

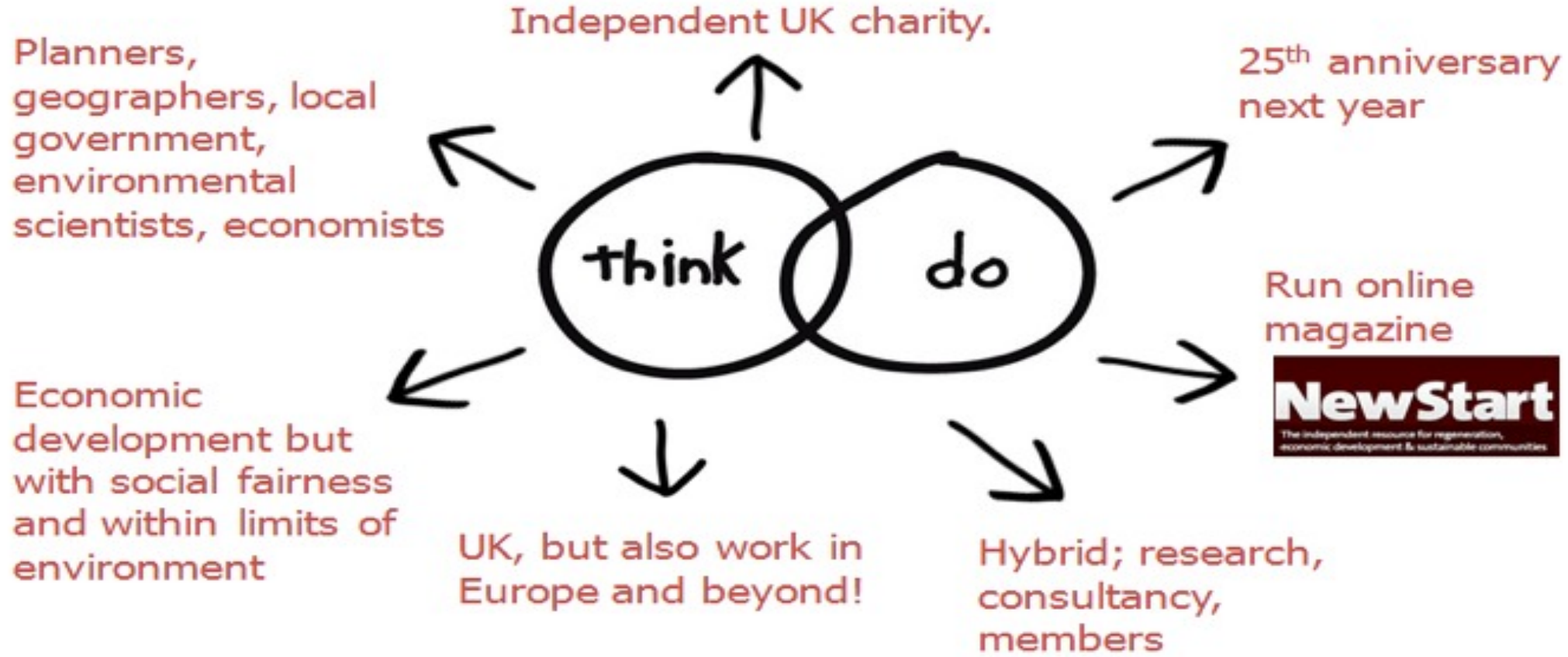


People, networks and local economies: resilient place making

Neil McInroy,
Chief Executive, Centre for Local and Economic Strategies



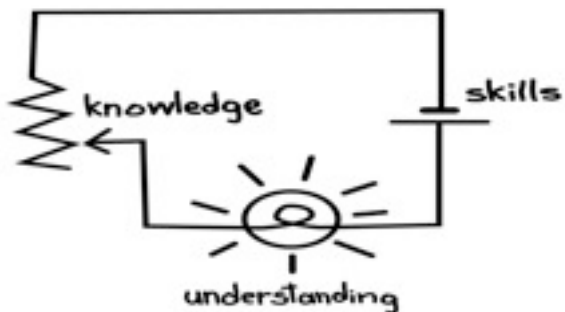
What is CLEES?



