



# City Region Deals in Scotland

An effective governance mechanism for regional development?

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# City Region Deals:

## Growing Equality for Scotland?

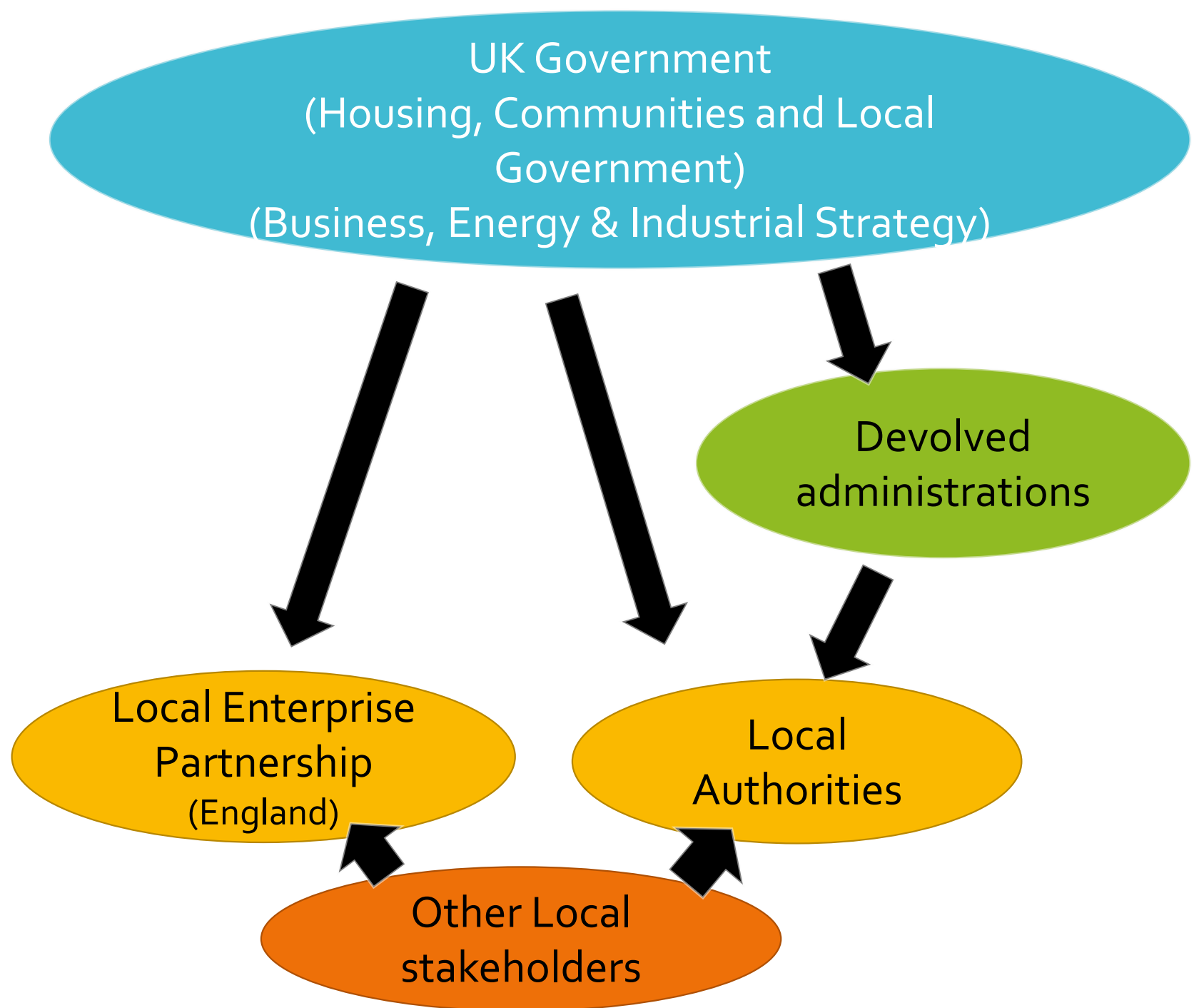


- Local level perspective
- Analysis of academic and 'grey' literature
- City Region Deals documentation
- Interviews with key stakeholders in all CRDs in Scotland as well as third sector stakeholders.
- Specifically focussed on equality issues

