
Fashioning the foundational economy in Wales

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**CHC One Big Housing Conference
Metropole Hotel
Llandrindod Wells
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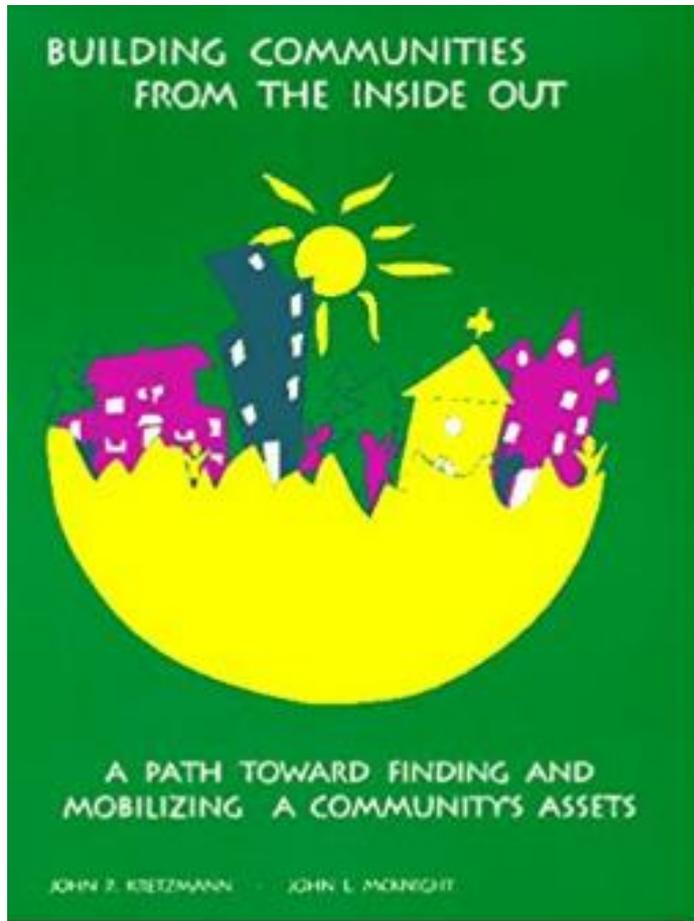
Overview

- Foundational economy – what is it?
 - Draws on/develops the ABCD approach
 - Welsh Government's place-based strategy
 - WG needs place-based allies (not clients)
 - **Engaged Universities – civic missions**
 - **Housing Associations – housing horizons**
 - Foundational experiments getting underway in Swansea Bay and Blaenau Gwent
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Foundational economy

- FE consists of goods and services which help make life safe, sound and civilised
 - Provided through a mix of public, private and social provision:
 - **Eds and meds** – education and health services
 - **Cinderella sectors** – care, housing and food
 - **Utilities** - gas, water, electricity, telecoms
 - Together they account for 40-45% of jobs
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Asset-based community development



- ABCD has 3 core features
- It starts with what is present (**assets**) and not what is absent
- It is **internally-focused** on local capacity building
- It is **relationship-driven**, focusing on relationships between local residents, associations and institutions

Welsh Government strategy

- New place-based economic strategy being launched this autumn, focusing on 3 regions
 - **Cardiff Capital Region**
 - **Swansea Bay Region**
 - **North Wales Ambition Board**
 - Unresolved questions include:
 - **UK Shared Prosperity Fund/EU Funds**
 - **Prosperity for All**
 - **Well-being of Future Generations**
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Welsh Government needs allies

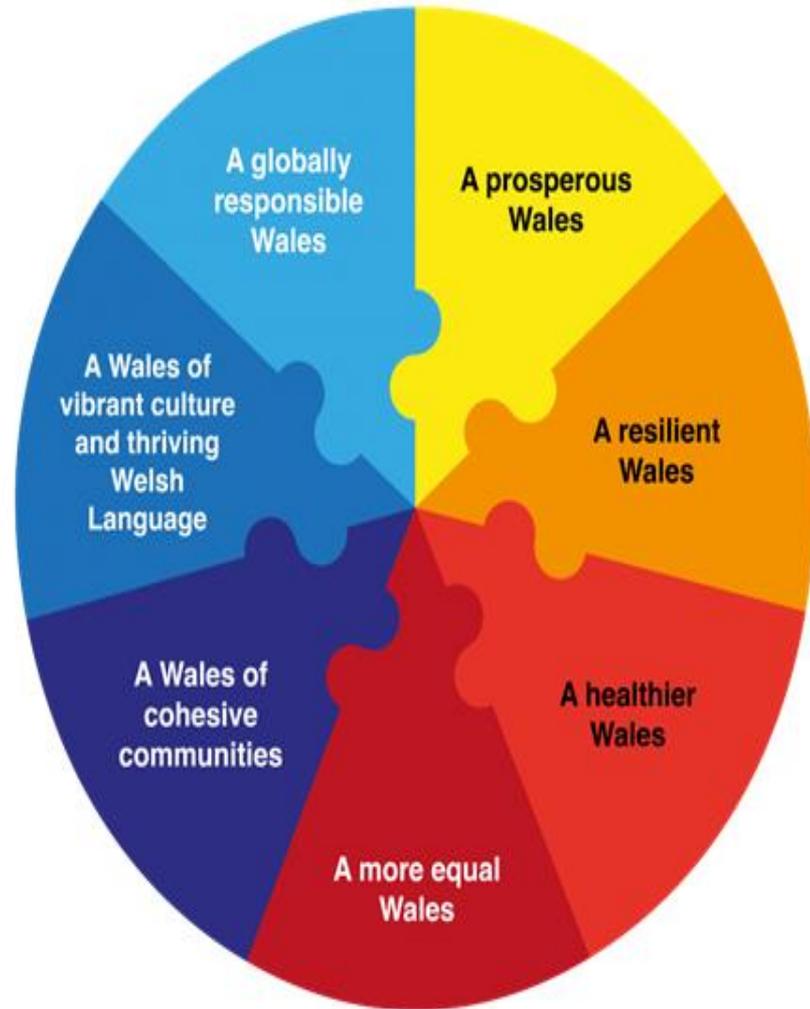
- Wales = a small state-centric nation
 - WG has a top-down, command & control culture
 - But it lacks capacity/competence to deliver (the common thread in failures like Technium/CFirst)
 - It needs **allies** not clients to build a strong culture of **co-production**
 - New vision needed for Wales in a Post-Brexit Britain - a new compact with place-based anchor institutions
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Welsh Political Context

