



**CYMRUFYD-EANG
GLOBALWALES**

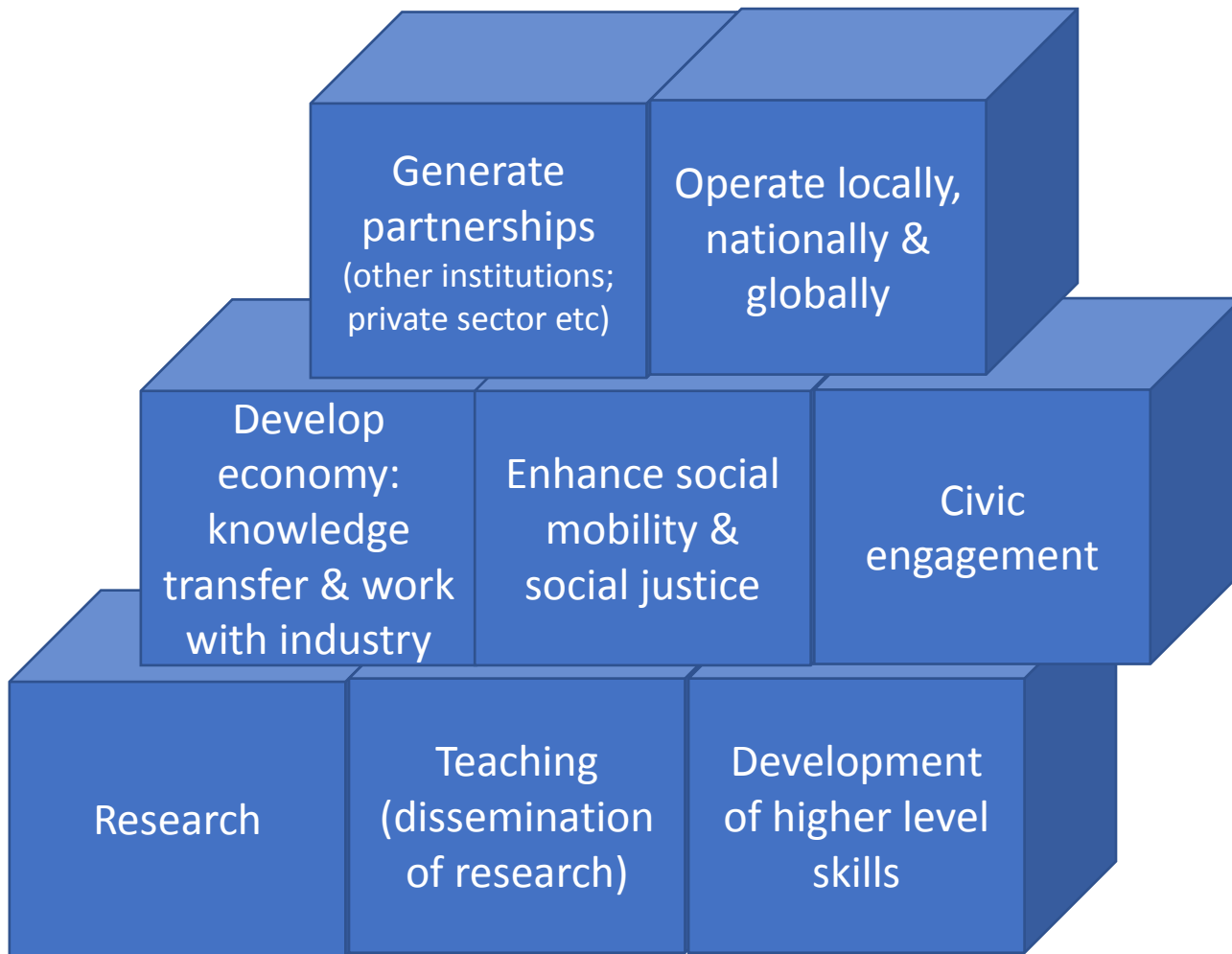
Principles & practice in higher education autonomy in the United Kingdom