## What are City Deals?

- Bespoke packages of funding and decision-making powers
- Negotiated on an individual basis
- Linked to place-based approaches
- Require multi-level coordination both vertically and horizontally

## Key actors



## Background – CRDs Scotland

- Legislative basis is the Localism Act (HM Government 2011)
- First round of deals agreed in England between July 2012 and August 2014
- Primarily geared towards capital investment but can cover a broad range of areas: infrastructure, site reclamation, skills and apprenticeships, job creation, employability, SME funding, etc.
- Variations in terms of size, funding,

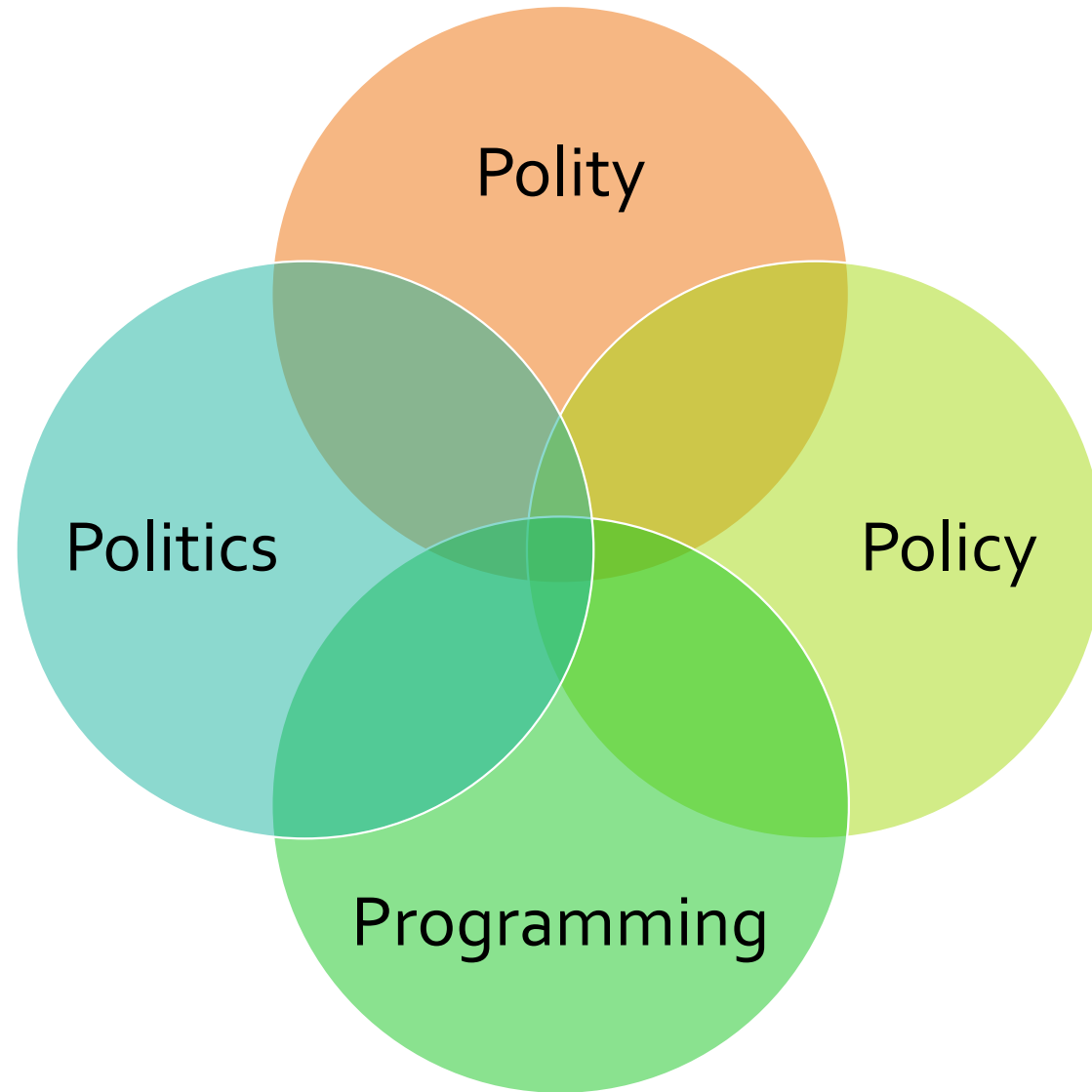
2014  
Glasgow and Clyde valley

2016  
Aberdeen;  
Inverness and  
Highlands

2017  
Edinburgh and  
S.E. Scotland

2018  
Tay cities;  
Stirling

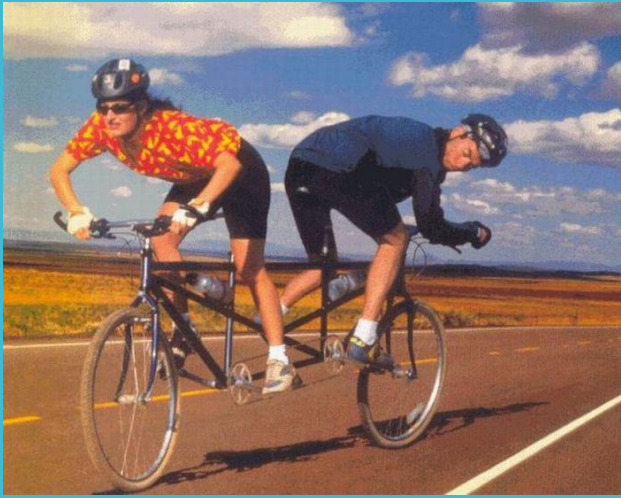
# Multi level analysis





## Polity: Shared responsibilities

- Urban development competencies are shared between UK and Scottish Government
  - CRDs facilitate cooperation and coordination between UK and Scottish government's policy responsibilities within in local context
- Access of Scottish Cities to Whitehall has been more limited since devolution
  - CRDs establish a conduit for Scottish cities to Whitehall



## Policy: Diverging growth strategies

- Diverging policy agendas:
  - UK follows a traditional economic growth strategy with a core focus on GDP growth
  - SG has adopted a inclusive growth agenda, combining increases in prosperity with greater equity across the population.
- Urban versus regional objectives
