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The north west science strategy : review of challenges and opportunities

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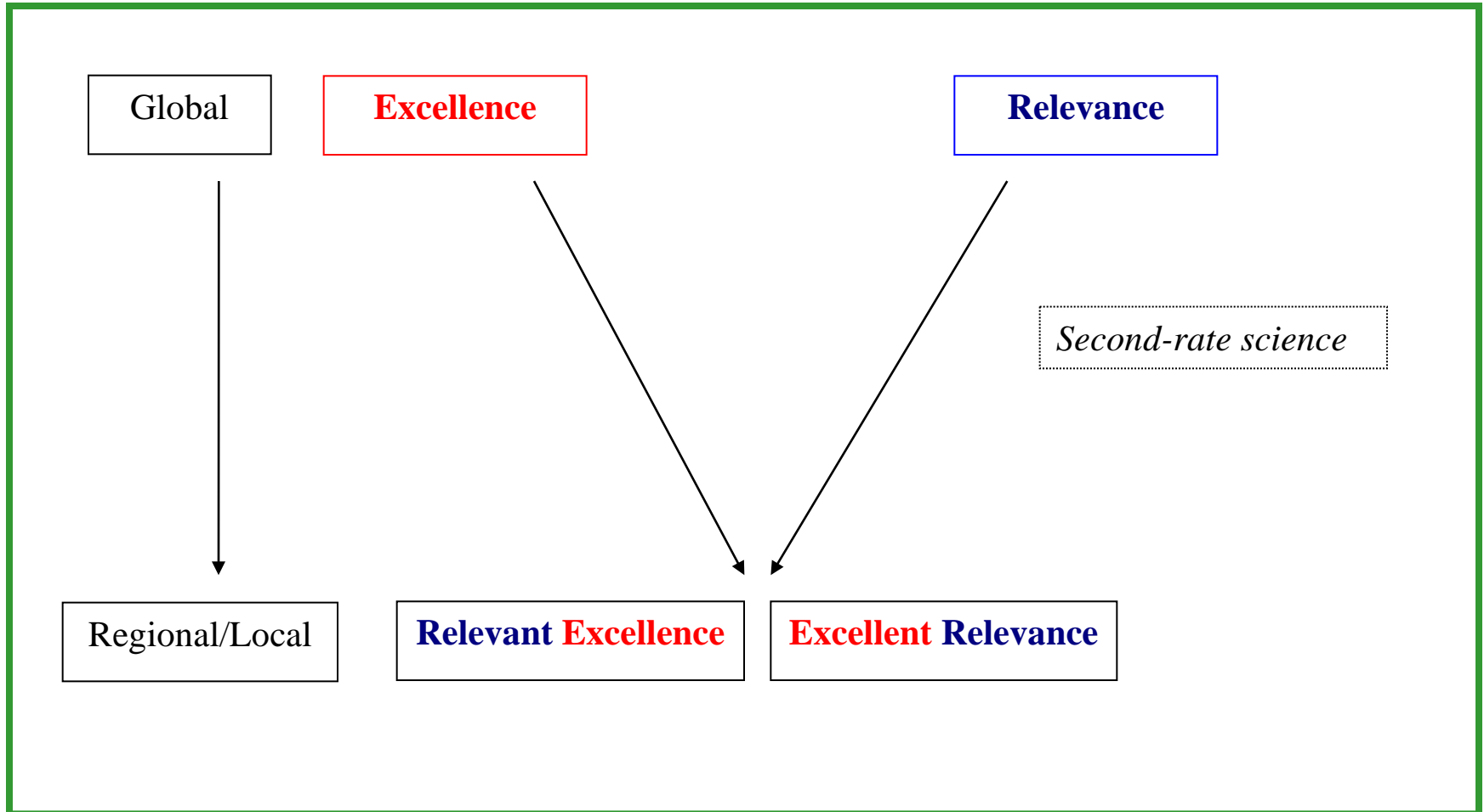
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The North West Science Strategy: Review of Challenges and Opportunities

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**Presentation to North West Science Council
16th July 2007**

Excellence and Relevance: Towards an Alternative Discourse?



Excellence

Regional Support for Science

- Create a 'Northern Golden Triangle'
- Retain and adapt science base in place
- Develop alliances outside the region
- Build centres of excellence
- Strategic sites – Manchester, Daresbury, Merseyside and West Cumbria
- Focus on research-intensive universities
- Emphasis on high-tech, high skills

Relevance

Science Support for the Region

- Continued engagement with large R&D companies
- Interaction of SMEs with the knowledge base
- Knowledge transfer processes: expressing needs and adjusting programmes
- Flows of people across HEI-business boundaries
- Culture of entrepreneurialism
- Skills and development – linking to existing regional skills and sectoral partnerships

