

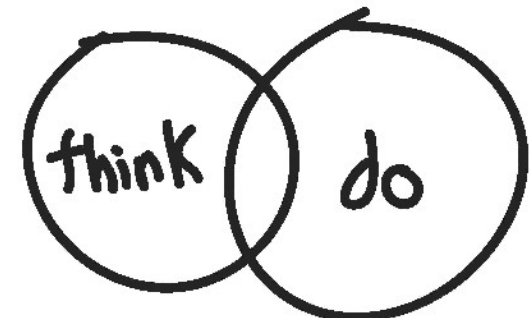


Centre for Local Economic Strategies

Knowledge Economy: Invest in opportunity

Local Approaches to tackling Youth Unemployment 11th March 2014

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Chief Executive





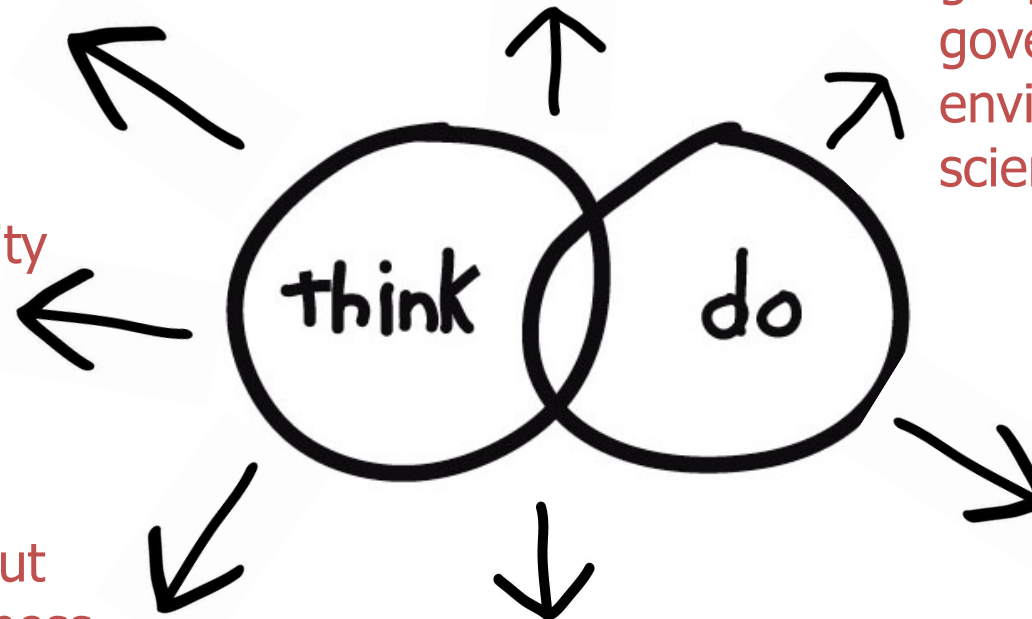
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Economic
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with social fairness
and within limits of
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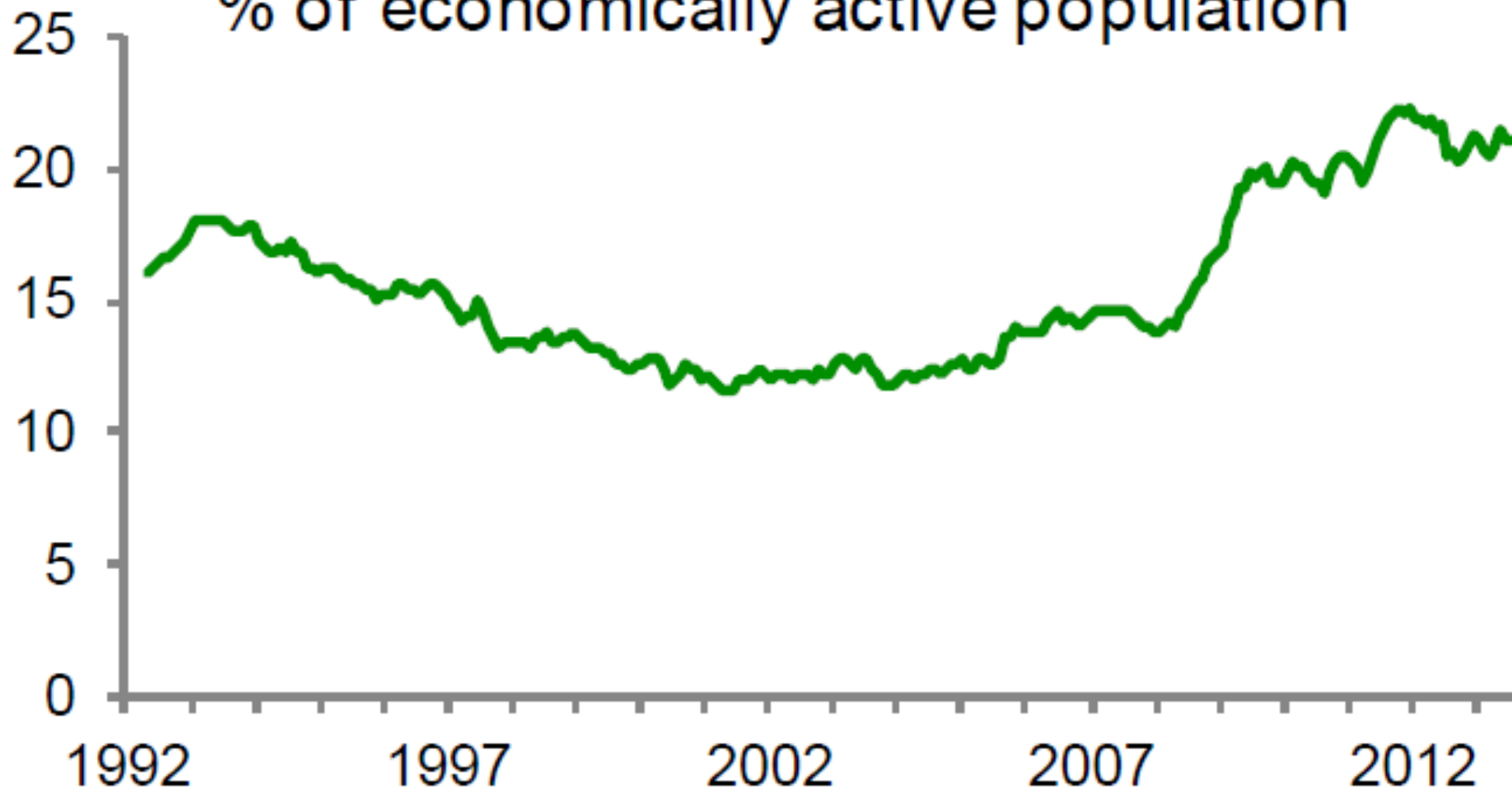


