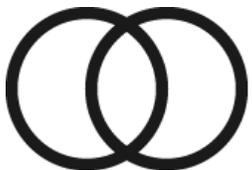


Building community wealth through economic collaboration

Sarah Longlands
Chief Executive, CLES.



CLES

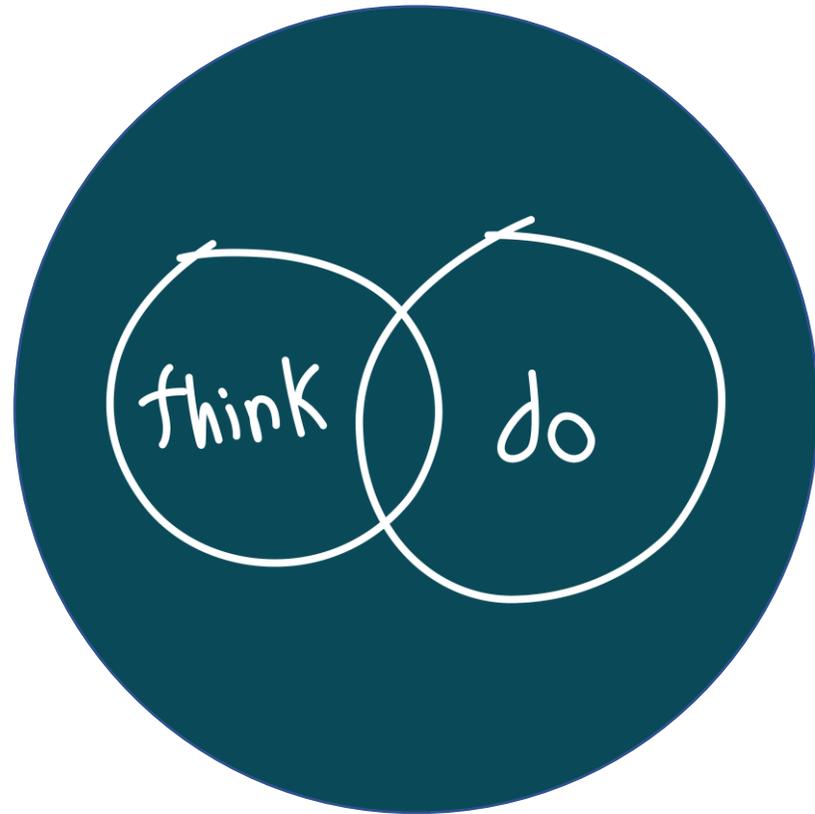
progressive economics
for people and place



@CLEStinkdo



About the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLEES)



