

Kehl, September 2011

Professor Graham Garbutt

**Local Democratic
Participation in England**

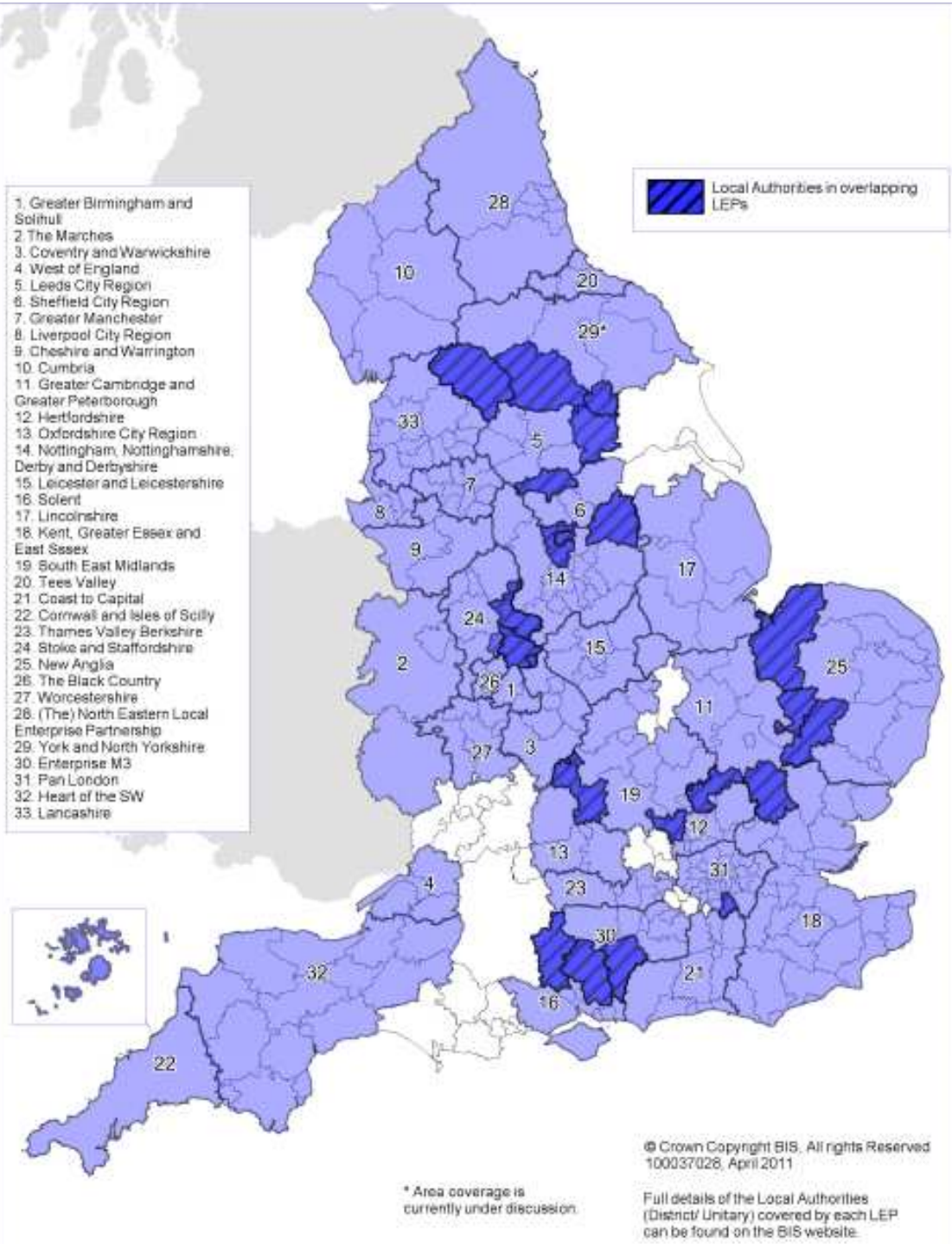




UK

- Scotland, Wales, N.Ireland: 10m people
 - devolved democracy
- London: 7.5m people
 - mayor and assembly
- English 'regions': 43m people (70%)
 - wide variation, uncertain identities





1. Greater Birmingham and Solihull
2. The Marches
3. Coventry and Warwickshire
4. West of England
5. Leeds City Region
6. Sheffield City Region
7. Greater Manchester
8. Liverpool City Region
9. Cheshire and Warrington
10. Cumbria
11. Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough
12. Hertfordshire
13. Oxfordshire City Region
14. Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Derby and Derbyshire
15. Leicester and Leicestershire
16. Solent
17. Lincolnshire
18. Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex
19. South East Midlands
20. Tees Valley
21. Coast to Capital
22. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly
23. Thames Valley Berkshire
24. Stoke and Staffordshire
25. New Anglia
26. The Black Country
27. Worcestershire
28. (The) North Eastern Local Enterprise Partnership
29. York and North Yorkshire
30. Enterprise M3
31. Pan London
32. Heart of the SW
33. Lancashire

 Local Authorities in overlapping LEPs

© Crown Copyright BIS. All rights Reserved
100037026, April 2011

* Area coverage is currently under discussion.

Full details of the Local Authorities (District/ Unitary) covered by each LEP can be found on the BIS website.