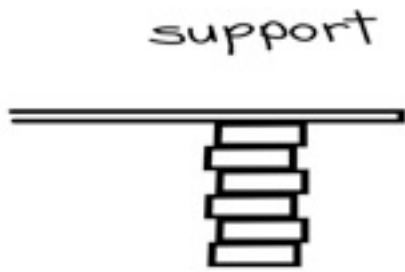


What does CLEES do?

Make Economic Development Strategies



Train/brief local government members



Evaluate social, and economic programmes



Analyse place policy and assess local economies



Help to develop new ideas for places



Make, interpret, dissect and lobby for policy

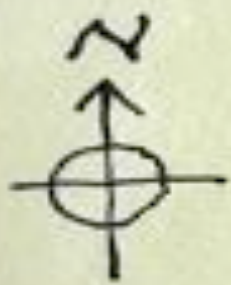




Challenging times: A new era for place making?

- **Climate change, peak oil, peak water, peak soil, energy insecurity**
 - **Places need to adapt, new ways of sustainable living**
- **Ageing and migration**
 - **Places need to adapt and absorb change**
- **Economic.**
 - **Ongoing turbulence. Growing inequalities.**
 - **New economies for old places?**
- **Problem with democracy**
 - **Losing legitimacy. Global economic forces, colliding with local democracy.**