- Welsh Government priorities for the public sector include:
 - **Well-being of Future Generations Act** - a statutory commitment to sustainable development
 - **Ethical Employment Code** – for Welsh public bodies/supply chains
 - **Civic Mission** – for Welsh universities/supply chains
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Well-being of Future Generations Act

- Public bodies and universities in Wales are obliged to address 7 well-being goals
- Public bodies and universities are also obliged to consider 5 ways of working to promote the principle of sustainable development
- The Welsh Government has published a set of 46 National Indicators to measure progress in achieving the 7 well-being goals
- Lots of good intentions, but good practice?



Coverage

- The code covers the following employment matters:
- Modern slavery and human rights abuses
- Blacklisting
- Zero hours contracts
- Paying the Living Wage
- Good intentions, but good practice?

Code of practice: Ethical employment in supply chains

Last updated 20 June 2017

Share

The commitments in the code help ensure that workers in our supply chains are employed fairly.

This code commits public, private and third sector organisations to a set of actions that tackle illegal and unfair employment practices. The supporting guides contain tools and advice to help put the commitments into practice.

All organisations that receive funding from Welsh Government, either directly or via grants or contracts, will be expected to sign up to the code. Other organisations in Wales are encouraged to sign up.

Updated Procurement Advice Notes for public sector organisations on blacklisting and ethical employment practices can be found on the [Procurement Route Planner](#)

Campus and Community

- Education Minister Kirsty Williams implores Welsh universities to recapture their Civic Mission and boost civic engagement
- She said the EU referendum had exposed a big gap between campus and community
- Universities need to do more to demonstrate their community benefits
- Universities are place-based anchor institutions and need to act as such

University welcomes Cabinet Secretary for Education

8 September 2016



Key challenges for HE

- Key challenges for all universities:
 - paying the **Living Wage**
 - delivering **Community Benefits**
 - To overcome variable capacity in HE sector
 - sector associations need to do more mentoring
 - third sector bodies (like *Y Prentis* in Wales) can help HEIs to design and measure the delivery of CB commitments
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Housing Associations

- HAs are also place-based anchor institutions and CHC could be a key player in the new vision for Post-Brexit Wales
 - With 70 odd members CHC is in an ideal position to support the Foundational Economy in 2 ways
 - by promoting local experiments and
 - by disseminating good practice
 - HAs have the potential to become so much more than social housing providers (welfare, wellbeing, local economy hubs, community animateurs etc)
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Housing Horizons

Making a difference over the next 20 years.

Housing Horizons

Housing Horizons is a project run by Community Housing Cymru, the membership body for Welsh housing associations.

What's the main aim of Housing Horizons?

Housing Horizons' main aim is to set a long-term vision for housing associations in Wales. This vision will position housing associations as a partner of choice and an integral part of the solution to the housing crisis.

Why do we need a long term vision?

Housing is a long term business, but we operate in a short term political and funding environment which means that priorities can shift and uncertainty can limit our ambitions. We need an aspirational and long-lasting vision for housing associations which will enable the sector to influence and lead policy decisions in Wales.

Housing Associations

- WG needs HEIs and HAs if it is to deliver its new place-based strategy
 - But HEIs and HAs also need each other
 - to jointly frame and evaluate local FE experiments
 - to jointly learn how to measure social impact
 - to jointly influence policy & practice in Wales
 - A big challenge for both HAs and HEIs is how to disseminate good practice (the **CAN DO TOOLKIT** was invented in the social housing sector, but got stuck there!).
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Foundational alliances

- New alliances between HAs and HEIs have been formed to launch FE pilot actions in Swansea Bay and Blaenau Gwent
 - Local actors and local agendas are paramount, but national bodies – like NESTA and ONS – are keen to track these pilots
 - Wales helped to pioneer the NHS in the 20th century and it should pioneer the FE in 21st
 - It has the need (poverty etc) and the duty (Well-being Act)...but WG must shed command & control and embrace **co-production** with its allies
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