

Hannah
Hickman

Stephen Hall

Nick Croft

AESOP 2019

INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING: THE ROLE OF TERRITORIAL GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Presentation Structure

- Infrastructure planning, some key themes
- Why is governance interesting in a UK context
- Our research
- Some conclusions



Infrastructure planning - *everything that's not housing?*



A voluminous and diverse literature



Infrastructure integral to place making



Poor relative performance of UK PLC



UK an exemplar of “splintering urbanism”



Emerging governance structures and processes (city region focus)



Planning as the choreographer of infrastructure

Focus on place ...

- *“has the potential to ensure that individual developments come to be planned as part of a broader picture, rather than in isolation from each other. This means that the overall value of what is created, to both the local community and developers, exceeds what would otherwise have been the sum of its individual components”* (Adams and Watkins, 2014, p. 23).

Why is the governance of infrastructure planning interesting in the UK?

- Centralised policy – but lack of integration at a national level
- Variegated governance and funding arrangements at a sub-national and local level
- Diminution of strategic spatial planning
- Complex organisational and investment arrangements and ownership patterns of infrastructure providers
- Prioritisation of short term delivery over longer term thinking
- An absolute lack of funding and the rise of funding deals

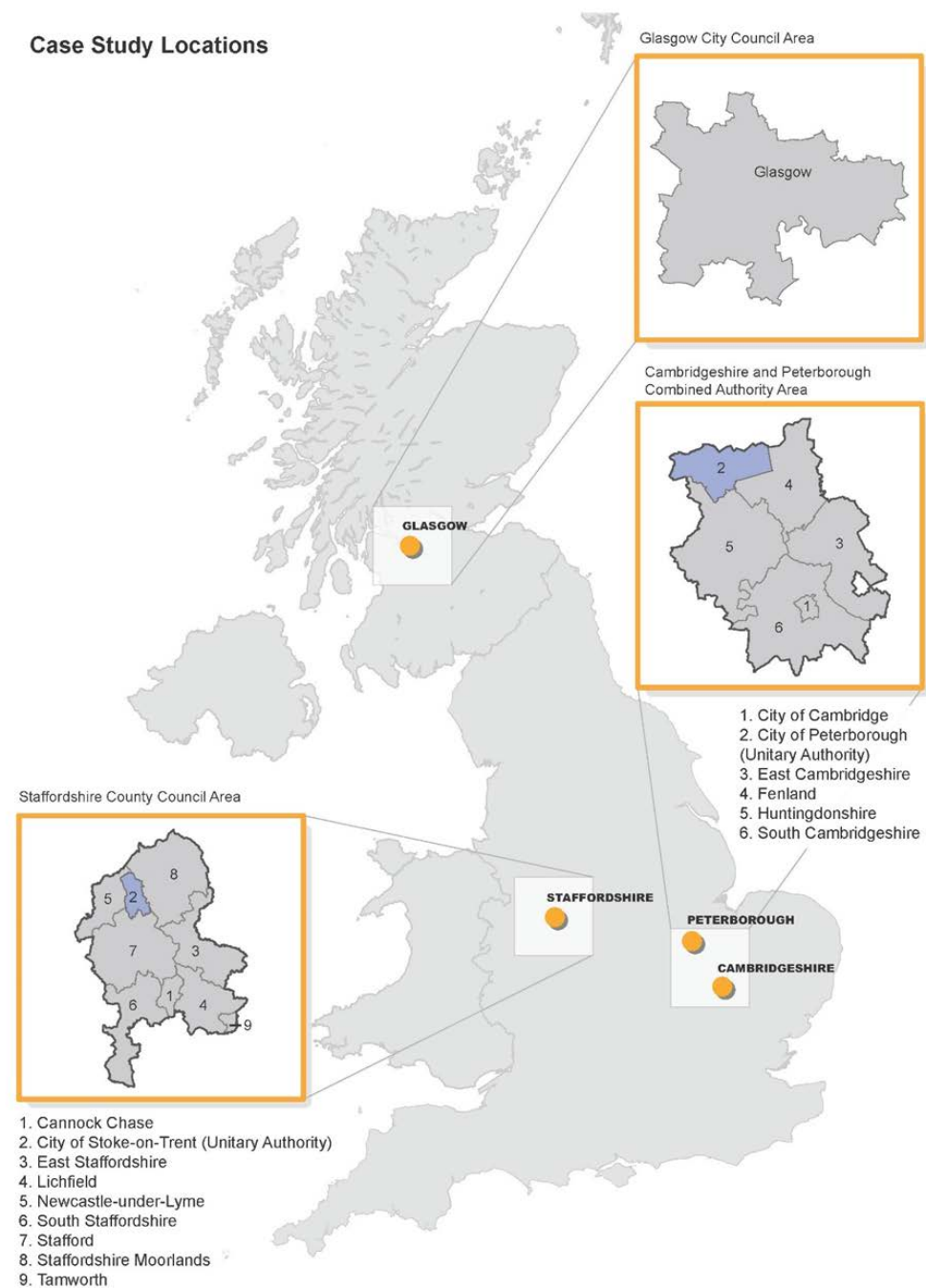
1. Literature review

2. In-depth case studies

3. National local authority survey

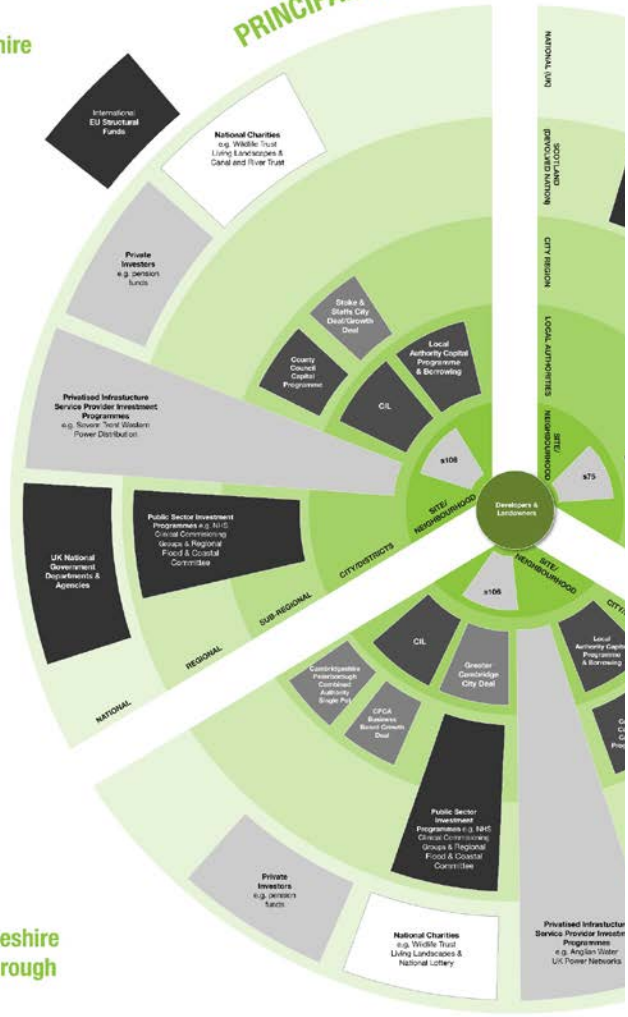
4. Infrastructure provider interviews

Case Study Locations



Staffordshire

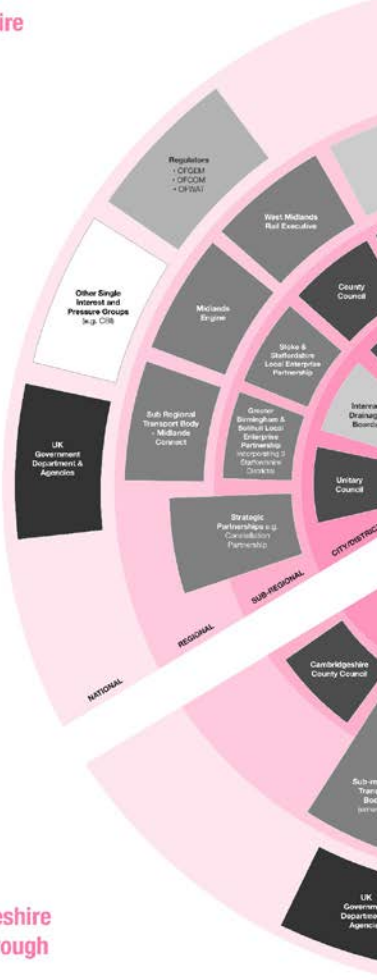
PRINCIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Staffordshire

