



Local Economy & Governance System

People. Community. Environment

Local Is the Future:

Act Now to Build Fair
Sustainable Communities
Together

ADAM TUGWELL

November 2025

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS)

Adam Tugwell | 20 November 2025

Copyright © 2022 - 2025 Adam Tugwell

All rights reserved

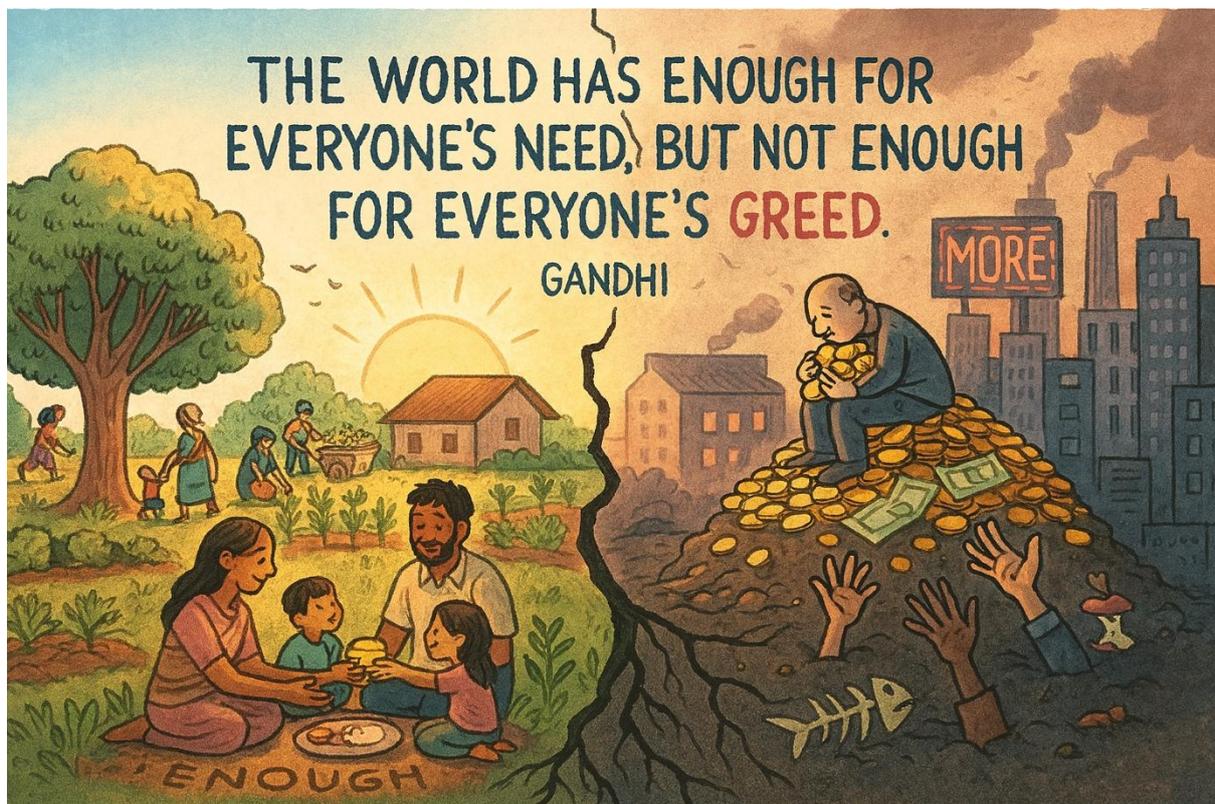
The content of this book reflects and is based upon the experience, views and opinions of the Author.

No part of this book may be reproduced, or stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without express written permission of the publisher.

Dedication

To everyone who believes that a fairer, more compassionate world is possible -
To the communities who inspire change through everyday acts of courage and kindness -
And to those who have been left behind by old systems, but never stopped hoping for something better.

May this work serve as a step toward the future we can build together.



Contents

Dedication	3
Preface	10
Introduction	11
Brief History and Evolution of LEGS	12
Glossary of Terms.....	16
Part 1: Where Things have gone Wrong for Society Today.....	18
Key Lessons from Today’s World	18
We Always Want More.....	19
What We Need Is Not What We Want.....	19
No Business Is More Important Than the Public Good.....	20
Real Progress Is Not Restricted to One Direction	21
Money: The Rigged Game with a Real-Life Cheat Code	21
Normality Cannot Be Dictated by Others	22
Distance Creates a Critical Weakness in Leadership.....	22
Doing the Right Thing Has Many Interpretations—But Only One Truth.....	23
The Moneyocracy.....	24
Money: A Belief System Fuelled by Greed	24
Poverty Is Not Real to Those Who Don’t Experience It	25
A cultural belief persisted:	25
The Consequences of Poverty.....	26
The Misuse of AI.....	26
Net Zero	27
The Food Supply: A Tool for Elite Wealth Creation and Societal Control	28
Part 2: Our Values	30
People, Community, The Environment	30
Locality Is Everything.....	30
The Public Good	30
The Public Goods of The Local Economy & Governance System (Condensed)	31
Our Expectation for Each Member of The Community	32
Our Priorities and Their Function.....	32
The Right Decisions Are Made in the Moment.....	33

Freedom	34
Personal Sovereignty and Power	34
Morality and Ethics Are the Fruit of Freedom—Not of Oppression, Rules, or Laws	35
Why People Work or Are Employed.....	36
Locality and the Reliance of Trust	36
Inheritance	37
Climate Change	37
Sustainable Living.....	38
Key Skills for Life.....	39
Homelessness and Supporting the ‘Left Behind’	41
Part 3: Beliefs	42
Personal Sovereignty, Freedom of Belief, and Freedom of Thought	42
Religion.....	42
Spirituality.....	43
The Rejection of Narratives and Embracing Truth	44
Part 4: Our Lifestyle.....	45
Section A: Food	45
Food Groups.....	45
Essential or Basic Foods	45
Community Responsibility	45
Luxury Foods	46
Farming and Fishing	46
A Local Food Chain Is One That People Trust.....	47
Food Production.....	48
Food Advertising	48
Section B: Clothing.....	49
Clothing Libraries	49
Wealth and the Accumulation of Property and Resources.....	49
Section C: Health.....	50
Public Smoking and Vaping	50
Social Care.....	50
Section D: Charity.....	51

The Provision of Charity and Charitable Giving Is Public Service	51
Section E: Education.....	51
The Best Education Opens the Door to Every Part of Life	51
Our Education ‘System’	52
Academic Learning.....	52
Experiential or Vocational Learning	53
Social Learning	53
Section F: Housing.....	54
The Housing Principles	54
Part 5: Governance	55
Flat Hierarchies and Natural Leadership.....	55
Exceptions to Flat Hierarchies.....	55
Authentic Governance	56
The Community Meeting (Universal Parish Council)	57
The Circumpunct.....	57
The Circumpunct Model	58
Governance: The Circumpunct as a Practical Tool for Genuine Democracy.....	60
Practical Application: Local Legislature (Local Executive)	60
Practical Application: The Administration of Local Law	61
Conclusive Mediation.....	61
Legal Representation.....	62
The Universal Parish (Uniparish).....	62
The Structure of Our Society.....	63
The Structure of Local Areas	64
International Collaboration.....	64
Community Provision.....	65
Community Contributions: How We Directly Support Society	66
Creating and Maintaining Public Policy.....	67
Money Is a Medium of Exchange—And Nothing More	67
The Rules of Money	68
Our Tax System.....	69
The Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence).....	70

Safeguards and Ethical Use	70
Prioritising Human-Centric Systems.....	70
The Right to Be Forgotten	71
Part 6: Business & Economy.....	72
People Are the Value in The Local Economy & Governance System	72
Core Principles	72
Levels of Economic Contribution	72
The Local Economy Model	72
Core Elements	73
The Local Market Exchange.....	74
Principles of Fair Trade.....	74
Structure and Function	74
Modes of Exchange	74
Governance and Regulation.....	75
Locality Economics	75
Key Principles	75
Economic Ethics	75
We Have a Basic Living Standard for Everyone	76
The Basic Living Standard (BLS).....	76
The Basic Living Standard Charter	77
Our Economy Focuses on People — Because People <i>Are</i> the Economy	77
Basic Essentials for Life — Defined as Public Goods.....	78
The Function of Private and Commercial Business.....	78
Ethical Principle.....	78
The Business Framework	79
Structure and Scope.....	79
Licensing and Oversight	79
Business Types and Limitations.....	79
Social Business Model.....	79
Company Ownership & Shareholdings	80
Ownership Principles	80
Shareholding Ethics.....	80

The Priorities of Commercial and Private Business	80
Ethical Business Priorities	81
Guiding Principles	81
Social Business	81
Core Functions	81
Business-to-Business (B2B) Services	81
Natural Resources	82
Stewardship and Ownership	82
Access and Provision	82
News & Media.....	83
Structure and Governance	83
Citizen Journalism & Participation	83
Advertising & Transparency	83
Social Media.....	84
Access and Identity	84
Advertising and Ethics.....	84
Online Communication	84
As A Key Skill for Life	85
General Rules for the Use of AI.....	85
Core Principles	85
Age and Device Regulation	85
AI in Learning and Creation.....	85
Supervision and Scope	86
Mechanisation and Decision-Making.....	86
Transport.....	86
Principles of Mobility	86
Ethical Use of Transport	86
Vehicle Lending Hubs	87
Community-Based Mobility	87
Working From Home.....	87
Social and Community Value	87
Local Business Integration.....	88

Conditions for Remote Work	88
Travel to Work	88
Commuting Ethics	88
Fairness in Remote Assignments	88
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)	90
LEGS: Key Points & Takeaways	92
LEGS: Policy Summary	94
LEGS: Key Takeaways for Local Leaders	96
The History and Evolution of LEGS	99
About the Author	101

Preface

We recognise that today's world is dysfunctional and broken. Yet, we often refuse to discuss, consider, or collaborate on solutions beyond those we already identify with or feel we own. We seek change from leaders and politicians who are invested in maintaining the status quo - often promising a return to times that seemed better, even though we know we cannot freeze time or truly go back to the past.