LOSERS

VERY RICH

RIVER

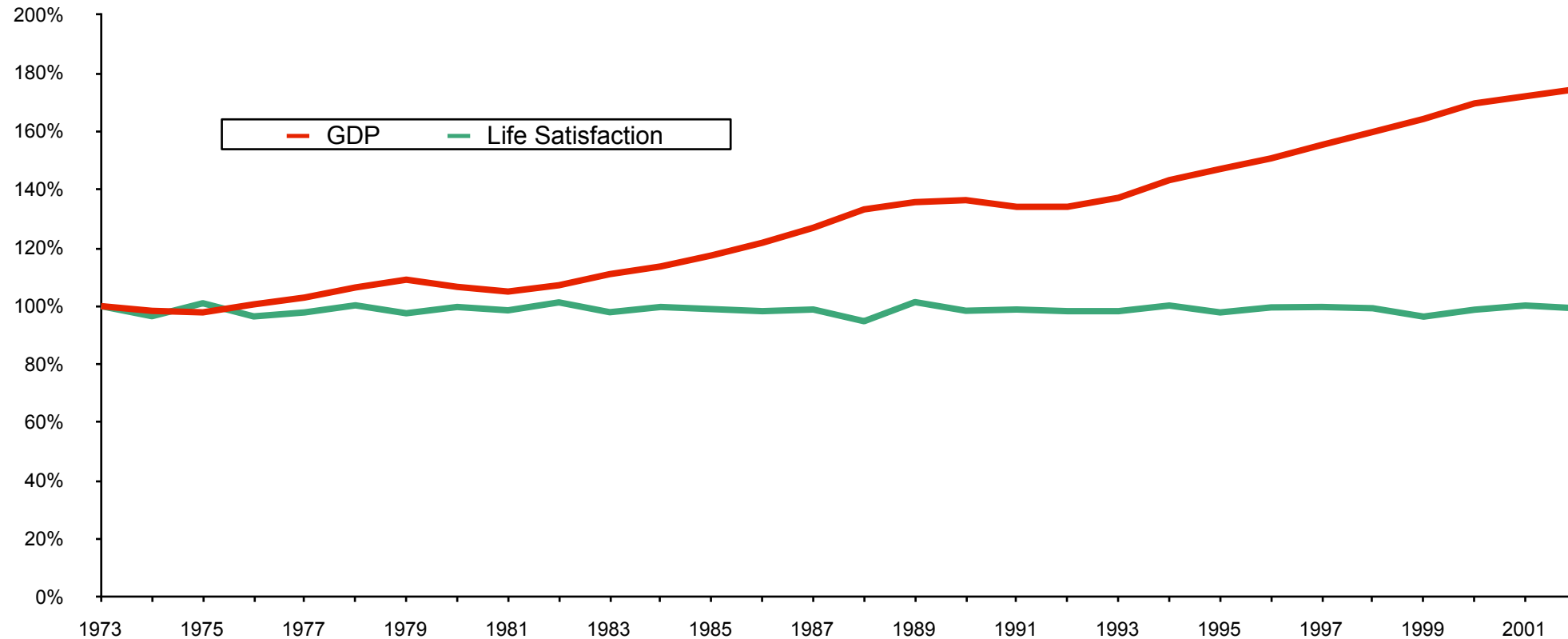
LOSERS

NEW
SIMPLIFIED
MAP of
LONDON



Scare planners and economic developers!

GDP and Life Satisfaction 1973 - 2002





What does CLEES think?

○ Frustrated and often angry about place making:

○ Its not value free and rational. It is fettered by the economic context

○ Getting the economic package to make and renew is the easy bit!

○ What about the place and its economy in perpetuity?

○ No good just 'making place'. We also need to SHIELD

○ Generic. Even if design is different and sensitive to place, the methods are 'samey'