Strengths and Weaknesses

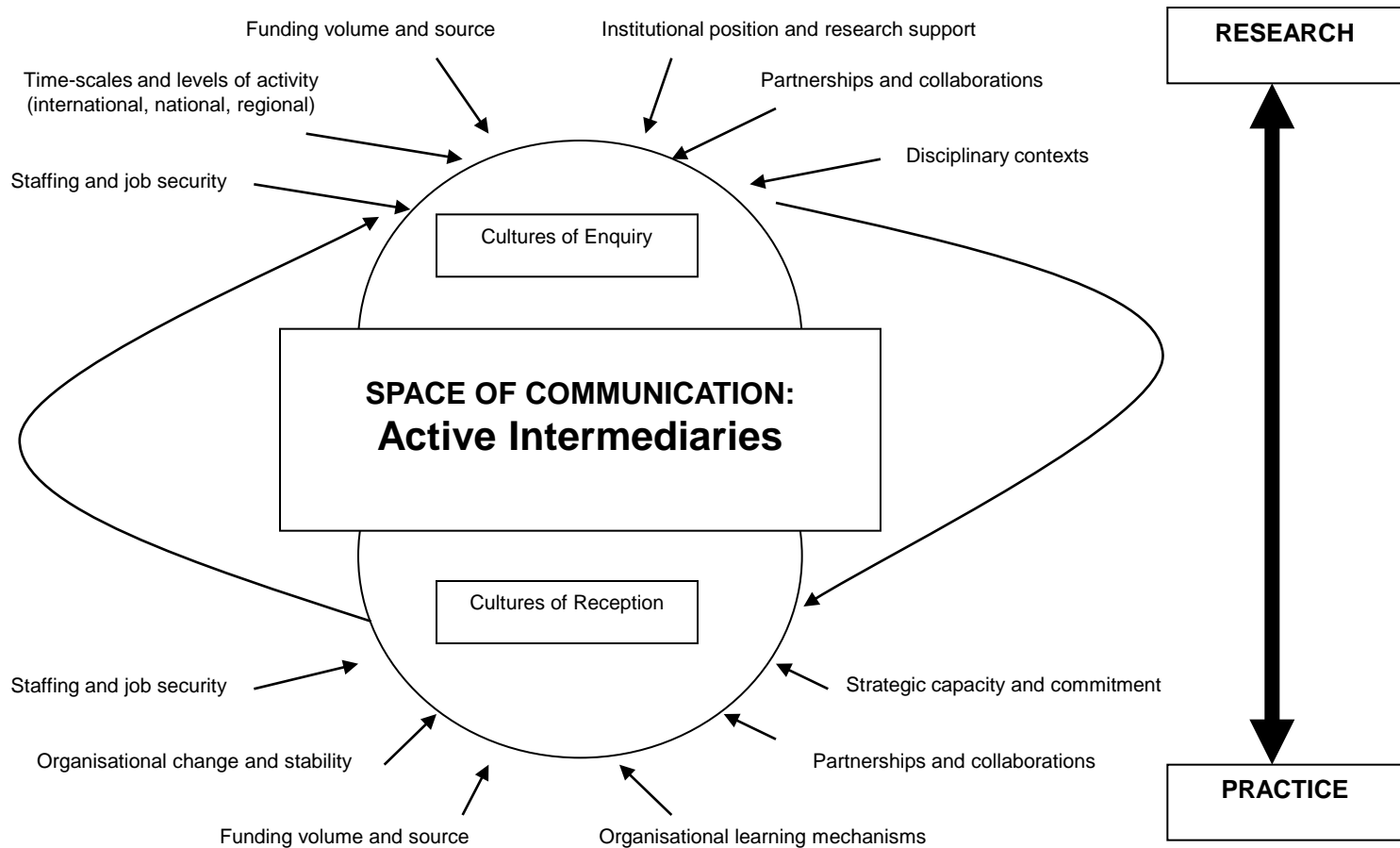
Strengths

- High private sector R&D investment
- Internationally strong across a range of sectors
- Good academic links and collaborations
- High graduate output
- Strong strategic partnership between senior industry and academic players
- Match between academic and industrial base in key sectors
- Ability to make hard choices and prioritise
- Demonstrated capacity for policy learning
- Open lines of communication with national policy-makers in different sectors

Weaknesses

- R&D focussed in a small number of large companies
- Low non-HEI public sector investment
- Lack of knowledge regarding 'emerging opportunities'
- Not 'top of the mind' for investors
- Science and knowledge
- Few explicit connections with wider HE network
- Little embeddedness in regional context
- Engaging with cities, enrolling other partners
- Public engagement and raising aspirations
- Perceptions of the science agenda
- 'Science +' Agenda

The 'Missing Middle'



Implications: The 'Science +' Agenda

- The Nature of Interventions: Active Intermediaries
- Engagement and Leading by Example: The Science Bus
- Enrolment: From Science Cities to Urban Knowledge Arenas
- Demystifying the Agenda: Learning from Case Studies

Business and the Knowledge-Based Region

- Gatekeeper meetings
- Tailored summary of findings
- Communicate business priorities to policy-makers
- Organise business-oriented seminars
- Write articles for business press
- Evaluate the process in terms of mechanisms for social science knowledge transfer to business