



fuse

The Centre for Translational
Research in Public Health

INPUTS

OUTPUTS

OUTCOMES

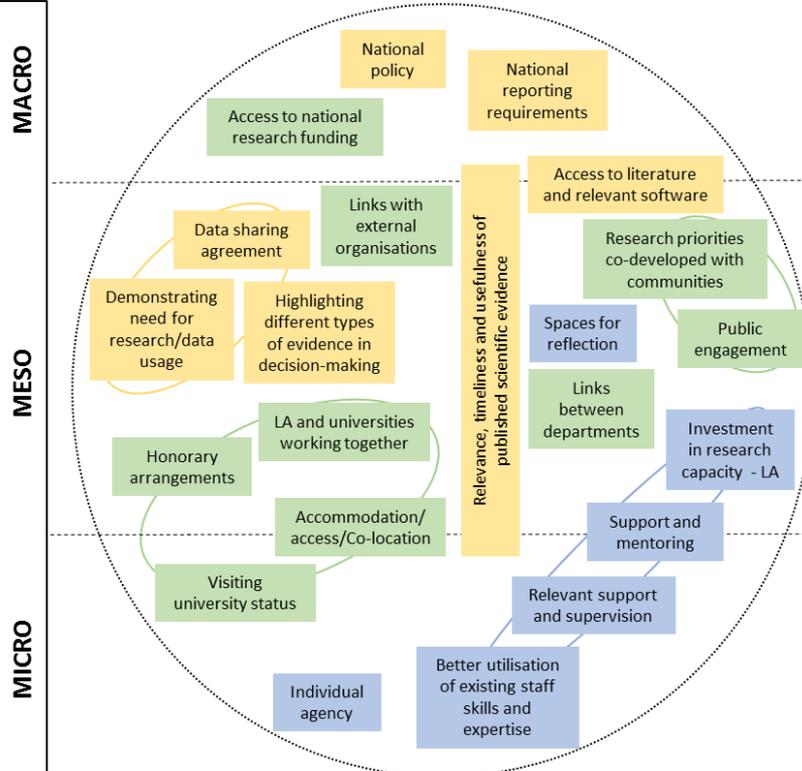
IMPACT

**EXTERNAL
CONTEXT**

National political steer and
statutory obligations
Leadership

Staff, physical environment and budget cuts
Rewards and incentives
Resources

Local Authority and
University
Network



DATA USAGE
Data sharing agreements
Research Governance frameworks
Identification of relevant national and local research and data
Creation of shared language / meanings
Tailor-made approaches to research
Better access to literature and research funding

PEOPLE
CPD opportunities to upskill staff
Social and communications skills
Secondments/shared roles/shadowing opportunities
Career pathways between LA and universities
Relevance of university training at undergraduate and postgraduate level including collaborative Masters projects and PhD opportunities
Creating opportunities/conversational spaces

COLLABORATION
Better combined outputs
Elected members on board
Career pathways between LA and universities
Clear programme theories for commissioned services
Interdisciplinary approaches to public health challenges

MESO
Better use and integration of data
Linked data across departments and organisations
Wider use of evidenced based commissioning
Involvement of wider actors in research at organisational level and new connections with actors between organisations

MESO
Transdisciplinary working – internal and external to the local authority
Organisational level research and analysis capacity building
LA research focused culture
Improved research literacy
Improved staff morale
Improved confidence in data usage/access
Improved understanding of context
Improved social & communication networks
Policy literate researchers
Research literate policy makers
Integrated work plans/performance reviews between academia and local authority

MESO
Access to funding through LA and university working together
Public accountability
Reputation/ status
Co-production including with community groups
Public involvement / voice / accountability
Embedding culture through two way process – bottom up/top down

Embedded research culture in LA

Improved standards / quality of services

Increased effectiveness of services

Improved population health and wellbeing

Increased use of scientific research

Embedded research opportunities in universities

Relevant scientific research being produced and used

Greater awareness/ understanding of local context

Increased public confidence in services / Better service user experiences

Research driven policy

LA staff 'research active'

