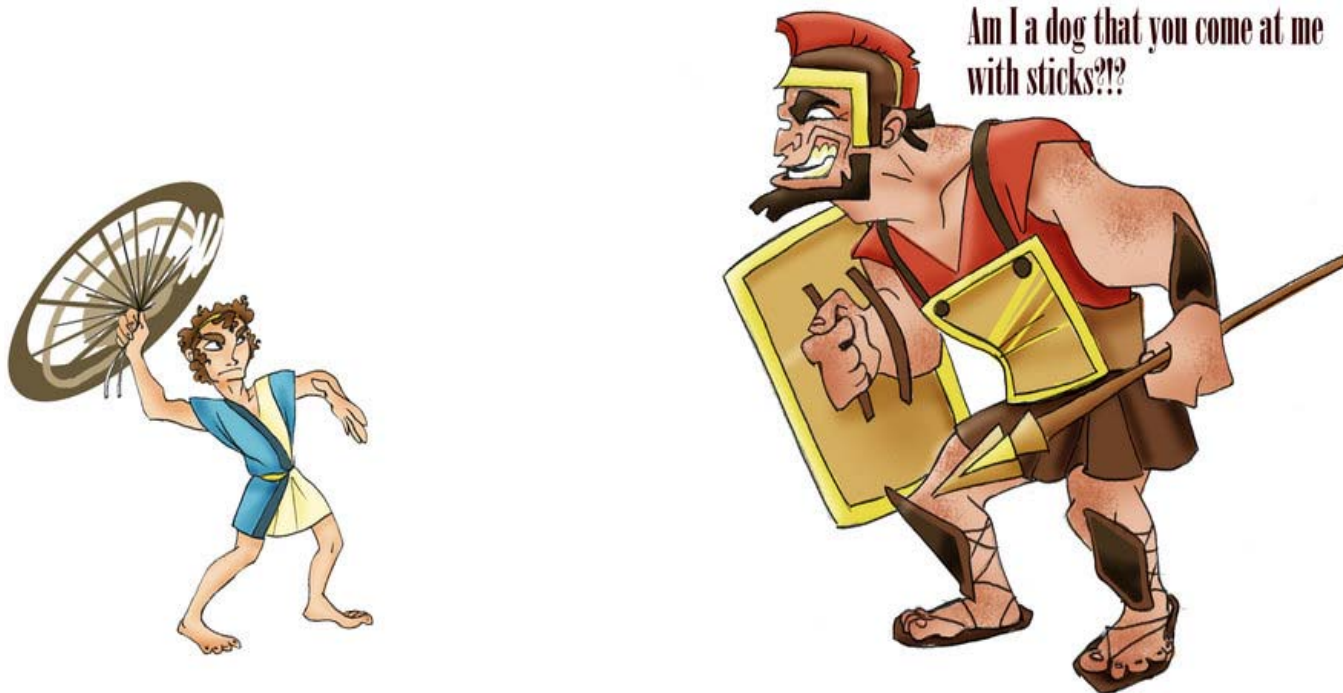


The Local Government Challenge in NI: Making Sense of it All

Derek McCallan
