

Big Society and Localism

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Catholic Social Teaching and the Big Society

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The Prime Minister has been clear that the Government has three priorities

Generating growth



Creating the Big Society



Implementing reforms



**Voluntary and
philanthropic
action**

**Community
empowerment**

**Public service
reform**

Localism, Decentralisation, Big Society

Localism

Is the ethos...

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

Decentralisation

Is the process...

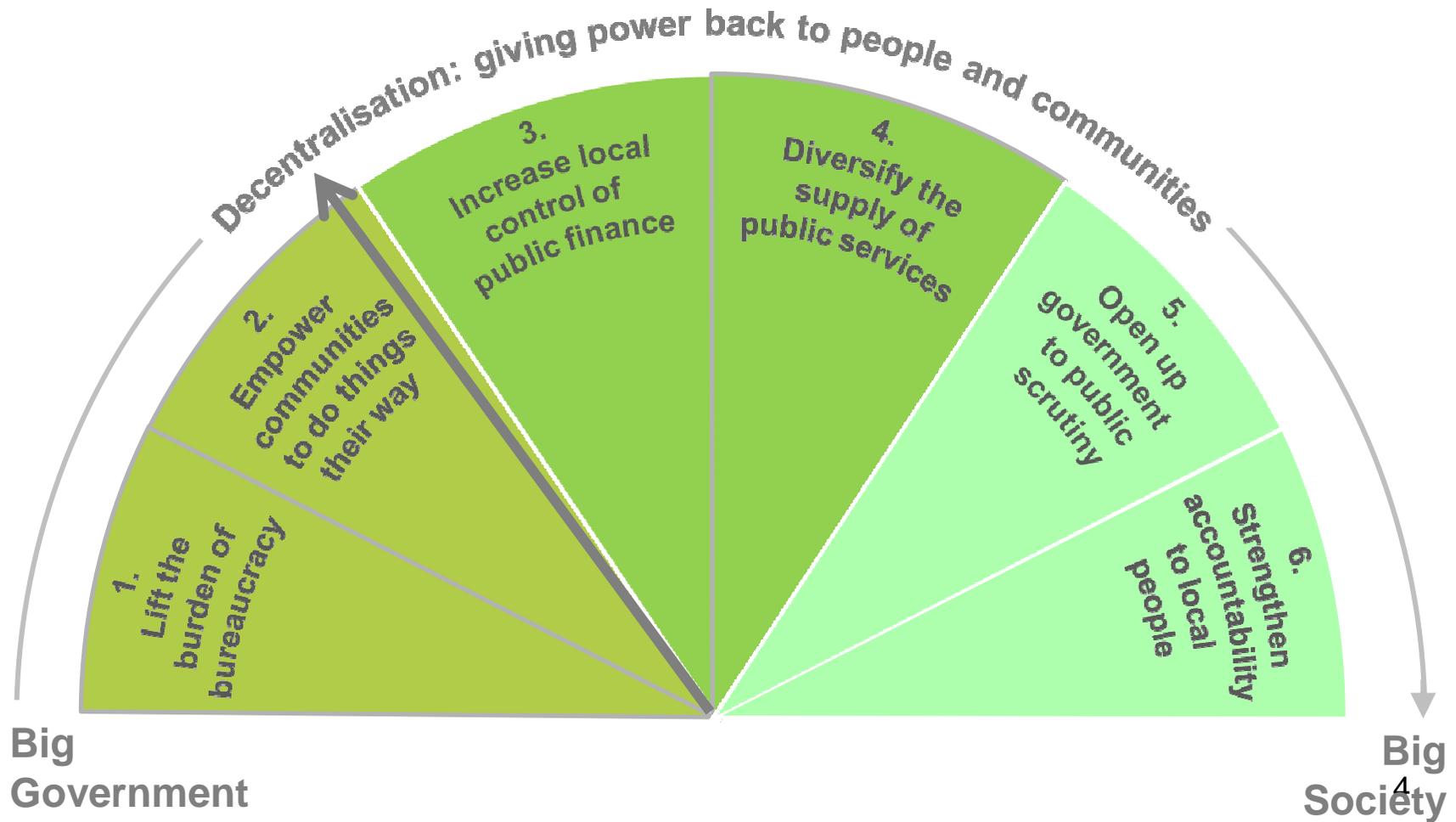
Giving away power to individuals, professionals, communities, local councils and other institutions

