

Governance and Democracy - Asking Questions About Localism

Steven Griggs
De Montfort University

Localism

- A nagging concern
- Draws upon reflections from research programme:
Neil Barnett (Leeds Beckett University), Richard Freeman (Edinburgh University), Stephen Hall (University of West of England) and David Howarth (Essex University)
- Concerns today are my own

Localism and accountability

- Localism as a framing device for local politics
- 'Sink or swim' threat

Governance

- Building reasonable localities?
- Sub-regional? The spectre of combined authorities
- New spaces abound - new partnerships -
fragmented maze

Elected Members

- Elected members and two tribes – one step removed
- Risk of depoliticisation

Reworking Localism

- Spatial inequalities and redistribution
- Accountability - managerial localism, community localism and representative localism
- What role for an ensuring central government working in collaboration with local councils?