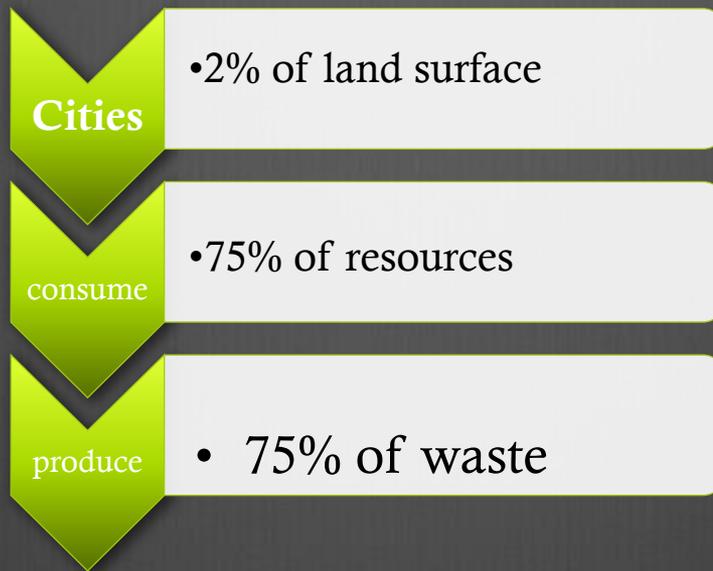


Urban Sustainable Development

Janette Webb
University of Edinburgh

10th ESDN Workshop
Brussels, 28 January 2014

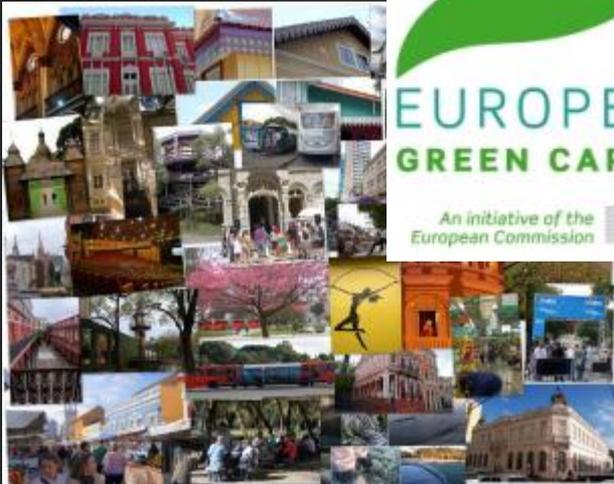




- ⊗ 'Business as usual' likely to mean
 - ⊗ Increasingly unstable climate
 - ⊗ More inequality
 - ⊗ Violent conflict



Ambitious Visions for Sustainable Cities



An "eco-city" in construction

New town development just 150 km from the Chinese capital emphasises sustainable living and renewable energy



Dialogue Topics



RIO+20

United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

Oceans

Food and nutrition security

Sustainable development for fighting poverty

Sustainable development as an answer to the economic and financial crises

Sustainable energy for all

Water

The economics of sustainable development, including sustainable patterns of production and consumption

