



# **North West event on DWP Work Programme**

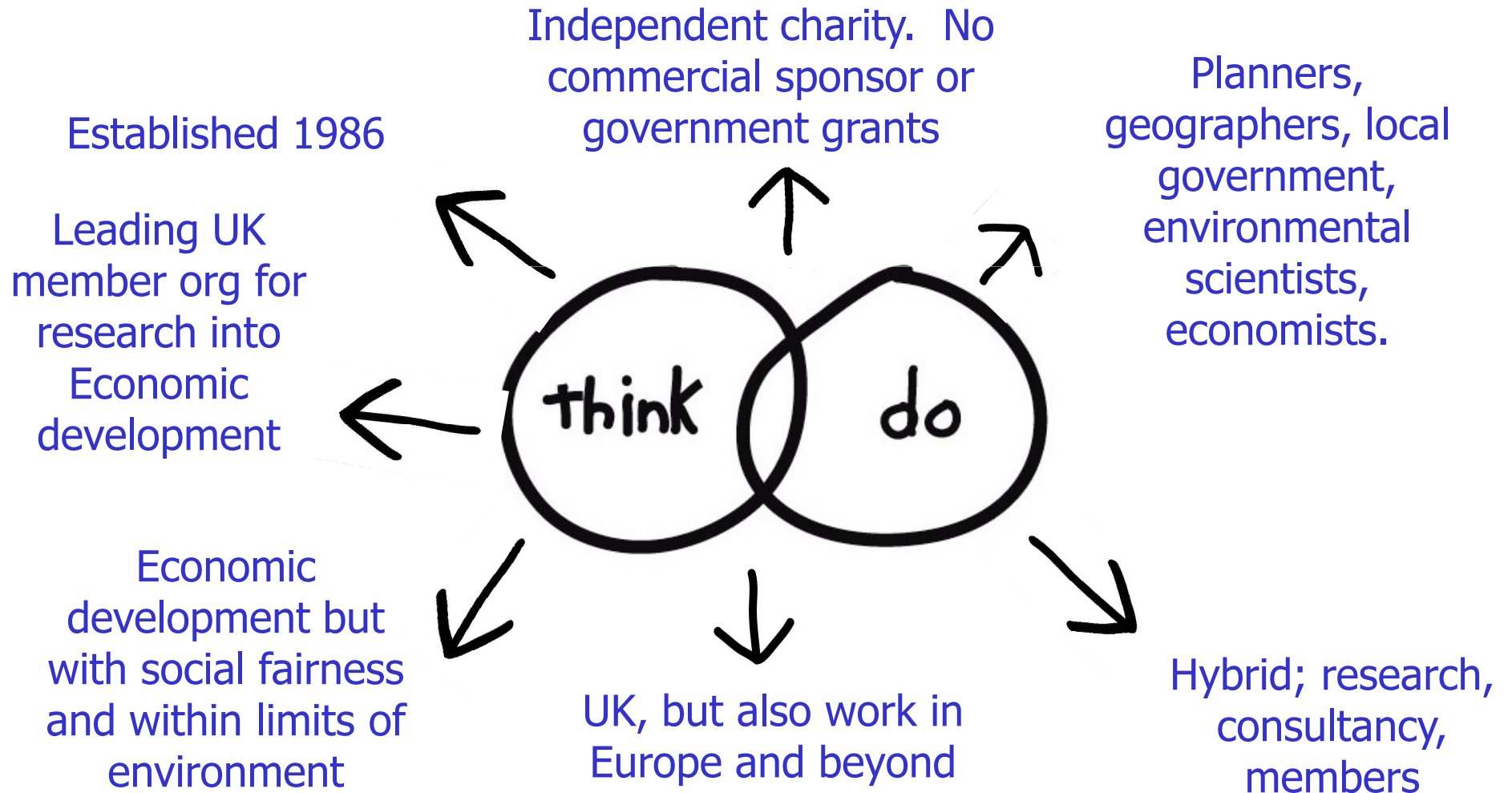
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011**

**Welcome from Chair**

**Sarah Longlands, Director of Policy, CLEES**



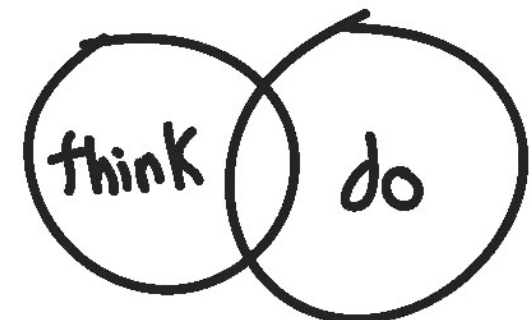
# About CLEES





## CLEES Research and policy work

- Making Places Better
- Social Economy
- Poverty and Social Exclusion
- New Economic Development
- Procurement is the New Regeneration
- Place Resilience
- Future Cities





# Today

## Four key themes

- The Coalition Government's approach to economic development and regeneration
- Introducing the Work Programme
- What the Work Programme means for prime contractors and the voluntary and community sector
- The role of local government strategically and in delivering the outcomes



# Today

## Two Parts

- Presentations offering different perspectives:
  - BIS in the localities – David Higham
  - Prime Contractor – Paul Hardman, A4E
  - VCS – John Hacking - NWSPV
  - Local Government – Heather Clark, Manchester and Sean McGrath, Lancashire
- Discussion:
  - The role of local government in the Work Programme and support requirements
- Briefing note and action plan to follow workshop



## The shifting policy focus



- Recognition of the need for whole scale reform of the welfare benefits system – informed by work of CSJ – ‘universal credit’
- Make work pay – principle at the heart of the reform
- More use of private sector in delivery/provision
- Conditionality
  - Claimant commitment established
  - Four broad conditionality groups
- Tougher sanctions
  - Including failure to prepare for work/seek employment
  - Mandatory work programme



## The shifting policy focus



### **Key initiatives and policies include:**

- o The introduction of the Work Programme – reduction of existing worklessness related programmes into one initiative. Administered at regional level by Prime Contractors (in most cases, private sector)
- o Move towards a Universal Credit – bringing together existing income-related out-of-work benefits into what the govt hopes will be a simpler, more integrated system



## Discussion

### Four key questions

- How is your authority approaching the Work Programme?
- What engagement and relationship have you had with Primes and the VCS?
- How does the Work Programme fit strategically in your locality in terms of corporate priorities around tackling worklessness?
- What support is required in the NW to broker more effective engagement?





## Finishing off

Please fill in your evaluation forms:

Any remaining questions

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