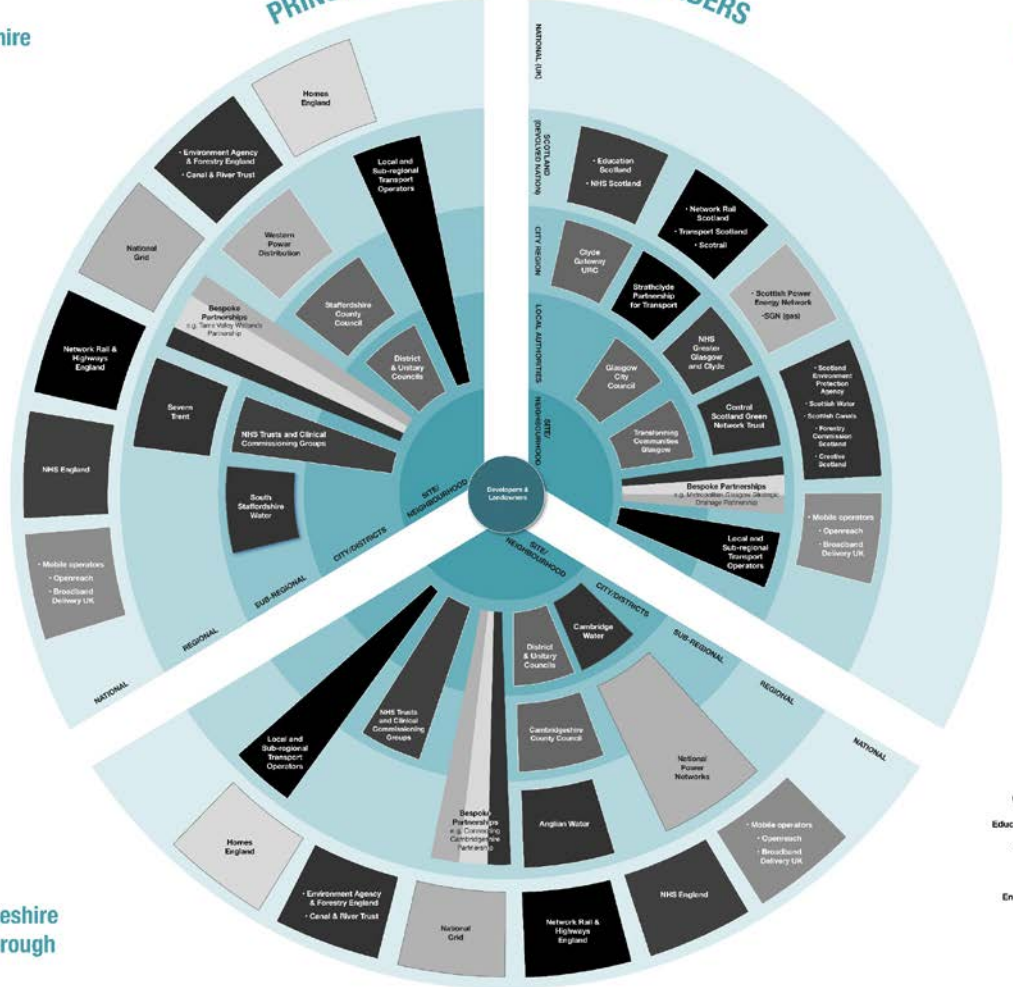
PRINCIPAL AGENCIES



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Staffordshire

PRINCIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVIDERS



Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Glasgow

- Transport
- Water/Green
- Education/Health
- Government
- Digital
- Energy Utilities
- Housing
- Developers

