



The Way Ahead: Civil society at the heart of London

James Banks, Chief Executive of Greater London Volunteering

Who was involved...

- ▶ GLV, London Funders and London Voluntary Service Council
- ▶ Frontline groups, volunteers, civil society support organisations, funders, local authorities...
- ▶ Reference Group for the research:
 - ▶ Big Lottery Fund
 - ▶ Community Links
 - ▶ Greater London Authority
 - ▶ City Bridge Trust
 - ▶ Race on the Agenda
 - ▶ Rocket Science
 - ▶ Heart of the City
 - ▶ Children England
 - ▶ London Borough of Southwark

Defining civil society

- ▶ Civil society is where people take action to improve their own lives or the lives of others and act where government or the private sector don't.
- ▶ Civil society is driven by the values of fairness and equality, and enables people to feel valued and to belong.
- ▶ It includes formal organisations such as voluntary and community organisations, informal groups of people who join together for a common purpose and individuals who take action to make their community a better place to live.

The context

- ▶ London needs a vibrant civil society to prosper
- ▶ Civil society needs support and a voice
- ▶ Opportunity to rethink how support is provided to civil society in London

The process of review

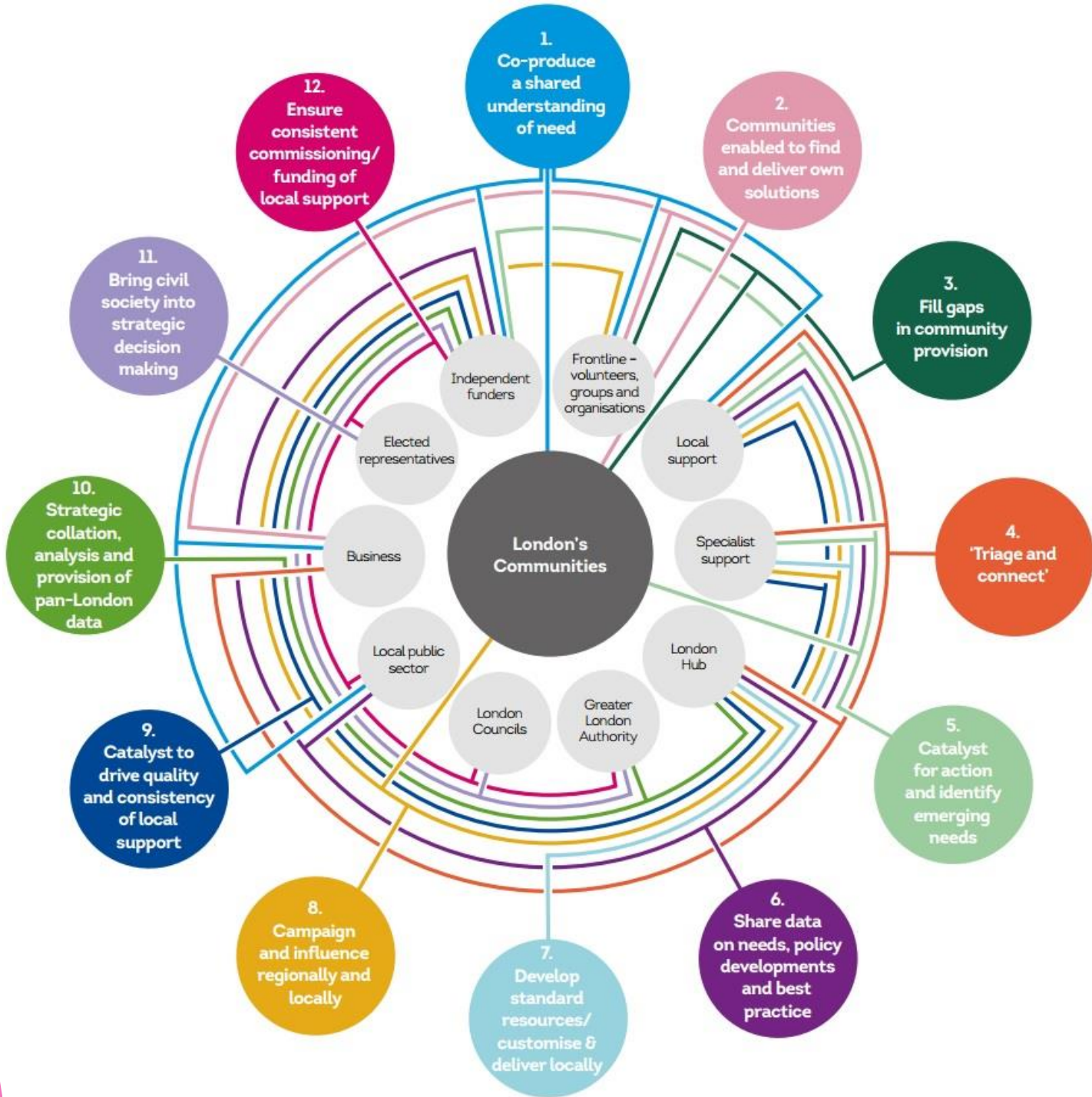
- ▶ April 2015: joint conference with LVSC and London Funders on NAVCA report
- ▶ September 2015: launched London review of civil society support
- ▶ October-November 2015: evidence gathering, focus groups, surveys
- ▶ December 2015: *The Change Ahead* published
- ▶ January-February 2016: testing thinking and recommendations
- ▶ March 2016: developing and refining recommendations
- ▶ April 2016: *The Way Ahead* published
- ▶ May 2016: discussions start on how we can achieve positive change

The big numbers

- ▶ 120,000 civil society groups and organisations
- ▶ 7.3 million Londoners use charity services each year
- ▶ 250,000+ paid staff in the sector
- ▶ 3.5 million volunteers active in London
- ▶ £27 billion contribution to the capital

The challenges civil society faces

- ▶ Needs growing in volume and complexity
- ▶ Increased demand for support, reduction in funding
- ▶ Expectation that volunteers fill the gap
- ▶ Competition for contracts
- ▶ “New” funding or business models as the solution
- ▶ Reduction in funding for civil society support



London Hub

- Catalyst for regional change
- Campaign regionally
- Hold / share information
- Shine a light on poor practice
- Support improvement
- Showcase innovation

Local support

- Campaign locally
- 'Triage' / diagnose needs
- Connect individuals/ groups/ organisations with support
- Catalyst for local change
- Enable effective volunteering
- Identify emerging needs

Specialist support

- Develop and provide specialist expertise (function or communities of interest)
- Share data and best practice
- Campaign on specialist issues

Achieving the change

- ▶ Discussions with key stakeholder groups
- ▶ Action planning with GLA and new Deputy Mayor
- ▶ Open space event on 30 November
- ▶ Commissioning prototyping and piloting of the approach
- ▶ Aiming for definition of “good” for key areas of the system by March 2017

The Way Ahead

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