  - English deals cover metropolitan areas
  - Scottish deals are regional with rural and peri-urban connections





## Programming: Capacity, Monitoring and Learning

- Capacity challenges at the local and central level in design process
- No common monitoring framework due to unique nature of CRDs.
  - The emergence of new policy agendas at different levels makes effective monitoring particularly challenging
  - Raises concerns in terms of overall accountability
  - Work under way to look at a common monitoring framework (Scottish City Region Deal Delivery Board)
  - Risks of double reporting
- No pan Scotland (or UK) framework for sharing experiences
  - but evidence of more ad-hoc cross-deal learning.



## Politics: Establishing successful narratives

- Local political parties usually coalesce around the deal.
- Local leverage over both UK and Scottish government.
- Political football in constitutional politics?

# Conclusions – CRDs' Multi- level tensions

- UK policy that has been designed for English cities when applied in the Scottish context it covers policy competencies for which Scottish Government is clearly responsible.
  - Scottish Government a policy taker or a policy shaper?
- Multi-level challenges for local actors
  - Engagement with multiple government departments
  - Link strategies to multiple policy frameworks
  - Secretive nature of deal-making hampers cross deal learning
- Multi-level opportunities for local actors
  - Extract funding due to competitive multi-level context
- Not only functional needs are important but also political expediency.