7th September 2016

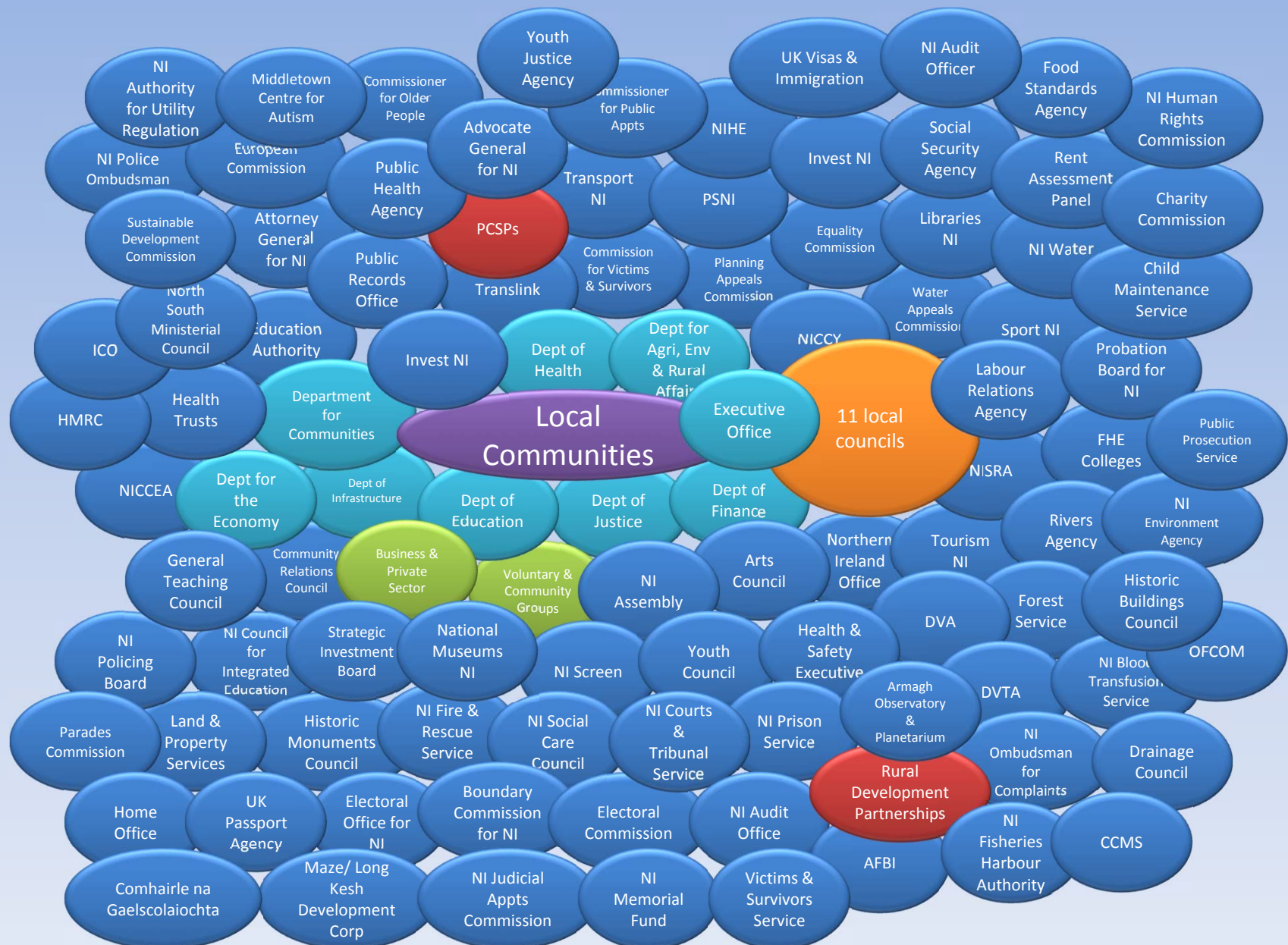
the voice of local government

Pre April 2015: Councils v Rest?

