cfps Centre for Public Scrutiny

accountability, transparency, involvement

Accountability and Self Regulation: Linking Financial Audit to Wider Scrutiny Processes

Future of Local Government Audit
3 November 2011

Tim Gilling
Deputy Executive Director
Centre for Public Scrutiny

transparent, inclusive, accountable

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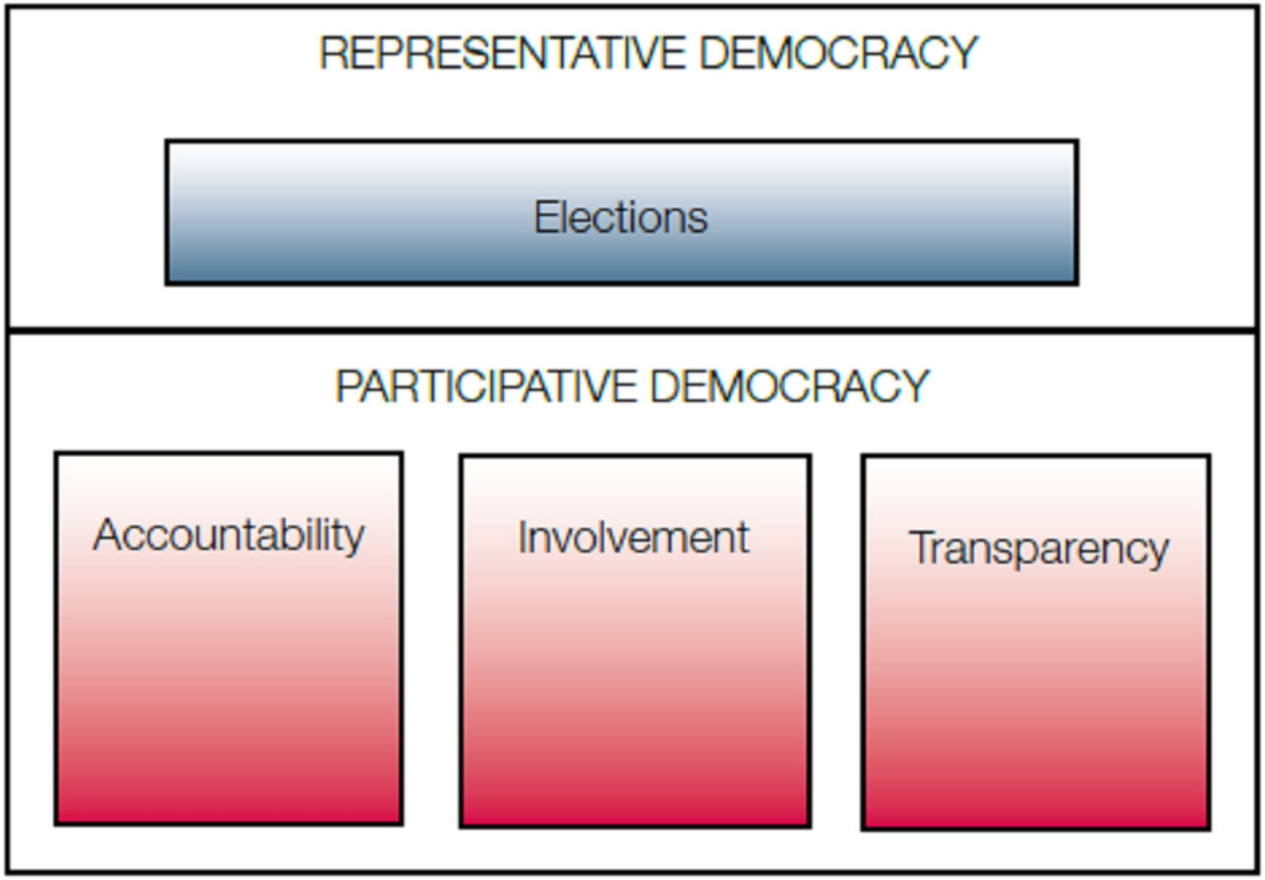

