

Big Society uncovered

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Big Society...

Big Con!

Big
opportunity!

**Big spotlight for
communities**

**Big
Farce!**

**BIG
CONFUSION!**

Understanding Big Society : What is it NOT?

- ▶ A project or initiative
- ▶ Public sector offloading to Voluntary sector
- ▶ Purely volunteering
- ▶ Connected to cuts...but hampered by them!
- ▶ An overnight revolution

Understanding Big Society :

So what is it?

- ▶ Cultural change
- ▶ A shift away from 'top down'
- ▶ Less state dependency – more shared responsibilities
- ▶ Everyone is part of the solution
- ▶ A new culture that will evolve over time
- ▶ A social revolution to match economic

Big Society Concept



Personal and shared responsibility

Consumer - - - - -> Participant - - - - -> **Producer**

Customer of the state

Served by Council

DEPENDENT

Helps to inform /shape state-led activity

Co-operation

Shares responsibility with state

Co-production

INTER-DEPENDENT

‘A social revolution equivalent to our economic revolution’

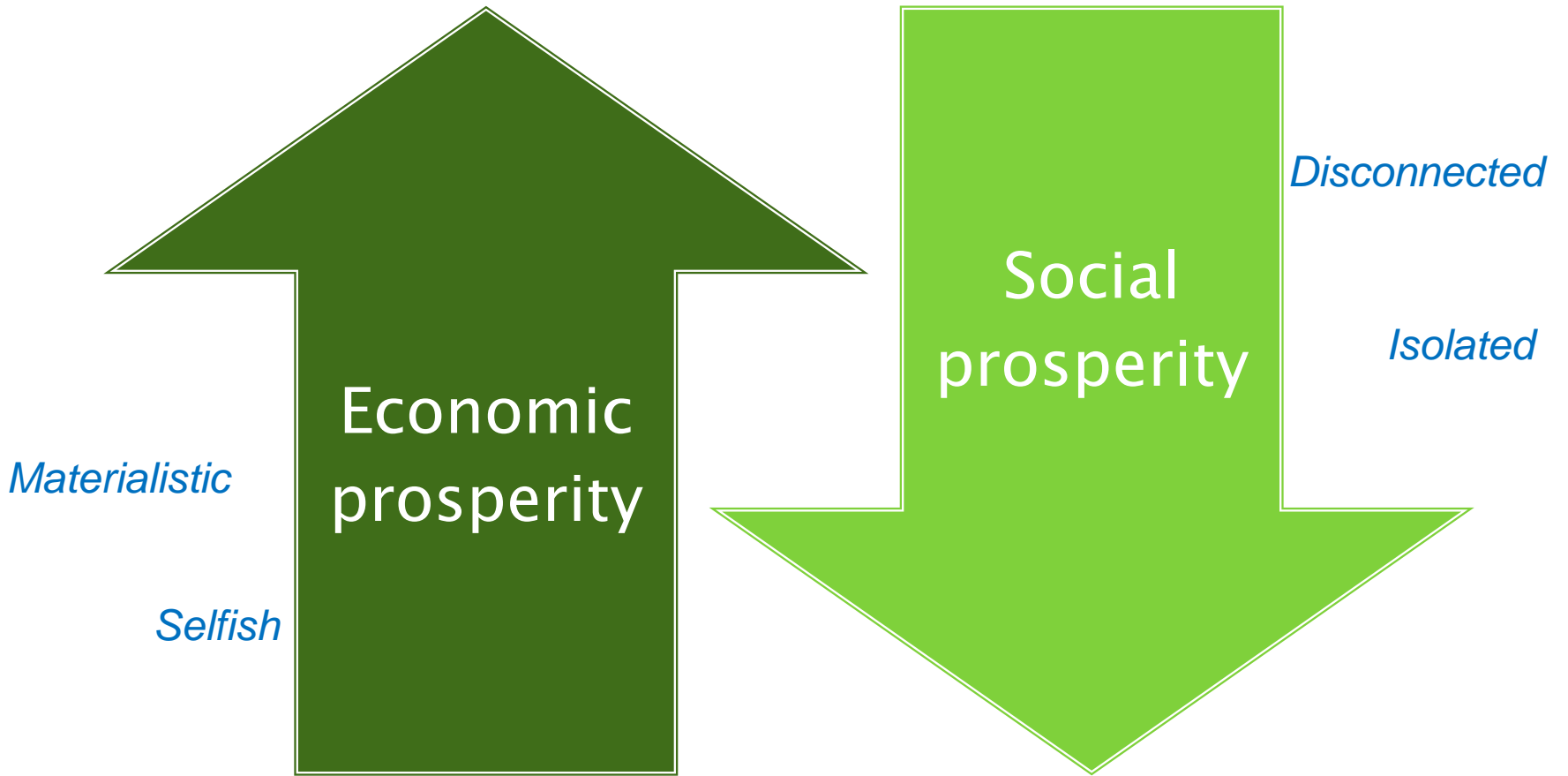
Rt Hon David Cameron MP

Why?

Too much state dependency has resulted in:

- Apathy
- Lack of responsibility
- A sense of entitlement
- Disconnected communities
- Restricted ambition
- Inability to flourish

Why a social revolution?



'broken Britain'

