



Devolution and Universities

Drivers, Complexities and Strategic Choices

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Drivers

- Long run structural under performance, poor productivity and widening disparities across many local areas
- Emerging understanding and policy prescription of economies of agglomeration
- Need for new capacities for local growth
- Universities increasingly emerging as most important anchor institutions



Complexities

- Devolution of power, cash, or degrees of influence?
- Capacity of the central state to act as client for 30+ asymmetrical deals
- Determination of local 'allocations'
- Relationship between local and national policies and delivery e.g. Smart Specialisation
- What relationships between the elected and unelected state?
- What implications for neighbouring and other places?
- More legislation needed?



Strategic Choices (not just for HEIs)

- From factors of production to smart, sustainable and inclusive growth
- Overcoming a false ‘trade off’ between excellence and local growth
- Reconciling complex / variable geographies for different domains
- Managing cultural complexities of multi-level governance
- From stakeholder engagement to performance management of effective partnerships, both within and across sectors