CfPS: Accountability Works! 2010

public trust – a challenge and an opportunity

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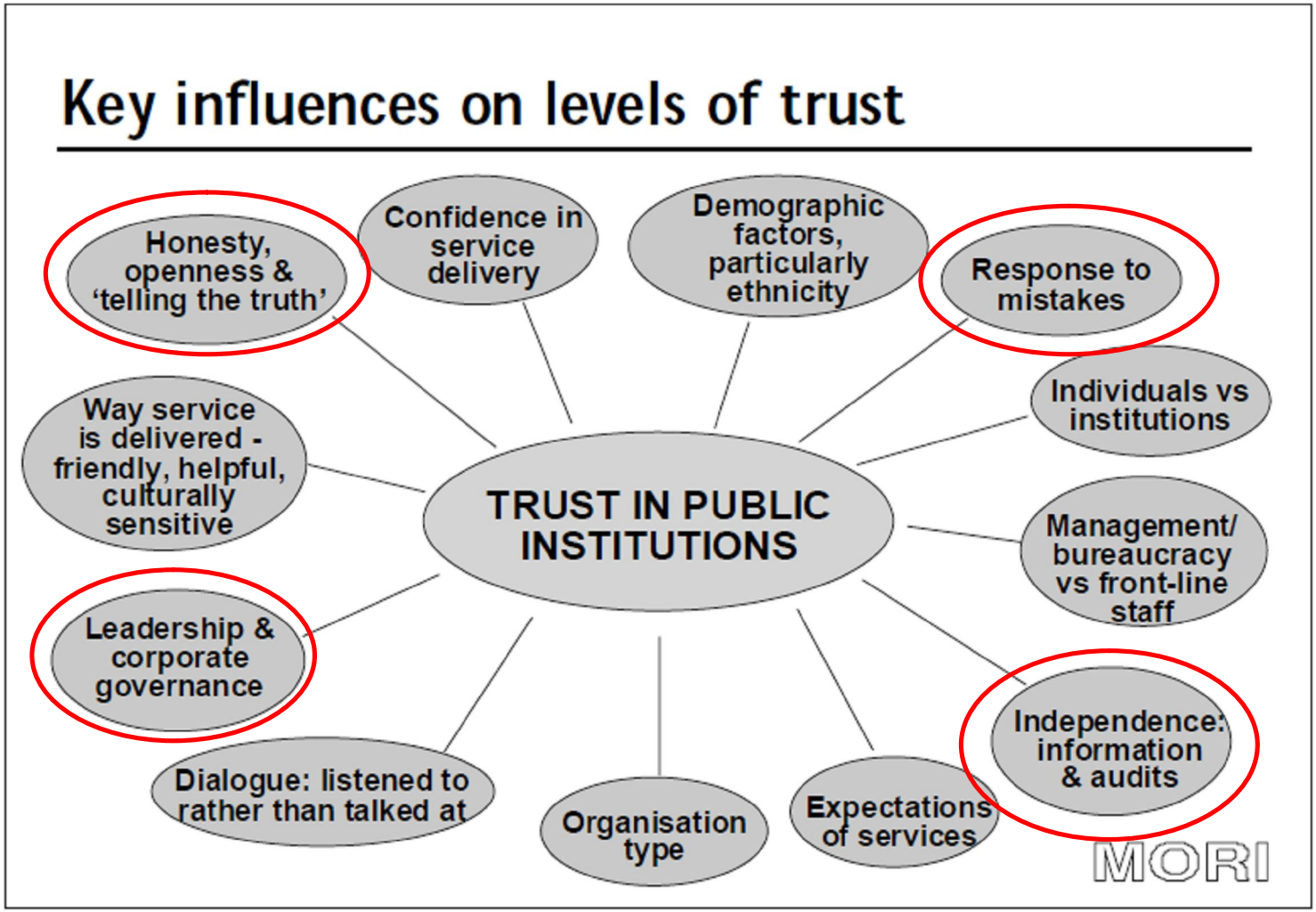

