

# Northumbria Research Link

Citation: Hope, Alex and O'Brien, Geoff (2010) Environmental capacity building through knowledge transfer partnerships. *The Environmentalist*, 96. pp. 12-16. ISSN 0251-1088

Published by: IEMA

URL:

This version was downloaded from Northumbria Research Link:  
<https://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/id/eprint/3358/>

Northumbria University has developed Northumbria Research Link (NRL) to enable users to access the University's research output. Copyright © and moral rights for items on NRL are retained by the individual author(s) and/or other copyright owners. Single copies of full items can be reproduced, displayed or performed, and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational, or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided the authors, title and full bibliographic details are given, as well as a hyperlink and/or URL to the original metadata page. The content must not be changed in any way. Full items must not be sold commercially in any format or medium without formal permission of the copyright holder. The full policy is available online: <http://nrl.northumbria.ac.uk/policies.html>

This document may differ from the final, published version of the research and has been made available online in accordance with publisher policies. To read and/or cite from the published version of the research, please visit the publisher's website (a subscription may be required.)

# Environmental Capacity building through Knowledge Transfer Partnerships

**Alex Hope**                      North Tyneside Council  
**Dr Geoff O'Brien**          Northumbria University

**IEMA Knowledge Exchange Conference**  
Manchester Conference Centre  
January 27th 2010



North Tyneside Council

widening  
horizons

# Workshop Aims

**Discuss the environmental challenges which are driving organisations to adapt and change**

**Establish the need for organisations to build the capacity to adapt and change in the face of environmental challenges**

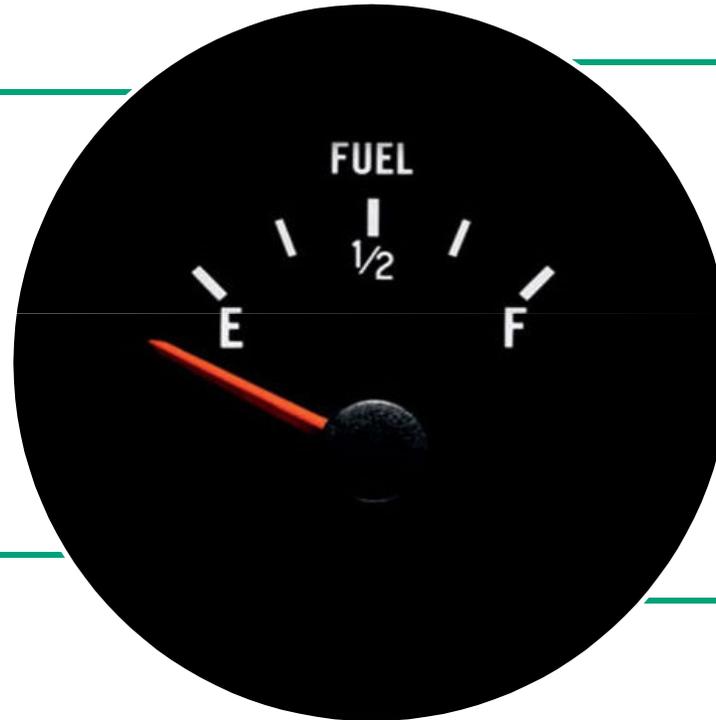
**Explore how adaptive capacity can be built through ‘Knowledge Transfer Partnerships’.**

**Examine lessons learnt from a current Knowledge Transfer Partnership between Northumbria University and North Tyneside Council.**

