

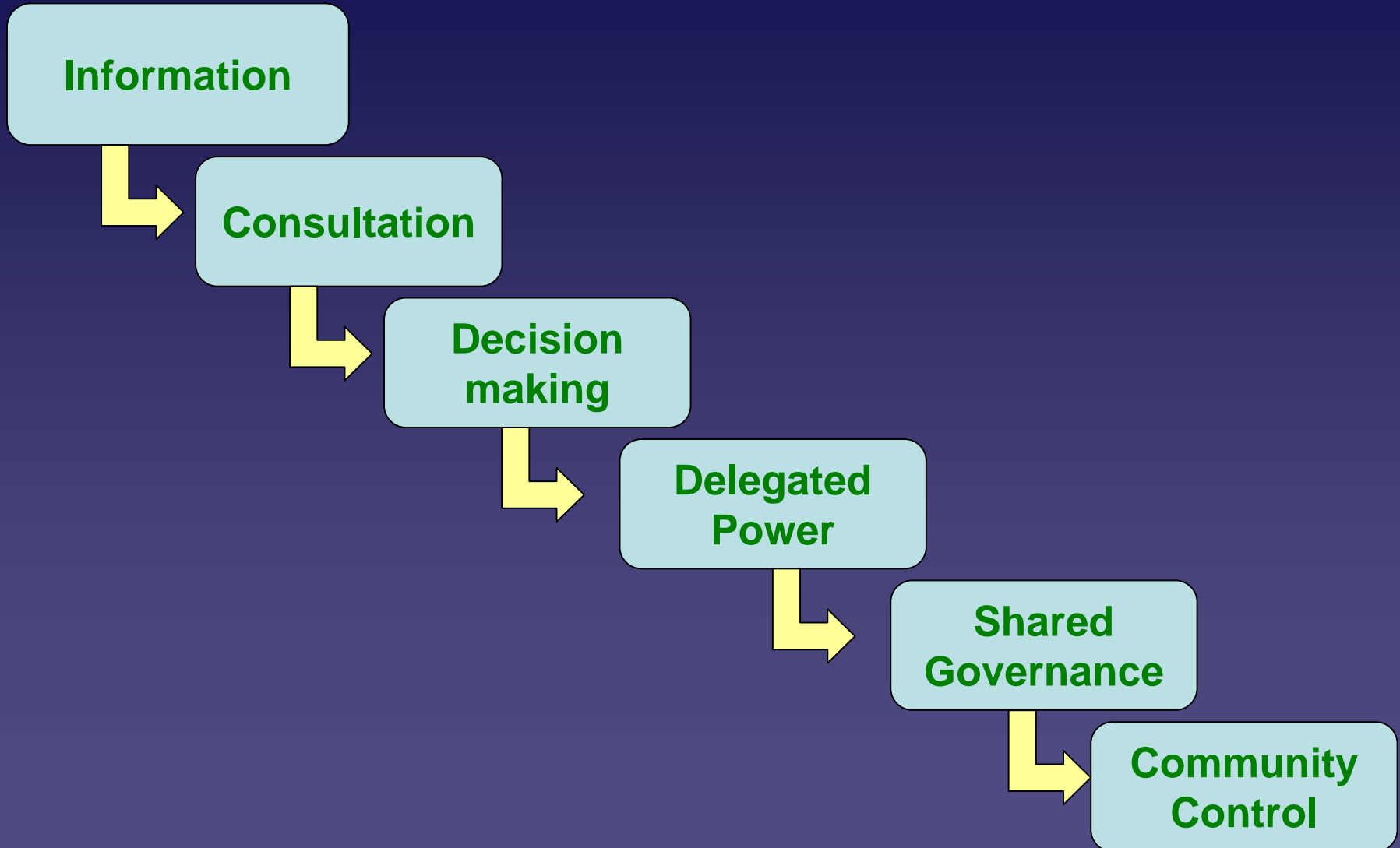


Why is empowerment part of government policy?

- **Tackling disaffection with the political processes**
- **Improving services through better engagement**
- **Helping strengthen communities through involvement and interaction**



Degrees of Empowerment





Key Recent Developments

- Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007)
- Communities in Control – White Paper – July 2008



The 2007 Act

The act introduced statutory requirements for:

- Arrangements for new Local Area Agreements
- Proposals for more unitary councils
- Local Involvement Networks (Public Health)
- The Duty to Involve



The Duty To Involve

- involve *representatives of local persons* in the exercise of any of their functions, where they consider that it is appropriate to do so.

Three ways to involve

- **providing information** about functions
- **consulting** about the exercise of the particular function
- **involving in other ways**
- **AND**
- **how to take part**
- **what is involved in taking part in local decision making**



Duty To Involve – applies to ?

Originally

- Local Authorities
- Fire and Rescue Authorities

But proposals to extend it include:

- English Heritage
- Homes and Communities Agency
- Jobcentre Plus
- The Environment Agency
- Health and Safety Executive
- The Learning and Skills Council in England

- Museums, Libraries and Archives Council
- Natural England
- Police Authorities
- Probation Trusts and other providers of probation services
- Regional Development Agencies
- Sport England
- Youth Offending Teams
- Local Probation Boards



Communities in Control – White Paper July 2008

- **The purpose of the White Paper is to transfer power from government to citizens and communities – and so promote more empowered citizens and put communities in control**



Main themes of the White Paper

- Being active in your community
- Access to Information
- Having an influence
- Challenge
- Redress
- Standing for Office
- Ownership and Control



And to the citizen these might mean ?

- Living in a cohesive community, having a sense of my public role
- Being able to find out information in a way I can understand
- Letting my views be known and getting feedback when I do express my views
- Influencing decisions being made on my behalf by both elected and non elected people
- Holding the people who exercise power in my locality to account
- Getting swift and fair redress when things go wrong
- Getting involved as an elected representative in my locality
- Owning and running local services with other local people



Examples

- Being active in your community
 - Volunteering
 - Community leadership roles
 - Grass roots grants
- Access to Information
 - Better information for the public
- Having an influence
 - Petitions/calls for Action
 - Participatory budgeting
 - tenant empowerment



Examples continued

- Challenge
 - Holding officer and public services to account
 - Higher profile overview and scrutiny
 - CAA (more about this later!)
- Redress
 - Community contracts for local services
- Standing for Office
 - Easing the pathway to becoming a councillor
- Ownership and Control
 - Asset Transfer
 - Promoting community land trusts



Local Area Agreement National Indicators

- Indicator 1: % of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area
- Indicator 2: people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood
- Indicator 3: civic participation
- Indicator 4: % of people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality
- Indicator 7: A Thriving Third Sector
- Indicator 11: % of people who participate in culture or sport



Examples in the region

- Participatory Budget Pilots in Wilts and Cornwall
- “Empowering Authorities” are Plymouth and Wiltshire – engaged in Peer Support etc.
- The work of Empowering Communities (John Skrine will talk about that)
- Localities with NI 4 Devon ☺ Poole ☺ Somerset ☺ South Gloucestershire
Gloucestershire ☺ North Somerset ☺ Plymouth ☺ Torbay ☺ Wiltshire ☺
- Developing collaboration and complementary approaches: LIFT SW, GOSW, the Empowerment Partnership and others eg Strategic Health Authority



Not forgetting – the Police

- Policing Green Paper
- Louise Casey – Engaging Communities
- Crime and Disorder Partnership national standards
- Neighbourhood Policing



Government Office for the South West
representing central government in the south west region

GOSW

The End