the web of accountability

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competition / choice

local scrutiny

redress

audit

the press

peer challenge

social media

elections

inspection / regulation

management processes

complaints / redress

principles of effective scrutiny

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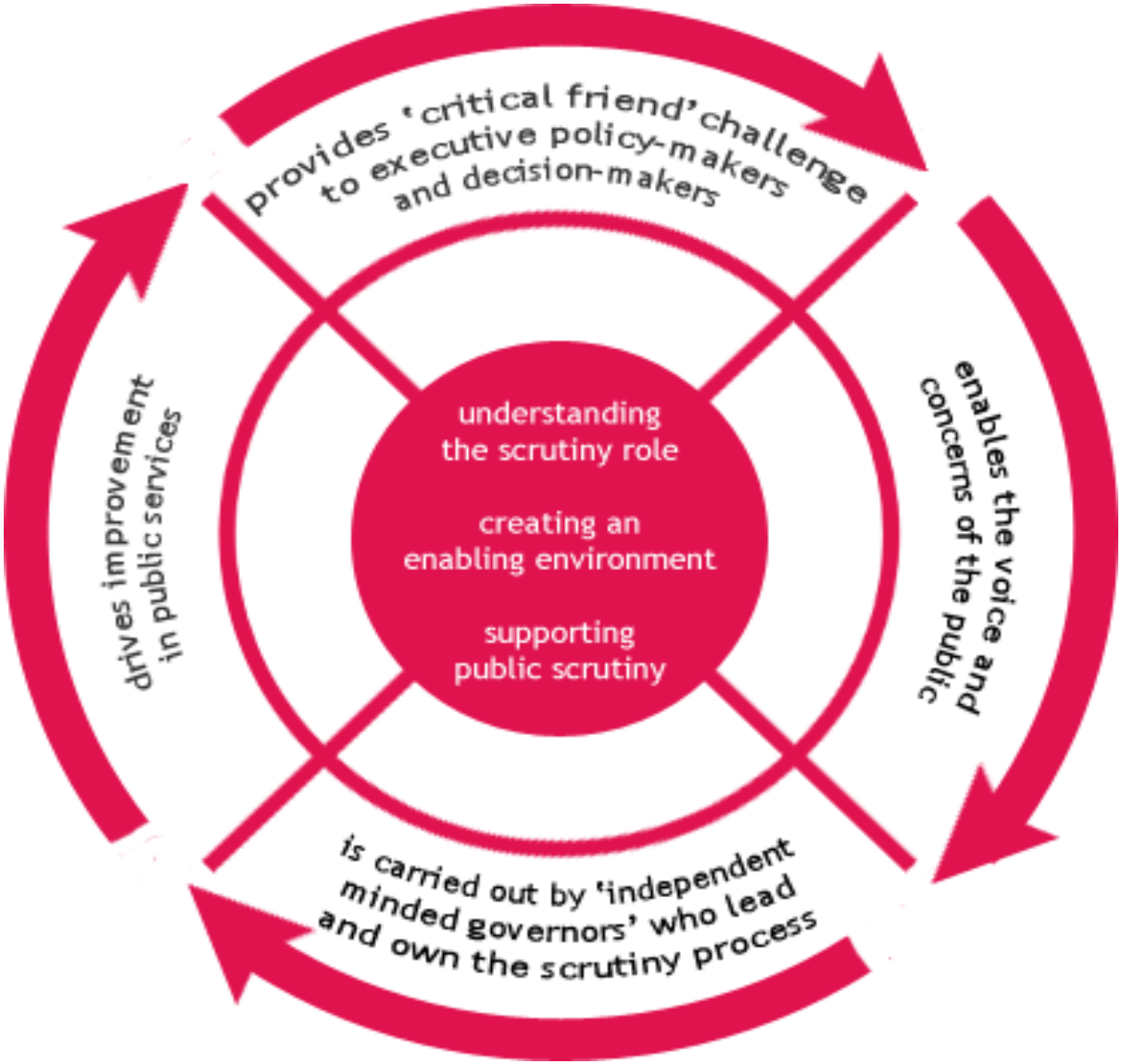

