

Social economy, social innovation
and local government:
*lessons from London Borough of
Lambeth*

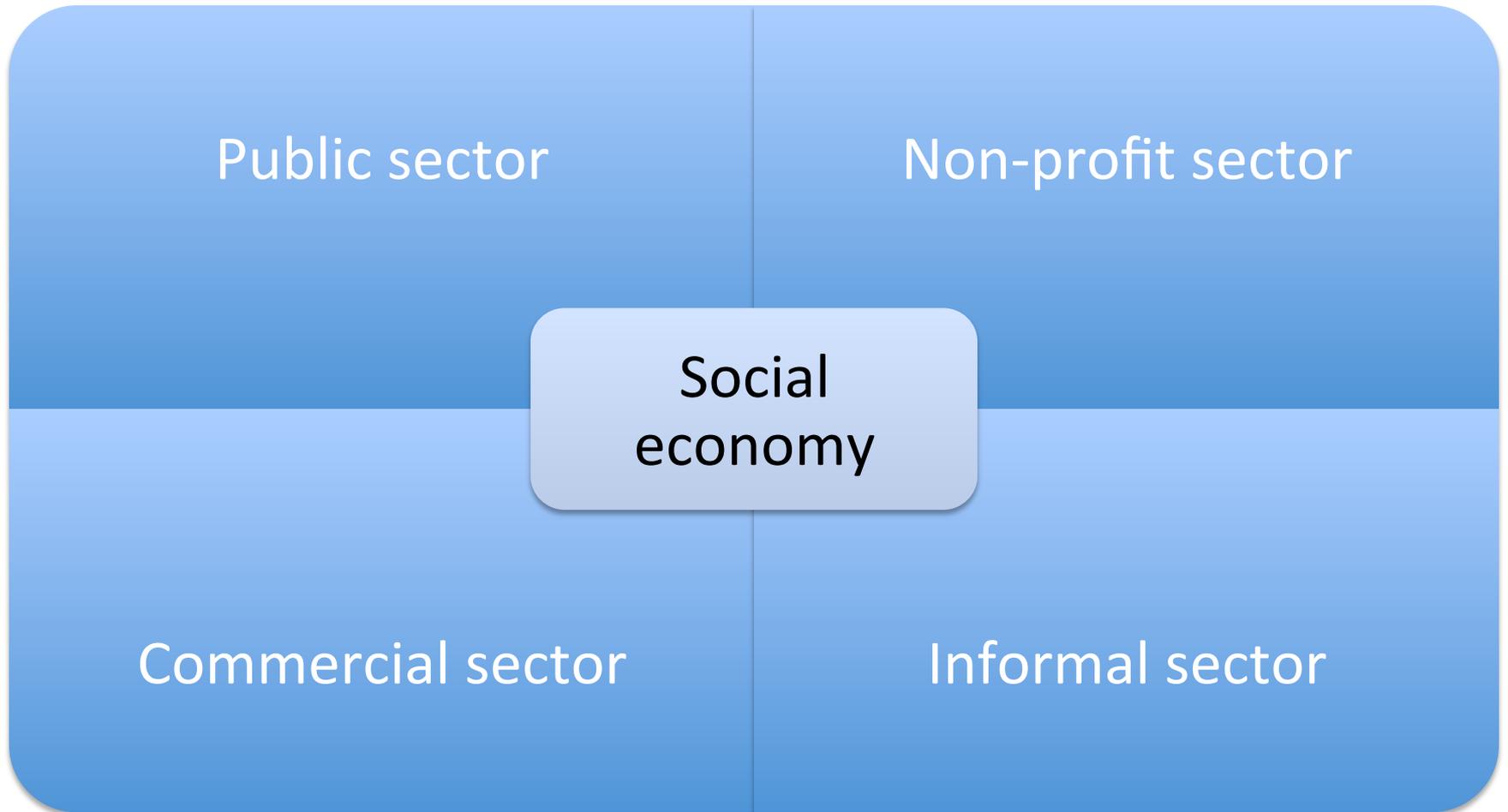
Anna Randle

Head of Strategy, LB of Lambeth

Lambeth is...

- An inner London borough
- Population of around 300,000
- Facing huge budget cuts
- And growing demand for services
- ... a Cooperative Council

