

FUTURE CAPABILITY

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South East England Councils' Plenary

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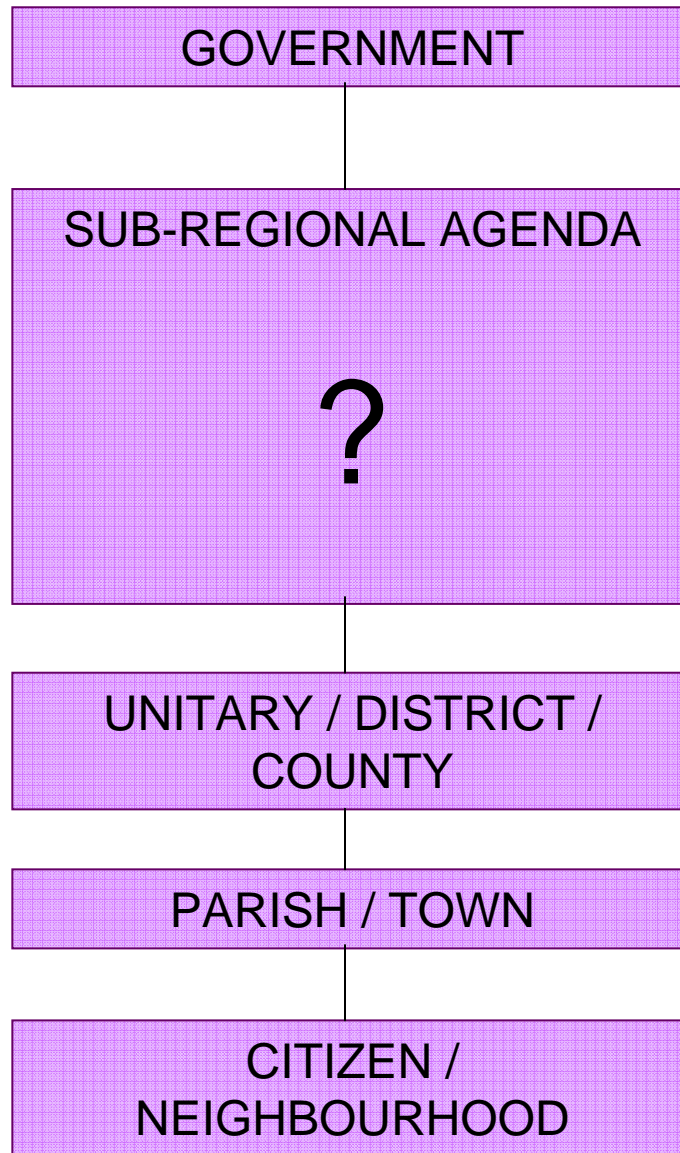
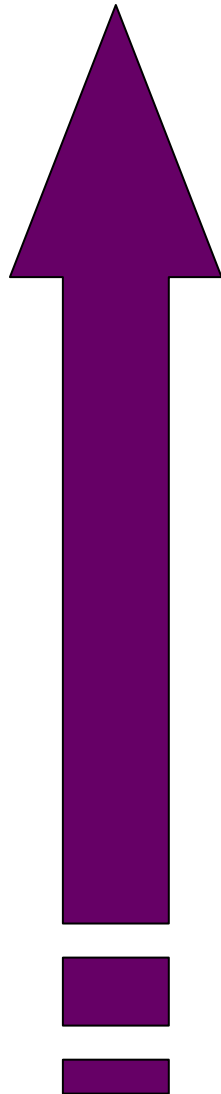


The New World

- Delivering *Control Shift*
- Real devolution and empowerment
 - putting Local Government in the driving seat
- A 'bottom-up' approach
- Clear appetite from Government to demolish most of the Regional architecture
- Creates vacuum and void



Bottom-up



Can we deal direct with Government without being joined up on

- Transport
- Housing
- Economic Development, etc?



Disadvantages of doing nothing probably greater than the benefits...

- Losing out to other better organised areas of the country in the competition for funding and policy influence
- Lack of a unified voice to argue for the South East's needs as the largest net contributor to the UK economy
- Competing against each other for resources rather than against other areas of the country
- Potential further decline in the South East's global economic competitiveness
- Greater costs for individual councils in duplicating work and hiring consultants



In summary...

- 1) In no way preserving the status quo – any Regional architecture must have a purpose and add value
- 2) Important that Local Government in the South East is seen to be at one
- 3) Solution will be minimalistic
- 4) Local Government in the South East will inherit the reserves left after winding-up SEERA Ltd
- 5) SEEC's relationship with the LGA

