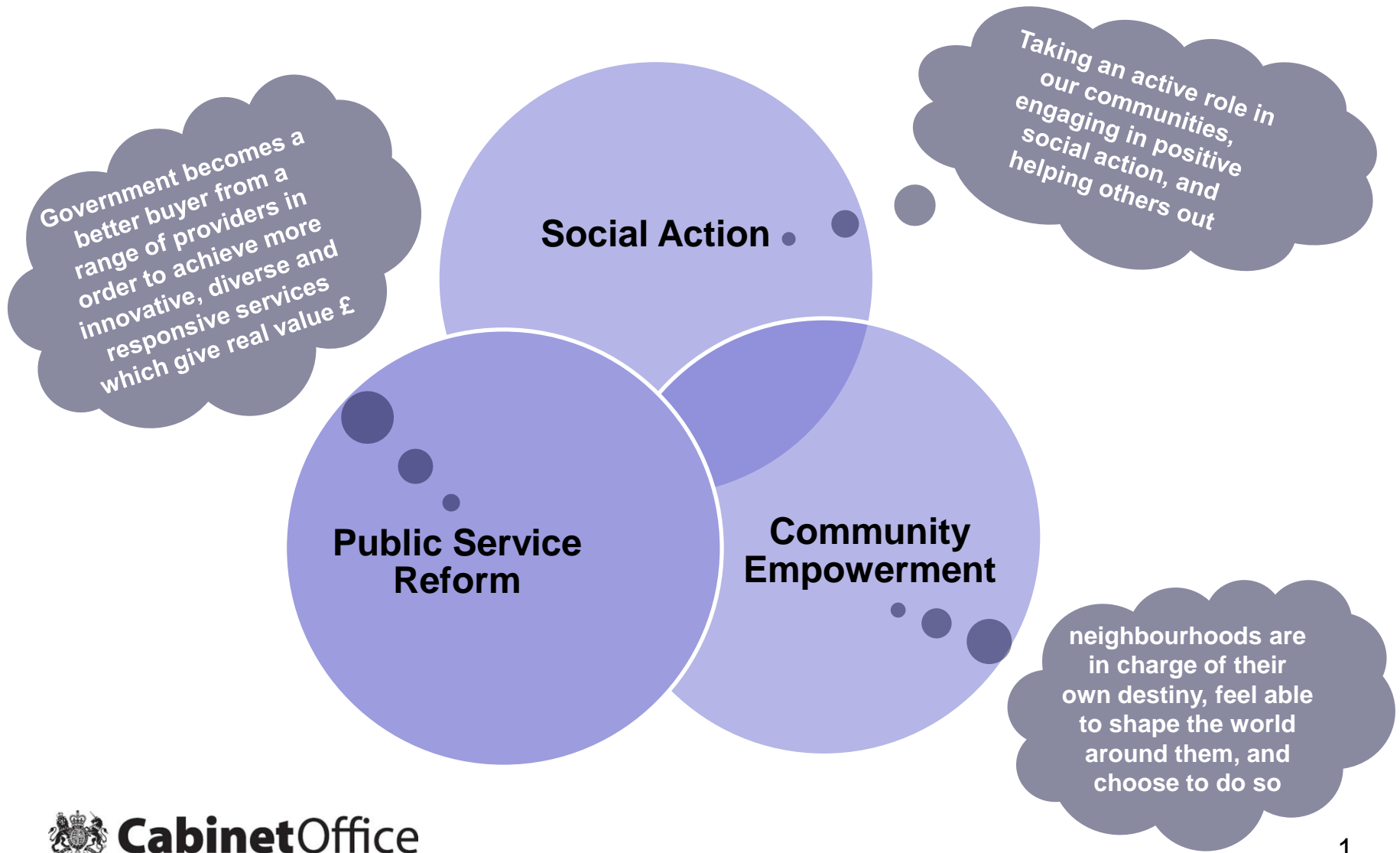


What is the Big Society?



Office of Civil Society

- Was known as Office for the Third Sector
- Bigger and more influential-at the heart of government within the Cabinet Office
- Purpose is to “grow” the Big Society

ROLES

3 main roles:

- Thought leadership-Big Society, Behaviour Change, Open Public Services
- Sponsorship of the sector in Whitehall-Support and challenge to civil society (Easier to run, easier to work with Gov, more money to sector)
- Delivery of flagship projects-Incubating new policies, moving to scale



Giving White Paper

Published Last Week

- Over £40 million of funding over the next two years to support volunteering infrastructure, giving and infrastructure by way of the Social Action Fund, Challenge Prizes and Local Infrastructure Fund
- £1 million to support [Youthnet](http://www.youthnet.org.uk) through www.do-it.org.uk which will share its data more freely with organisations. Facebook have said that they will make this data accessible through them



CabinetOffice

Office for Civil Society

Giving White Paper

- £700,000 to support [Philanthropy UK](#) connecting wealthy people with charities that need their support
- £400,000 support from Government and [NESTA](#) to trial [‘Spice’](#) in England which gives volunteers ‘thank yous’ like vouchers or discounts with local businesses when they do good things for the community



Giving White Paper

- Establishing a new honours committee to ensure people are recognised and celebrated for exceptional and sustained philanthropy
- Trial charity promotions on the public service website [Directgov](#) that gets around 4.5 million visits per week
- Open up government buildings to charities and voluntary groups



Giving White Paper

- Hold a Giving Summit in the Autumn to bring together charities, philanthropists, businesses, technologists and financiers to set the course for the future of giving
- All Ministers have agreed to a one day volunteering challenge
- Civil Service to become “Civic Service” - bigger emphasis on volunteering



Big Society Bank

- Interim arrangement set up with Big Lottery while European State Aid approval awaited
- Expected to start operating towards the end of this year
- Working closely with Sir Ronald Cohen and Nick O'Donohoe who as Independent Advisers to Government on the BSB have presented Government with an outline proposal for the BSB.



Big Society Bank

- raise understanding in the regions of what the BSB's aims, intentions and operations are across the UK;
- improve understanding of the different needs and issues across the UK and use that to inform work on the BSB full business case; and
- Understand better the social investment intermediary landscape



Local Intelligence Team

- Provide detailed local knowledge on growth of the Big Society
- One of me in each of the English “regions”
- To be connectors between Whitehall and local areas
- To provide information and context to local areas
- To provide intelligence, insight and challenge from local areas
- To provide policy / project support and delivery



How we can work together

- Keen to hear of projects / activity that provides evidence of:
- Citizens taking more control, Engagement in local leadership
- Evidence of new partnerships being struck at local levels, VCS / LA, VCS / local business
- New ways of working together / doing things in different ways
- Public Services being delivered in different ways
LAs out-sourcing to VCS, Communities more involved in commissioning



And

- Signs of business contributing to the community in new and interesting ways
- Citizens stepping up / local responses
- Interested in successes, but also in barriers
- Ministers and officials really interested in where things are working well
- Case Studies/ stories
- Big Society Awards



Big Society Awards

- The Big Society Award has been created to recognise individuals, groups or organisations that are demonstrating the Big Society in their work or activities.
- keen to see many more nominations and awards from West Midlands
- www.number10.gov.uk/bigsocietyawards



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