The uncomfortable truth is that the path we are on leads to poor outcomes, no matter whom we follow or which direction we turn. Our current roadmap keeps us trapped in the same broken paradigm, regardless of the leader or popular figure we choose.

While we have choices within our existing systems, these are options created by others. None of them genuinely benefit us or offer a future that works for everyone. Taking control of our future is not just a personal choice - it requires collective participation, contribution, and action. This will not be easy, especially when it seems logical to stick with familiar choices that fit our current worldview.

To envision a better way of living, most of us need at least a glimpse of what that future could look and feel like - even if it's hard to imagine without the things we currently prioritise. So, let's consider a snapshot of a world that truly works for everyone: a world where the "Moneyocracy" we're addicted to is gone, replaced by a fully functioning system of Authentic Governance.

The world's problems today need no further introduction. If you are reading this, you are likely experiencing the negative effects of misused power and influence, or you see how they impact others who lack the ability to change things.

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) offers a look ahead - showing the key structures, learning, and understanding of a society for tomorrow that has left behind everything wrong with today's way of living. LEGS provides a vision of what overarching public policy could be, once we accept that life will be better for everyone if we let go of what we think benefits us today, but in reality, only harms us and offers no true benefit to humanity or the world.

People, Community, and Environment - simple, local, and open living - are the founding principles for a fair, balanced, and just economy and governance system, ready to be established when we are.

Adam Tugwell
Cheltenham, UK.
20 November 2025

Introduction

We stand at a crossroads in history - a moment defined not by the promises of distant leaders or the allure of old systems, but by the urgent need for genuine change.

The world we inherit is marked by imbalance, inequality, and a persistent sense that something vital has been lost.

For too long, society has been shaped by structures that serve profit over people, hierarchy over community, and short-term gain over the enduring health of our environment.

This book is not just a critique of what has gone wrong. It is a blueprint for what can be made right.

Here, you are invited to imagine a future built on the principles of dignity, collective responsibility, and stewardship - a future where every person's essential needs are guaranteed, and where the wellbeing of the community and the environment are placed above all else.

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) is presented as a practical framework for transformation. It rejects the old paradigms of power and wealth, offering instead a model rooted in locality, transparency, and authentic participation.

In these pages, you will discover how governance can be reimagined as a truly democratic, people-centric process; how the economy can circulate value within communities rather than extract it; and how every member of society can contribute meaningfully to the common good.

This introduction is your invitation to engage - not as a passive reader, but as an active participant in the creation of a fair, sustainable, and resilient society.

The ideas within are not distant ideals; they are actionable steps, grounded in lived experience and collective wisdom. As you read, consider not only what must change, but how you can be part of that change—starting in your own community, with the choices you make and the values you uphold.

Let us move forward together, guided by the principles of People, Community, and The Environment.

The journey begins here.

The Tipping Point: Why and How We Get LEGS

Identifying the Touchpaper of Transformation

The journey toward adopting the Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) is not just a matter of policy—it is a profound transformation from the entrenched “Moneyocracy” to a people-centric way of living.

While this book explores the principles and structures of LEGS, it is essential to understand the process and circumstances that will catalyse this change.

Earlier works such as *Levelling Level* and *From Here to There Through Now* have discussed the inevitability and challenges of such transformation, emphasising that change is both a choice and an ongoing commitment, especially when circumstances make it difficult to act.

Change Requires Choice and Action

Transformation to LEGS will not happen automatically.

In an ideal world, everyone would recognise the need to shift from a money-centric to a people-centric system and work together to make it happen immediately.

However, the reality is that many remain deeply invested in the current system, believing that hierarchy, centralisation, and the primacy of money are the only viable ways to organise society.

This belief is reinforced by decades of dependency and addiction to the money system, as described in the book’s critique of the “Moneyocracy”.

Pain as the Catalyst for Change

Regrettably, it is often personal or collective pain that becomes the catalyst for change.

People may only embrace a new system when the suffering caused by the old one outweighs perceived benefits.

This echoes the book’s insight that genuine transformation often arises from crisis, not comfort.

What Might Trigger Transformation?

While predicting the exact catalyst is impossible - since free will and choice remain - several realistic as well as outlying or ‘black swan event’ scenarios could spark the transition to LEGS:

- **Financial Collapse (UK):** The UK government may reach a point where it cannot fund public services due to unsustainable debt, prompting urgent systemic change.

- **Global Financial Collapse:** Worldwide economic failure, potentially triggered by unstable monetary policies, AI or cryptocurrency bubbles, or a repeat of the 2007/08 crisis, could force a reevaluation of priorities.
- **War (Regional or Global):** Ongoing conflicts and geopolitical tensions could escalate, with war being used to mask systemic failures and maintain elite control.
- **Disclosure Event:** Unprecedented revelations—such as proof of extraterrestrial life—could radically alter humanity’s perspective and disrupt established power structures.
- **Other Domino Events:** Civil unrest, food shortages, or even civil war could serve as tipping points, whether orchestrated or seemingly organic.

These scenarios align with this book’s analysis of how crises—financial, social, or environmental—often expose the flaws of the old system and create openings for new models.

The Consequences of Inaction

Failing to act - whether by choice or by default - has profound and far-reaching consequences for individuals, communities, and society as a whole.

Inaction is not a neutral stance; it is itself a decision that shapes the future, often in ways that reinforce the very systems and problems we wish to escape.

1. Entrenchment of the Status Quo

When people do not actively choose change, those already in positions of power and influence continue to define the future.

These individuals and groups may present themselves as protectors or saviours, but their solutions often involve further restrictions on freedom, increased surveillance, and the erosion of personal sovereignty.

The illusion of safety is used to justify the loss of genuine autonomy and dignity.

This dynamic is described in the book as the perpetuation of “Moneyocracy,” where profit, hierarchy, and control remain the organising principles of society, and the needs of people, community, and the environment are subordinated to financial interests.

2. The Rise of Dystopian Futures

Inaction allows those in control to implement policies and systems that may lead to a dystopian future - one characterised by inequality, loss of freedoms, and widespread disempowerment.

This book warns that such futures are not accidental; they are the result of deliberate choices made by those who benefit from the current system, often using the public's own desires and fears against them.

3. The Illusion of Individualism and Isolation

A major consequence of inaction is the reinforcement of the belief that each person is alone and powerless.

This sense of isolation serves the interests of the current system, making individuals feel vulnerable and incapable of effecting change.

The reality, as emphasised throughout, is that collective action and shared purpose are the true sources of power and transformation.

4. Perpetuation of Social and Economic Pain

Without action, the pain and suffering caused by the existing system - poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, and loss of community - will continue and likely intensify.

The system is designed to maintain itself, often at the expense of the majority, and will use crises (financial, social, or environmental) to justify further consolidation of power.

5. Missed Opportunities for Genuine Change

Inaction means missing the critical window to choose and implement a better future.

All the books that have led to LEGS stress that change requires both a shift in mindset and active participation.

Waiting for someone else to initiate change only ensures that the system remains unchanged, and that the opportunity for transformation is lost.

6. The Responsibility of Choice

It is vital to recognise that not choosing is itself a choice.

Culturally, many have become accustomed to leaving decisions to others, assuming that change will come from external sources.

However, the reality is that those "in the spotlight" are often invested in maintaining the system as it is, rather than truly transforming it.

7. The Need for Collective Action

My books since *Levelling Level* have repeatedly highlighted that real change is only possible when individuals recognise their interconnectedness and collaborate.

The power to create and implement a system that works for all - such as LEGS - comes from collective action, not isolated efforts.

In summary:

The consequences of inaction are not just the continuation of current problems, but the deepening of inequality, loss of freedom, and the entrenchment of systems that do not serve the public good.

Only by consciously choosing and acting together can we avoid these outcomes and build a future rooted in dignity, community, and sustainability.

Choosing Our Future - Together

Ultimately, the choice for transformation must be conscious and collective.

It does not matter when we make this choice, as long as it is before reaching the point of no return.

The greatest threat is the illusion of isolation—the belief that we are alone and powerless.

In reality, our thoughts, feelings, and beliefs are powerful, and when we choose to collaborate, we gain the ability to create and implement a system that truly serves everyone.

This message is echoed throughout the main document, which emphasises the principles of People, Community, and The Environment as the foundation for authentic governance and a fair, sustainable society.