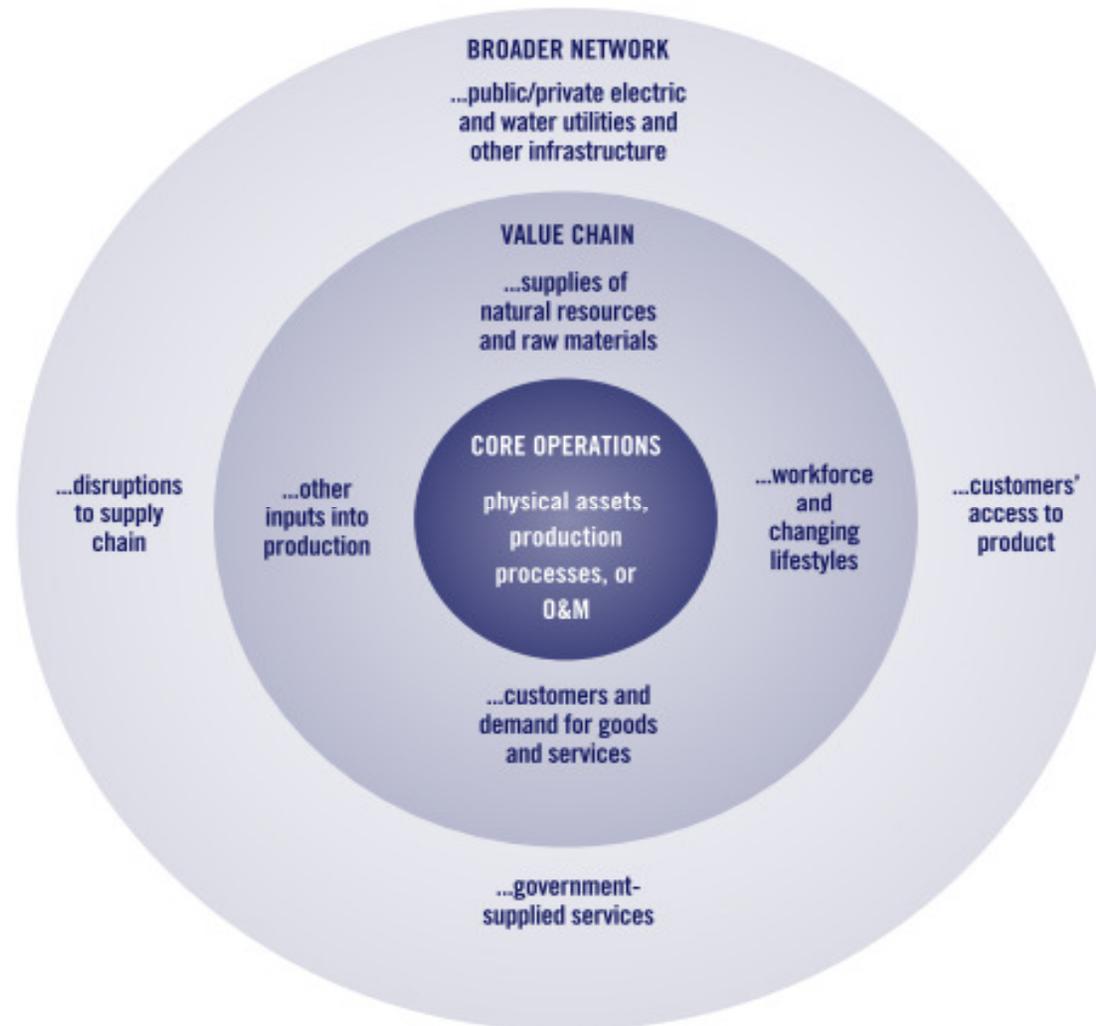
# Environmental Challenges



# Environmental Challenges

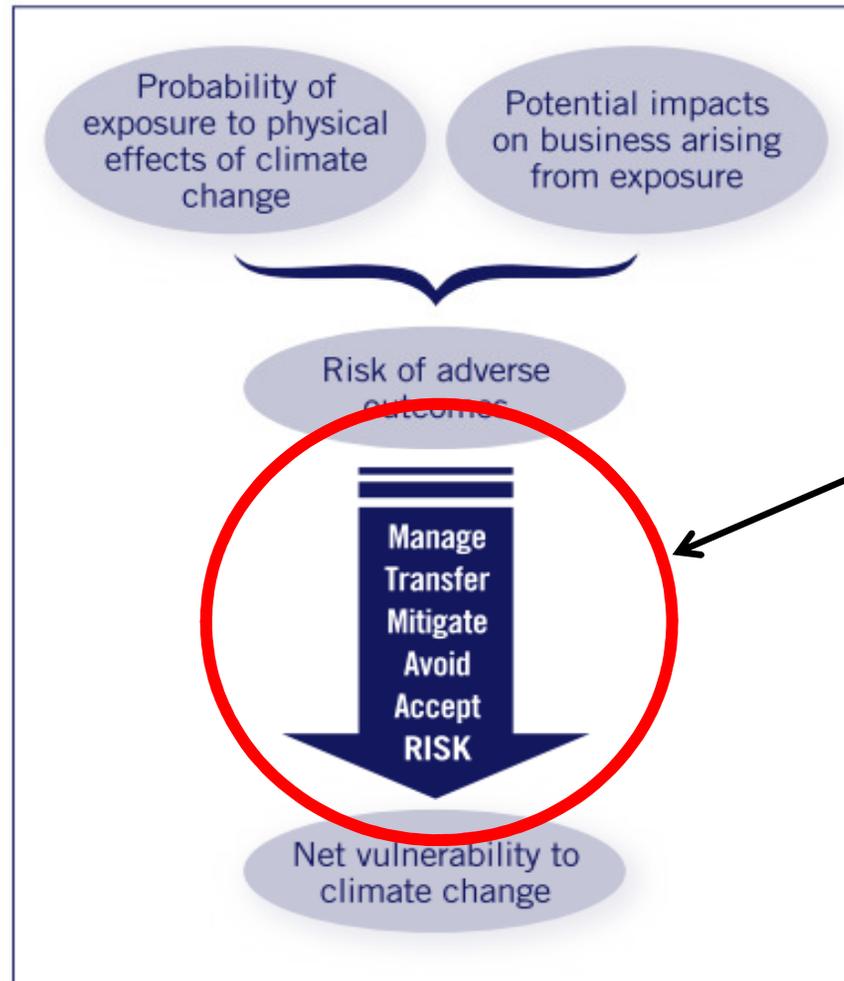


# The Risk Disc



Source: Pew centre on Global Climate Change

# Determining vulnerability

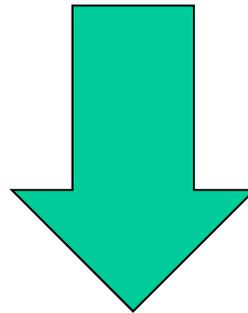


**Do you have  
the capacity  
to do this?**

Source: Pew centre on Global Climate Change