Communities in control

Real people, real power



2008



2010

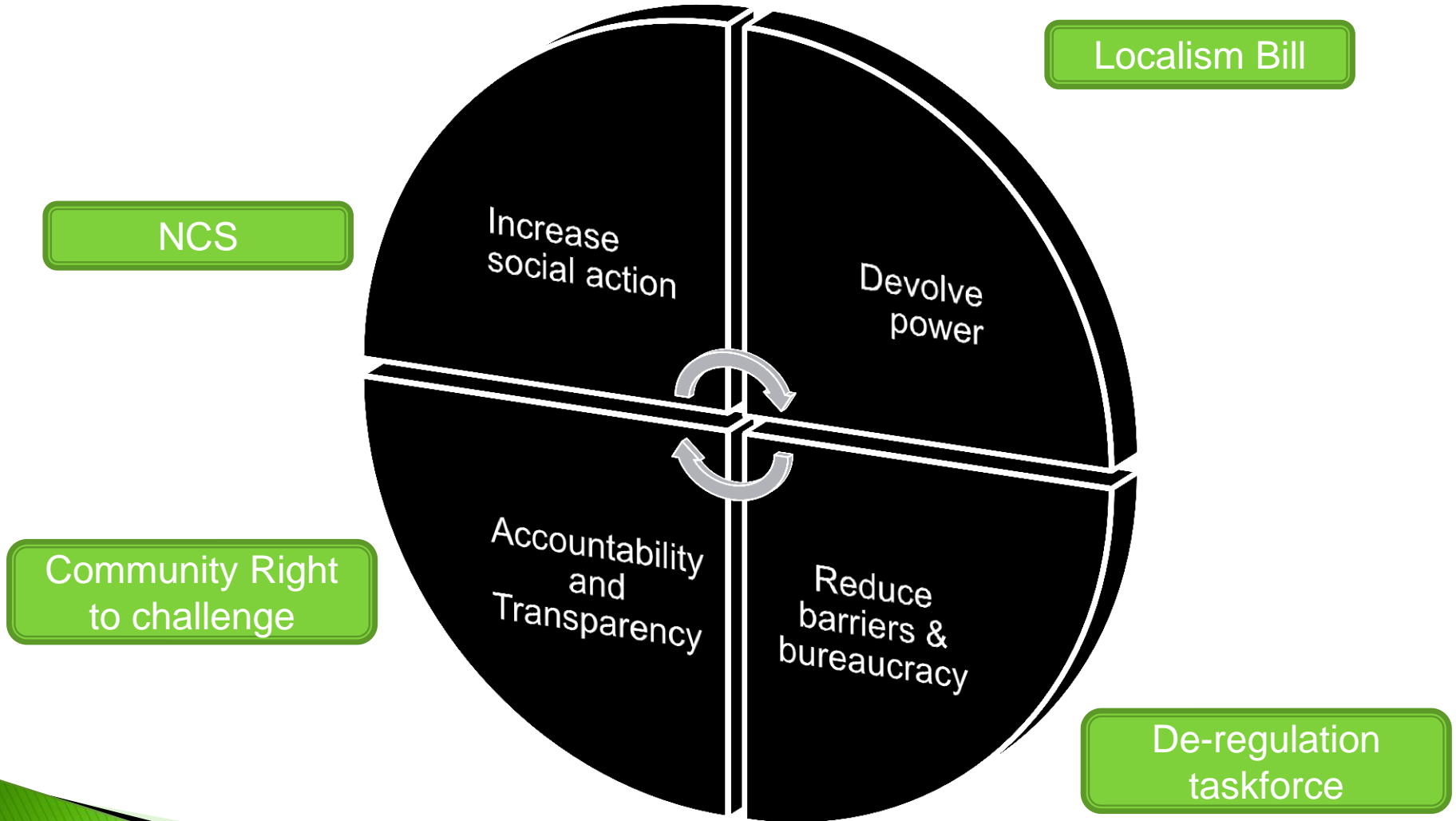
CabinetOffice
what we do

Supporting a Stronger
Civil Society

An Office for Civil Society consultation
on improving support for frontline civil
society organisations

Poles
apart?

Supporting policy



Implications: Cultural change

- ▶ Public Sector: **Deliverer** → **Enabler**
- ▶ Private Sector: **Disconnected** → **Connected**
- ▶ Voluntary Sector: **Ask** → **Earn**
- ▶ Individuals: **Apathy** → **Appetite**

What kind of change will we see on the ground?

- ▶ A smaller, better targeted Public Sector
- ▶ Some assets and services transferred to community
- ▶ More relevant local services
- ▶ Innovative new partnerships
- ▶ More say and control at a local level
- ▶ Greater challenge and input from communities
- ▶ More socially responsible and engaged young people

EXERCISE

- ▶ What are the **benefits** and **risks** for communities arising from the Big Society agenda?

