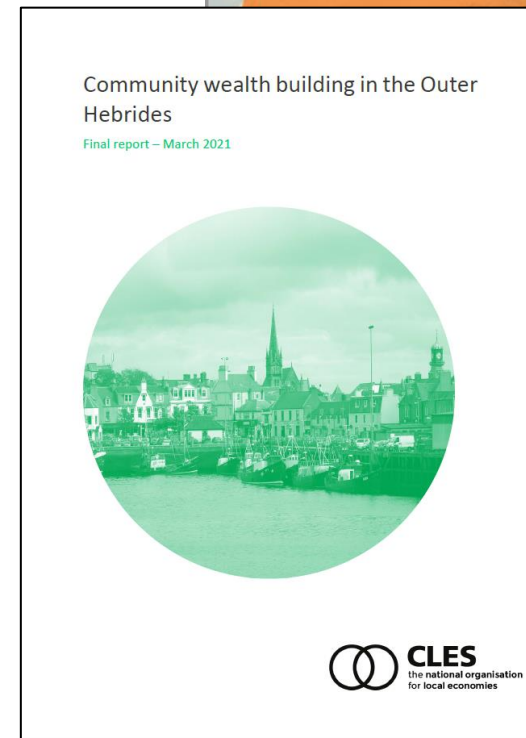# DTAS Conference 2023

Community Wealth Building Workshop

Why Community Wealth Building?

- Part of global New Municipalist movement, working towards the implementation of alternative economic goals

- CWB has emerged as a policy toolset and practice to bring about a Wellbeing Economy

- CWB announced as central plank of the Scottish Government's *National Strategy for Economic Transformation* with legislation to be introduced during the current Parliamentary session

Timeline

2005:

The term CWB is coined by The Democracy Collaborative, and a model developed around the Evergreen Cooperatives in Cleveland, Ohio

- work initiated with local anchor institutions to localise procurement and support green worker coops *(see Guinan and O'Neill pp. 10-11)*

2011:

Cleveland example catches attention of Matthew Brown (Labour councillor, who became Leader of Preston City Council)