○ It can be 'tecky' and professional and takes power away from citizenry

○ Fails to fully factor in aspects such social capital

○ The currency of successful places



Place based 21st century enlightenment

OOrganise the world according to what is best for people

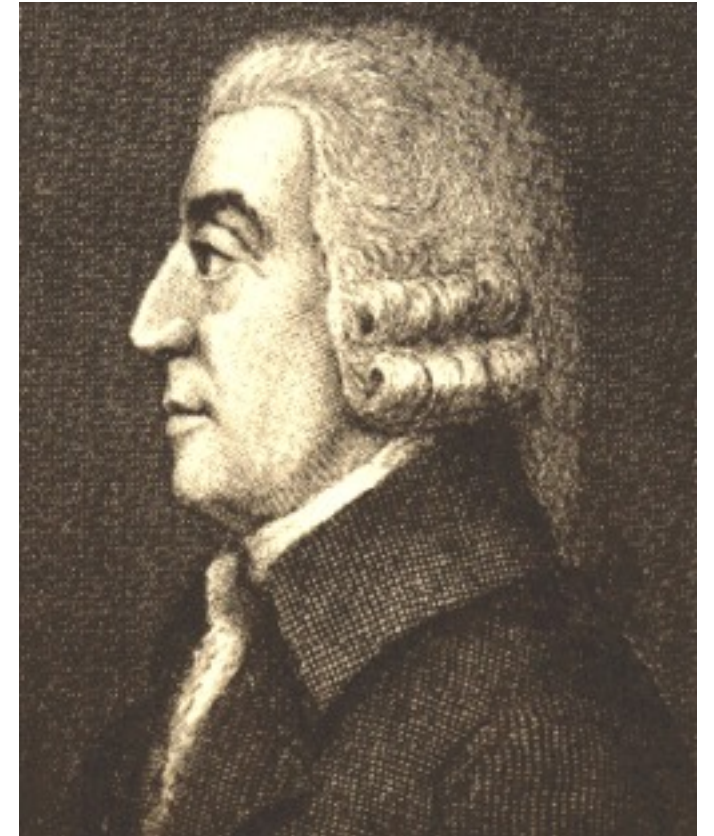
ONeed to think of place, economy, environment, society as one

OUse place as a site for building human empathy

OParadigm shift in consciousness as to how we conceptualise place

ORecognise places are dependent upon complex connections

OFocus on relationships in place and let economics be the glue, oil and servant, but never the master