Improved staff morale

**INTERNAL
CONTEXT**

Local political steer & role of elected members
Willingness to change
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Organisational culture
LA vs. University differences
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Institutional memory
Willingness to change in academia & LA
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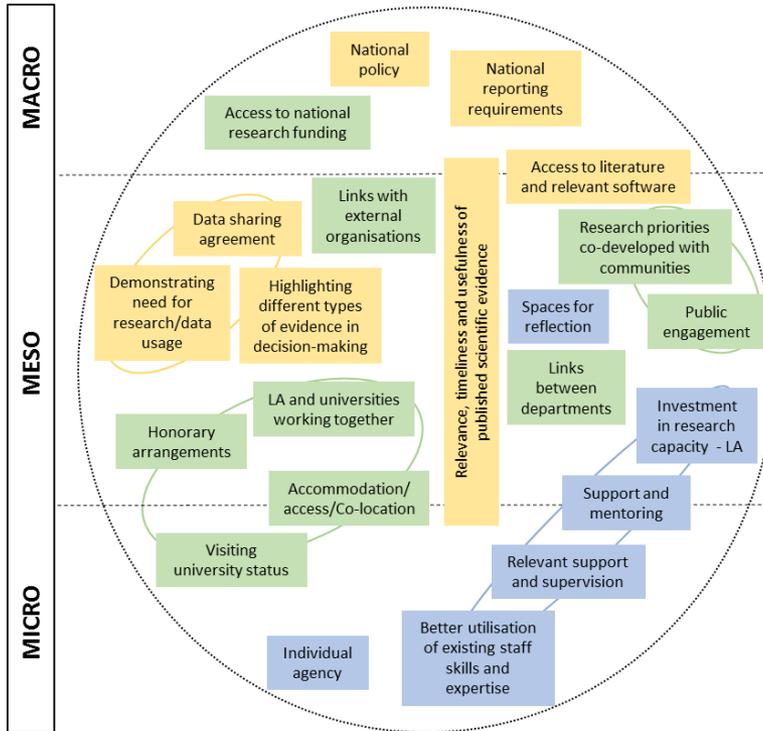
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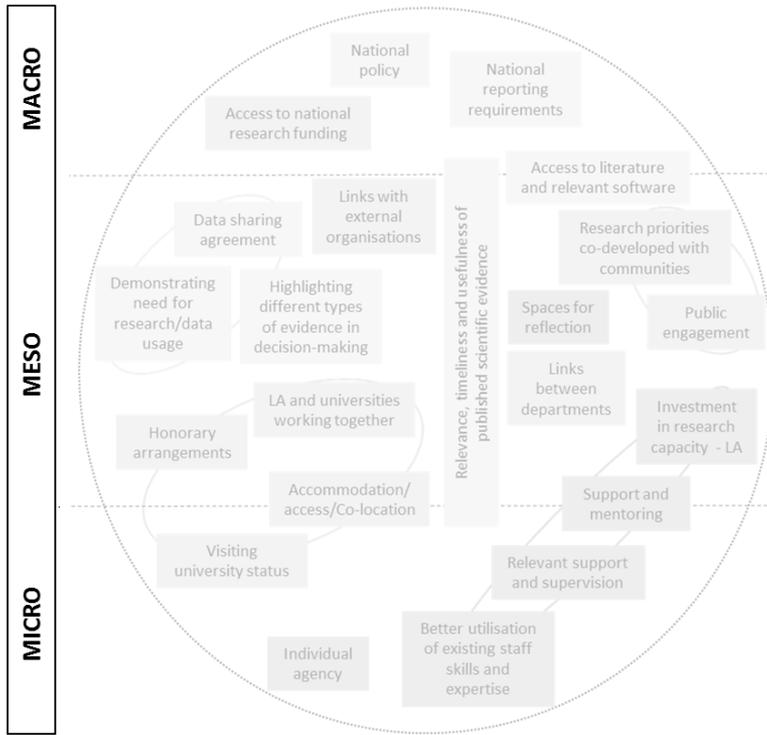
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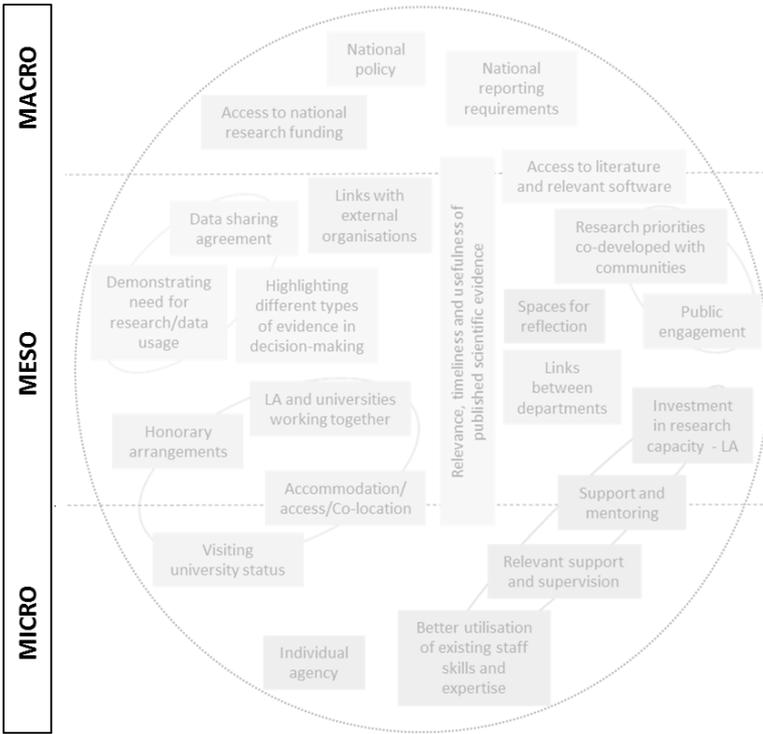
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Principles for building evidence-informed policy and practice in local government