Sustainable cities and innovation

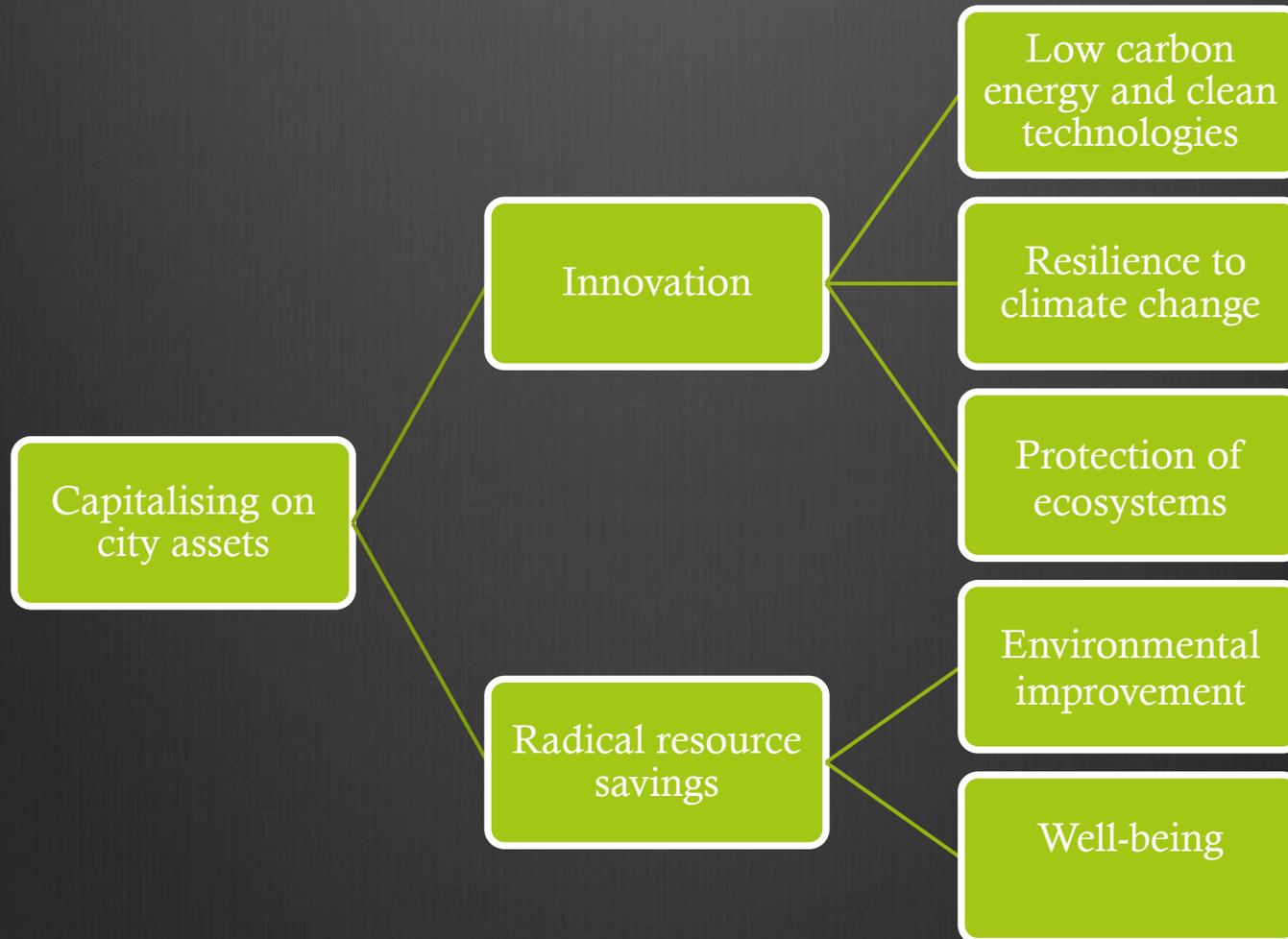
Unemployment, decent work and migrations