Vision of place, objectives

- Importance of place acknowledged, limited evidence of synergies in practice
- Complex multi-level governance arrangements
- Constructive dialogue between planning authorities
- No agreed definition of 'functional' place
- Demise of strategic planning

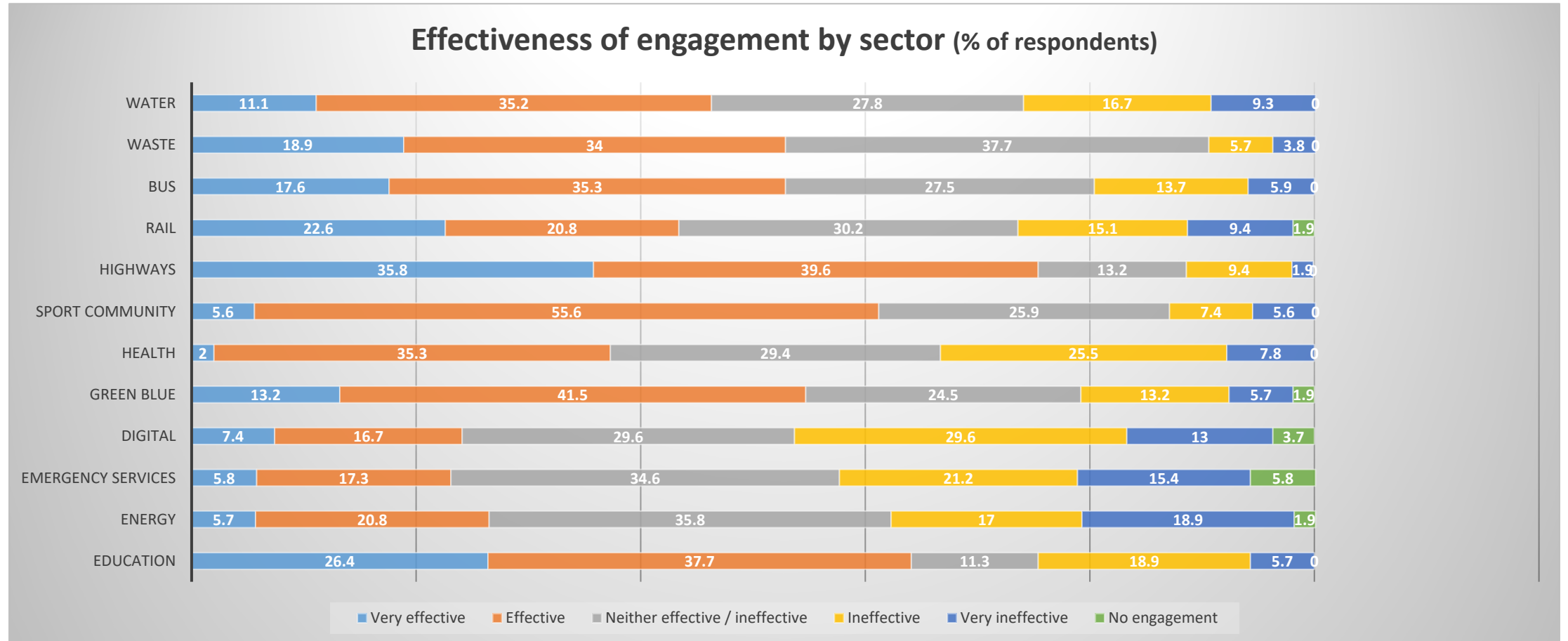
Priorities, funding

- Infrastructure needs and priorities not clearly identified
- Infrastructure funding an 'uneven playing field'
- 'Cocktail' of infrastructure funding
- Too much competitive bidding
- Reliance on developer contributions
- Austerity encourages an entrepreneurial approach

Engagement with infrastructure providers

- Local authorities reliant on 3rd parties for delivery
- Experience of engagement by sector varies
- Boundaries, funding cycles rarely align
- Ancient problem of central government 'departmentalism'
- Long term base issues absent from regulatory frameworks