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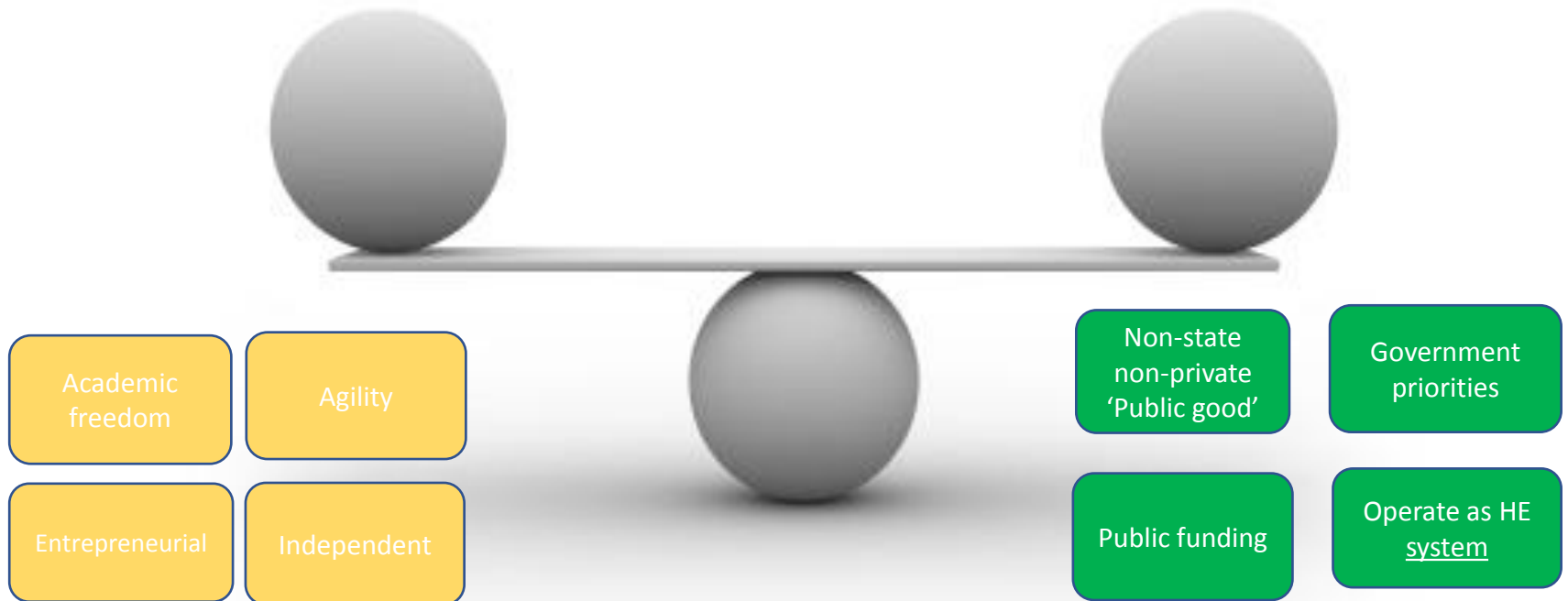
hefcw