Forests

sustainable glasgow



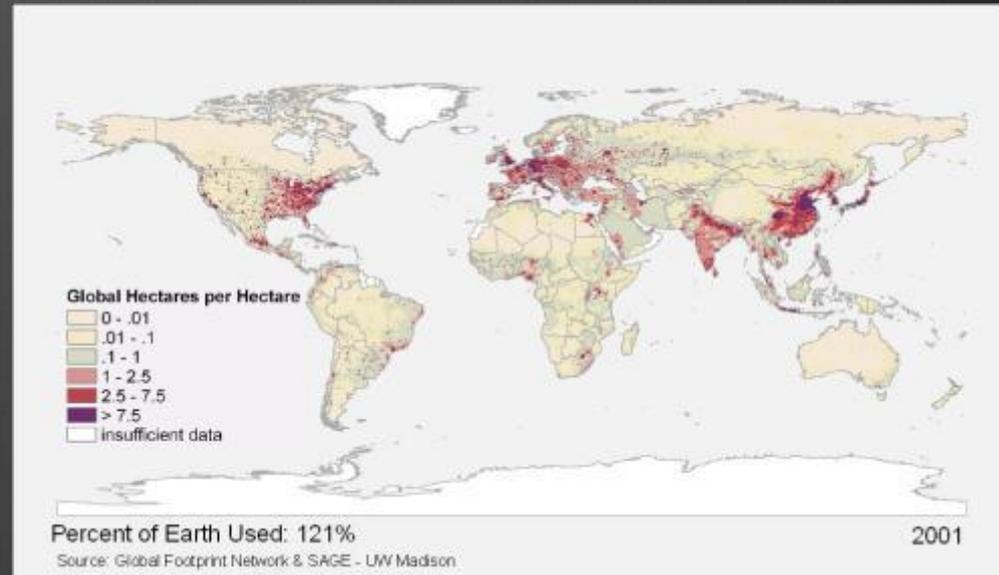
Sustainable Cities: Vision of Effective Governance



Europe has the Resources, but...

Action is slow:

- ⊗ Continuing subsidies for fossil fuels (IEA)
- ⊗ Consumption footprints increasing
- ⊗ Poor record on energy efficiency
- ⊗ Financial investments not prioritising resilience
- ⊗ EU dropped 2030 binding renewables and energy efficiency targets for Member States



The market
will decide

Governance: the Challenges

🎬 Finance:

- 🎬 \$14 Trillion to save banks plus QE

- 🎬 Ecological debt secondary to continuing search for consumer-led growth

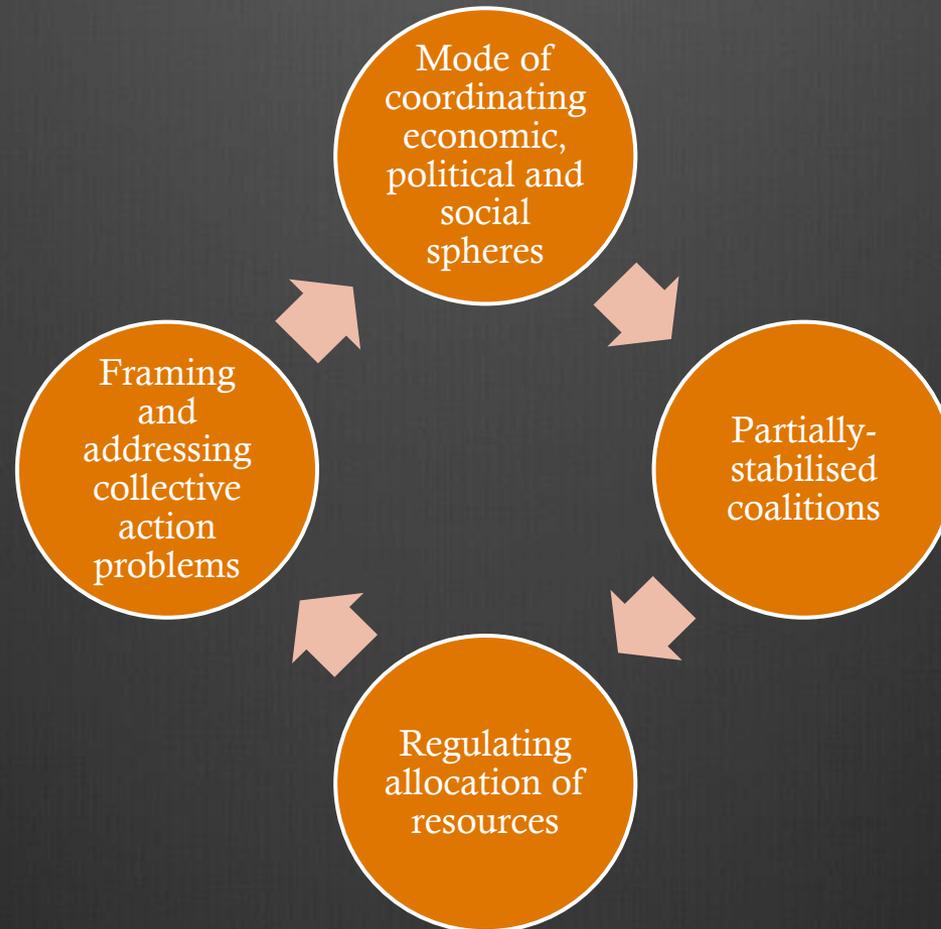


COP 2009, Official White House photo by Pete Souza

Can 'carbon democracies' engage with collective action for sustainable cities?