- with the support of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) the Preston model is initiated *(see Guinan and O'Neill pp. 10-11)*
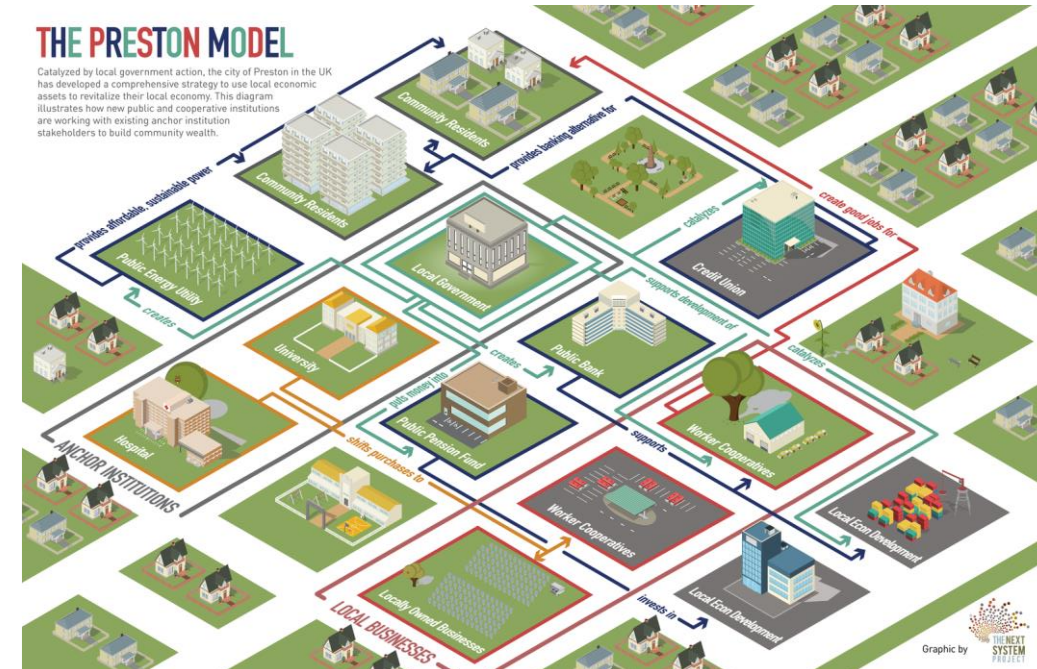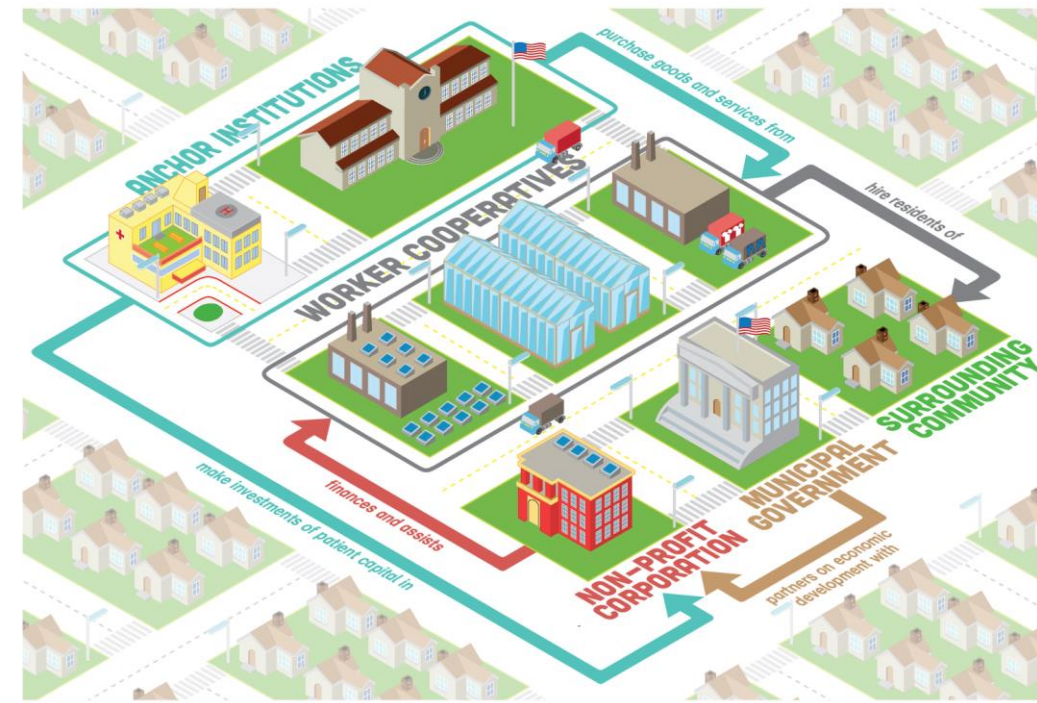

2020:

North Ayrshire becomes first Scottish local authority to publish a CWB strategy

2022:

CWB is announced as central plank of the Scottish Government's *National Strategy for Economic Transformation*

- Programme for Government confirms that legislation on Community Wealth Building will be introduced during the current Parliamentary session

Community wealth building

Community wealth building (CWB) is a people-centred approach to local economic development, which redirects wealth back into the local economy, and places control and benefits into the hands of local people.

