision...

A society where people, neighbourhoods and communities have more power and responsibility and use it to create better services and outcomes.

Big Society – where are we now...

Social Action:

Giving White Paper
National Citizens Service
Big Society Awards
Queen's Diamond Jubilee Awards
Business Connectors

Opening Public Services:

Open Public Services White Paper
Big Society Capital Free Schools
Right to Request / Right to Provide
Mutuals
Commissioning
Community Budgets



Community Empowerment:

Community Organisers
Community First
Localism Act
Transparency Agenda
Neighbourhood Planning

Supporting the VCSE Sector:

Transition Fund
Advice Services Fund & Review
Charities Act Review
Transforming Local Infrastructure
Social Action Fund

Community First

Aims to help communities come together to identify local priorities, plan and become more resilient focussed on areas with significant deprivation and low social capital -

www.cdf.org.uk/web/guest/community-first

- **£30m Neighbourhood Matched Fund Programme**
- The Panels are now registering and setting priorities. They will exist until 2015 and work with their community to produce a Community First Plan
- The Panel's role will be to find projects / activities that compliment the Plan. They can award each project a minimum of £250 and a maximum of £2500 to groups for a period of a year – they have a budgets varying between 14k and up to 100k over 4 years.

- **£50m Endowment Match Challenge**
- Run by the Community Development Foundations in your area



Community First

- The objective is to raise a pot of money that will provide communities with a sustainable source of funding to enable them to increase their self-reliance, grow their capacity to make changes that will support transformation in to the future. This will be invested with the aim to protect the capital and be able to give grants annually forever!
- The targets have been developed according the population within each area. The Government's aim is to give a boost to the long term future of our communities and they will give £1 for every £2 raised making a total of £3
- In Birmingham as an example, with a population of 1,028,700
- People give £2 = £2,057,400
- CF match £1 = £1,028,700
- **Fund Total 2015 = £3,086,100**



National Citizen Service 2012

- 16-year-olds from different backgrounds: 2 week activity based residential followed by a project in their local community while developing skills and confidence
- To book a place or find out more please go to <http://nationalcitizenservice.direct.gov.uk/> or <http://www.facebook.com/ncs>



Localism Act – main points

Powers to communities

Powers to councils



Right to Challenge

General Power of competence

Neighbourhood Planning

Power to individuals

Freedom on social tenancy allocations

Right to bid (assets of community value)

Power to veto excessive council tax rises

Directly elected mayors in big cities

Freedoms on governance

Open Public Services

There are five principles:

- Wherever possible we should increase choice by giving people direct control over the services they use
- Power should be decentralised to the lowest appropriate level
- Public Services should be open to a range of providers competing to offer a better service
- The state's role is to deliver fair access, fair funding and fair competition; and
- Public services should be accountable to users and to taxpayers.

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graph TD; A[ ] --> B[Individual services]; A --> C[Neighbourhood services]; A --> D[Commissioned services];
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Individual services

Neighbourhood services

Commissioned services

Action taken and underway

Increase choice

- Personal budgets in adult social care
- National Home Swap scheme for social tenants
- Demand led system in skills & further education

Decentralise to lowest appropriate level

- Abolish regional strategies
- General power of competence
- Neighbourhood planning
- Police beat meetings

Open service provision

- Academies and Free schools
- Right to challenge
- Mutuals
- 'Any qualified provider' in NHS

Fairness

- Pupil premium in schools
- Public health premium
- Minimum standards, e.g. Care Quality Commission
- Transparent data on diversity

Accountability

- Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Police and Crime Commissioners
- Directly elected mayors

Neighbourhood Planning

- **Neighbourhood Planning is a radical new right through the Localism Bill**
- **Communities will have greater influence in deciding where facilities should go through local referendum**
- **On completion a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) or order (NDO) will become part of the local development plan.**

How does it work?



1. A community applies for a neighbourhood area to be designated

2. Parish \ Town council or Neighbourhood forum work up details with community



3. Proposal submitted to local authority to check proposal



4. Local referendum held ensuring that communities have the final say on whether a NDP or NDO comes into force in their area



A powerful Right to Challenge

- **Public bodies already contract out services – local government spends £42 billion a year on contracts for goods and services**
- **Many public bodies already make good use of the talents of voluntary and community bodies, but in some areas good ideas fall on deaf ears – only 2% of spend on public services goes to the VCS**
- **The Right hands the initiative to communities with good ideas about how services can be run differently or better, ensures these ideas get a fair hearing, and gives them the time they may need to prepare effective bids to run the service**

How does it work?



1. Relevant services are subject to challenge

2. Expression of interest from VCS, charity, parish, or staff



3. Relevant authority reaches a decision on the expression of interest

4. Authority either accepts, or accepts with modification and then undertakes a procurement exercise, or rejects and a reason for rejection published



A new Community Right to Bid

- The Community Right to Bid is a radical new community right
- The aim is to give communities a fair chance to bid to take over land and buildings that are important to them
- This will help local communities to save important community assets, tackle social need and build up resources in their neighbourhood

How does it work?

1. Communities identify assets of community value



2. Local authorities hold and control a list of assets of community value

3. Communities get time and support to bid for assets



4. More communities take control of local assets

Breaking down the barriers



- Government has extended an offer to any individual, community group or council experiencing government barriers to taking local action to contact DCLG through the online portal at

<https://barrierbusting.communities.gov.uk/>

- DCLG then works with colleagues across Government to try to tackle the barrier if possible



- The barrier to action imposed by Criminal Record checks has been raised a number of times. Government recognised this and has responded with a review addressing the issues raised, streamlining the procedure, and enabling the check to be transferable, also the areas where CRB checks are required will also be curtailed
- Barrier busting is part of a wider systemic change in the way government operates. Instead of only being focused upwards on providing advice to Ministers, Whitehall is now putting those resources at the service of communities .

Big Society Awards

Created to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities.

The award focuses upon the three Big Society theme areas:

Promoting Social
Action

Empowering
Communities

Opening up public
services

Next round closes on 8 May 2012

www.number10.gov.uk/take-part/recognising-others/big-society-awards-2



CabinetOffice

Office for Civil Society

How we can work together?

Keen to hear
of projects /
activity that
provides
examples of:

- Community led initiatives where local people have come together to support each other or get something changed
- Evidence of new partnership working to meet community need – public sector / business / civil society / community
- Innovation in public service delivery
- Business contributing to the community in new and interesting ways
- Improved democratic participation and accountability
- Examples of generosity to support community
- Citizens stepping up / local responses



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www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

www.communities.gov.uk

www.number10.gov.uk/take-part/



Number10.gov.uk