A Social Science Perspective on Governance



Avoids normative theory of 'good governance' as political-economic panacea

Heat and the City Research

- ⊗ Multi-level governance for innovation in sustainable urban energy
- ⊗ Complex of *actors*
 - ⊗ City scale ‘municipal’
 - ⊗ EU and UK state and devolved governments
 - ⊗ Global energy markets
 - ⊗ Global finance, legal and technical expertise
 - ⊗ Local populations
- ⊗ No simple segregation of ‘levels’ but interlocking processes and practices

We accept the Controller of Audit’s conclusion that the final cost to the council is £11.5 million. This is a substantial and serious loss of public money caused by significant deficiencies in the governance of the project

Audit Scotland 2014

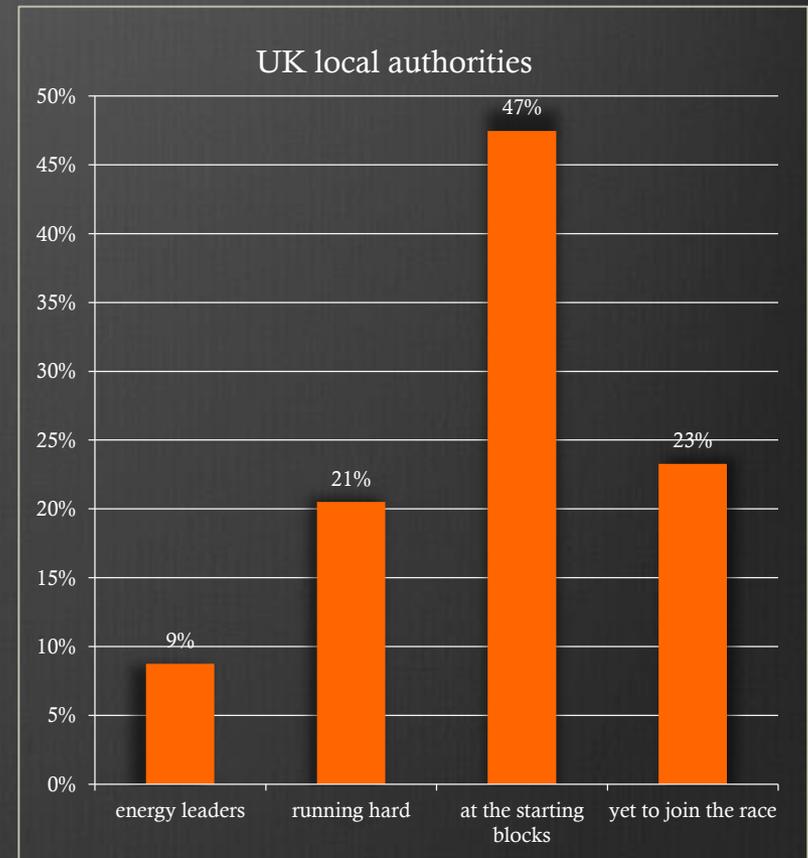
UK Neo-Liberal Governance

- ⊗ Early privatisation of public service infrastructures
- ⊗ Contested local governance:
 - ⊗ Centralised financial control
 - ⊗ Competition and market mechanisms
 - ⊗ Performance management
 - ⊗ Contractualisation replacing trust-based relations
 - ⊗ Projects replace coordinated plans
 - ⊗ Crisis in public finances
- ⊗ Devolved government