Benefits



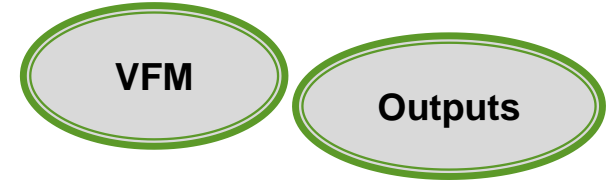
- Parity of esteem across sectors
- Delivery of Public services
- Private sector investment/relationships
- Stronger, connected, more involved and resilient local communities

Risks

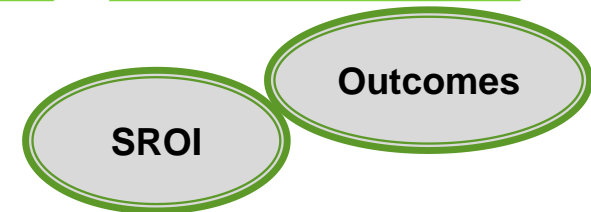
- ▶ Understanding of agenda
- ▶ Speed of change
- ▶ Capacity
- ▶ Balance
- ▶ Equity
- ▶ Legitimate voice of community
- ▶ Procurement and risk aversion

Risks - Cultural readiness on both sides

Local Government



Community



EXERCISE

- ▶ What can authorities do to help to **engage**, **inform** and **empower** local people?

A new kind of help and support

- ▶ Understand the changes and rights
- ▶ Bid writing - Business planning
- ▶ A confident voice for EVERYONE
- ▶ New mechanisms to engage
- ▶ Awareness of risk
- ▶ Potential new collaborations
- ▶ Legal advice
- ▶ Tackling inequity
- ▶ Brokerage with LAs

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