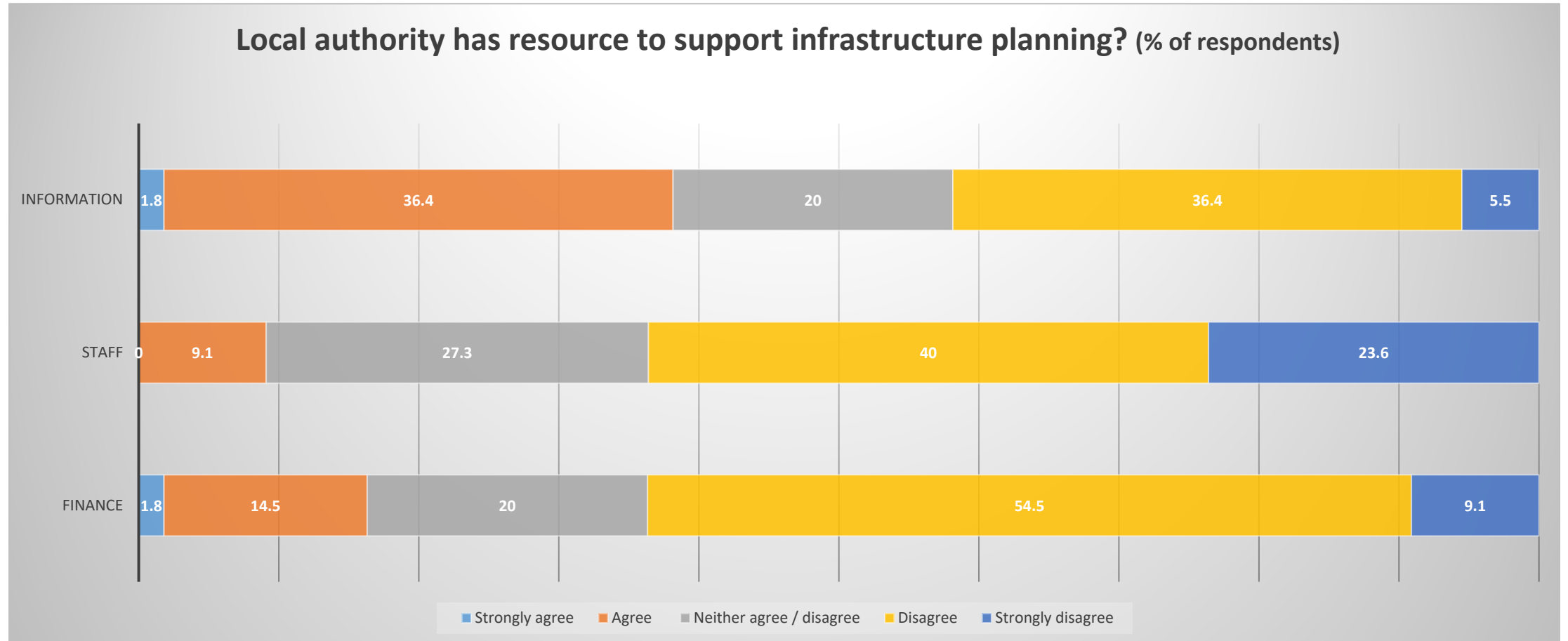
Engagement, alignment



Capacity, knowledge, resource

- Infrastructure planning insufficiently visible
- Local authorities not confident they have funding, staff or information for infrastructure planning
- Acknowledgement of benefits of data sharing

Resourcing, capacity, skills



Conclusions – do different patterns of governance make a difference?

- Infrastructure planning *is planning*, not a sub-set of planning, but planners are reliant on 3rd parties
- But ... the multiple and varied layers of governance pose particular challenges for engagement for all players
- There are commonalities across the three case studies, but there are key differences:
 - In Glasgow – City Deal Money and the existence of a statutory spatial plan important – but life after the deal?
 - In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – ‘hope’ that the Mayor can provide leadership on infrastructure
 - In Staffordshire – how can historic counties gain the same powers as some of the metropolitan regions?
- Some challenges are embedded and unlikely to change – others are more amenable to short term change (tidying up of boundaries). Extending freedoms/