Current UK structure: formal and informal devolution

• Scotland / Wales / Northern Ireland
  - 10 million
• London - 7.5 million
• 8 English regions –
  - 43m people (70%)
  - ‘pragmatic’ decentralisation
20 Years of Evolution – 1990s

- Inequality, low investment, neglect
- Local alliances and partnerships
- ‘Europe of Regions’
- Capacity problems
20 Years of evolution - 2000s

- Government Offices, RDAs, Assemblies
- 2002 electoral experiment
- 2007 sub-national review
- Integrated regional strategies
- City-regions
- Central/local contracts – LAAs, MAAs
## Spend per capita

### National Statistics

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### UK central government and public corporations' identifiable expenditure

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Public sector role

- Governance, strategy, accountability
- Attracting/subsidising investment
- Regeneration/urban renaissance
- Jobs! 17% - 30% UK
- ‘REPPSA’ – equalising growth rates
Difference between GVA per head growth rates of the Greater South East and lagging regions (1990-2008)

Real private sector GVA growth by region (1989-2007)

England average = 65% private sector GVA growth


Centre for cities
Location....

Thames Gateway

‘London Thames Gateway is at last in a position to take advantage of its prime position, linking the London economy to its national and international customer base’

LTG Website
Interpretation?

• Successful regional/urban renaissance?
• Evolved governance/incentivised investment?
• Mitigation of negatives?
• Weak spatial planning?

…or…

• UK as London’s city-region?
• Public sector ‘choking’ private sector?
2010 – A new beginning?

- Conservative/ Lib-Dem government
- Economic crisis
- 25% cuts in central departments
- Regions ‘swept away’
- Emphasis on local partnerships
- Smaller public sector – ‘room for growth’
“It is important for the coalition to accept that the places where the public sector has ‘got too big’ are the places where people don’t have much money”

Guardian newspaper
Issues 1

- Public/private paradigm
- Role and size of public sector
- Poverty, welfare, taxation
- Management of transition
- Capacity and subsidiarity
Issues 2

How to optimise subsidiarity?
• Locally defined partnerships?
• Urban/rural dimension?
• City-regions (economic/political)?
• Regional governance?
• National policy and interventions?
• EU/supra-national?
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