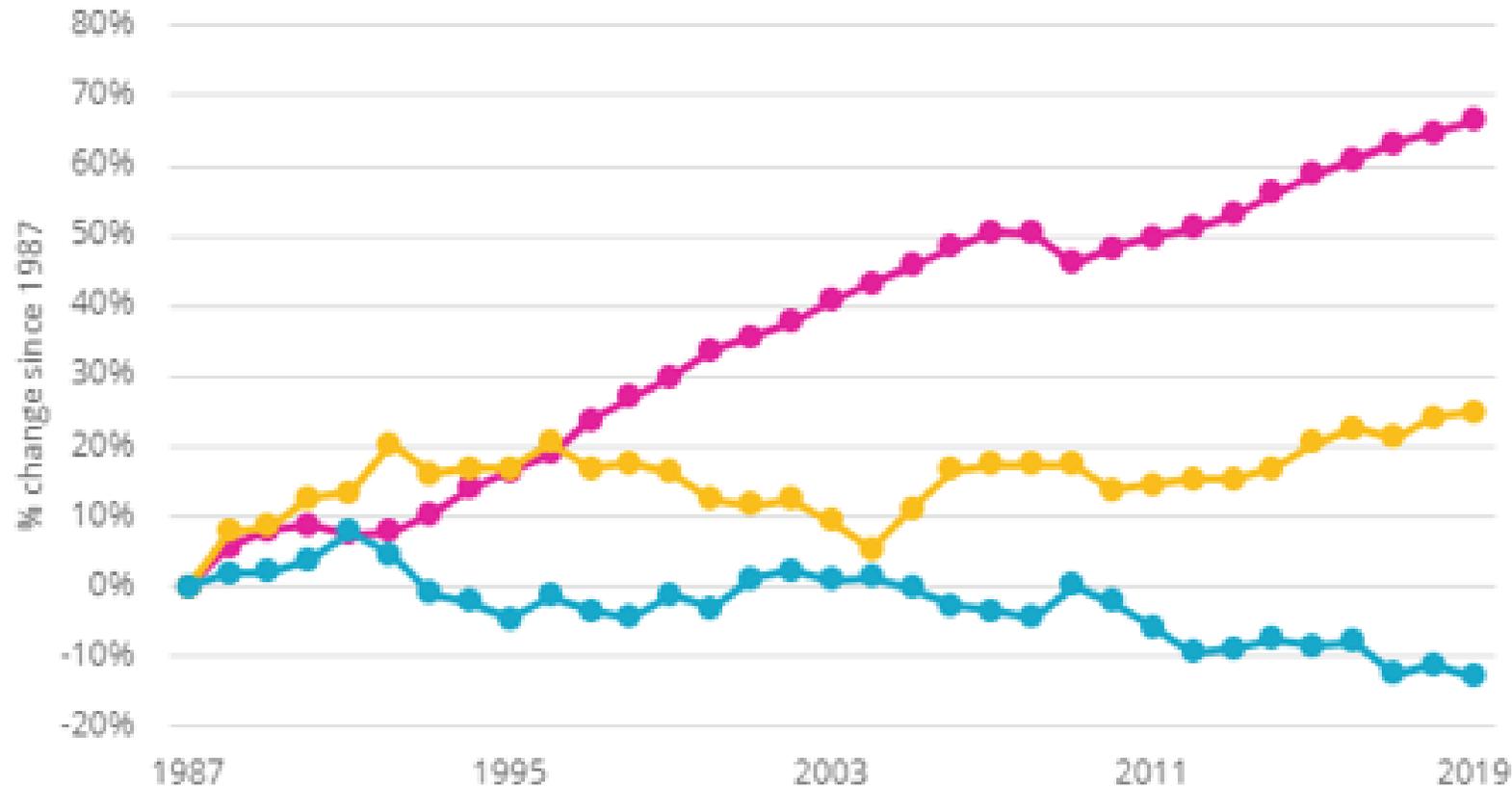


An era of uncertainty/flux





Economic growth isn't working for everyone



Source: ONS; IFS; CLEES analysis

● GDP ● Poverty rate ● Average incomes (% of GDP)

There is no automaticity that increasing the overall level of growth will result in better lives.



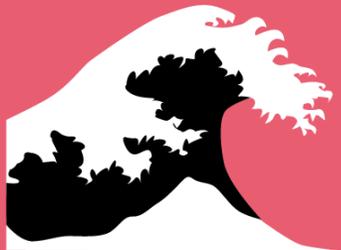
The origins of community wealth building



Community wealth
building: a history



How we built
community
wealth in Preston
Achievements and lessons



**Toward a new wave of local
economic activism:**
The future for economic strategies

- CLES' origins – effective local economic development
- 2008- worked with Manchester and Belfast to examine disconnect between public spend place-based poverty.
- Sense of frustration about 'business as usual' approach post financial crash (and more covid more recently)
- Inspired by the work of The Democracy Collaborative in US and evergreen co-operative in Cleveland.
- Developed community wealth building action plan and now delivered in more than 50 areas across the UK and Ireland.
- Now centre of excellence on community wealth building for the UK and Ireland
- Read more [here](#)



What is community wealth building?

- Community wealth building is a strategic approach to local economics that **is about increasing the flow, circulation and ownership of wealth** within a place.
- This is about **democratising the economy** by building wealth from within – generative rather than extractive; decent jobs, housing, environments, income and life chances.
- Local economies where progress is **measured by how well they generate good lives (rather than the growth of GDP)**.





Key pillars: Building community wealth

Finance:

Ensuring flows of investment and financial institutions work for local people, communities and businesses.



Workforce:

Increasing fair work and developing local labour markets that support the wellbeing of communities.



Land and property:

Maximise the value that local communities receive from land and property assets, including those held by the public sector.



Spending:

Maximising community benefits through procurement and commissioning, developing good enterprises, fair work and shorter supply chains.



Inclusive Ownership:

Developing more local and social enterprises which generate community wealth, including employee owned firms and coops.





Examples of our work

- Lewes District Council – worked with them to undertake spend analysis. They've gone on to use community wealth building to deliver a low carbon council housing project



- Manchester City Council – working with them since 2008 to undertake spend analysis develop a social value framework and track benefits longer term

- Argyll and Bute – community planning partnership to explore how the area can get more benefits from existing wealth to address key challenges



- South of Scotland Enterprise – role of housing associations in delivering retrofit in deep rural area.



Scottish Government – wellbeing economy

- Means to practically deliver on ambition of a well-being economy
- Scottish Government Minister For public finance and Community Wealth and planning –Tom Arthur MSP
- Consultation on a community wealth building Act 2023



Towards a robust,
resilient wellbeing
economy for Scotland

Report of the Advisory Group on Economic Recovery



Welsh Government – foundational economy

- Strong Welsh Government support for the foundational economy in Wales – basic services on which every citizen relies. Recognition that in some parts of Wales – *'this is the economy'*
- Enshrined in [well being of future generations Act](#) – 7 connected wellbeing goals
- CLES working with Welsh Government to examine community wealth building as a means to future wellbeing.