Conceptual clarity

- Define the “problem” together drawing on multiple perspectives
- What counts as evidence may vary

Co-production

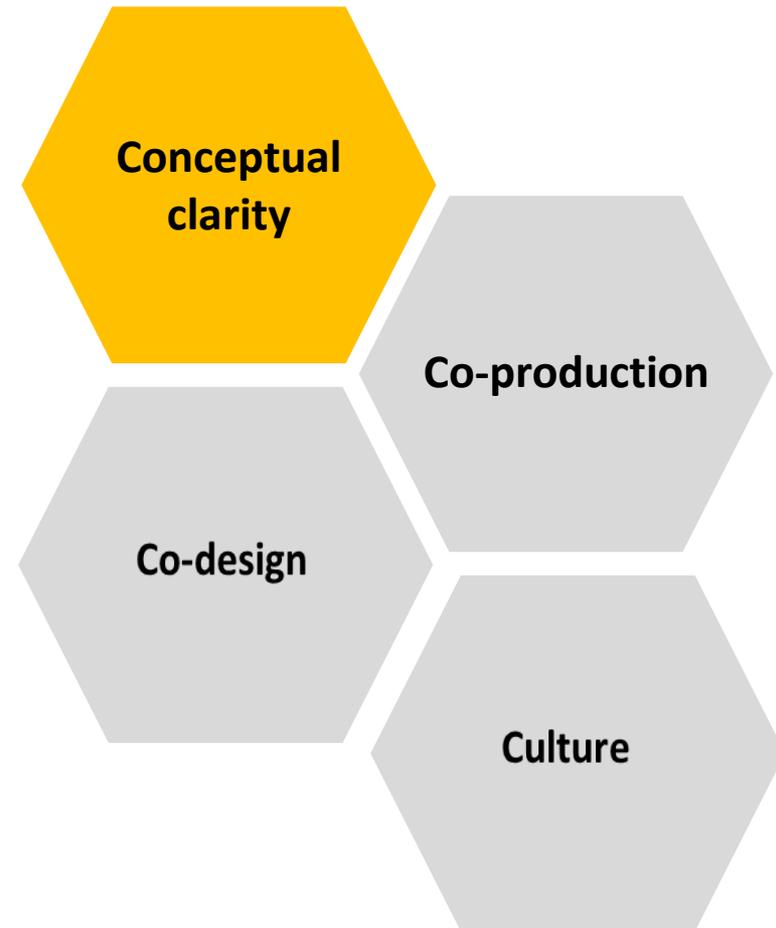
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Co-design

- Co-design a flexible plan, not a detailed roadmap
- Recognise and develop the assets and expertise which people bring

