

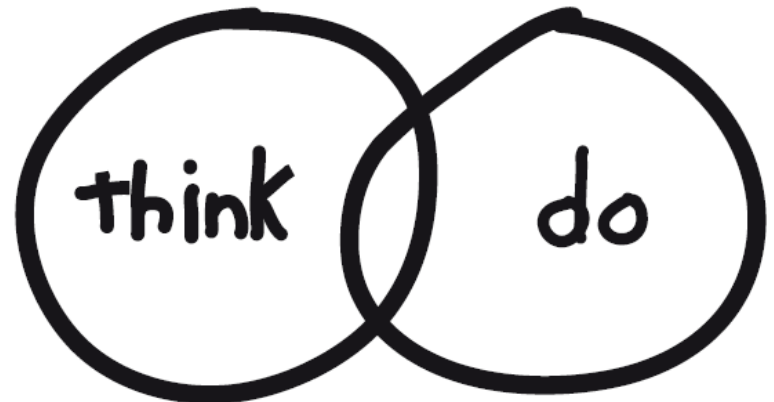


APSE Annual Seminar 2009

Sustainable Communities in Recession Towards future resilience

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Direction of policy travel in recent years

- Economic growth has become central to regeneration and economic development
- Economic development become focused on people, perhaps more than places, e.g. focusing of attention on worklessness, skills agenda
- Focus on co-ordination of public services “joined up thinking” to maximise efficiency and improve effectiveness
- Greater emphasis on cities regions to generate economic growth for sub regions
- Growing impetus – adaption and mitigation of climate change impacts
- Widening gap in the housing market between those able to afford housing and those priced out, with average house prices in some areas £200,000. 1.7million on housing lists



Recession: What are we learning:

Over dependence on housing market

Deeply engrained culture of home ownership



“trickle down” of wealth doesn’t work

New housing needs to link with jobs and business

Recession: New demands on councils



Recession: How have local councils responded?

Support for businesses

- Loans
- Grants
- Communication and facilitating networks

Support for households

- Benefit advice to ensure people taking up support
- New financial services including debt advice and council banks
- Morale boosting – linking up with community and voluntary groups
- Energy efficiency projects to increase level of household income
- Moderating approach to council payments, Warrington



Gathering intelligence and developing understanding

Monitoring and assessing

- Working with partners to gather evidence about state of economy
- Identifying new indicators to monitor progress of recession (eg gathering planning approval data, rates of insolvency, repossession rates).

Corporate Procurement

- Using public procurement to support business and social enterprise, eg Nottingham City and Derbyshire
- Research by CLEES and APSE to consider the value of public procurement for local economic development using Local Multiplier 3 methodology (LM3)



Specific housing project support

Housing projects

- **Providing mortgages** - Chester City Council launched the Chester Homebuy Scheme in November
- Leeds and Edinburgh City Council providing mortgages and mortgage payment support
- **Finance** – eg Wakefield Council – provision of interest free loans for people who have missed mortgage payments and at risk of repossession
- **Private rented sector** – eg Warrington in discussion with partners about possibility of buying property to rent for social housing



What else can be done to strengthen the resilience of neighbourhoods

Six other opportunities:

- Rewriting strategies to deliver resilience and equity
- Localism – Helping your local economy to work effectively how can you support and strengthen local supply chains through procurement?
- Innovation – what re conditions for encouraging spirit of innovation? Eg skills/training
- No silver bullet – element of risk which needs to be rediscovered
- Getting to grips with changes on the horizon – eg demographics and climate change
- Rethinking how we value property and land, eg ethos of the Community Land Trusts.



What else can be done to strengthen the resilience of neighbourhoods

Final thought: A new wave of economic activism

CLEES Resilience model – Rethinking the operation of our economy

Broad local economic context



**Local
economic
territory**



**Commercial
Economy**



**Public
Economy**



**Social
Economy**

Government



Need to work within environmental limits



**Local identity and context,
history and culture**





The economic resilience model

Public economy

- Public expenditure on goods and services including housing
- Footprint of procurement activity on local supply chains
- Public employment/training/apprenticeships

Social economy

- Contribution of community activities and networks to the local economy
 - E.g. social enterprises, voluntary organisations, community groups, community assets such as community centres, youth clubs, halls, etc.

Commercial economy

- Private businesses
- Investment into development and new enterprise
- Provides the bulk of employment



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