# Countering Vulnerability

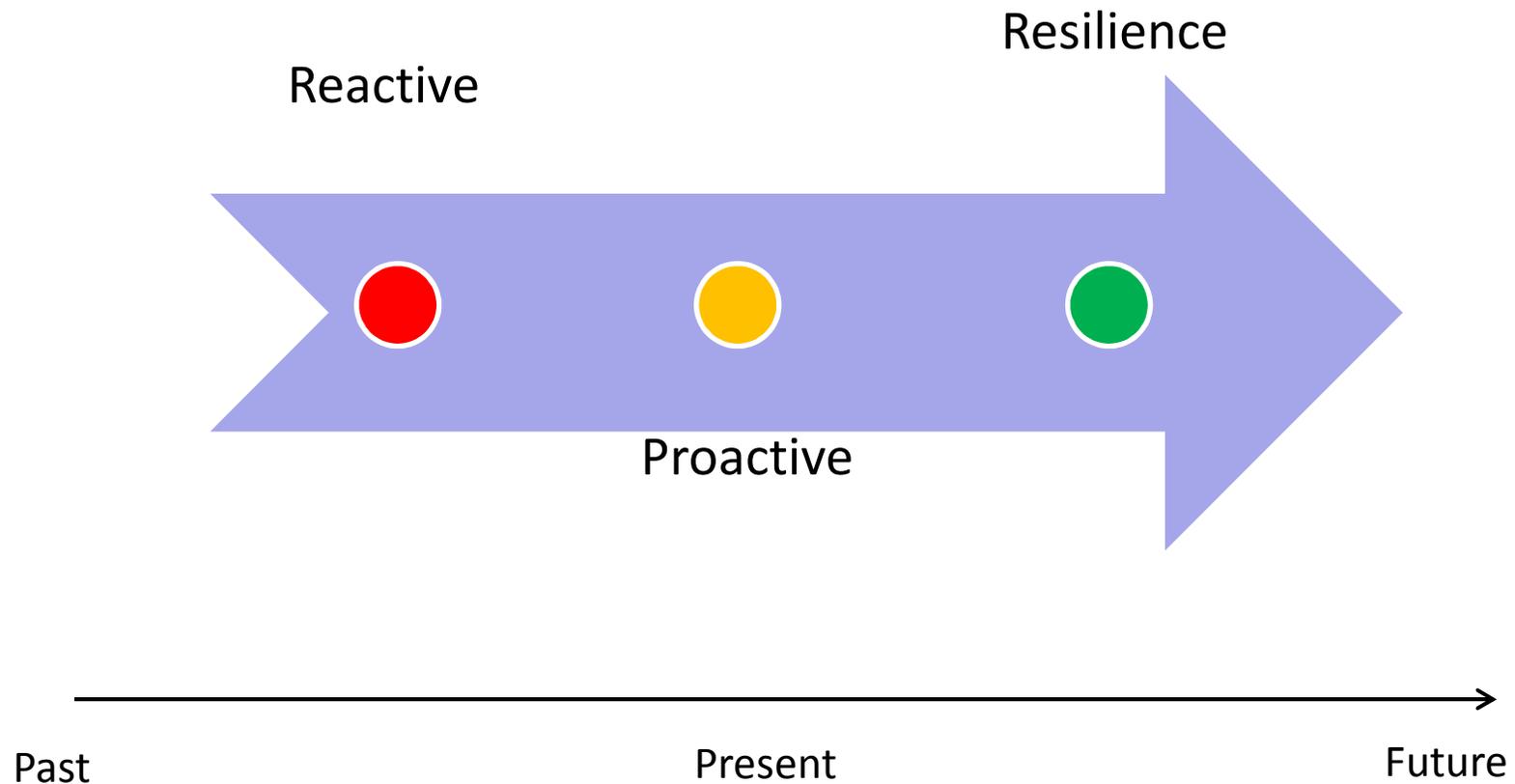
## Environmental Capacity Building



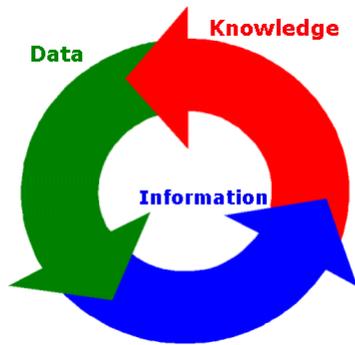
**“Developing the organisational ability to solve environmental problems”**

## Resilience

# Approach to risk



# Methods of building adaptive capacity



Invest in the production of information and knowledge

Increase financial resources in key areas