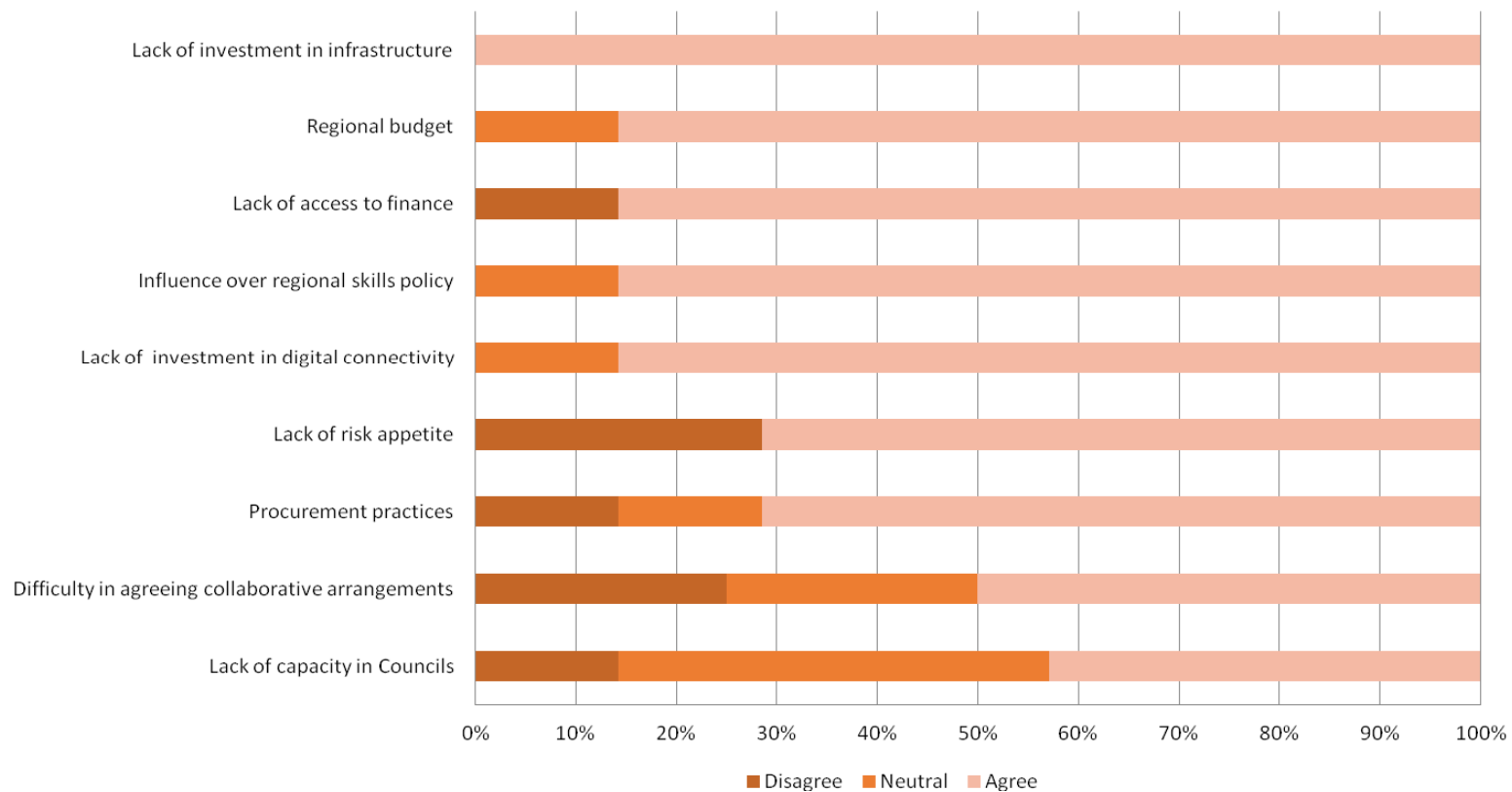


PFG 2016: Councils & Government Now?





NILGA - BARRIERS TO GROWTH SURVEY (MAY 2016)