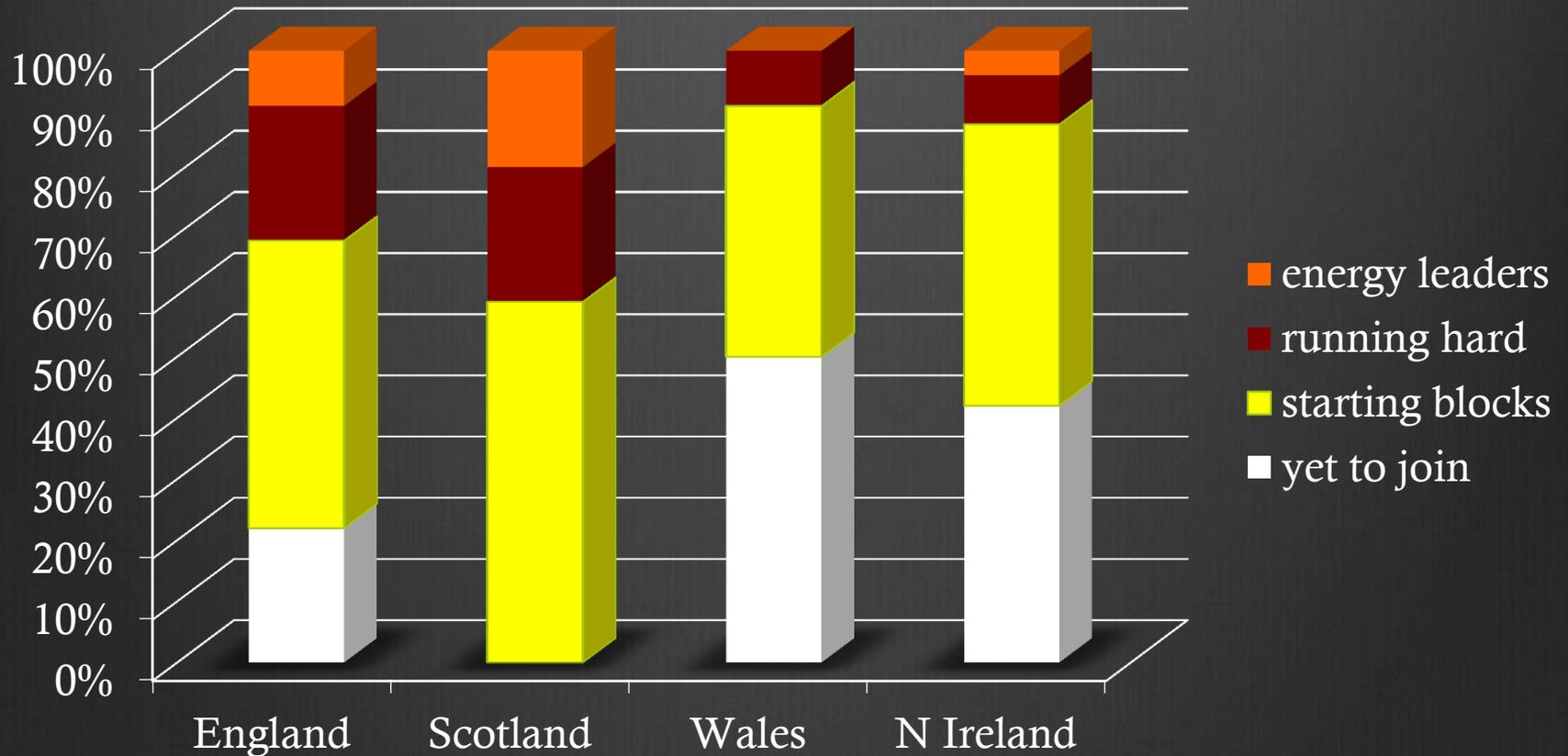


Local Engagement Headlines

- ⊗ Benchmark indicators
 - ⊗ strategic energy planning
 - ⊗ investment
- ⊗ Investment indicator uses 15 variables, including energy generation
- ⊗ Leading authorities are using up to seven investment streams including:
 - ⊗ European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA)
 - ⊗ European Regional Development Funds (ERDF 2007-2013)
 - ⊗ Low Carbon Infrastructure Fund (LCIF)
 - ⊗ TSB Future Cities Demonstrator Funds