Change management – learning as a core value

# Methods of building adaptive capacity



**Staff training and development**

**Recruit external consultants**



Knowledge  
Transfer  
Partnerships

**Knowledge Transfer or Knowledge Exchange**

# Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP)

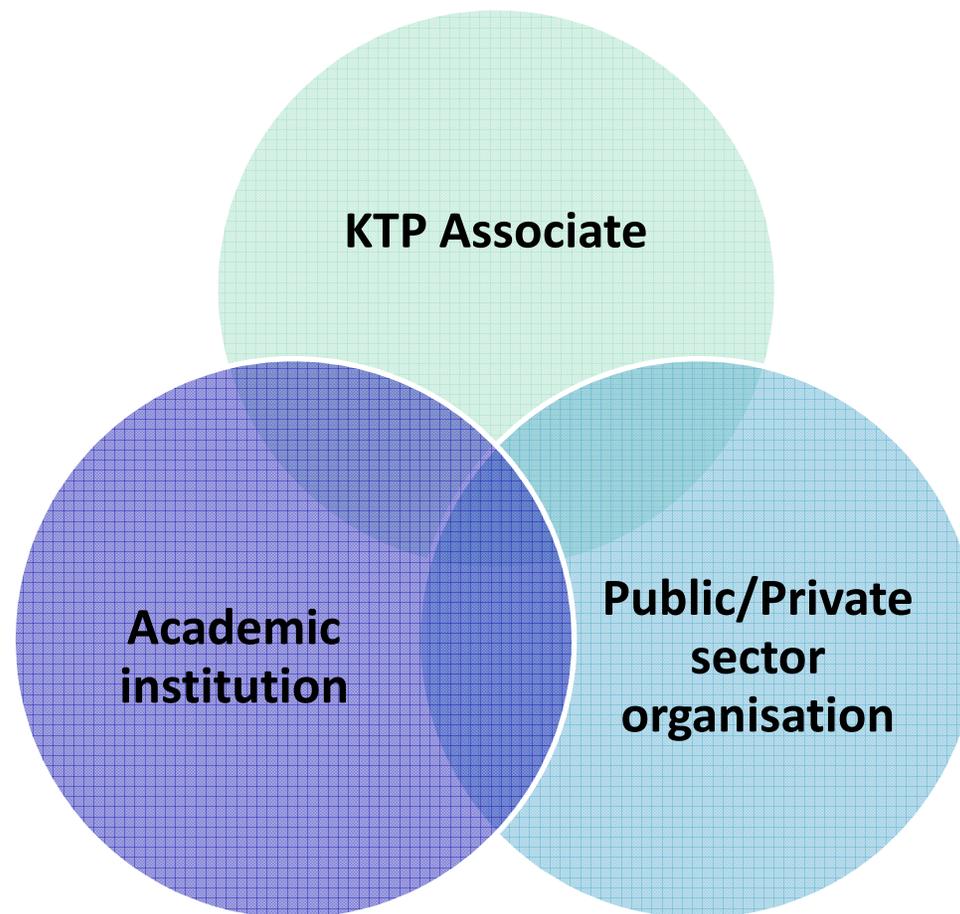
**Government funded scheme administered by Momenta**