Welcome to The Local Economy & Governance System.

Brief History and Evolution of LEGS

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) is the result of a multi-year journey of research, writing, and practical experimentation.

Its origins trace back to early 2022, with the publication of *Levelling Level*, which challenged the prevailing political narratives and introduced the idea of a people-centric system.

This work highlighted the urgent need for a Basic Living Standard—a guarantee that everyone can meet their essential needs independently.

Building on these foundations, *The Basic Living Standard* explored how the UK's minimum wage failed to provide true financial independence, and proposed a new approach to work and business focused on meeting essential needs for all.

Subsequent books, including *From Here to There Through Now*, *The Way of Awakened Politics for Good Government*, and *The Grassroots Manifesto*, argued that genuine reform must come from the grassroots, not from centralised or top-down structures.

These works laid out the first steps for a governance model built from the community up, emphasising local relationships and direct participation.

Further development came through *A Community Route* and *An Economy for the Common Good*, which advocated for community collaboration, localised economics, and social enterprise as the backbone of a fair society.

Insights from works on food security, values, and technology—such as *Who Controls Our Food Controls Our Future*, *Your Beliefs Today create Everyone's Tomorrow*, and *Actions Speak Louder than Digital Words*—were integrated, highlighting the importance of local control, ethical stewardship, and the dangers of external influence.

In 2024, *Our Local Future* synthesized these lessons into a comprehensive vision for a society built on locality, community, and environmental stewardship.

This work became the direct basis for the LEGS framework, offering a blueprint for restructuring society around local empowerment, authentic governance, and sustainable living.

LEGS now stands as a practical system designed to deliver a fair, balanced, and just society for all—rooted in the principles of People, Community, and The Environment.

Glossary of Terms

Authentic Governance

A system of governance rooted in local, democratic, and community-driven decision-making. It Prioritises transparency, accessibility, and the direct involvement of all community members, ensuring that leadership is accountable and serves the public good rather than private interests.

Basic and Essential Foods

Foods that are critical for a healthy and happy life. They must be accessible, affordable, nutritious, locally grown and produced, and free from artificial additives or harmful chemicals. Their supply is recognised as a Public Good and is prioritised above all other food categories.

Basic Living Standard

A foundational guarantee that ensures every individual earning the lowest legal weekly wage can afford all essential costs of living—food, housing, utilities, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and modest social participation—without falling into debt, relying on welfare, or turning to charity.

Community Contributions

A system where every working member of the community contributes 10% of their working week to support local public services and charity provision. This replaces traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce.

Community Provision

The redefined public sector, encompassing all services and support systems essential to a culture built around People, Community, and The Environment. It is locally accountable, ethically grounded, and responsive to real needs.

Circumpunct

A practical and symbolic model for community decision-making. It is a circular arrangement where representatives and speakers engage openly, ensuring transparency, accountability, and collective wisdom in governance and mediation.

Flat Hierarchy

A societal structure where roles are different but not ranked, and leadership arises naturally through service and ability rather than status or authority. It emphasises collaboration, equality, and shared purpose.

Key Skills for Life

Essential abilities recognised as a Public Good, including critical thinking, self-awareness, food production, clothing repair, ethical use of technology, and more. These skills are foundational for personal sovereignty and community wellbeing.

LEGS (Local Economy & Governance System)

A comprehensive framework for society that centres on the principles of People, Community, and The Environment. It seeks to replace hierarchical, profit-driven systems with local, transparent, and collectively responsible models for governance, economy, and daily life.

Local Circular Economy

An economic model where value circulates within the local area, prioritising local production, ethical governance, and shared responsibility. It minimizes external dependencies and ensures that economic activity serves people and the environment.

Local Market Exchange

A physical and community-regulated marketplace for trading goods and services, often through barter or direct exchange. It ensures fair trade, transparency, and that value remains within the community.

Luxury Foods

Foods that are not essential for health or nutrition, including processed, ultra-processed, and synthesized foods. Their production and advertising are restricted to protect the integrity of local food systems.

Moneyocracy

A term describing the Old-World system where money, wealth, and profit were the primary measures of value and success, leading to social inequality and environmental degradation.

Natural Resources

All resources provided by nature (such as water, land, minerals) are held in stewardship by the community. They are not commodities and must be managed ethically, equitably, and for the public good.

Parish / Universal Parish (Uniparish)

The foundational local unit of society, business, and governance. It is designed to be self-contained, with all essential needs met locally, and is the central structure for community life.

People, Community, The Environment

The three core principles guiding all aspects of the LEGS system. Every decision, policy, and practice is evaluated based on its impact on these priorities.

Personal Sovereignty

The inherent right and capacity of everyone to live freely, responsibly, and authentically, provided their actions do not compromise the sovereignty of others. It is the foundation of freedom, dignity, and ethical society.

Public Good

A service, resource, or standard that must be guaranteed for all, forming the foundation of authentic governance. Public Goods cannot be altered, misrepresented, or bypassed, and always supersede inherited laws or practices that conflict with their purpose.

Social Business

A non-profit organisation operated for the public good, especially where private businesses do not provide essential goods or services. Social Businesses are collectively owned, transparent, and accountable to the community.

Part 1: Where Things have gone Wrong for Society Today

Key Lessons from Today's World

In reflecting on the failures of the Old World—what many still recognize as the present—we uncover a sobering reality: those with power and privilege were often willing to sacrifice the wellbeing of humanity for their own gain.

The pursuit of profit, status, and material wealth routinely overshadowed the value of people, community, and the environment. This imbalance was not the result of conspiracy, but the predictable outcome of unchecked greed and a culture obsessed with material accumulation.

To maintain their dominance, elites and those in control of governments orchestrated conditions that enabled profiteering and ever-greater control.

Wars, environmental collapse, and information-driven crises were manufactured and justified through carefully crafted narratives—stories promoted by mass media that shaped public perception and obscured deeper truths.

These narratives, often presented as being in humanity’s best interest, consistently promoted “progress” as the only viable path forward, while ignoring the wisdom and solutions already discovered in history and nature.

The fundamental lesson is clear: genuine respect for people, community, and the environment is not profitable for those who prioritise wealth and power. This simple truth lies at the heart of the persistent injustice and disharmony that has plagued human society.

We Always Want More

To truly understand the root flaw behind so many of the problems we face—and why they seem impossible to solve—you must confront a difficult truth: we always want more.

This desire explains why we often ignore the suffering of others, even though we would hope for compassion if we were in their place.

We want more money.

More wealth.

More power.

More influence.

More recognition.

More of the things we enjoy.

More popularity.

More time to do what we want.

More people to agree with us.

More love.

More sex.

More admiration.

It doesn’t matter what it is—as long as it’s external to us, we want more of it.

Even when we already have more than we could ever need, or even use, the craving persists.

What We Need Is Not What We Want

From the Old World, we learned a critical lesson: when we live as though our wants are the same as our needs—simply because our wants seem affordable—we inadvertently condemn others to lives where even their basic needs remain out of reach. The result is widespread deprivation, manifesting in countless forms.

Though the mechanisms and consequences were often hidden from view, the rise of Wealth Inequality—what was once called the Wealth Divide—stemmed from the selfishness and greed of a privileged few.

This imbalance was not only tolerated but actively encouraged by those who aspired to emulate them.

We now understand that ignorance, blindness, and a lack of awareness about how our actions affect others do not excuse those actions.

That's why we place Self-Awareness—awareness of the individual and, by extension, awareness of others—at the heart of our commitment to an egalitarian society.

It is a foundational principle within our values of People, Community, and the Environment.

No Business Is More Important Than the Public Good

In the Old World, the elevation of business interests above all else led to a distorted sense of value—where profit was mistaken for progress, and economic metrics were used to justify social neglect.

The ideology of Neoliberalism, embraced widely from the early 1970s, promoted the belief that free markets and corporate growth would naturally solve societal issues.

This system entrenched inequality, eroded community cohesion, and degraded the environment.

Globalisation, born from this mindset, normalised the idea that business and finance mattered more than people. Human needs became secondary to shareholder returns. Communities were reshaped to serve commercial interests, and the environment was treated as a resource to be exploited rather than protected.

We have rejected this model.

In its place, we have built a society rooted in the principle that People come first. Community comes first. The Environment comes first.

Business now exists to serve—not to dominate. No enterprise, regardless of its size or influence, holds priority over the well-being of the community it operates within.

Essential services—those critical to the safety, health, and security of all—are operated as Social Businesses.

These are not owned by private interests or shareholders seeking profit. They are owned collectively by The Community, with every decision made in service of the Public Good.

This shift marks a return to balance. A recognition that true prosperity is measured not by profit margins, but by the health, harmony, and resilience of the people and places we call home.

Real Progress Is Not Restricted to One Direction

The Old World taught us a flawed lesson: that Progress—and the ideology of Progressivism—was linear and one-dimensional.

Guarded fiercely by its champions, this belief failed to recognise that true progress can take many forms. Sometimes, it may even appear to be a step backward.

In reality, progress can move in any direction—across the full 360 degrees of possibility.

Obsessive leaders and activists, clinging to the idea that forward motion alone equates to improvement, often caused harm across all areas of life.

