


RATIONALES AND CHALLENGES FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD GOVERNANCE: LEARNING FROM THE ENGLISH EXPERIENCE


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Introduction


- Popularity of 'neighbourhoods' in England and beyond
 - Sites for urban regeneration
 - Spaces for innovation in public services
 - Sources of democratic renewal
- What can 'neighbourhood governance' offer?
 - Opportunities of 'new governance'?
 - Value of 'neighbourhoods'?



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The 'new governance'


- Multi-level, multi-actor, e-enabled: new spaces for decisions, non-hierarchical relationships
- Beyond party politics: new forms of identity, participation and connectivity
- Collaboration and networks: informal linkages, catalytic leaders, new delivery mechanisms
- 'New governance' offers an alternative to the classic democracy/capacity trade-off



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The idea of neighbourhood


- Socially constructed (and contested)
- Dynamic
- Normative
- Small and close
- Geography is a necessary but not sufficient condition



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Features of the neighbourhood


- Help to support/shape individual and collective identities
- Facilitate connections and interactions with others
- Meeting basic needs – from shopping to education
- Source of predictable encounters
- Experienced as inclusive/exclusive



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The case for neighbourhood governance

- Civic: opportunities for direct citizen participation
- Social: citizen-centred approaches to service delivery and well-being
- Political: accessibility, responsiveness and accountability
- Economic: efficiency and effectiveness



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Policy drivers in England

- National strategy for neighbourhood renewal: regeneration and social inclusion (targeted)
- Local government modernisation: service improvement, democratic renewal and citizen engagement
- Civil renewal: citizenship, community development and co-governance
- New localism: multi level governance, 'double devolution' and national neighbourhoods framework

	Neighbourhood empowerment	Neighbourhood partnership	Neighbourhood government	Neighbourhood management
Primary rationale	Civic	Social	Political	Economic
Key objectives	Active citizens and cohesive communities	Citizen well-being and regeneration	Responsive and accountable decision-making	More effective local service delivery
Democratic device	Participatory democracy	Stakeholder democracy	Representative democracy	Market democracy
Citizen role	Citizen: voice	Partner: loyalty	Elector: vote	Consumer: choice
Leadership role	Animateur, enabler	Broker, chair	Councillor, mini-mayor	Entrepreneur, director
Institutional forms	Forums, Co-production	Service board, mini-LSP	Town councils, area committees	Contracts, charters

Challenges for neighbourhood governance

- Less capacity
- Less diversity
- Less competence
- Less equity

Identifying and managing the trade-offs

- Citizenship: participation vs. influence
- Communities: cohesion vs. pluralism
- Leadership: responsiveness vs. populism
- Public services: diversity vs. equity

Institutional design issues

- Coverage: all neighbourhoods or target areas?
- Strategy: new structures or old?
- Purpose: governance rationale?
- Goodness of fit: with other tiers/spheres
- Deinstitutionalisation: what will we stop doing?