

# Trends and Issues in Policymaking in Local Government in the Commonwealth

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## Trends in Governance

- Consultations
- Citizens service monitoring
- Quotas for women and marginalised groups (India, Uganda)
- eGovernment
- Undertaking local government audits

## Trends in Service Delivery

- Local government service partnerships
  - With private sector
  - With community based organisations
  - Public sector consortiums
- Diversifying monitoring methods
- Identifying service priorities through consultations

## Central-Local Relations

- Formalisation of central-local relations
  - Formal legal structures (South Africa)
  - Formal compacts or agreements (UK, New Zealand)
  - Parliamentary platforms (Ghana, Zimbabwe)
- Constitutionalisation of local government
  - Local government
  - Local democracy (India, South Africa, Nigeria)
- eGovernment

## Trends in eGovernment

- Strategies being adopted and implemented in developed and less developed countries across Commonwealth
- Purposes and methods of eGovernment vary to meet local circumstances

## Trends in eGovernment 2

- Local-central linkages through eGovernment
- Central government information provision
- Local government networking
- Local citizen information
- Local services and payments
- Internal management
- \*Key challenge\*: ensuring that computer/internet skills spread quickly enough

## Trends in Measuring Local Democracy

- Free and fair elections
- Local election monitoring (Commonwealth Secretariat, CLGF)
- Reviewing consultation mechanisms
- Social and political inclusion

## Projecting Trends into the Future

- Decentralisation has been generally adopted across the Commonwealth, but it is continuing
- Roll of local democracy in the success of decentralisation is a question that is beginning to be addressed in the same way as it has been addressed at the national level by Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen

## Projecting Trends into the Future 2

- Expansion of local eGovernment across the Commonwealth and within each country
- Stronger networking of local government leading to more consortiums
- Shift in method of governance and a changing role for councillors
- Changing manifestations of local democracy with emphasis on public participation increasingly using eGovernment