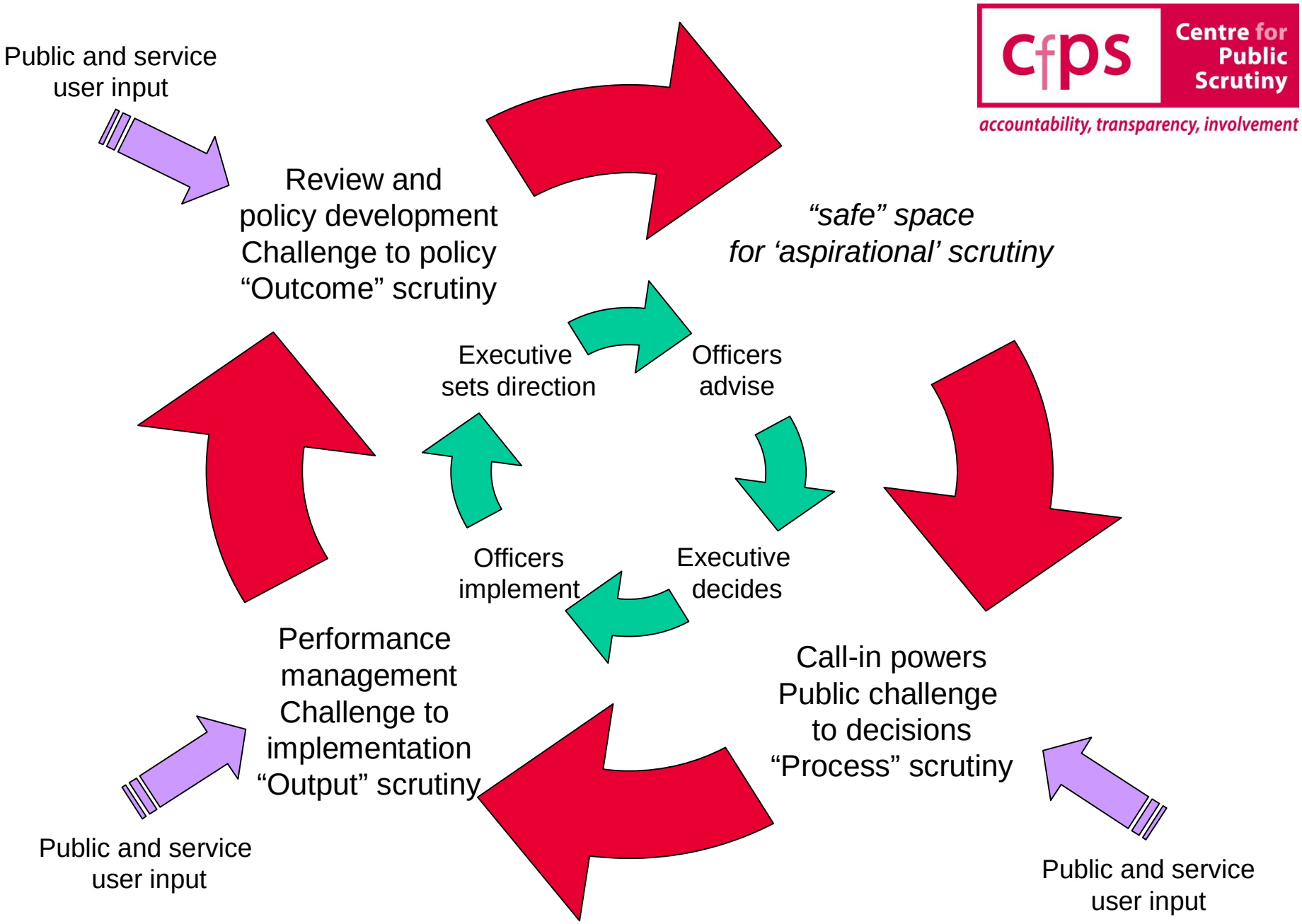

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making more effective use of scrutiny

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Increasingly effective:

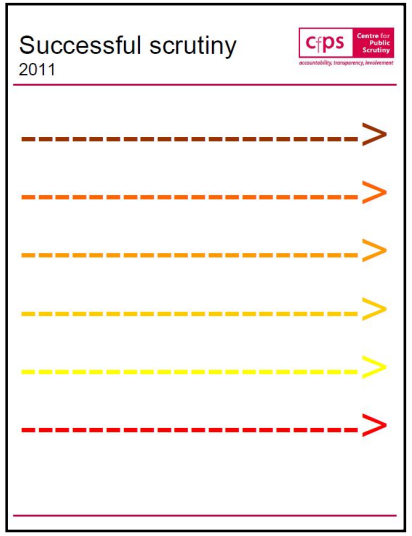
- ✓ policy review
- ✓ joint scrutiny
- ✓ scrutiny of partners
- ✓ involving service-users

Still challenging:

- executive relationships
- resourcing & support
- engaging wider public
- budget scrutiny

Solutions:

- ➢ Learn, network and innovate
- ➢ Invest in member skills
- ➢ Focus and prioritise
- ➢ Develop pro-scrutiny culture



what can scrutiny add?

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transparency - planning, financial management and performance:

- corporate, service and financial planning
- budget setting and budget monitoring
- measuring outcomes

value for money – economy (spending less), efficiency (spending well), effectiveness (spending wisely)

investment decisions – treasury management

social value – not just financial cost

new framework will require culture change if it is to work

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From…

To…

Accountability Works for You: supporting the new framework

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A new practical tool from CfPS
- part of LGG Taking the Lead offer

Flexible & free for councils to use
- tailored support available from CfPS

Helps improve governance:
- transformation & culture change
- asks questions on accountability, transparency and involvement

ACCOUNTABILITY WORKS

www.cfps.org.uk/what-we-do/accountability-works

Accountability Works for You - feedback from pilots

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"Accountability has to be seen as central to the whole approach to **transformation** and **improvement**"

"…has the potential to offer us a robust & straightforward solution to **cultural problems** that other forms of evaluation and assessment have missed for years"

"…helped us **think completely differently** about accountability. We're now in a position to demonstrate how central it is to **value for money** & **organisational change**."

"…a clear framework to help us **understand and communicate** what accountability means for us and how to set in train what we need to do to **shift culture** and focus"

Stay in touch

Tim Gilling

t: 020 7187 7361

e: tim.gilling@cfps.org.uk

w: www.cfps.org.uk

twitter: @cfpscrutiny