Technology Strategy Board  
Driving Innovation

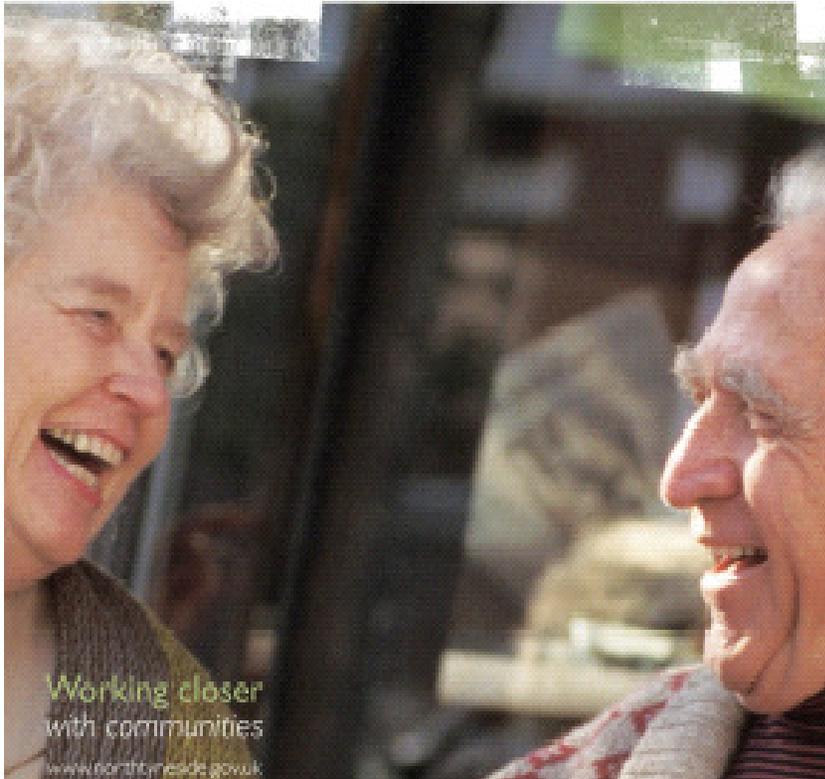


**“Europe's leading programme helping businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base.”**

# The structure of a KTP



# North Tyneside Council KTP



**£300 Million project to remodel the boroughs sheltered housing**

**Driven by need to provide