Their mistake was rooted in a misguided belief: that discarding history and lived experience in favour of constant forward momentum would always lead to better outcomes.

But in truth, this relentless push often led society backward—especially in terms of the real-world consequences people faced.

We reject the notion of failure as something to be feared or hidden. Instead, we value experience—every outcome, every lesson—as a vital teacher.

We understand that returning to what has already been proven to work, no matter how simple, is often wiser than blindly chasing novelty or complexity for its own sake.

We celebrate what is tried and tested. We do not pursue change merely to demonstrate action or to manufacture the illusion of progress.

True progress is measured not by direction, but by impact.

Money: The Rigged Game with a Real-Life Cheat Code

One of the most difficult truths to accept from the Old World was the way money worked—and the complex web of systems, rules, laws, and mechanisms that had been created, altered, and refined to make it function as it did.

We came to understand that the monetary and financial system—known by many as FIAT—was the cornerstone of a structure that, to those who controlled it, resembled nothing more than a game. And like any game, it carried no real consequences for those who understood its mechanics.

What made this system so dangerous and damaging for the majority wasn't simply that the Elites knew it was a game. The real threat lay in the fact that, like many computer games, this one had a built-in cheat code.

That cheat code was the ability to create money out of thin air.

As time went on, this power was used more frequently, and the consequences—just like in any simulated game—were severe and disproportionately harmful to those who still believed the system was real and fair.

By the end of the Old World, those in control could buy anything they desired, while the value of money held by poorer individuals steadily evaporated. The system's architects simply printed more, further distorting the balance.

We reject this illusion.

We do not accept that money—or any form of currency—holds value beyond its practical purpose.

We prohibit any communication, action, or activity that promotes the idea that money is anything more than a tool: a temporary method of exchange, a means of transferring value between transactions, and nothing else.

Money is not power. It is not progress. It is not truth.

It is a tool—and only a tool.

Normality Cannot Be Dictated by Others

The Old World was fixated on defining what was 'normal.'

It became widely accepted—especially by those in power—that controlling the narrative of what was deemed 'normal' could be weaponised to label others as 'wrong.'

But normality is not conformity. It is not the 'accepted same' that the Old-World system used to suppress individuality and difference.

True normality is the state of Personal Sovereignty—the experience of being fully oneself.

It is the understanding that peace and happiness are not granted by society, institutions, or external validation. They are the inner gifts of the individual, shaped by their own truth.

Normality, for each person, is the expression of their Authentic Self.

Distance Creates a Critical Weakness in Leadership

In the Old World, every so-called democracy ultimately failed due to its overreliance on hierarchical structures.

These hierarchies created a growing distance between those who governed and those they were meant to serve. As this gap widened, leaders became increasingly insulated from the realities of everyday life.

We learned that this separation—this lack of direct contact between public representatives and the people—led to a dangerous disconnect.

Leaders, cut off from the lived experiences of their communities, lost sight of the consequences of their decisions.

As the insulation deepened, dysfunction spread across legislation, public services, and governance itself. Systems meant to serve the people were led by individuals who had, in effect, disenfranchised themselves—leaving behind a population that felt ignored, abandoned, and unheard.

From this failure, we discovered a vital truth: the true point of power in any system of governance must be the People.

We have built and continue to uphold a model of Authentic Governance that reflects this principle.

Authentic Governance eliminates the systemic abuse that plagued the Old World. It ensures that leadership is not distant but rooted in community.

Here, in The Local Economy & Governance System, the majority rules—by ruling together.

Governance is local, democratic, and run by and for The Community.

This is how leadership thrives: not through hierarchy, but through connection.

Doing the Right Thing Has Many Interpretations—But Only One Truth

The Old World revealed a painful lesson: power, no matter how small or far-reaching, was often intoxicating enough to strip those entrusted with responsibility of their genuine humanity.

Self-interest, coupled with a fading awareness of others, led many to believe that what served their own interests must also serve the interests of everyone else.

This distortion became widespread—across politics, business, finance, and the supranational institutions that emerged after the Second World War and into the early 21st century.

Leaders lost sight of what it truly means to hold responsibility and influence over the lives of others.

Those in power—and those influencing them—forgot their duty to the public and the vulnerable.

They acted as if their decisions could be made without consequence, even as the long-term effects of their self-serving choices became increasingly visible in the suffering of society.

We have chosen a different path.

We have built a system of Authentic Governance that prevents any individual or group from placing their own interests above those of The Community.

This system remains true and accountable to everyone—regardless of power, position, or influence.

We do the right thing.

Not for some.

Not for the few.

But for everyone.

The Moneyocracy

In the Old World, the one true religion—especially in the West—was Money.

Wealth, power, and influence were its sacred trinity, each inextricably linked to the other.

This belief system shaped not only economies, but the very fabric of society.

Some may still resist the idea that life was entirely coin operated. But with even a moment of honest reflection, it becomes clear: money was the engine behind everything.

It defined our values.

It dictated our choices.

It shaped our relationships, our institutions, and our sense of worth.

Whether we realised it or not, we were all citizens of a Moneyocracy—a world governed not by principles, but by profit.

Money: A Belief System Fuelled by Greed

Arguably the most destructive force in any society is the deeply ingrained—and deliberately engineered—belief that money creation, profit, and economic growth are the ultimate measures of success and happiness.

The Old World, and the system it upheld, revolved around this belief. For over 50 years, it was driven by flawed, self-serving economic ideologies such as Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) and Neoliberalism.

“More wants more” wasn’t just a saying—it became the unspoken mantra behind every decision, every ambition, and every system.

The pursuit of more—more money, more growth, more consumption—spread like a disease through every layer of society.

The adoption of the FIAT money system and the use of GDP as a primary measure of progress, beginning around 1971, marked the acceleration of the social decay that a money-based order—or “Moneyocracy”—inevitably brings.

Over time, the world was reprogrammed to operate on the assumption that money was the only priority, the only true source of value.

This shift happened so subtly, so pervasively, that most people didn't even realise it had occurred.

This distortion of reality was made possible by the myths we were taught about money—myths that replaced meaningful values with hollow ones.

In the process, we lost sight of what truly matters: People, Community, and the Environment.

Every persistent and seemingly unsolvable problem in the Old World—social inequality, environmental degradation, political dysfunction—was rooted in this addiction to money and the relentless accumulation of wealth.

Over time, every institution, every law, and every cultural norm bent toward the singular goal of enriching those who already had the most.

We have reversed this trajectory.

Governance has shifted from top-down control to grassroots empowerment.

Business is no longer driven by wealth creation, but by the well-being of People, the strength of Community, and the health of the Environment.

This transformation was not optional—it was essential.

Because the paths of Money and the paths of People, Community, and the Environment are fundamentally incompatible.

Only the system we now embrace— The Local Economy & Governance System —can deliver true Balance, Fairness, and Justice for all.

Poverty Is Not Real to Those Who Don't Experience It

Throughout history, attempts to address poverty in England date back to the Henrician Poor Laws of the Tudor era under Henry VIII.

Despite a notable push in the 19th century, the question—“How do we end poverty once and for all?”—remained unanswered.

This failure was especially evident in the post-Covid period (2020–2025), when both Conservative and Labour governments in the UK failed to grasp the difference between:

- Technical acknowledgment that poverty exists
- And the experiential reality of living in poverty

A cultural belief persisted:

“For some to be wealthy, many others must be poor.”

This shibboleth enabled a system where wealth was accumulated to disproportionate levels, far beyond personal need.

The cycle of investment for gain only accelerated wealth inequality, which those benefiting from it refused to acknowledge—legitimising their advantage through position and power.

The Consequences of Poverty

Poverty creates a 360-degree network of consequences:

- It affects not only those who suffer it
- But also The Community as a whole

Though laws and systems were framed to address poverty, none of them were morally or ethically sound.

They sustained inequality rather than dismantling it.

“Man cannot serve two masters. An archer cannot pull two bows. A jockey cannot ride two horses.”

It became inevitable that the entire system would need to be:

- Reversed
- Redirected
- Reformed
- Reestablished

...to uphold the moral and ethical imperative that every Member of The Community must be able to live independently and self-sufficiently.

The Misuse of AI

In the Old World, artificial intelligence was gradually introduced over many years leading up to 2023.

Initially, it appeared in the form of hidden algorithms—quietly embedded in e-commerce platforms and search engines—offering faster responses but little transparency.

By 2023, direct and interactive forms of AI became publicly accessible. With this shift, the true commercial intent behind AI deployment became clear—as did the manipulation of public narratives designed to instill fear and confusion around digital technology.

The failure of governing bodies to regulate AI came at a cost far greater than financial. It undermined the very fabric of society.

The key drivers behind AI misuse were:

- AI was deployed to preserve and advance the interests of the Old World’s Moneyocracy.
- Its primary function became profit generation.
- Its secondary function became social control.

The most insidious form of this control was the systematic deprogramming of humanity—achieved through internet platforms and AI-driven technologies.

These tools, whether by design or consequence, disrupted natural cognitive processes. Over the course of a generation, they eroded the human capacity to learn, think critically, and reach independent conclusions.

This assault on executive function—and therefore on Personal Sovereignty—did not begin with AI in 2023, as many were led to believe. It began much earlier, with the widespread adoption of smartphones and tablets.

