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The Future of Further Education Annual Forum

2011-14: Rising to the funding and growth challenges

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Imagine

- No supply-side demands
- No central planning
- No PSA targets
- No lists of approved qualifications
- No co-funding measures
- No funding rates
- No frameworks, no pathways
- No ‘preferred’ qualifications

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Imagine

- Efficiencies – more for less
- Simplification
- Greater autonomy (more than earned autonomy)
- Mixed economy: QCF, NVQ, NQF, VRQ, GQ, No Qs
- A single consolidated funding agency for post 16

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What no planning?

- Requirement for public good
- Accountability and quality
- Addressing areas of priority
- Controlling/planning expenditure
- Too much low value, low cost provision
- Competition, mergers and failures

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Implications?

- A return to strategic plans?
- Targeted performance indicators
- Local, well-designed curricula
- Targeted, proportional national interventions
  - social (NEETS, Adult Basic Skills etc)
  - sectoral (new industries, skills shortages, employer engagement)
  - but the bulk is ‘mainstream provision’