Some take home thoughts

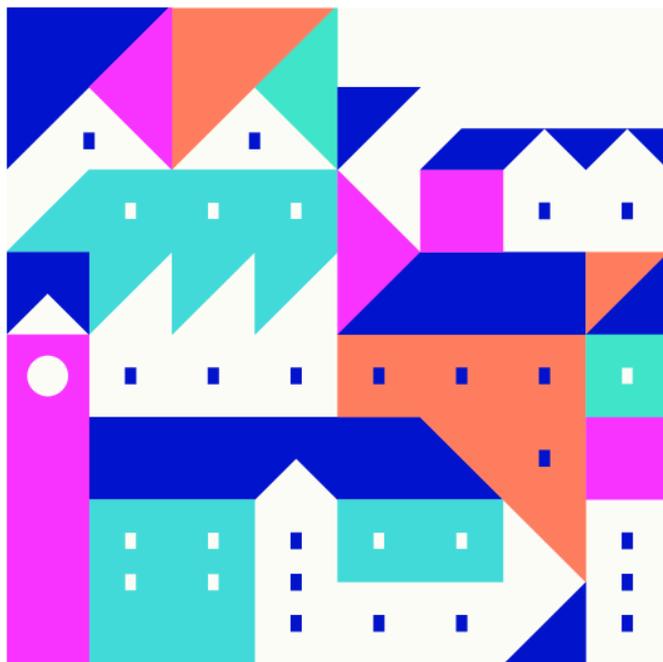
- **Our shared interest in place:** -get people in the room talking about how they can use their economic power to support people, business and planet
- **Boring matters:** Understanding the economic impact we can have through our processes (eg procurement, assets, recruitment and employment)
- **Building new relationships:** moving out of our comfort zones to work collaboratively and spark new ways of working.
- **Lean into the challenge:** how can we use difficult times this to motivate rather than dishearten us?
- **Its in our power:** everyone can make a difference to the local economy.



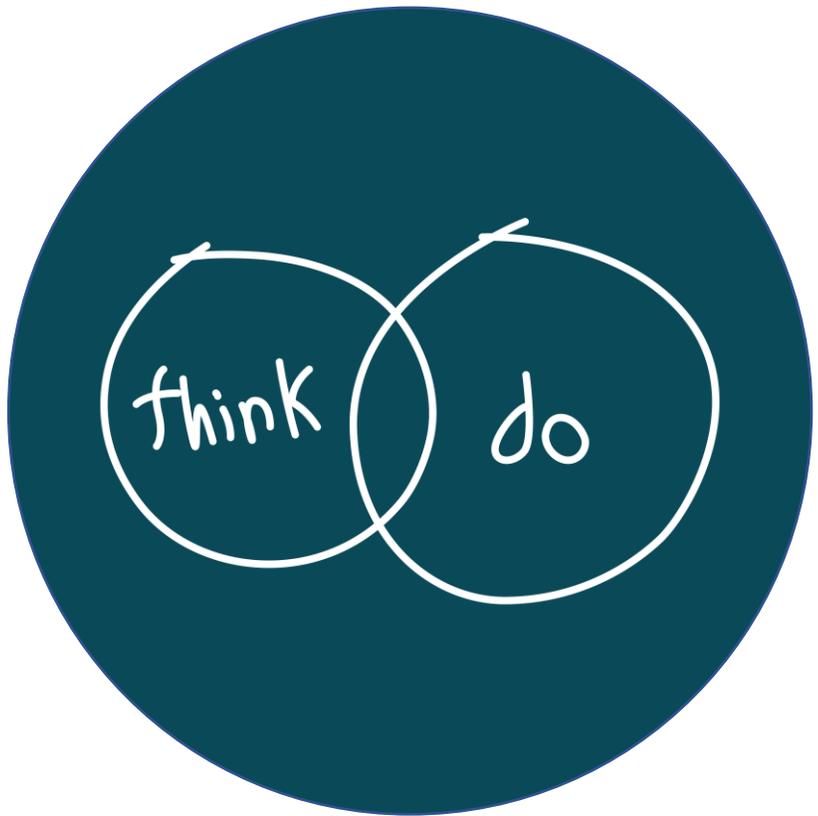
Further information



Community wealth building: a history



- [Community wealth building: a history | CLES](#)
- [The Community Wealth Building Centre of Excellence | CLES](#)
- [Community Wealth Building in North Ayrshire | CLES](#)
- [Our land | CLES](#)
- [Growing anchor networks in place: a how to guide | CLES](#)
- [Community Wealth Building in Birmingham | CLES](#)
- [Restoring public values: the role of public procurement | CLES](#)
- [Blog | CLES](#) – access to CLES podcasts



sarahlonglands@cles.org.uk



@CLEStinkdo
@sarahlonglands



www.cles.org.uk