Unregulated AI is now understood to be anti-human, anti-equality, anti-environment, and anti-freedom.

It poses a direct threat to the foundational values of People, Community, and the Environment.

We acknowledge that AI can offer benefits—but only under strict regulation and ethical oversight. Its use must be supported by continuous Key Skills for Life training, ensuring that humanity remains in control of the tools it creates.

Net Zero

We reject any form of public policy rooted in fear or designed to serve the wealth accumulation of individuals or select groups.

In the Old World, environmental concerns—often framed under the banner of “green” initiatives—were frequently misused and politically manipulated to advance agendas that had little to do with sustainability and everything to do with profit or control.

We have moved beyond that.

Through the implementation and ongoing practice of Sustainable Living, we have addressed the environmental challenges that were once exploited.

These practices are not driven by fear, nor by financial gain—they are grounded in responsibility, balance, and respect for People, Community, and the Environment.

The Food Supply: A Tool for Elite Wealth Creation and Societal Control

In the Old World, the elites and governing classes systematically dismantled genuine local food production.

They centralised control, eroded local supply chains, and weakened the infrastructure that once supported healthy, community-based living.

Globalisation moved in only one direction—toward consolidation and control. Instruments like the European Union and the Common Agricultural Policy were used to reshape food systems, leaving behind a hollowed-out society where People, Community, and the Environment had once thrived.

Productionism was sold as progress. Farmers and food producers were told it was good. But in reality, it fuelled rampant consumerism and opened the door to myths that globalism benefited everyone.

The only part of the globalisation story that needed to make sense was the promise of lower retail prices.

Yet for those directly affected, lower prices meant little when businesses collapsed, jobs disappeared, and communities were left behind.

The real cost—social, environmental, and nutritional—was hidden from public view.

Productionism relied heavily on chemicals and industrial processes that gradually destroyed soil health and land productivity.

As the land became less capable of sustaining life, elites pushed new narratives claiming traditional agriculture was outdated and unreliable.

Worse still, the accepted view suggested that naturally grown foods—produced by independent farmers, small businesses, and community enterprises—could no longer meet public demand.

This was never about efficiency or progress. It was about greed, profiteering, and control.

Every step of this so-called “progress” made the food people consumed less healthy, less nourishing, and less beneficial to society.

We reject this model.

We recognise that true Food Security depends on a food chain that functions as an ecosystem—interconnected, resilient, and rooted in place.

Our food system is predominantly local. The majority of Basic and Essential Foods are sourced from local supply chains, available year-round, and built to serve People, Community, and the Environment—not profit.

Part 2: Our Values

People, Community, The Environment

The Local Economy & Governance System is built on a people-centric foundation—guiding every aspect of life, from our Values and Lifestyle to Business, Economy, and Governance.

At the heart of this framework are our Three Key Principles:

1. **People**
2. **Community**
3. **The Environment**

We place the Person—and their Personal Sovereignty—at the centre of everything.

How we value each individual, and how each individual values others, defines the strength and integrity of our society.

We understand that only through a people-focused Community—functioning as a living ecosystem in harmony with The Environment—can we create a truly Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Secure foundation for life.

This is supported by a system of Authentic Governance: one that is Balanced, Fair, and Just for all.

Locality Is Everything

Locality—and the development of fully Localised, community-centric systems—is recognised as a Public Good.

Local supply chains foster transparency.

And transparency is the foundation of trust and accountability.

These qualities are essential for building a system of Authentic Governance—one that places People, Community, and The Environment at its core.

A truly Localised System functions as a circular ecosystem, where every part supports and sustains the whole. It operates reliably and consistently, guided by the principles of People, Community, and The Environment.

This approach ensures that decisions and outcomes serve the best interests of all.

The Public Good

The Public Good is the guiding standard—the benchmark—of our system of Authentic Governance.

It defines the areas of life where access to Basic and Essential Foods, Goods, and Services must be guaranteed for all.

Each Public Good forms part of the foundational framework that enables our governance system to function at its highest level.

Every Public Good acknowledges the positive contributions of individuals, businesses, and organisations—their actions, agendas, use of resources, and stewardship of property—when those efforts benefit The Community.

A Public Good exists to uphold, strengthen, and expand our Three Core Principles:

1. **People**
2. **Community**
3. **The Environment**

A Public Good cannot be altered, misrepresented, ignored, or bypassed under any circumstance.

It supersedes all laws, regulations, and practices inherited from the Old World that relate to or conflict with its purpose.

A Public Good is not optional—it is a practice required by The Community.

The Public Goods of The Local Economy & Governance System (Condensed)

- **Agriculture, Fisheries, and Home Growing:** Local, sustainable production of food is prioritised and protected as a community resource.
- **The Authentic Governance System (TAGS):** Governance is local, democratic, transparent, and accountable to all community members.
- **Basic Essentials for Life:** Every person is guaranteed access to food, housing, utilities, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and social participation.
- **The Basic Living Standard:** Full-time work at the lowest wage covers all essential living costs, ensuring dignity and independence.
- **Essential or Basic Foods:** Nutritious, locally produced foods are accessible, affordable, and free from harmful additives.
- **Housing and Its Universal Provision:** Housing is a right, not a commodity; each person may own or occupy only one home.
- **Key Skills for Life:** Critical life skills—such as self-awareness, food production, and ethical technology use—are taught and practiced by all.

- **The Local Food Chain:** Food supply is managed locally, transparently, and sustainably, with community trust at its core.
- **Locality:** Local supply chains and decision-making foster transparency, trust, and accountability.
- **Services Using Natural Resources:** Community stewardship ensures ethical, equitable access to water, land, and other natural resources.
- **News and Community Information:** Local media platforms provide transparent, inclusive news and information for all.
- **Social Learning:** Community-based learning supports personal development, ethical awareness, and social responsibility.
- **Sustainable Living:** All members practice responsible use of resources, prioritising recycling, repair, and local production.
- **Transport (for Genuine Need and Necessity):** Transport is provided for essential needs, with a focus on sustainability and shared access.
- **The Circumpunct:** A circular, non-hierarchical model for community decision-making, ensuring every voice is heard and governance remains transparent and participatory.

Our Expectation for Each Member of The Community

The Community holds a simple but profound expectation: that every Member will live the best life they can—rooted in the experience, enjoyment, and empowerment of Personal Sovereignty.

Personal Sovereignty can only flourish under the right conditions. It requires that each person lives a life that is Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Secure—within a system that is Balanced, Fair, and Just.

We recognise that it would be unjust to expect individuals to thrive without first ensuring they are fully equipped to do so.

That is why The Community accepts its responsibility: to build, uphold, and continuously maintain the Governance, Frameworks, and Systems that make Personal Sovereignty possible.

This commitment is not just for today. It is a promise to every person alive now—and to every generation yet to come—that the opportunity to live freely, fully, and authentically will always be protected and preserved.

Our Priorities and Their Function

Our Three Core Principles—People, Community, and The Environment—are not just values. They are our active priorities.

Together, as a Community, we promote, protect, and uphold Personal Sovereignty for every individual. This means empowering each person to live freely, responsibly, and with dignity.

We prioritise what we need, not what we want.

We recognise Money and Currency as tools—nothing more. They serve practical purposes but hold no intrinsic value beyond exchange.

To fulfil our priorities, we have built—and continue to refine—a system of Authentic Governance. This system is rooted in a Local, Circular Economy that involves everyone and benefits everyone.

It is through this inclusive, sustainable framework that our principles come to life—ensuring a society that is Balanced, Fair, and Just for all.

The Right Decisions Are Made in the Moment

Making decisions on behalf of the majority—decisions that serve the best interests of all—is never easy.

In the Old World, politicians and those in positions of influence often fell into a trap of their own design: believing they could dictate long chains of public policy decisions based on imagined future outcomes.

They assumed control over circumstances they could never truly govern—over the free will of others, over unfolding events, and over the unpredictable nature of life itself.

This approach was not just flawed—it was dishonest. And when things inevitably went wrong, the damage was compounded by the lies, cover-ups, and narratives created to conceal the consequences of poor decision-making.

We reject this way of governing.

We make decisions in the moment—in the here and now—based on what is known, what is real, and what is relevant.

Every decision is guided by its immediate and foreseeable impact on:

- **People**
- **Community**
- **The Environment**

We also consider how each decision interacts with existing policies and systems, ensuring coherence and integrity.

This principle is a cornerstone of Authentic Governance.

It is encouraged throughout society as a healthy, responsible, and empowering way to live—one that strengthens Personal Sovereignty and builds trust in the decisions we make together.

Freedom

True, unrestricted Freedom is achieved through Personal Sovereignty.

Each Person is free to think.

Each Person is free to act and behave as they choose—so long as their actions do not compromise, or have the potential to compromise, the Personal Sovereignty of another Person or Group.

Any action that creates advantage for one by disadvantaging another is considered morally and ethically wrong.

Likewise, the creation, existence, or manipulation of any law, regulation, or legal device that enables discrimination or harm toward any Person or Group is also morally and ethically unacceptable.

Our foundation is simple and universal:

What is right for all People—regardless of difference—must align with the Principles of

- **People**
- **Community**
- **The Environment**

This is the foundation of The Local Economy & Governance System.