Scottish Government CWB consultation

Opened 31st January 2023   Closed 9th May 2023

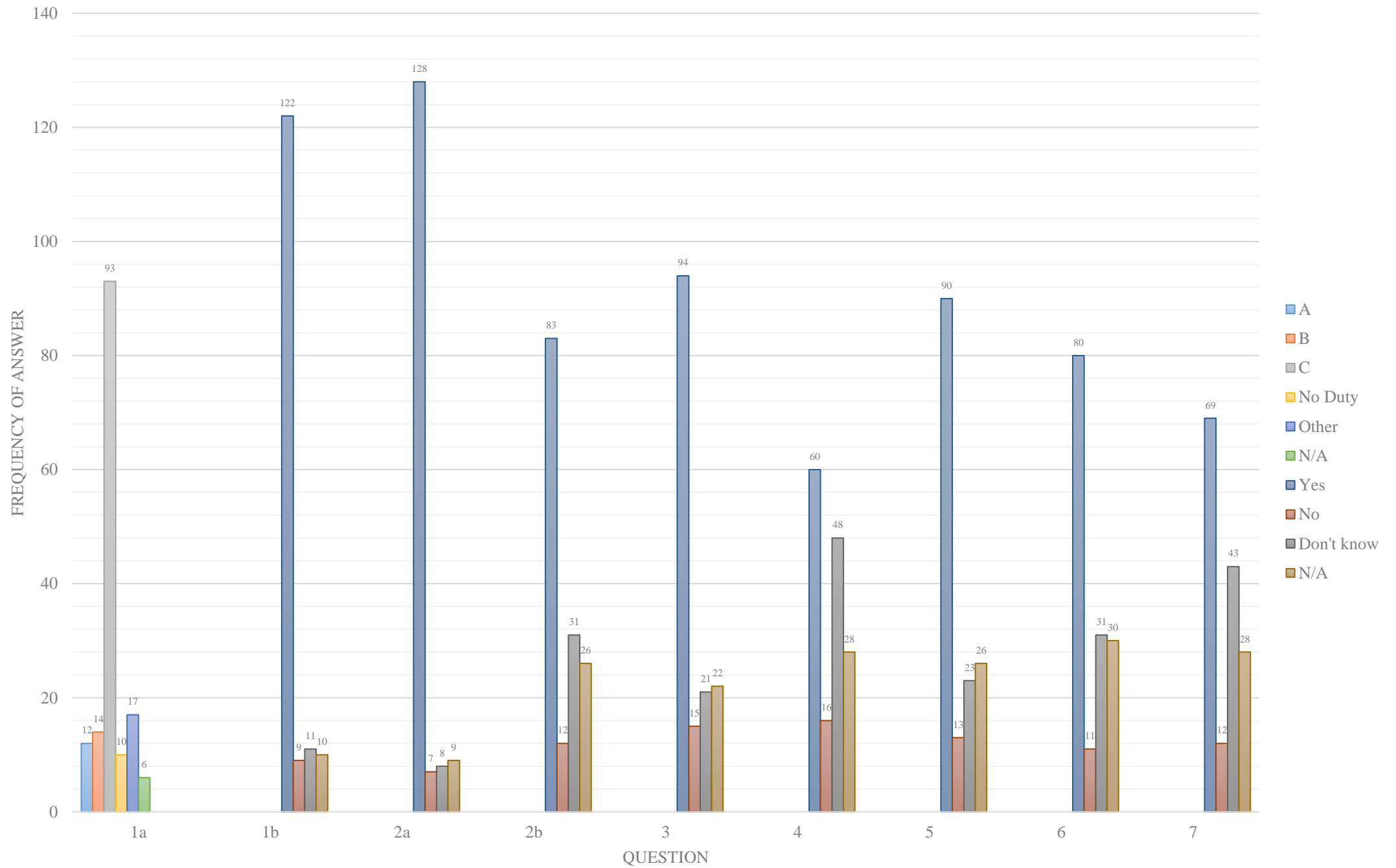**Question 1a**: Proposal: A duty to advance CWB?

Question 1b: The provision of statutory and non-statutory guidance

Question 2a: The provision of non-legislative measures

Question 2b: Actions required to advance delivery of the items contained within the Shared Policy Programme

Questions 3-7: Questioned whether changes to the law would advance the 5 CWB Pillars

All published responses to the 2023 Scottish Community Wealth Building Consulation

Preliminary analysis:

- Broadly, the overall results indicate a strong support for CWB from respondents to the consultation

- Support for a combined duty to embed CWB into corporate plans and to produce 'a collective CWB place-based strategy and action plan' in local authority areas

- Agreement in the need for non-legislative support, awareness raising, and for 'cultural change' in relationships between local government and the third sector

- Large portion of "don't know" responses –suggests a lack of knowledge on concrete practices of CWB

CWB as a national policy

CWB in UK context is characterised by city-regional responses to austerity

With local authorities attempting to reorient spending and activities in a way that attempts to raise and retain wealth locally

Scotland's plans are novel and ambitious but create challenges in terms of:

- Leadership:
  Directed from Scottish Government?
  Led by local authorities? Co-produced?

- Partnership:
  Variety of approaches taken elsewhere – what fits best for Scotland? Effective CWB partnership will likely require 'cultural change'

- Funding:
  Need for localised investment models

Where is the 'community' in Community Wealth Building?

PhD funded by SGSSS hosted by Yunus Centre (GCU) and DTAS

The study will:

- Examine the differences between policy rhetoric and reality
- Examine how and in what ways local government is working with community groups, and how experience differs in different places around the country
- Investigate the experiences of local people involved in community development efforts during the implementation of 'Community Wealth Building' in Scotland

The research will make a timely and valuable contribution to the emerging political, practitioner and academic debate on Community Wealth Building. Learning from on the ground community-based expertise, the findings will feed into policy design and implementation.