The role of local authorities and communities in governing infrastructure interdependencies

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Energy & water infrastructure interdependencies governance
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1. Civic infrastructure: New actors, different values
2. Local interdependencies
3. Local governance

Source: Catherine Bale
Context: Role of local government in energy provision

Reference:
Context: Community energy in the UK

Local interdependence

- **Economic**
  - Local growth
  - Revenue
  - Job creation

- **Social**
  - Community development
  - Regeneration

- **Environmental**
  - Carbon emissions
  - Air quality
  - Local growth

- **Motivation**
  - Fuel poverty
  - Social

- **Heat**

- **Electricity**

- **Water and wastewater**

- **Flood alleviation**
Barriers to engagement

**Internal**
- Institutional lock-in and cultural ethos
- Resources and budgets
- In-house knowledge
- Confidence in decision making processes crossing new regulatory areas

**External**
- Policy overlooks non-monetary value
- Pro-market focus favours incumbents
- Separation of infrastructure regulation
- Lack of institutional diversity

References:
Local Governance

- Adapt funding and incentive criteria to enable interdependencies
- Targeted support for civic actors
- New approaches to regulation – design principles not standardisation
- Polycentric governance is essential to the success of civic infrastructure

Reference:
Conclusions

- New actors, different values
- Diverse motivations and pathways to engagement in infrastructure interdependencies
- Need a policy regime that recognises multiple values and interdependencies
- Aligning international, national and local policy – polycentric governance
Thank you for your attention!

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