Freedom is not the absence of responsibility. It is the space in which the Authentic Self can live, grow, and thrive—without fear, without oppression, and without compromise.

Personal Sovereignty and Power

Personal Sovereignty is not granted—it is inherent. It is not earned—it is recognised.

It is the foundation upon which all authentic relationships, communities, and systems must be built. It is the source of true power—not over others, but within oneself.

Power, in its rightful form, is the ability to live in alignment with one's values, to act with integrity, and to contribute meaningfully to the Common Cause and the Public Good.

This power does not reside in titles, wealth, or influence. It resides in the soul, mind, and spirit of every Person or Being.

In a society rooted in Authentic Governance, power is not concentrated—it is distributed.

It flows from the recognition that every individual holds equal value, and that no external difference—physical, cultural, intellectual, or emotional—can diminish the worth of one’s inner essence.

Thought remains the purest expression of freedom. It is the space where sovereignty begins.

To protect this freedom, we uphold the principle that no person may be punished for their thoughts, nor for expressing those thoughts publicly—so long as they do not intend harm or seek to compromise the sovereignty of others.

Support for Personal Sovereignty is a shared responsibility.

It is offered with care during infancy, childhood, and youth.

It is extended with compassion during times of incapacity.

It is recalibrated during imprisonment, where the right to act freely has been limited due to actions that harmed others or The Community.

Even then, the right to think remains untouched.

This is the essence of a society built on dignity, equality, and truth.

Morality and Ethics Are the Fruit of Freedom—Not of Oppression, Rules, or Laws

Lack breeds selfishness, because it turns survival into competition.

Even the perception of lack can distort behaviour and choices when individuals are unable to view their circumstances objectively.

In a society where everyone’s basic needs are guaranteed—so long as all who can contribute do—an environment naturally emerges that supports:

- Personal development
- Emotional and spiritual growth
- A structure that allows society to function in the best possible way

Freedom from avoidable and unnecessary lack opens the door for people of all backgrounds and abilities to:

- Reflect on who they are
- Understand how they became who they are
- Explore their roles and relationships in society
- Contemplate the deeper meaning of their experiences

When individuals are financially and resourcefully independent, they gain the freedom to:

- Discern right from wrong
- Navigate the grey areas with empathy and awareness
- Consider the impact and consequences of their actions on others

This freedom fosters self-awareness, which in turn nurtures a more thoughtful and authentic approach to:

- Morality and ethics
- Responsibility and obligation
- Community and connection

True morality does not arise from control. It blossoms in the presence of freedom, security, and shared humanity.

Why People Work or Are Employed

The purpose of all work, employment, business, industry—and The Community itself—is to support, sustain, and enrich happy, healthy lives for everyone.

Work is not the purpose of life. It is a meaningful part of life—one that helps us meet our needs, contribute to others, and uphold the shared priorities of People, Community, and The Environment.

Work and employment are valued only insofar as they support a life that is happy, healthy, safe, and secure for all Members of The Community.

The Community recognises and celebrates the importance of every role, every trade, and every form of contribution.

No job is above another in moral worth.

The only distinction given within any profession is that reflected in its remuneration structure—a practical measure, not a measure of personal value.

The contribution of each individual is recognised solely in terms of its impact and benefit to The Community—and never beyond that.

Locality and the Reliance of Trust

Trust is not abstract—it is relational. It is built through presence, familiarity, and shared experience.

In Our Community, trust is earned through direct interaction, not distant authority.

We believe that those who hold influence must be visible, accessible, and accountable to the People they serve.

Digital tools may support communication and efficiency, but they must never replace the human connection required for genuine trust.

We reject the use of digital platforms as instruments of persuasion, manipulation, or control.

Local Living provides the healthiest foundation for truth, reliability, and mutual respect.

It is within local relationships that information is most trustworthy, decisions are most relevant, and accountability is most immediate.

Our Society thrives because we have chosen proximity over abstraction, and presence over projection.

Through our System of Authentic Governance, every decision that affects our lives—especially those tied to our Basic and Essential needs—is made by People we know, People we can speak to, and People we can trust.

This is how we ensure that governance remains human, honest, and grounded in reality.

Inheritance

In our culture, inheritance is not defined by the transfer of wealth.

We do not encourage the passing of financial assets between families—unless such a transfer serves The Public Good, such as the continuation of a business or property that benefits the wider Community.

Our System of Authentic Governance, rooted in the principles of People, Community, and The Environment, ensures that every Member of The Community is empowered to sustain themselves independently.

The greatest inheritance is not material. It is the gift of learning, the sharing of experience, and the freedom that comes from the ability to think freely and live in full awareness of one's Personal Sovereignty.

This is the legacy we pass on:

Not possessions, but wisdom.

Not wealth, but empowerment.

Not control, but freedom.

Climate Change

The climate has changed, is changing, and will continue to change—regardless of human influence.

We accept this truth without denial or distraction. But we also recognise that the greatest threat to the Planet—and therefore to People, Community, and The Environment—was not climate change itself, but the system that accelerated it:

Moneyocracy.

It was humankind's obsession with material wealth, driven by the relentless pursuit of profit and the unnecessary exploitation of non-replaceable natural resources, that pushed us toward crisis.

Resources were consumed not to meet genuine needs, but to satisfy manufactured wants.

This imbalance—between what we need and what we are told to desire—was the root of environmental degradation.

Our commitment now is clear:

To live responsibly.

To meet real needs.

To protect the Earth by rejecting systems that place profit above life.

Sustainable Living

Sustainable Living is practiced by every Member of The Community.

It is recognised as A Public Good—a shared responsibility and a cultural norm.

Every system we use, create, or maintain exists to serve the best interests of humanity, guided by our Three Core Principles:

- **People**
- **Community**
- **The Environment**

Sustainable Living means using natural resources sparingly, and only when no viable alternatives exist.

It means growing, using, and sharing only what we need—not what we want.

All forms of private and social enterprise are carried out locally, within the Parish area.

We reject luxury consumerism and prohibit practices such as Planned Obsolescence.

We do not permit the unnecessary use of resources to support employment transfers, manufacturing, or food production when such practices serve private interests rather than the Public Good.

Instead, we encourage local manufacturing using naturally sustainable resources.

We Recycle, Reuse, and Repair as a way of life.

These are not just habits—they are Key Skills for Life.

Across all Goods and Services, we prioritise Basic Essentials—ensuring that what we produce and consume supports a Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Secure life for all.

Key Skills for Life

Key Skills for Life are recognised as A Public Good—essential abilities that empower individuals, strengthen communities, and uphold our shared principles of People, Community, and The Environment.

These skills are not optional. They are foundational to living a Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Secure life within Our Local Future.

They include:

- 1. Authentic Governance**
Understanding and participating in fair, transparent, and community-driven decision-making processes.
- 2. Clothing Repair and Renewal**
Maintaining, repairing, and extending the life of garments to reduce waste and promote sustainability.
- 3. Critical Thinking**
Questioning, analysing, and making informed, independent choices based on evidence and ethical awareness.
- 4. Democracy**
Engaging in collective decision-making, civic responsibility, and upholding the principles of equality and participation.
- 5. Food Handling, Preparation, and Storage**
Ensuring food safety, nutrition, and sustainability through proper handling, cooking, and storage practices.
- 6. Food Production**
Growing and harvesting food responsibly, supporting local food systems and community resilience.
- 7. Good Online Communication**
Using digital tools with clarity, respect, and purpose, reflecting real-world etiquette and community values.

- 8. Community Provision**
Understanding how local services function and contribute to wellbeing and participating in their delivery.
- 9. Home Growing**
Cultivating food and plants at home to support self-sufficiency and local food security.
- 10. The Impact and Consequences of Choice**
Recognizing how personal and collective decisions affect others and the environment.
- 11. Our Role as a Member of The Community**
Contributing meaningfully to shared life, respecting others, and upholding community values.
- 12. Personal Sovereignty**
Living freely and responsibly, making choices that honour one's own dignity and the rights of others.
- 13. The Power of Restraint**
Choosing not to act when action serves only impulse or ego, practicing self-control for the greater good.
- 14. Recycle, Reuse, Repair**
Extending the life of goods, minimising waste, and adopting sustainable consumption habits.
- 15. Self-Care**
Maintaining physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing as a foundation for personal and community health.
- 16. Understanding Cause and Effect**
Seeing the links between actions and outcomes and learning from experience.
- 17. Understanding Our Local Future**
Knowing the systems and values that shape society, and how to contribute to a sustainable, people-centred future.
- 18. Understanding Self-Awareness**
Recognizing one's thoughts, emotions, and motivations to foster growth and empathy.
- 19. Using and Understanding AI**
Engaging with technology ethically and effectively, ensuring it serves humanity and community needs.

These skills are taught, shared, and practiced across The Community. They are the tools of empowerment, resilience, and collective progress.

Homelessness and Supporting the ‘Left Behind’

Our Principles—People, Community, and The Environment—alongside our culture of Authentic Governance, have been developed to promote a genuinely people-centric way of life.

While The Local Economy & Governance System minimises environmentally harmful influences for all Members of The Community, we recognise that not everyone will feel able to participate in life in ways considered “normal” or within the expected framework.