Purposes of higher education institutions in Wales & UK

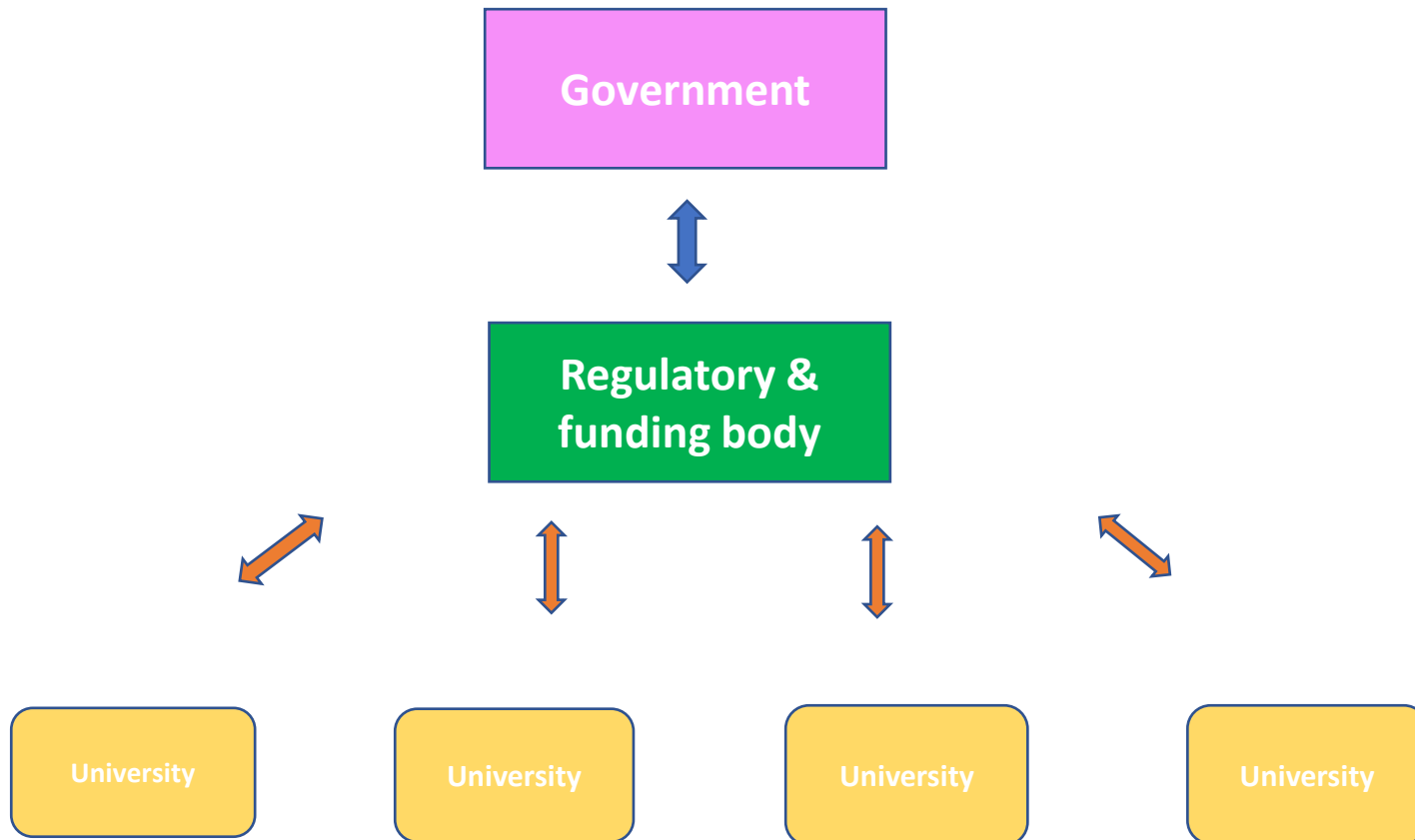


H.E. autonomy

Accountability
to government



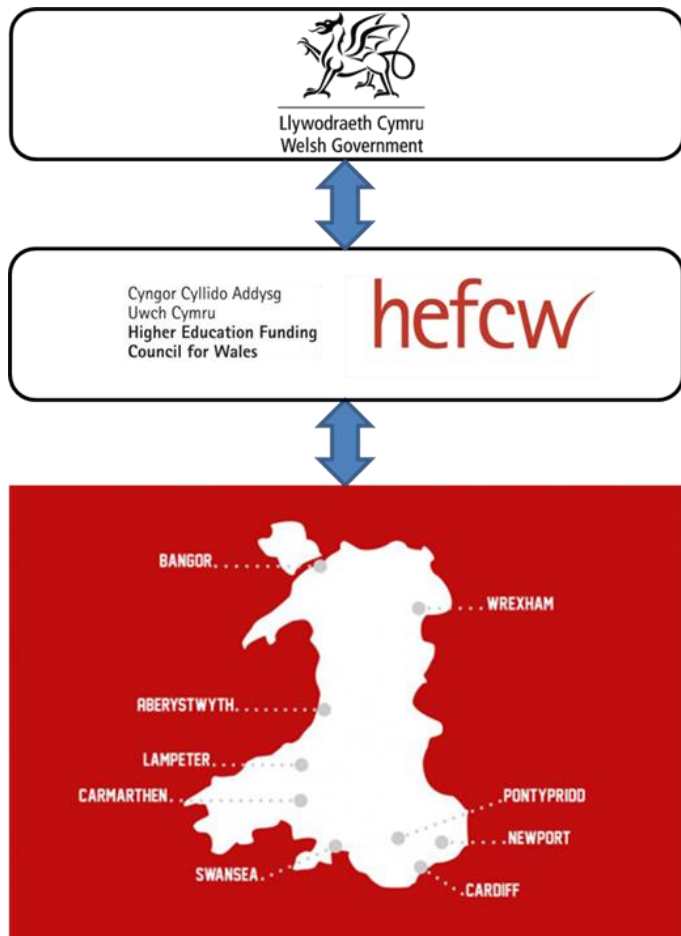
The two layers of autonomy



Necessary elements of effective autonomy

- 1 Clear legal definitions of roles
- 2 Experience and respect within membership of funding/regulatory body
- 3 Trust between all layers of autonomy, but with ultimate sanctions in place
- 4 Universities must be well-governed and well-led
- 5 Transparency around funding – performance-driven but strategic
- 6 Government must respect principles of autonomy

Hidden dimensions...



- Delicate **balance** between Government priorities, arm's length Council, autonomous institutions and HE 'system'.
- HEFCW's legal powers to intervene derive force from being **latent**.
- Intervention may be a failure of regulation as well as a success.
- **Reputation** is a driver within the regulatory system.
- **Partnership & trust** across the various structures are vital ingredients.
- Continuous **dialogue** and early warning (both ways) is critical.

Regulated HE provider

Academic quality

Financially
sustainable

Fee & access plan
to promote equity

Engagement with
HEFCW &
government
strategic aims

Financial
autonomy

Degree
awarding
powers
(academic
autonomy)

Public
funding

Full
student
loans
system

Participation in UK-wide measures

**Quality
Assurance
Agency**
(arm's length)

**Research
Excellence
Framework**
(REF)

**Teaching
Excellence
Framework**
(TEF)

**Student
satisfaction
survey**