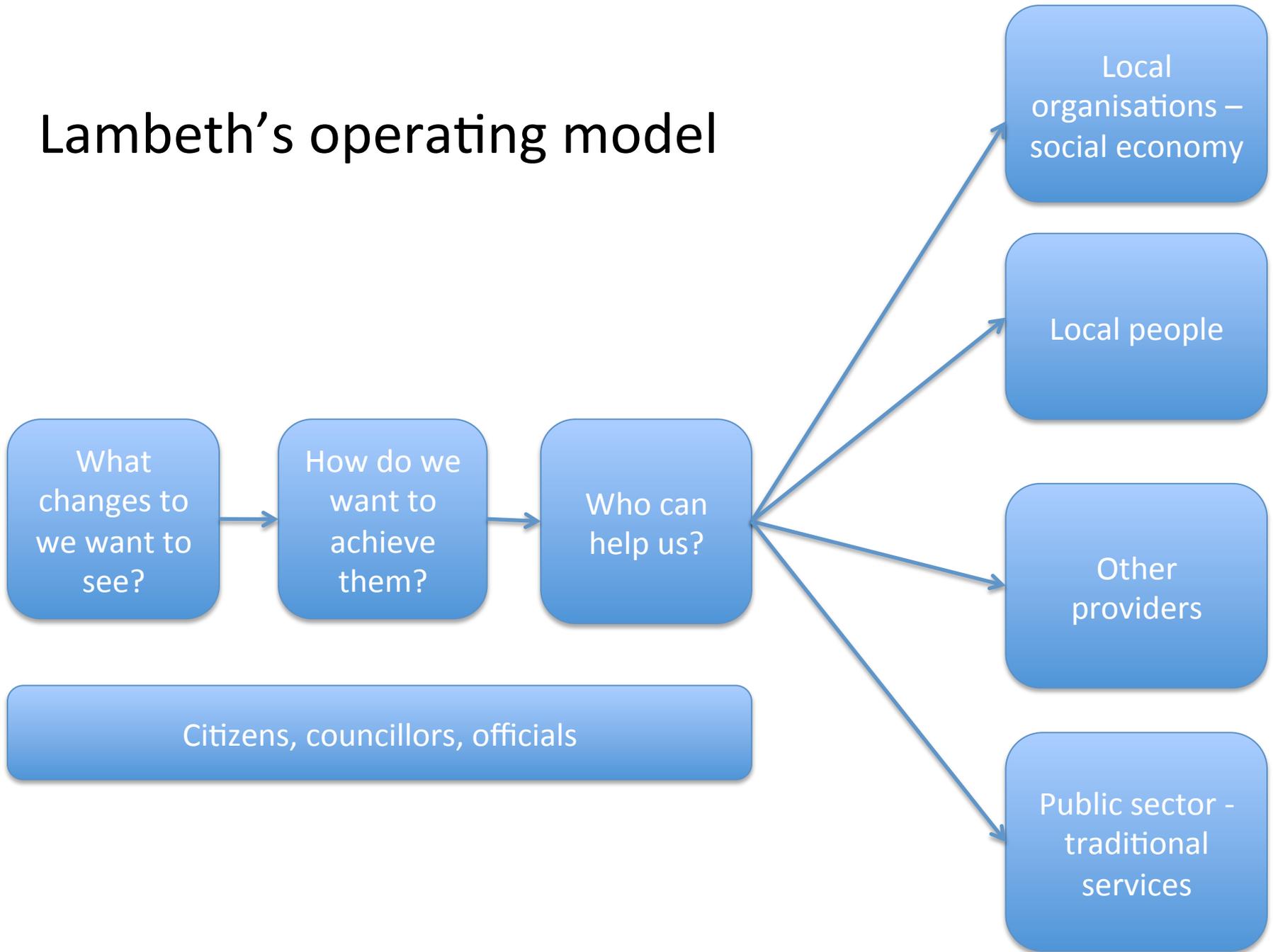
Social economy



Key questions for local government

- What is the role of the state in supporting the other parts of the system?
- How can we encourage different elements to work as one system?
- How can we support the whole system to achieve the positive social outcomes we want?
- How do we need to change to enable & encourage innovation?

Lambeth's operating model



Changing assumptions

- Services are always the best way to achieve outcomes (what people want and need)
- Putting alternatives at the heart of all our decisions about how we invest our resources (not a dedicated fund for the social economy – but the council's entire budget)
- Recognising the value that alternatives can bring (stronger local economy, more sustainable environment, community connections)

Local government's role becomes about system change...

- Understanding and growing the alternatives:
 - New organisations
 - Growing existing organisations
 - Supporting activity by local people
- Changing traditional models:
 - Ensuring citizens are at heart of the conversation, including in how we design mainstream services
 - Using social procurement

Growing new social economy: Aspire Centre

- Adult learning centre
- Formally delivered by the council
- Staff 'spun out' the service into new mutual
- Now commissioned by council
- Seeing better services, better outcomes, better use of resources – better value for money

Growing existing social economy: Brixton energy

- Brixton Energy is an award-winning community-led alternative energy organisation
- Lambeth has:
 - Invested financially
 - Provided access to spaces
 - Helped the organisation grow capacity & work with local communities

Supporting activity by local people: The Open Works

- Local residents collaborating to build a better future
- Lambeth provides a platform to enable civic action
- 16 projects – 600 people
- What outcomes can we achieve through this model?

Residents at heart of service design; Young Lambeth Cooperative

- Independent organisation
- Responsibility for commissioning all youth services
- Over 1000 young people have joined
- Actively involved in decisions about how to use resources