N = 11, 100% returns rate to NILGA

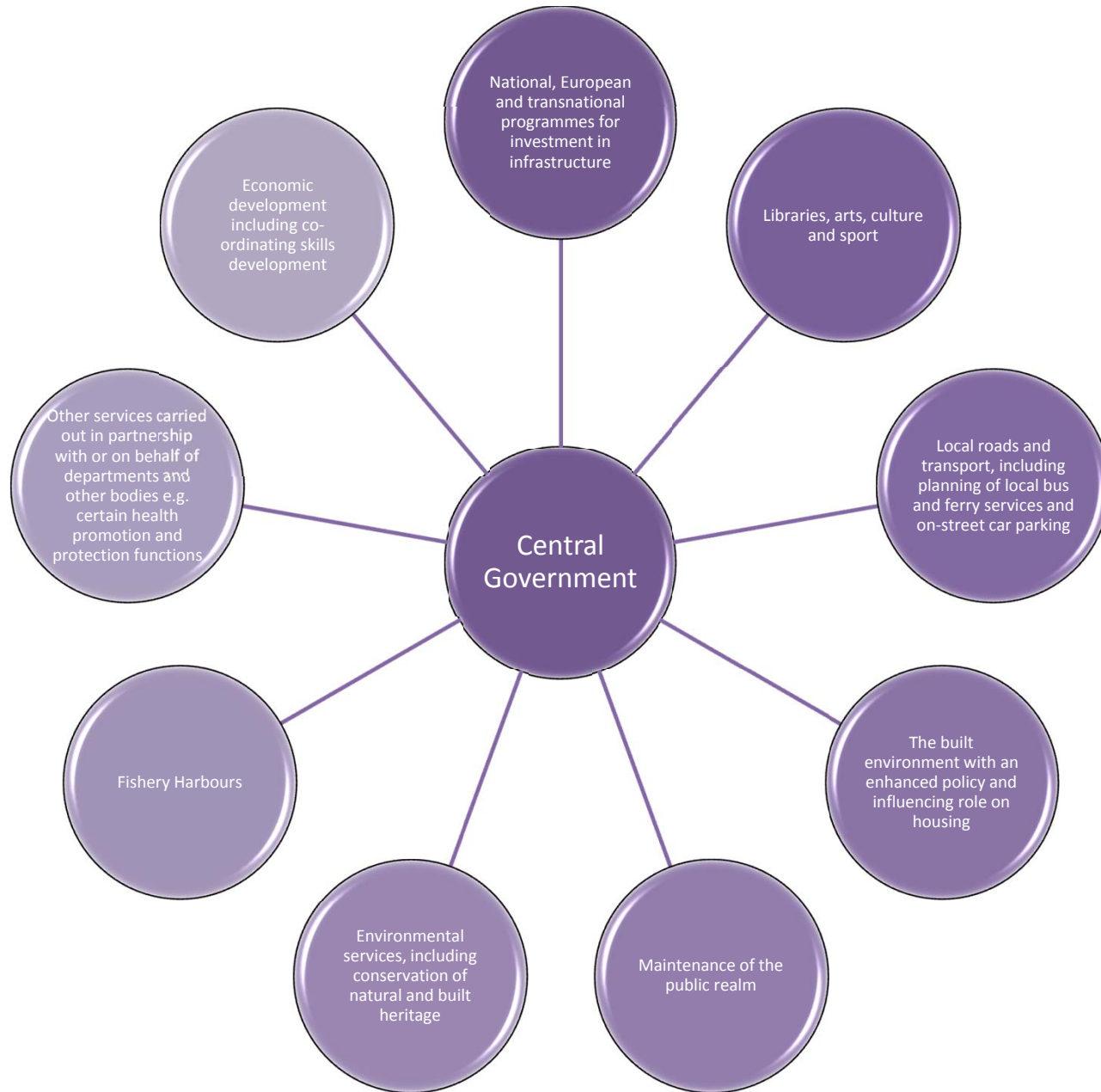
Programme for Local Government

- Programme for Government needs to be co-designed and co-delivered by councils.
- In a manner which sees, over time, greater responsibilities and powers exercised by local government, together with the necessary resources.
- Immediate emphasis needs to be put on securing the transfer of regeneration powers.



Devolution of Powers

In the next Assembly mandate and beyond, NILGA, in conjunction with the 11 councils, will develop an evidence base (including associated costs) to debate and build business cases to transfer powers from central to local government.



Specific Ask # 1

A **power to enable** effective **pooling of budgets** by departments, public bodies & councils to facilitate the implementation of community plans and the achievement of agreed outcomes.



Specific Ask # 2



To gain **greater fiscal flexibility for councils** – including seeking a commitment from all departments to engage with councils on a sector-wide basis as well as a departmental level, using a ‘New Burdens’ approach prior to making financial decisions that have an impact on council budgets.

Specific Ask # 3

To lobby the NI Executive for a **transformation fund** for local communities & local government, similar to that provided to the outgoing NI Executive Departments and to the Health and Social Care sector and in England, Scotland, Wales



Specific Ask # 4



A new **Civil Contingencies Bill**, recognising the local co-ordination role of councils in emergency planning activity; and ring-fencing funding for emergency planning and climate adaptation measures.