decent, sustainable homes**

**Reduce fuel poverty amongst tenants**

**Save costs to local authority**

**Meet statutory CO2 reduction targets**

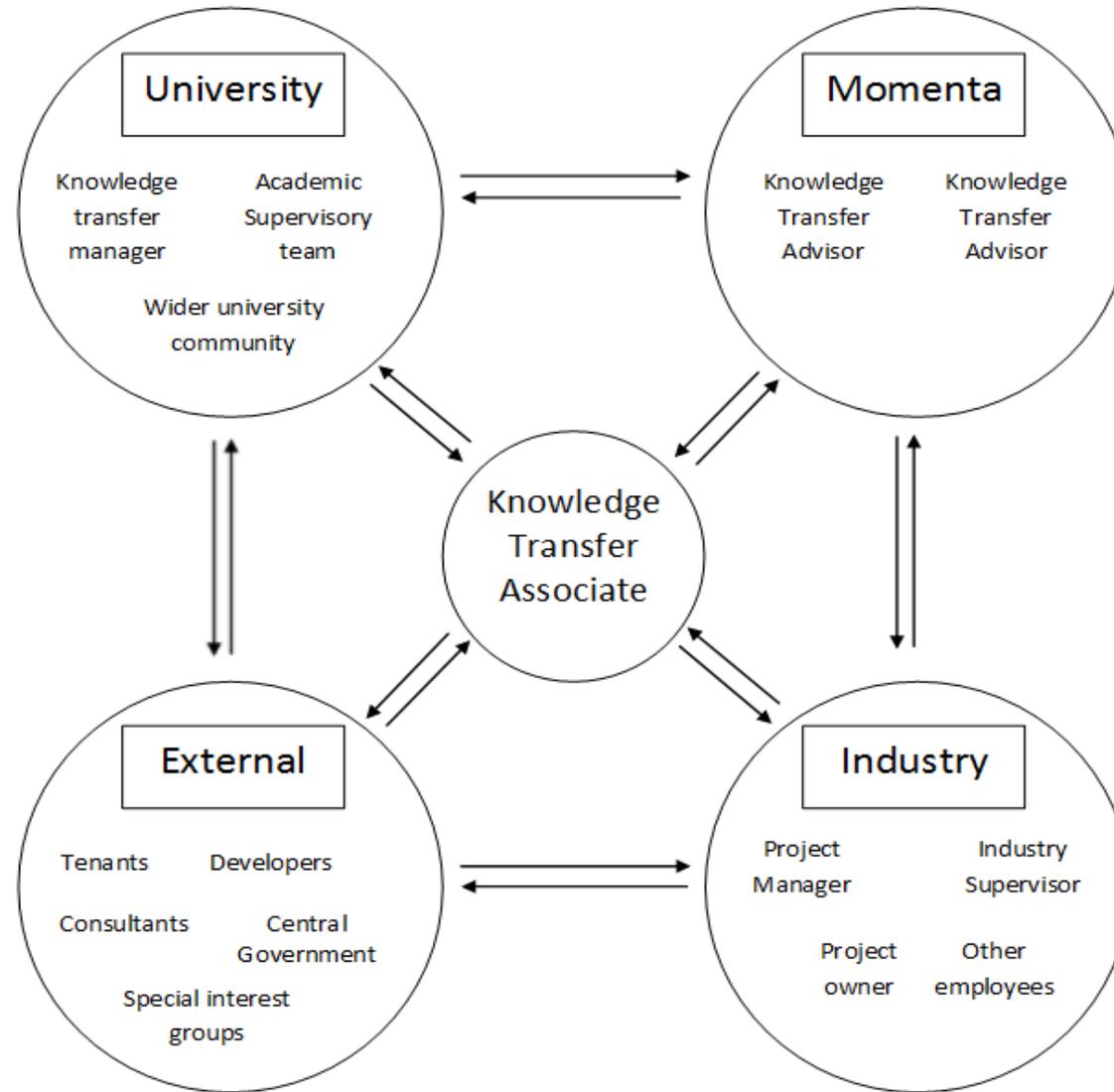
# North Tyneside Council KTP

**“to build capacity and knowledge in the local authority with regard to specifying and operating low carbon renewable energy technologies”**