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Unemployment rate: people aged 16-24

% of economically active population



Source: House of Commons library note SN/EP/5871

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/research/briefing-papers/SN05871/youth-unemployment-statistics>



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The dangers of youth unemployment

- Pernicious - Young people are more susceptible to macro-economic conditions
 - Social scarring
 - Bouts of unemployment, fetters life chances
- Problems for public resources and drag on national and local economic future
- Historically, been a constant roll out and fragmentation of initiatives - inconsistent with tackling the problem.



Can growth deliver?

- Often Whitehall centric
- But, national picture is varied, with options fettered by local uncertainty and a sluggish local economic context
- Will growth alone deliver jobs for young people?
 - It's a longstanding issue-even the good times did not deliver!
 - Supply of jobs - 30/40 Job seekers chasing every job in some worst areas



The future needs to be more local

- National schemes have a place, but the nuances of local economy very important
- Employment support needs to be localised with bespoke tailored solutions. Clear role for HE/FE in this.
- It's a job for local partnerships across public, commercial and social sectors
 - Community Wealth Building in Preston
 - Links between employers and young people (Building Futures East – Newcastle)
 - Manchester People into Construction

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)?

- Focus on economic growth, but only emerging connection to education and skills
- Need bespoke ideas, which link with place characteristics, social realities
- Do Leps have enough focus on young unemployed?
- Important role of local public procurement and supply chains. Including Higher education.
- Important to focus on small business (rich source of local jobs)



Final Thoughts

- 'National' youth unemployment policy, is only part of the answer
- Youth unemployment, wrapped up in national economy which is spatially, sectorally, socially unbalanced.
- Hindered by lack of targeted industrial strategy-which significantly steers investment, priorities.
- The subtleties around local supply, demand, economic health and intervention is a 'local job'.



Centre for Local Economic Strategies

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