Specific Ask # 5

Commitment from the Department of Finance to **return 'ring-fenced' Landfill Tax revenue directly to NI councils** for investment in waste management infrastructure.



Specific Ask # 6

To devolve powers and funding for **skills and employment support** to councils, in partnership with higher education colleges and with regional policy co-ordination, to accompany the devolution of **local economic development** and regeneration, so that investment decisions can be based directly on what local economies and local businesses need in terms of future and present workforces to create jobs.



Specific Ask # 7

To give councils in NI **traffic management powers**, similar to Wales and other regions, in order to assist in covering the costs of air quality monitoring requirements.



Specific Ask # 8

To strengthen the leadership, representational and commissioning roles of councillors:

- by including an elected member from each council on the Board of the new **Education Authority**
- ensuring that the Boards of Arms-Length bodies (e.g. the **NI Fire & Rescue Service, NIHE**) delivering services provided by local government elsewhere include an appropriate, politically balanced number of councillors.

Specific Ask # 9

To develop an agreed, shared, cross-governmental, **outcome-focused performance management and improvement system** – with a single Code of Conduct - so that we can improve together.



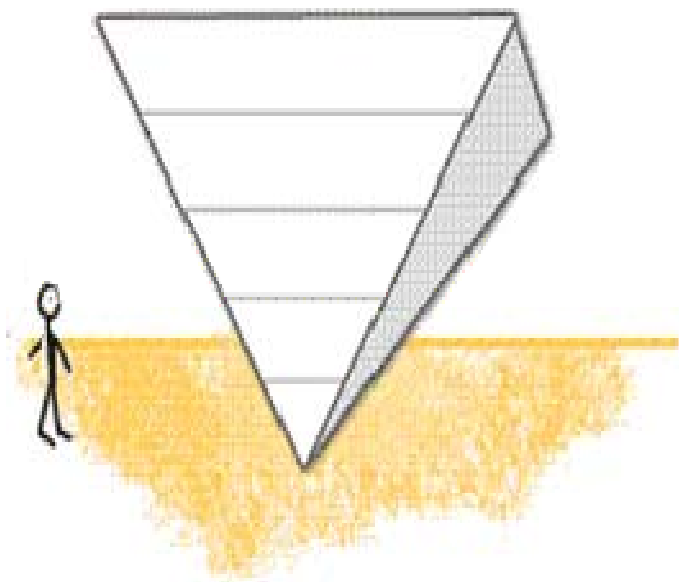
Specific Ask # 10

To develop a new **NI Policy & Investment Forum**, led by a principle department and the Executive Office on behalf of regional government, and co-ordinated through NILGA within local government, to optimise knowledge and investment of Structural and Non-Structural Funds available through the EU and other investors.



Bottom Up PfG

Communities On Top



Bubble Bursting Time?

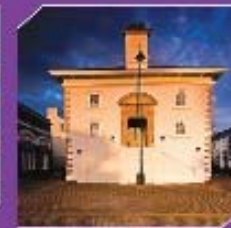


**It's the economy
and the local
citizen in an
enterprising
democracy.**

**A PROGRAMME FOR
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
2016 – 2021 & BEYOND**



Strangford Lough - Photo by P. Miskin



Old Customs House, Antrim



The Gabhies, Larne

**STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY,
SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES**

Leaving and Leading Europe?

- European Entrepreneurial Region
- 11 community plans = 11 sub regional economies
- Municipal Entrepreneurship
- 100% national standard member development by 2019
- Investment through legislation and trust in local infrastructure
- A better, more sustainable democracy

Formal Partners of NILGA



Conclusion

- Over the next decade, it is imperative that NI's local councils make the case to government and the public that they are not only the hub of local communities, but are also a confident, competent, resourced, essential and growing part of sustainable democracy and world-class public services.

Tell us your **big idea**



Your Council
Your Voice

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“I can complete the project under budget and ahead of schedule, but you’ll need to allocate additional time and money for that.”



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**GROWING ENTERPRISE,
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES**
Local Councils Delivering in the Digital Age

Thursday 6th October 2016
Everglades Hotel, Derry/Londonderry

***NILGA Conference –
Here!
6th October 2016***