UK

- Informal, unwritten constitution
- Central power, 'earned autonomy'
- Local government: metropolitan, counties, districts, parishes
- 1/2/3 tiers

Decentralisation and Localism

“ The time has come to disperse power more widely in Britain.” (Prime Minister, 2010)

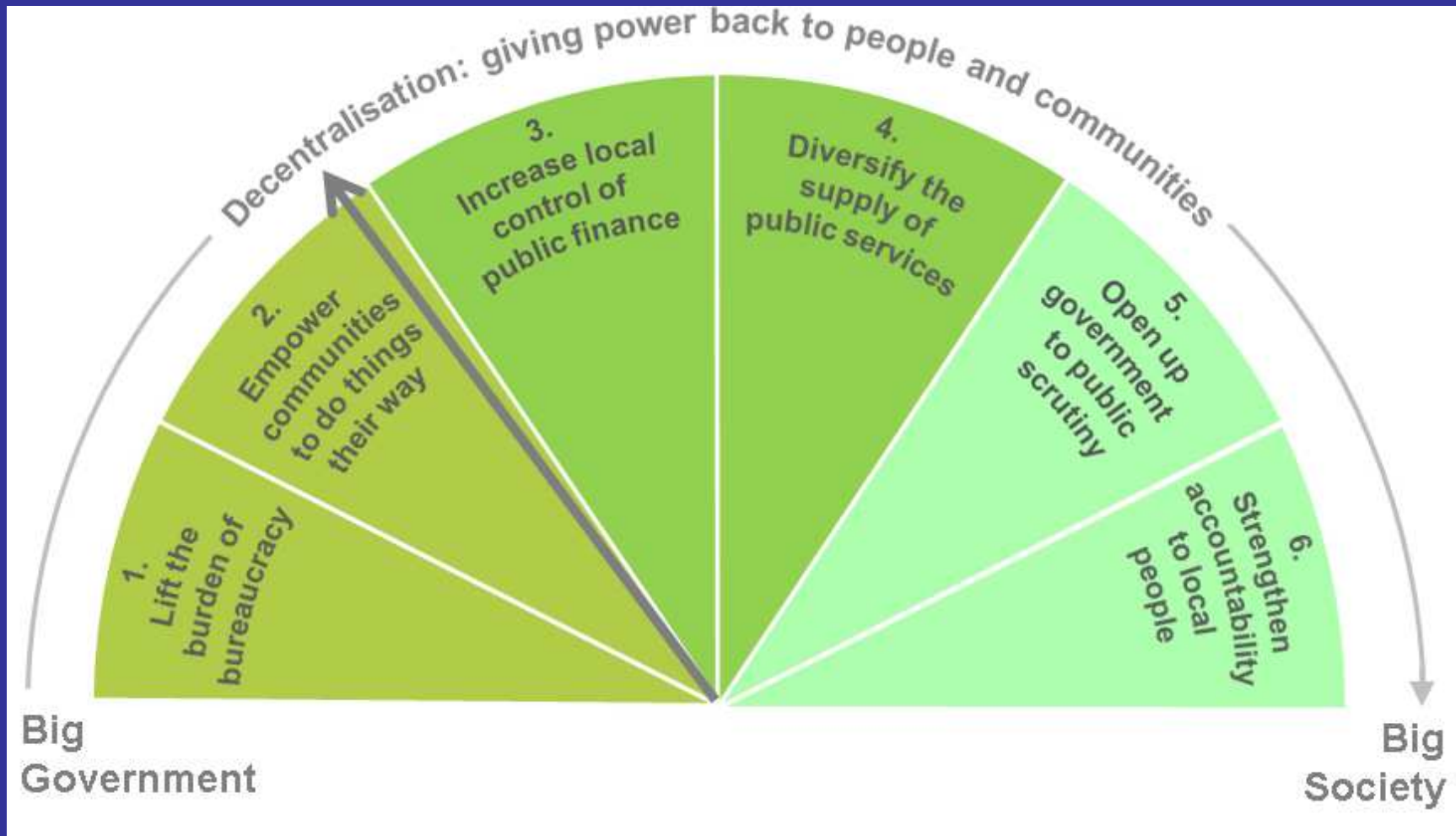
“ Concentrated power....leaves people feeling 'done to' and imposed upon – the very opposite of the sense of participation and involvement on which healthy democracy survives.” (Decentralisation Minister, 2011)

The 'Big Society'

“.....the best means of strengthening society..... is to help people and their locally elected representatives to achieve their own ambitions. This is the essence of the Big Society..... But we can go further by changing the law.” (Minister, 2011)

The Localism Bill was published in December 2010.

'From Big Government to Big Society'



But.....

- Worst economic recession for 100 years
- Weak demand, poor investment
- Big cuts in public spending and services
- Privatisation
- Growing inequality
- Increasing polarisation

Growing concern

- “Rather than the community being empowered to protect their open space, the (new policy) provides a way for developers to build on it....” (Friends of the Earth, 2011)
- “We firmly believe that the government has got its proposals for planning reform wrong” (National Trust, 2011)

So.....

- Participation in what?
- Solidarity or protest?
- Engagement or alienation?
- Democratic change or direct action?



graham.garbutt@uwe.ac.uk