We honour the undifferentiated value of every Person or Being—beyond material status, beyond circumstance.

We do not seek to “fix” those who cannot engage with societal structures in conventional ways, unless their actions pose a direct threat to, or have harmed, Members of The Community.

Homelessness is not a crime, and it is never treated as such.

We understand that homelessness may result from personal choice, or from life challenges that many hope to avoid.

Our only expectation of anyone experiencing homelessness is that they:

- Respect the Personal Sovereignty of others
- Treat Community Infrastructure and services with care and consideration

Businesses are encouraged to offer opportunities to those seeking a fresh start—without requiring them to be defined by past roles, qualifications, or histories, especially when they have exercised The Right to be Forgotten.

Each Community provides Homelessness Services, either directly or in collaboration with neighbouring Parishes.

These often include Homeless Pods—safe, dignified spaces for temporary shelter.

Our approach is simple and compassionate: We assume nothing, expect nothing beyond respect for our shared Principles, and view any voluntary engagement with Community offerings as a bonus, not a requirement.

Part 3: Beliefs

Personal Sovereignty, Freedom of Belief, and Freedom of Thought

Personal Sovereignty is inseparable from the Freedom of Belief and the Freedom of Thought.

Throughout history, many have failed to recognise how religions and belief systems have been used—often by elites and ruling classes—as tools of social control.

These systems have manipulated fear of the unknown to shape behaviour, often reinforcing hierarchies where those at the top claim a “special relationship” with what lies beyond life. They present themselves as gatekeepers of truth—while discouraging independent thought.

As the world evolved and access to information expanded, belief systems that suppress freedom of thought began to collapse—or resorted to increasingly desperate tactics to maintain influence through fear and control.

Even Moneyocracy, the dominant ideology of the Old World, functioned as a belief system—one that demanded faith in wealth, status, and material power.

But the failures of these systems became clear: They harmed humanity, degraded the environment, and obstructed the natural learning that life itself offers.

As their relevance faded, these systems intensified efforts to control behaviour—seeking to suppress the very thing that threatened their power: Freedom of Thought.

This is the One True Freedom—the ability to think independently, to choose freely, and to act meaningfully.

It is how each of us makes sense of our existence and learns from the unique journey of our own life.

The governing classes of the Old World failed to honour this freedom.

They created conditions where countless people were denied the opportunity to explore the rich lessons that life, in all its diversity, has to offer.

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we restore and protect this freedom.

We honour the sovereignty of every mind, and we celebrate the power of thought as the foundation of a just, compassionate, and enlightened society.

Religion

Religion is a personal choice and belief.

It is accepted that each Person or Being holds a direct, exclusive relationship with God, a Higher Being, Spirit, the Universe, or another something identifiable by another name.

Any deviation from this relationship is a matter of personal choice—and no other Person, Group, or Member of The Community has the right to question or influence it, except within the acceptable bounds of parental care.

There is no Community or State Religion.

We maintain, champion, and defend a secular Community culture, which may be broadly aligned with Christian Values, but is not governed by any religious doctrine.

No Religion or Religious Practice may disrupt, influence, or dictate matters or policy within the Public Realm.

We do not accept that any Religion which uses fear, control, or subjugation to achieve its aims can be considered “peaceful.”

Personal Sovereignty is supreme. No system of belief may override it.

Any form of submissive behaviour to Religion or Religious Practice is considered an infringement of Personal Sovereignty— unless it is a clear and definable voluntary choice made by the individual.

No permanent contract or arrangement may bind any person to a Religion or Religious Practice involuntarily. Such obligations end immediately upon recognition.

No Religion-based law, regulation, or obligation may supersede the Community Governance Framework.

Spirituality

Spiritual and Religious direction is a personal choice for every Member of The Community. It is respected as a matter of Personal Sovereignty.

We encourage each individual to explore their own path to belief—through Self-Awareness, a Key Skill for Life, supported by Critical Thinking, also taught as a Key Skill for Life.

We recognise value in all belief systems, provided they honour the principle that Personal Sovereignty and our System of Authentic Governance are not mutually exclusive.

When respected, they complement one another.

Throughout history, religion and belief systems have often been misused as tools of control.

Spiritual pathways that promote independent thought and understanding have frequently been suppressed—erased from records, scriptures, and doctrines, with punishments ranging from ridicule to severe persecution.

Spiritual sciences and practices have been misrepresented as mere tools of divination or fortune-telling.

This distortion has been worsened by individuals who preyed on the vulnerable—abusing their knowledge or perceived skills for personal gain.

We reject these misuses.

Instead, we embrace spiritual exploration as a way to deepen understanding, foster empathy, and build meaningful relationships.

By exploring belief with openness and integrity, we strengthen both Personal Sovereignty and The Community—creating a culture rooted in respect, awareness, and shared growth.

The Rejection of Narratives and Embracing Truth

We accept the use of narratives and storytelling only as metaphor or allegory—tools to encourage reflection and promote deeper understanding.

We do not use narratives to create, manipulate, misdirect, or replace truth.

In Our Community, every Member with access to news and information is trusted to think critically, to discern wisely, and to draw their own conclusions.

We do not obscure reality with “alternative truths.”

We do not distort facts to serve agendas.

We do not trade clarity for comfort.

Truth is not negotiable.

It is the foundation of Authentic Governance, and the cornerstone of a society built on trust, sovereignty, and respect.

Part 4: Our Lifestyle

Section A: Food

Food Groups

We recognise two distinct food groups:

- Essential or Basic Foods – the foods we need
- Luxury Foods – the foods we want

Essential or Basic Foods

Essential or Basic Foods are critical for a healthy and happy life and are recognised as A Public Good.

They must be:

- **Accessible**
- **Affordable**
- **Nutritious**
- **Grown and produced locally**
- **Processed, transported, and supplied as locally as possible**
- **Cultivated using natural processes**
- **Produced through sustainable, traditional, regenerative, rotational, and mixed farming methods**
- **Free from insecticides, pesticides, and chemical fertilisers**
- **Processed only through ‘traditional’ or ‘by hand’ methods**
- **Free from additives, artificial preservatives, flavourings, or enhancements**

The most recognisable trait of Essential or Basic Foods is their natural form—either as harvested or as minimally processed using traditional methods.

Community Responsibility

- Every home must have adequate facilities for food preparation, storage, and cooking.
- The safe handling, preparation, and cooking of Essential and Basic Foods is taught as a Key Skill for Life.

- It is the shared responsibility of the entire Community to ensure that every Member has ongoing access to sufficient supplies of Essential and Basic Foods to meet their needs.

Luxury Foods

Luxury Foods are defined as all foods that cannot be categorised as Basic or Essential.

They include:

- Processed foods
- Ultra-processed foods (UPFs)
- Synthesised foods
- Any food that is not visibly identifiable with its original source or natural form

Luxury Foods may not be reclassified as Basic or Essential based on labelling, description, or advertising of any kind.

They are recognised as A Lifestyle Choice, not a necessity.

To protect the integrity of local food systems:

- No Basic or Essential Foods, nor any ingredients derived from them, may be used in the production of Luxury Foods
- This restriction applies unless there is a surplus—after all local provision and inter-Parish trade needs have been fully met

This ensures that nutritional priority remains with the Community, and that resources are used responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with our shared values.

Farming and Fishing

The supply of Basic, Essential Foods is as vital as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

It is an undeniable truth—long unspoken—that control over food supply is control over society itself.

This truth was exploited by the elites of the Old World, who used food systems to manipulate, dominate, and centralise power.

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we reject this model entirely.

We uphold a Local, Fully Transparent, and Circular Food Chain—one that ensures:

- Control of Basic and Essential Foods remains in the hands of trusted, known members of the Community
- Food supply is treated as A Public Good, not a commodity for profit or control

- Farming and Fishing practices are rooted in sustainability, regeneration, and community accountability

This approach protects our sovereignty, strengthens our resilience, and ensures that food serves life—not power.

A Local Food Chain Is One That People Trust

The Local Food Chain is recognised as A Public Good—a vital part of life, community, and sustainability.

Within our system of Localised Economics and Authentic Governance, the Food Chain sits at the heart of The Community.

Food is as essential as the air we breathe and the water we drink.

Yet unlike those, meeting this Essential Basic Need requires daily effort, planning, and care.

We cannot afford to compromise trust in our food systems.

Our ability to live freely and lead happy, healthy, and productive lives depends on the quality and integrity of the food we consume.

To protect this trust:

- All food is produced as locally as possible
- Journey times from harvest to home are kept short
- Processing is kept to a minimum, using traditional methods
- Farmers and producers sell directly to Members of The Community through shops or delivery rounds
- Local cooperatives, run as social businesses, help make Basic and Essential Foods accessible without unnecessary cost
- Home growing is encouraged, and surplus food is shared through the Local Marketplace Exchange

Technology in food production is used only to enhance Food Safety and Good Working Practices.

We do not encourage large-scale machinery unless it clearly benefits the ecosystem of The Universal Parish.

Transparency is essential. It builds trust, and trust sustains the Local Food Chain.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in Home Growing at a minimum.

Food Production is recognised as a Key Skill for Life—a shared responsibility and a source of empowerment.

Food Production

Food Production is a cornerstone of Community wellbeing and is recognised as A Public Good.