Big Society

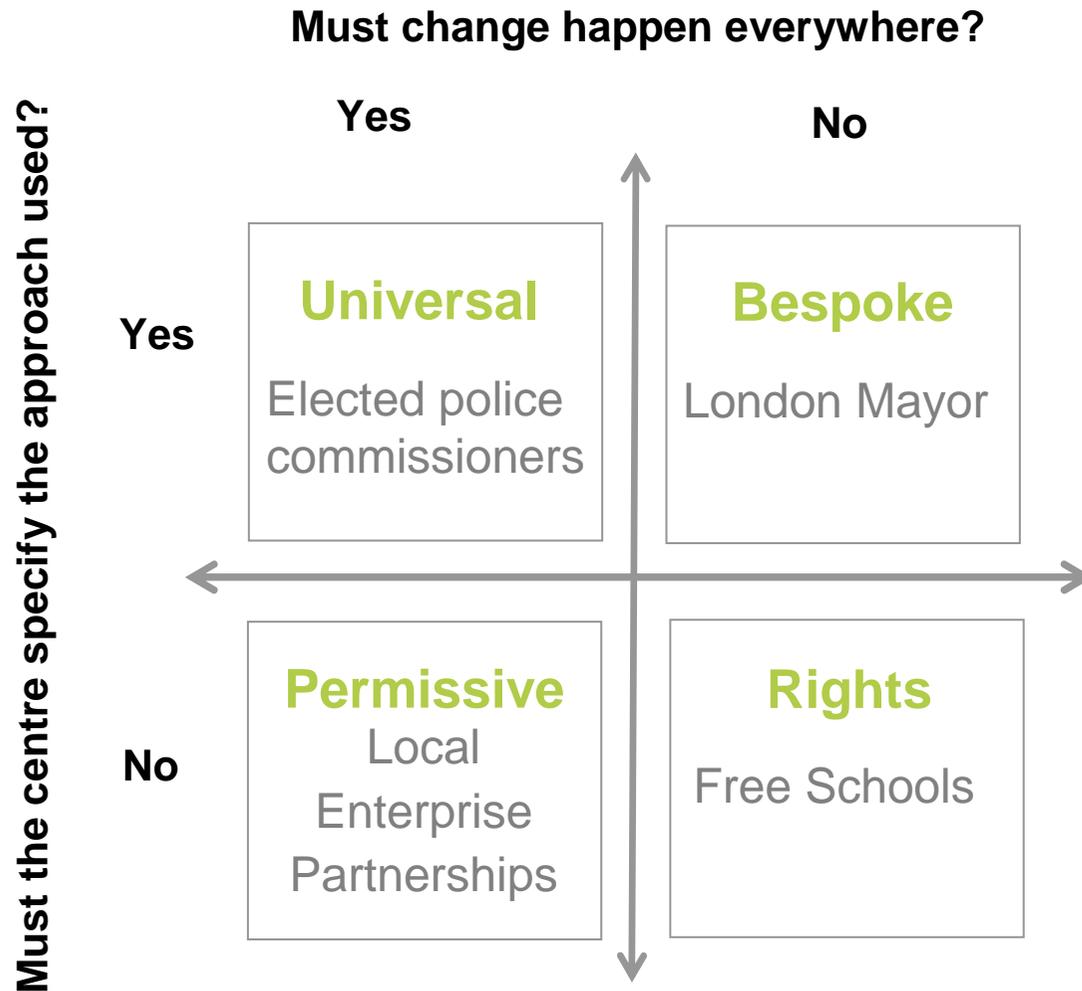
Is the vision...

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

6 actions to decentralise



We can't use a "one size fits all" approach to decentralisation



Action taken and underway

Bureaucracy

- Abolish regional strategies
- Targets and performance indicators

Empowerment

General power of competence

- Community rights
- Neighbourhood planning
- Freedom on social tenancy allocations

Control of Finances

- Academies and Free Schools
- Community Budgets
- Retention of business rates

Diversify Public Services

- Personal budgets in adult social care
- Mutuels

Scrutiny

- Data transparency
- Police beat meetings
- Freedoms on local authority governance

Accountability

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

Changing models

From

Metrics and
targets

Inspection
regimes

Big surveys

Top down
prescription and
assessment

To

Bottom up
accountability

Transparency

Public appetite for
new opportunities

Mobilisation

How do we *do* 'mobilisation'?

What kind of approaches does it involve?

ENTHUSE

- Clear articulation of the purpose and benefits for getting involved.
- Step-by-step easy to use guides.
- Build in new online elements.
- Reach out beyond traditional 'stakeholders' - get different players involved.
- Enthuse local authorities / organisations.
- 'Show, not tell' – lots of accessible case studies.

INFORM

- Be clear what success looks like.
- Use social media and other communications to influence and disseminate, including use of interactive maps.
- Communications strategies.
- Use stakeholders and external organisations to disseminate information.
- Think about how we communicate – language is important.
- Training and guidance for people who do the information giving.

NETWORK

- Platforms to enable - online forums to share experiences (through knowledge hubs, conversation maps or other).
- Practice exchanges.
- Develop structured directory of contacts - join up contacts / create links.
- Look into how networks of procurement providers can be utilized.
- Workshops / conferences / networking events
- Connect and feed back.

SUPPORT

- Understand the different forms of localism and how far Government has to go to encourage or induce mobilisation. Need for a flexible approach.
- Need to incubate groups / decide on intensity level of support.
- Support that is proportionate to the scale and location of the group. Important to clearly illustrate "the different journeys of different groups".
- Sponsorship or 'buddying up' with community projects.
- Make support materials available online.

Why are decentralisation and neighbourhoods important?

Democracy – by moving power and responsibility for decisions to neighbourhoods and local government, we give people more say in services that they pay for.

Responsiveness – by responding to local needs and engaging people in services, services are better tailored and more responsive.

Efficiency – Community budgets and community led commissioning bring together different funding pots and direct them to the needs of the area – reducing duplication, bureaucracy and waste.

Trust – Trust in Government has declined as Government has put less trust in individuals and communities. People will have more trust and confidence in decisions they have been involved in.

What is the problem?

What is Integration?

What should we do?

Most people are well integrated:

- **92% of people agree that they feel part of British society, and this is consistent across all major ethnic groups**
- **97% of people agree it is everyone's responsibility to obey and respect the law**

But there are some communities and some places which are not well integrated

What is Integration?

Common ground

Responsibility

Participation and empowerment

Social mobility

Intolerance and extremism

Integration - what should we do?

Creating the Conditions for Integration:

- **communications and mobilisation**
- **national programmes**
- **exemplar projects**
- **emphasise local decisions and actions**
- **emphasise mainstream services**
- **more emphasis on VCS and private sector action**

Prime Minister - “We are a Christian country ... and we should not be afraid to say so”:

- **commissioning and assets**
- **Free schools/Faith schools**
- **religious symbols**
- **Council prayers**
- ***Near Neighbours, A Year of Service and Inter-Faith Week***

Questions/discussion?