North Tyneside Council

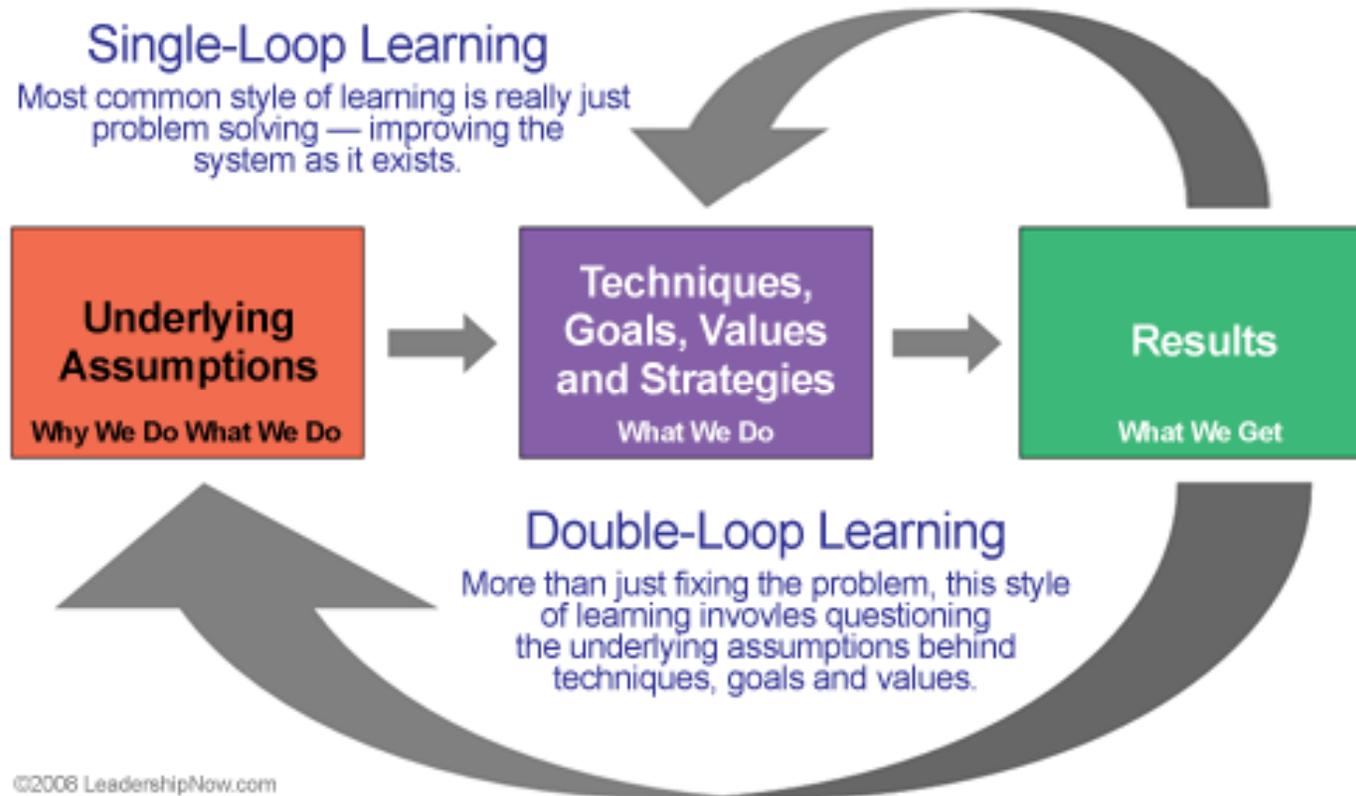
# Project Stakeholders



# How is capacity being built?

- **Training, seminars, workshops delivered to the project team and wider council**
- **Introduced a methodology for renewable feasibility studies/energy assessments**
- **Creation of a sustainable evaluation tool for PFI bids**
- **Creation of a 'best practice' guide**
- **Enhancing knowledge of key environmental issues through social learning (double loop learning)**

# Double Loop Learning



# Results

- Enabled the project team to better articulate their requirements to potential PFI bidders
- Seen more focus on environmental sustainability from bidders
- Added value – organisation can draw on full resource of university
- Knowledge and skills remain in the organisation
- Enabled ‘real-world’ experience to form the basis of further academic knowledge
- Produced detailed case study material for teaching purposes
- Production of academic papers and conference proceedings
- Created strong and lasting links between council and university

# Summary

- **Organisations are increasingly under threat from environmental challenges**
- **Recognition that building the internal capacity to respond to challenges is essential**
- **KTP becoming increasingly recognised by universities and organisations**
- **Knowledge Exchange can build capacity and lead to resilience**

# Questions?

Alex Hope – [alexander.hope@northtyneside.gov.uk](mailto:alexander.hope@northtyneside.gov.uk)

Geoff O'Brien – [goeff.obrien@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:goeff.obrien@northumbria.ac.uk)