Leaders, Runners, Starters & Yet to Join, by Country



Sustainable Energy Leader Authorities

- ⊗ Committed actors and multiple routes into engagement including
 - ⊗ economic regeneration
 - ⊗ housing stock upgrades to improve revenues
 - ⊗ affordable warmth
 - ⊗ energy productivity
 - ⊗ energy from waste
- ⊗ Multiple projects
- ⊗ Diverse objectives, business models and risk allocation



Private
Concession Model



Local Authority-
Led Model



Community Non-
Profit Model

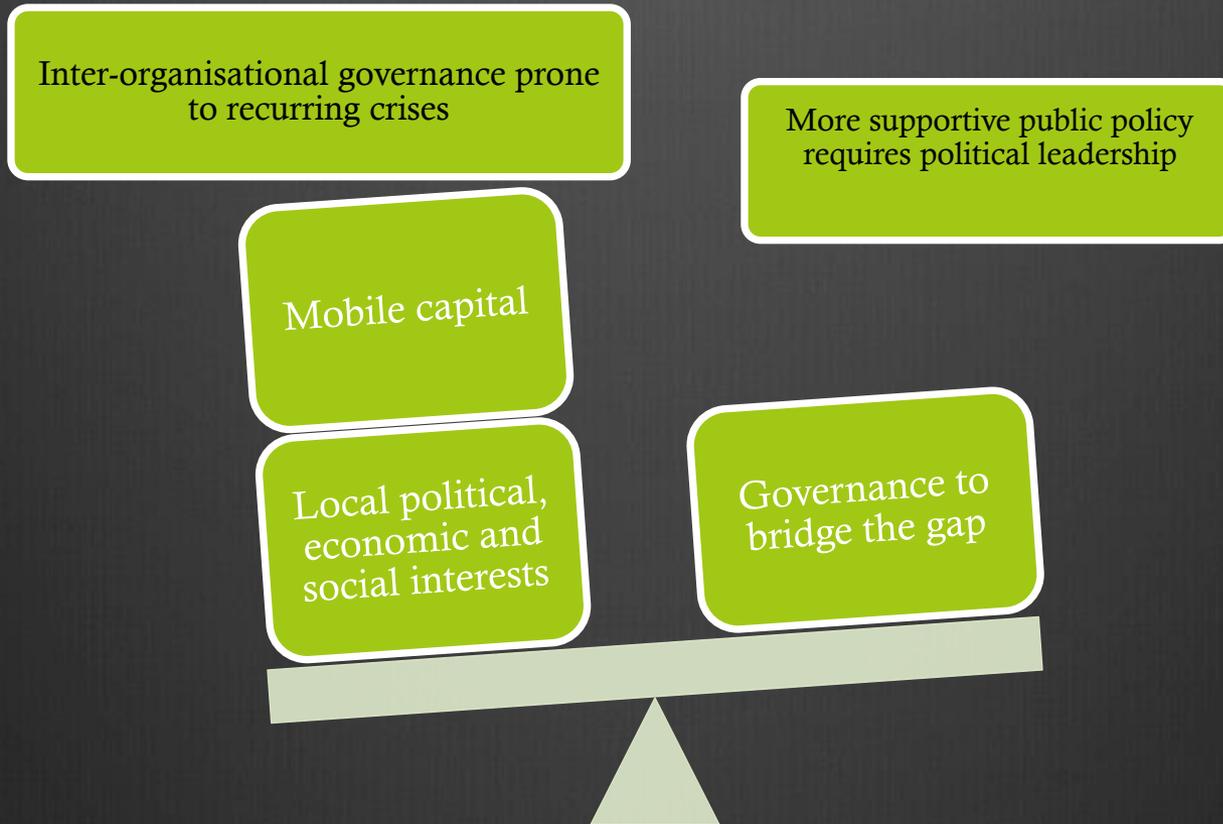
UK Urban Governance for Sustainability: Contested Space