Thinking about place afresh

◦ Resilience- **Thomas Homer-Dixon, The Upside of Down, 2006.**

'Resilience is an emergent property of a system – it's not a result of any one of the system's parts but of the synergy between all its parts'

◦ Networks- **The I Ching (Classic chinese text)**

'Look at what connects and separates people'

◦ Economic place resilience- **CLEES**

'economic place resilience is the capacity of place to be ready to deal with change and opportunity. A place needs to be adaptable - rolling the inevitable punches, grabbing opportunities and be capable of learning'



Resilience?





Key principles

ØThe 'dna of place'.

ØWe need to search for and nurture qualities in place (the conditions) which harness adaptability

ØWe don't want to keep intervening!

ØResilience means

Øseeing change as the norm

ØChallenging linear approach to place making - not simple cause and effect

Øembracing unpredictability

ØIts not just the things like parks and buildings, people, community, culture etc...but the relationship they have with each other



0 resilient places can:

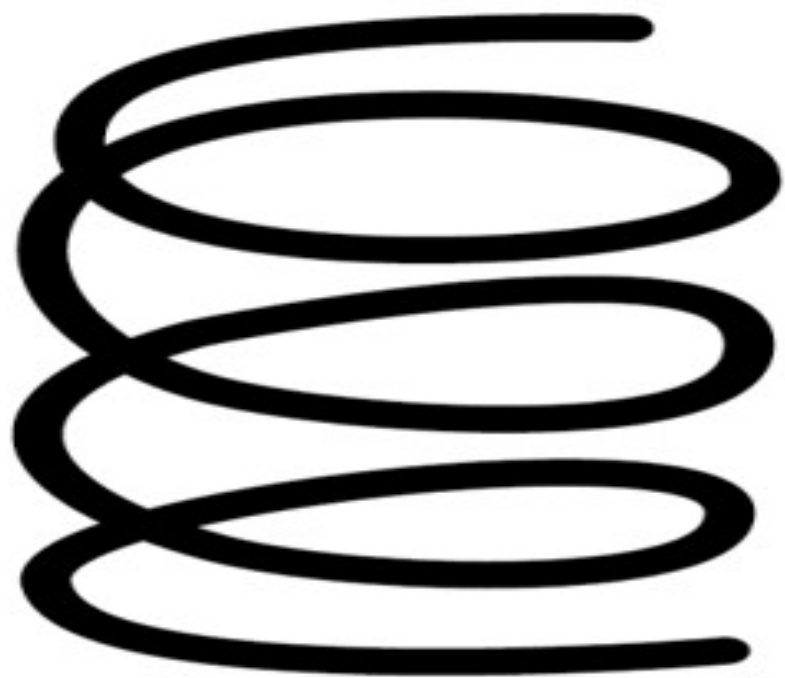
0take on opportunities,

0respond to shocks and change

0be adaptable

0ensure our local economies, people and communities are in tune

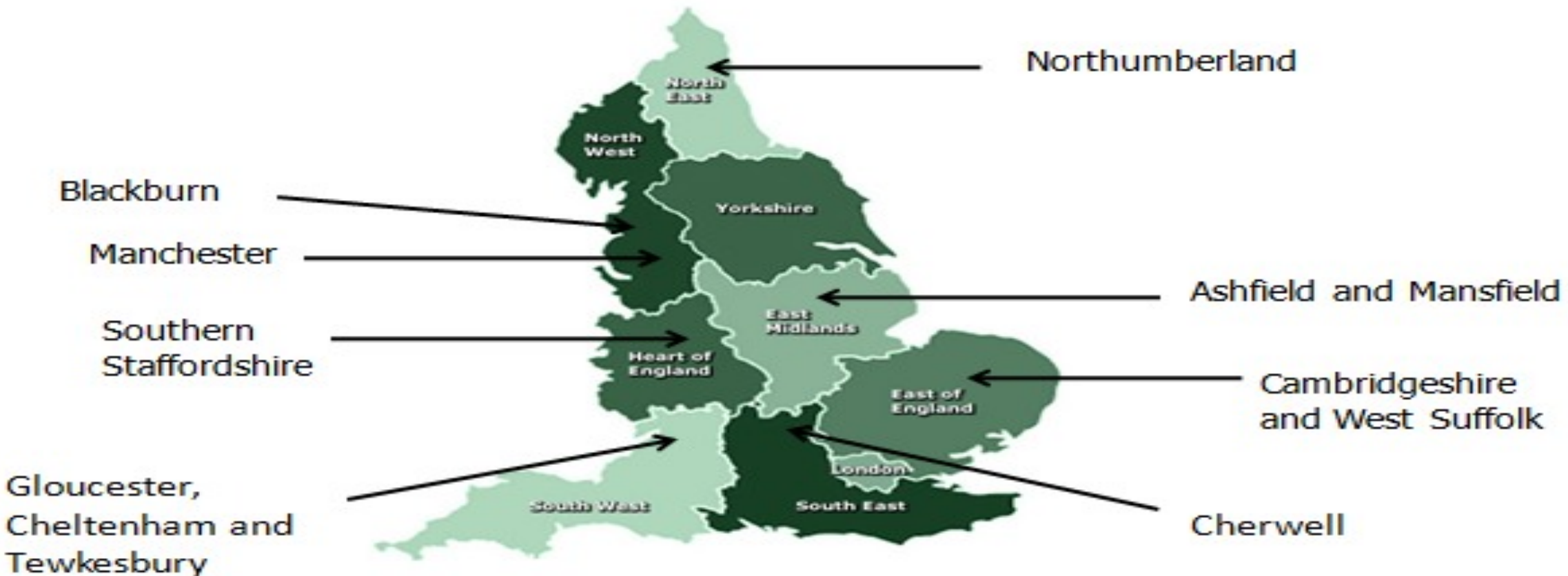
0take a punch and go.....



boing!