Informed
student choice
& student
voice





Examples of HEFCW powers

Fair Access

Powers where institutions fail to meet general requirements of a Fee & Access Plan

Quality

Powers to intervene in relation to inadequate provision and provision likely to become inadequate

Fees

Powers in relation to excess fees

Financial Management

Financial management code will make provision on transactions which will require HEFCW's consent, accounting and audit arrangements and information to HEFCW. Infringement may lead to intervention.

HEFCW – the Funding Council

Independent
arm's length
Council of 12
members

Members appointed
by Cabinet Secretary
after transparent
process

Each member has
specialist expertise
or perspective

Council is subject to
strict public funding
rules

Has broad legal
duty to act as
regulator of HE
providers

Must pay due regard to
government priorities &
annual remit letter from
Cabinet Secretary

Distributes public
funding for HE
provision
& research

Uses public funding
to enhance access
and participation in
HE

Regulates fees
levels

Puts in place
mechanisms for
ensuring quality of
education

Scrutinises financial
assurance of
institutions

Pays regard to the
set of institutions as
a system

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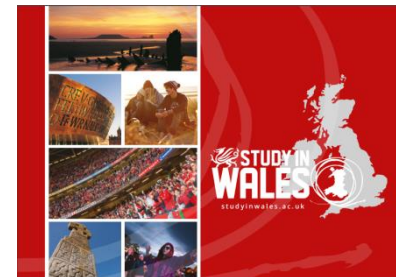
www.uniswales.ac.uk



www.gov.wales



www.qaa.ac.uk



www.studyinwales.ac.uk



Xứ Wales Toàn cầu - hợp tác để thúc đẩy Giáo dục Đại học Xứ Wales đến với thế giới
Global Wales - a partnership to promote Welsh Higher Education to the world