The quest for recovery does not welcome policies and projects which might be seen as adding undue complexities to short term economic growth

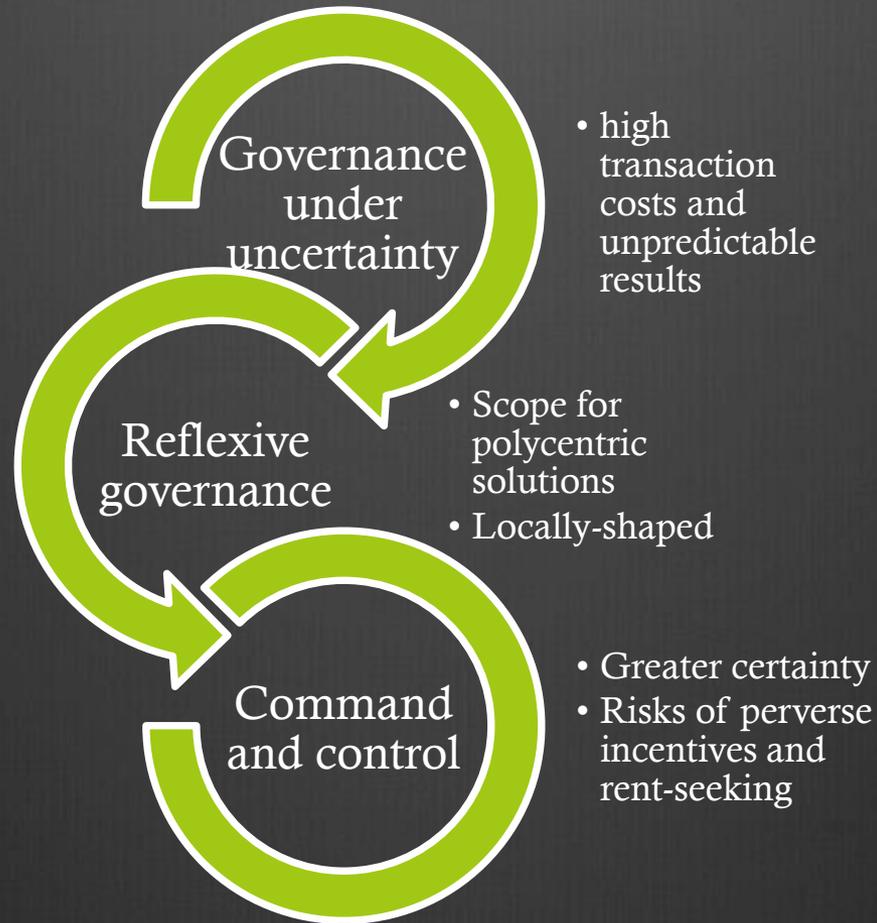
Our renewable energy/sustainability champion has resigned from cabinet

The Council has opted to take an arms length approach to this (local energy) project - transferring most of the risk and reward into the private sector

Improving Governance for Sustainable Cities?



A Governance Continuum



Reflexive Governance for Sustainable Cities: Multi-Level Governance

- ⊗ Changing the regulatory frame to reshape the risk calculus
 - ⊗ Integrating social and environmental goals
 - ⊗ Accelerate pace and scale of innovation
- ⊗ Entails political engagement over contested frameworks of value
- ⊗ Resolution of conflicts between rules for competition, trade and demands of sustainable consumption
- ⊗ Holding corporations to account
 - ⊗ Taxation
 - ⊗ Political influence
 - ⊗ Environmental damage and pollution
- ⊗ Redirecting investment for sustainable and equitable consumption



Government can accept risks that nobody else can accept

How Can Your Organisations be Part of 'Coalitions of the Willing'?

Research Councils UK Energy and Communities

HEAT

October 2010 – September 2014

Exploring affordable, low carbon community heating in cold climate cities

and the CITY

www.heatandthecity.org.uk



A research collaboration between the Universities of Edinburgh and Strathclyde



Thank you!