Culture

- Don't parachute in
- Build an organisational culture to test out ideas



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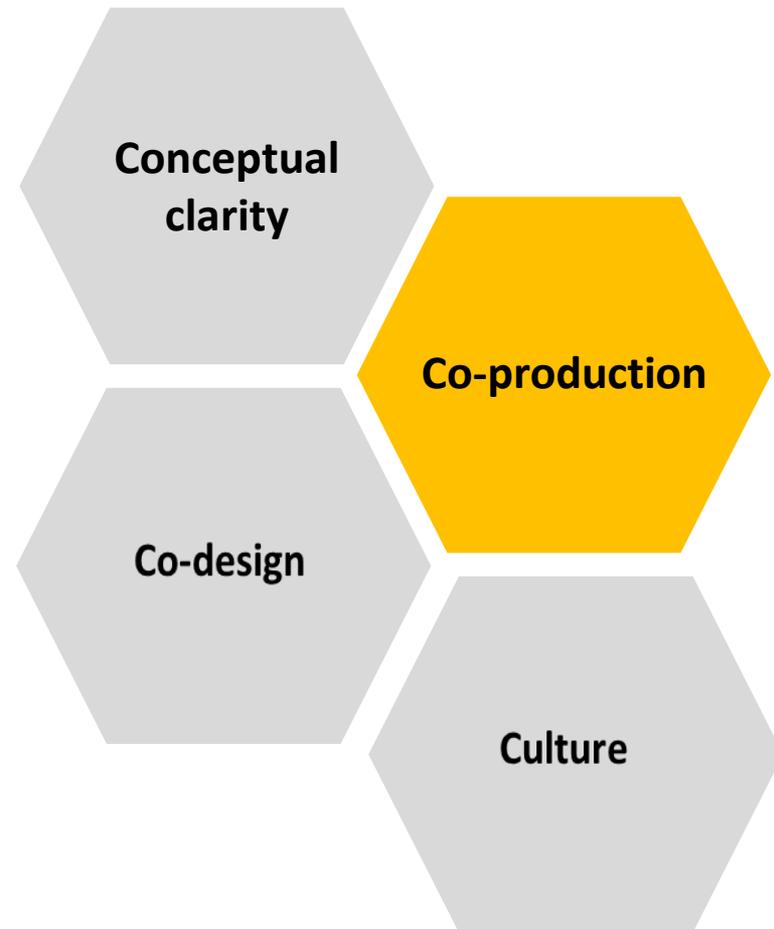
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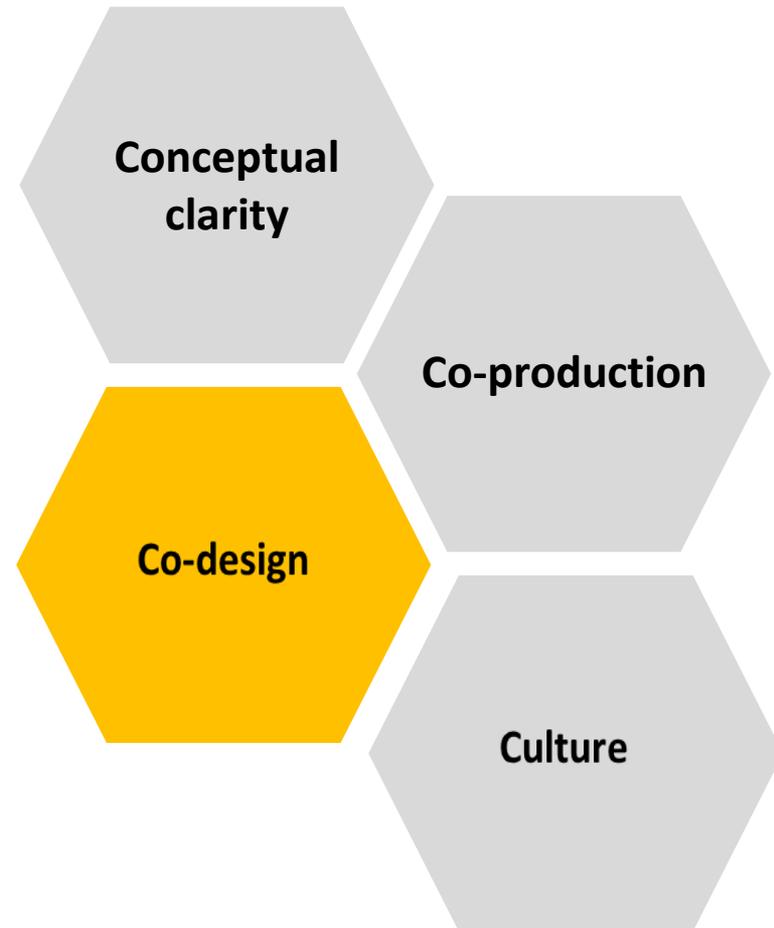
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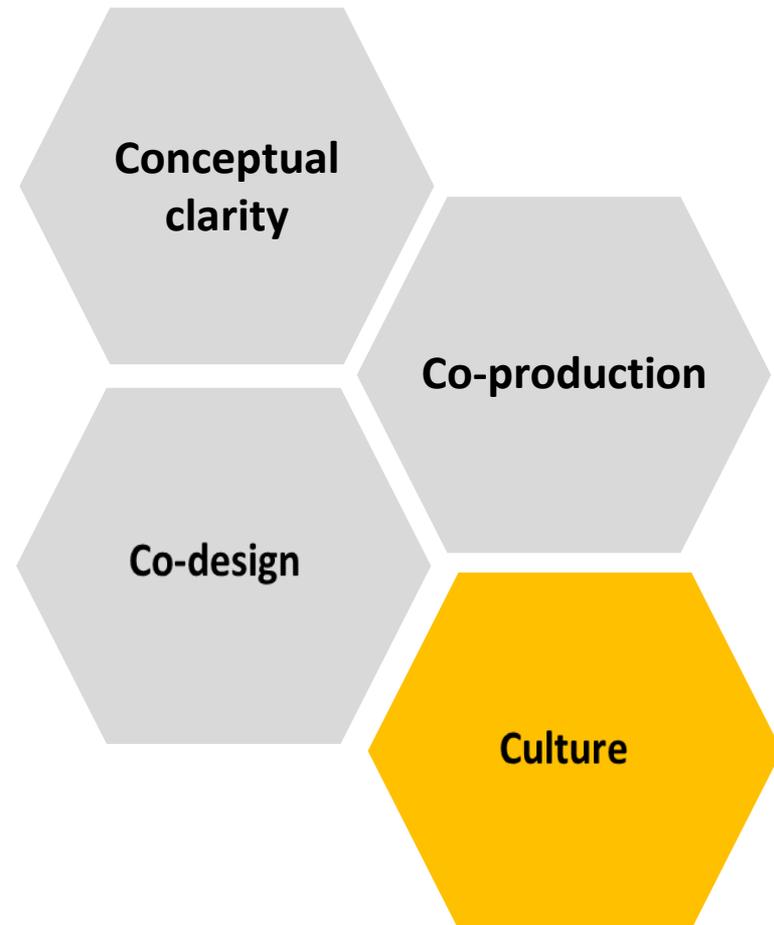
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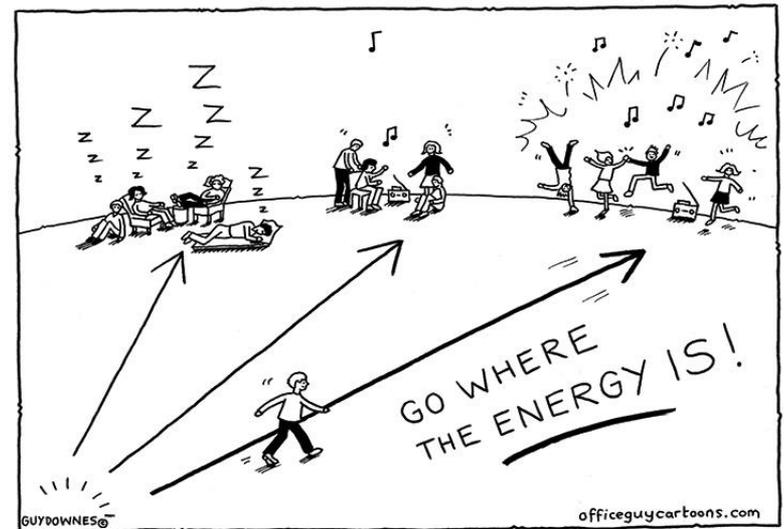
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Conclusions

- No one size fits all
- Embedding a research culture depends on context and organisational culture
- Find an approach that fits best (and evaluate accordingly)
- Researchers are needed as part of multi-agency teams working alongside research users, policy makers, and commissioners in local government to feed in insights and identify evidence-informed, context-relevant solutions



Takeaway messages

Local government

- Pressures on capacity, workload and thinking space hinder effective use of evidence
- Build on existing assets: champions, staff skills, knowledge & expertise across LG
- Value in engaging with universities and individual academics with shared values
- Embedded research approach can improve links between policy, practice and academia

Academia

- Context is everything; no one size fits all. Go where the energy is
- Take account of social, political, financial, regulatory and legal context of local government
- Appropriate balance between academic rigour and timeliness – ‘good enough’ research

Research funders

- Increase investment in meaningful co-production opportunities
- Research funding infrastructure needs adapting for local government

Acknowledgements

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Paul Roderick, Sallie Bacon, Laura Ritson.

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