Where we have worked



Northumberland

North East

North West

Yorkshire

Blackburn

Manchester

Ashfield and Mansfield

East Midlands

Southern Staffordshire

Heart of England

Cambridgeshire and West Suffolk

East of England

Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury

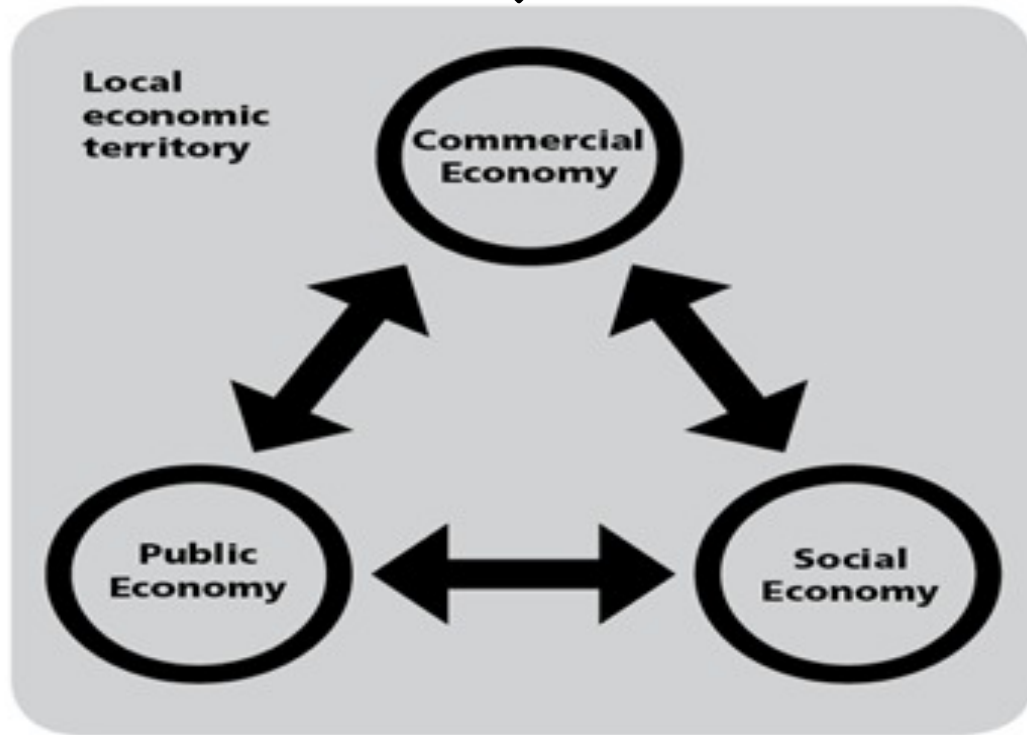
London

Cherwell

South West

South East

Health and wellbeing



Governance



Environment

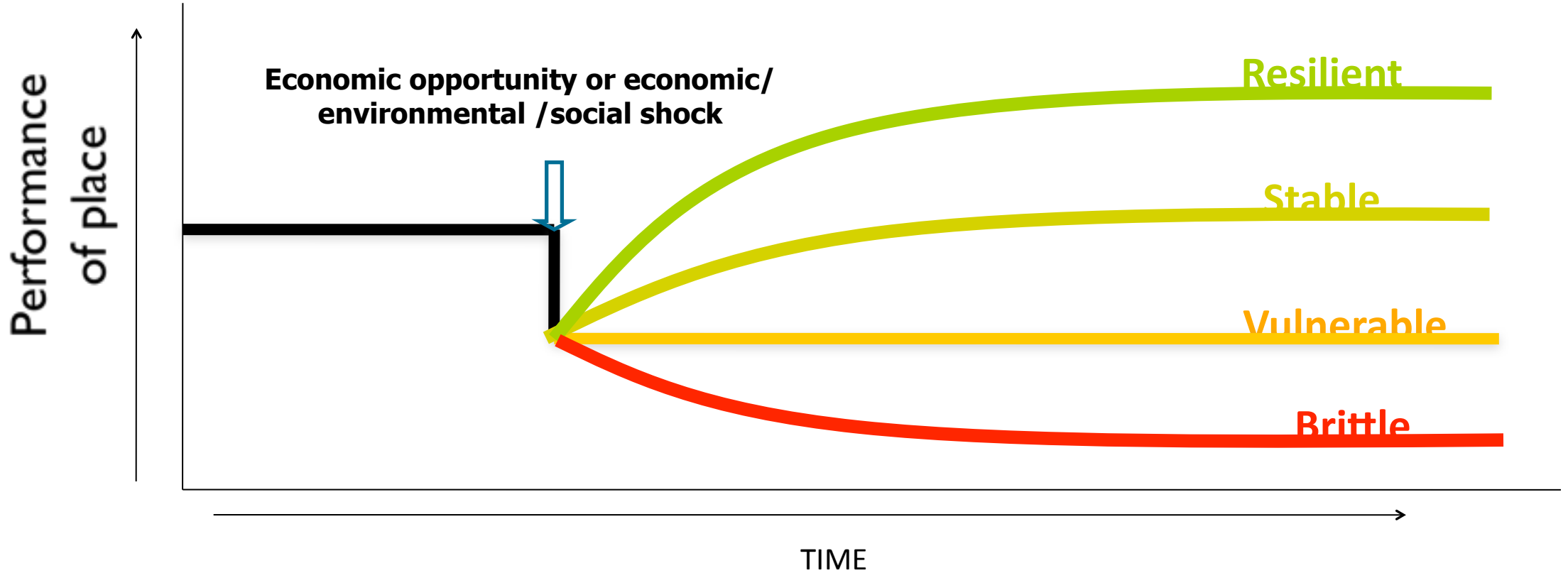


Identity, history and context



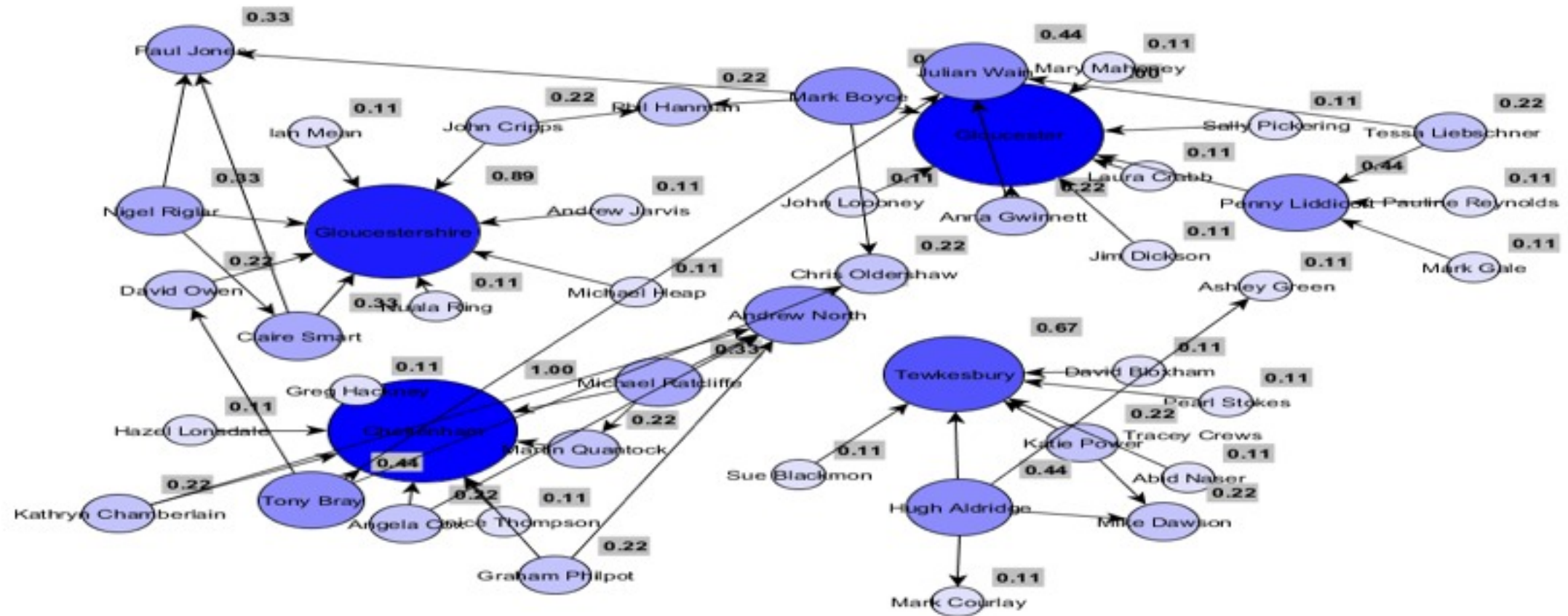


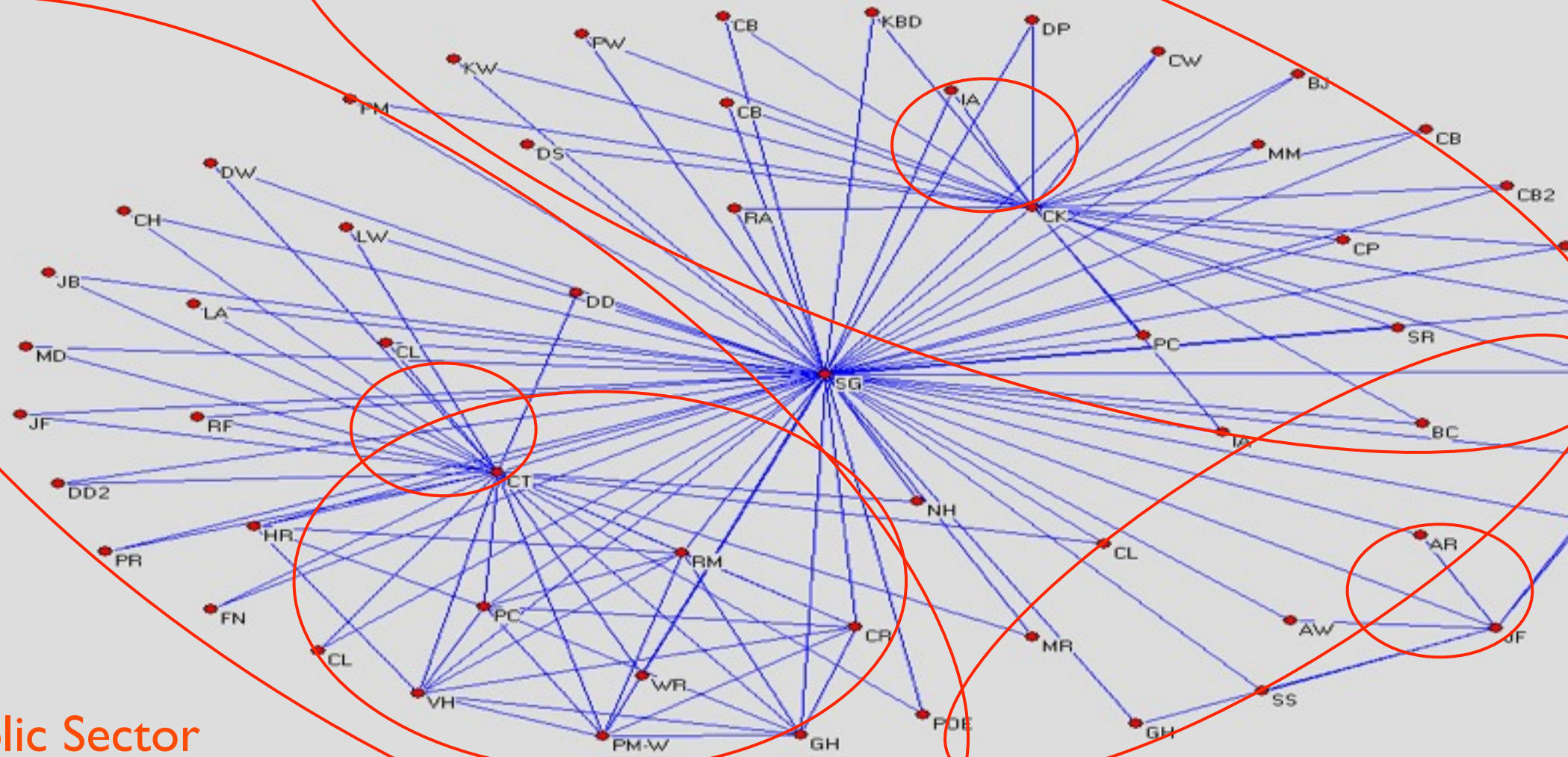
A place and its abilities





Partnership networks: West country





Public Sector



Conclusions from work

- Successful places are predicated on social and economic networks and relationships**
 - Public, commercial and social economies and their interaction is at the core**
 - Need to know and knit your social networks through analysis**

- Economic resilience is key to place making**
 - not predicated on economic growth, its predicated on functioning local economy embedded in place**
 - Predicts ability to deal with change**
 - Creates guide for the future**



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Day 1

Melbourne Place Making Series