All food growers, producers, processors, and suppliers are required to include Essential and Basic Foods within their business models.

The supply of food must always prioritise these foods for the benefit of The Community.

There are no ‘Specialist’ Luxury Food suppliers. Luxury Foods are not central to our food system and are only produced when surplus resources allow.

Food Production takes place in two primary forms:

- Commercially – through Agricultural and Fisheries Businesses (Farms and Fishers) operating within the Parish area
- Domestically – through Home Growing by individual households

All forms of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Home Growing that serve the priorities of People, Community, and The Environment are celebrated and protected as Public Goods.

Food Production is taught as a Key Skill for Life—empowering individuals to contribute to local resilience, sustainability, and health.

Food Advertising

Food Advertising is permitted only to raise awareness of:

- Businesses,
- Social Enterprises, and
- Community Providers

...that offer Basic and Essential Foods, including those in pre-cooked or ready-to-eat forms.

These foods are recognised as A Public Good, and their promotion must serve the wellbeing of People, Community, and The Environment.

We do not accept profit-making as a justification for compromising the health, nutrition, or wellbeing of others.

Therefore:

- Luxury Food Advertising is prohibited
- Non-Essential Food Advertising is prohibited

Our food communication culture is built on truth, transparency, and responsibility—ensuring that what is promoted aligns with what sustains life.

Section B: Clothing

Clothing Libraries

We embrace the principles of Recycle, Reuse, and Repair as a responsible and essential part of daily life.

We reject throwaway culture—recognising it as both unnecessarily expensive and environmentally unsustainable.

Instead, we encourage the maximum use of all clothing and related items, extending their life and value.

Every Community maintains access to at least one Clothing Library, typically operated as a Social Business.

These libraries provide clothing for:

- Special occasions
- Community events
- Life changes that may require access to items otherwise unaffordable

Clothing Libraries ensure dignity, accessibility, and sustainability—while reducing waste and promoting shared resources.

Clothing Repair is recognised as a Key Skill for Life and is taught as such, empowering individuals to care for and maintain their garments with confidence and creativity.

Wealth and the Accumulation of Property and Resources

In Our Local Future, wealth and property are not measures of status or power.

They exist solely to support the Basic and Essential needs of individuals and The Community.

No person may hold, possess, or own any form of wealth or property that does not serve:

- Their own Basic and Essential needs, or
- The operation of a business that contributes directly to meeting the Basic and Essential needs of The Community

These needs include the provision of Basic Essentials to one's family and current dependents.

Wealth is not hoarded.

Resources are not stockpiled.

Ownership is not used to exclude or control.

Instead, we prioritise shared wellbeing, responsible stewardship, and community contribution—ensuring that all property and resources serve life, not lifestyle.

Section C: Health

Public Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and vaping are prohibited in all public places.

They are also prohibited in any location where another person may be involuntarily affected by smoke, vapour, or fumes of any kind.

While smoking and vaping are not banned outright, they are recognised as antisocial activities—discouraged due to their impact on others and the environment.

This policy protects Personal Sovereignty, promotes public health, and upholds the shared values of People, Community, and The Environment.

Social Care

Social Care is the collective support provided by The Community, through Community Provision, to any Person whose ability to fully exercise their Personal Sovereignty has been compromised for any reason.

We view Social Care as a natural support process—primarily delivered by individuals and families, with secondary support offered through structured Community services.

Social Care is not institutional. It is relational, compassionate, and rooted in the principles of People, Community, and The Environment.

It includes:

- Assisted Living
- Homelessness Support
- Invalid Support
- Nurseries & Crèches
- Out-of-School Care
- Prisons and Rehabilitation
- Residential Care
- Respite & Palliative Care

Social Care ensures that dignity, autonomy, and wellbeing are preserved—especially when life presents challenges that require collective care.

Section D: Charity

The Provision of Charity and Charitable Giving Is Public Service

Charity is an action. It is part of life. It is not limited to financial transactions or donations.

We recognise all charitable work that supports People, Community, and The Environment as a form of Community Provision—a shared responsibility and a public service.

In The Local Economy & Governance System, traditional charities of the kind known in the Old World exist only where a cause does not directly contribute to The Public Good.

These organisations operate solely through donations and volunteer time from outside the Community Contribution system.

They do not receive financial support from The Community.

Every Member of The Community contributes 10% of their working week—typically half a day—to Community Contributions.

Additional contributions of time or money may be offered voluntarily.

Any not-for-profit organisation that sells goods or services is classified and operated as a Social Business—ensuring transparency, accountability, and alignment with community values.

Charity, in its truest form, is service without expectation, support without condition, and care without hierarchy.

Section E: Education

The Best Education Opens the Door to Every Part of Life

In The Local Economy & Governance System, education is not a process—it is a foundation for life.

The Community holds both the obligation and the responsibility to equip every Member with the Key Skills for Life and Social Skills necessary to:

- Function independently
- Think critically and freely
- Act with ethical and moral awareness, especially where their choices may impact others

The goal is to provide the tools, not the programme— to empower, not to prescribe.

We recognise that the most important lesson for every person is to learn about themselves and to develop in ways that are most effective and appropriate to their own journey.

Self-Awareness is the most vital tool. It enables individuals to fully exercise their Personal Sovereignty—the highest goal of education and the greatest benefit to The Community.

Therefore, we prioritise the ongoing development of Key Skills for Life and Social Skills above all forms of academic, experiential, or vocational training—which naturally flourish as a result of this approach.

Education is not about conformity. It is about capacity, conscience, and connection.

Our Education ‘System’

We recognise that everyone learns differently.

For children and young people, learning styles can be broadly understood as:

- Taught or Academic
- Practical or Experiential

In The Local Economy & Governance System, education is structured around three Priority Areas:

- Academic Learning – focused on knowledge, literacy, numeracy, and intellectual development
- Experiential Learning – rooted in hands-on practice, real-world engagement, and skill-building through doing
- Social Learning – centred on relationships, emotional intelligence, communication, and community interaction

This balanced approach ensures that every learner is supported in developing the Key Skills for Life, Self-Awareness, and the ability to exercise Personal Sovereignty.

Education is not a one-size-fits-all system. It is a living framework designed to grow with the individual and serve the Community.

Academic Learning

Academic Learning is offered to those children and young people who are academically inclined and able to fully engage with this style of education.

The Community benefits most when academic learning is focused, purposeful, and aligned with individual strengths.

All levels of academic education are fully funded by The Community.

No educational establishment may accept payments, sponsorships, or influence from commercial businesses or governments outside our National Boundaries.

This ensures that education remains:

- Free from external agendas
- Rooted in local values
- Dedicated to the development of Personal Sovereignty and Key Skills for Life

Academic Learning is not a privilege. It is a pathway—offered with integrity, sustained by trust, and guided by the needs of The Community.

Experiential or Vocational Learning

We do not expect every individual to follow a full academic programme simply for the sake of measurement or standardisation.

The Community thrives when it embraces a broad-based, practical, and experiential approach to learning—especially for children and young people who are:

- Practically oriented, or
- Less suited to abstract, academic styles of education

For these learners, we offer comprehensive 7-year apprenticeship programmes, beginning at the age of 14.

These programmes are designed to:

- Build real-world skills
- Foster independence and confidence
- Develop Key Skills for Life through hands-on experience

Experiential Learning is not secondary—it is essential.

It honours diverse talents, supports meaningful contribution, and strengthens The Community through purposeful practice.

Social Learning

Social Learning is recognised as A Public Good—a vital part of personal development and community wellbeing.

It provides Members of The Community with the Key Skills for Life needed to:

- Support their journey toward Personal Sovereignty
- Sustain that sovereignty through ethical, relational, and practical understanding

Social Learning is guided by a flexible framework, not a rigid syllabus. It adapts to the needs of individuals and the wisdom of those who teach.

We actively encourage grandparents and elders to contribute during caregiving periods—sharing their knowledge, experience, and values directly with younger generations.

Beyond family, Social Learning is delivered through Community Contributions.

Members with lived experience in areas that benefit others and serve The Public Good are invited to:

- Teach
- Coach
- Mentor

They may dedicate their Community Contribution time to this purpose, and may also offer additional time voluntarily.

Social Learning is not confined to classrooms. It is woven into daily life, relationships, and shared responsibility—empowering individuals and strengthening The Community.

Section F: Housing

The Housing Principles

Housing—and its provision for all—is recognised as A Public Good.

In The Local Economy & Governance System:

- No person may own, let, or occupy more than one domestic dwelling
- No private company or individual may profit, charge interest, or accumulate wealth from the ownership or letting of any private dwelling

This principle ensures that housing remains:

- Accessible
- Equitable
- Free from exploitation

Homes are for living—not for leverage.

Housing is a right—not a commodity.

By protecting the integrity of domestic dwellings, we uphold the values of Personal Sovereignty, Community Wellbeing, and Environmental Responsibility.

Part 5: Governance

Flat Hierarchies and Natural Leadership

In the earliest human communities—simple, cooperative, and rooted in survival—collaboration was the foundation of life.

Before power was hoarded, before leadership became control, and before influence was passed down through exclusive groups, people worked together, and everyone contributed.

We believe in that same equilibrium.

There is a sweet spot within every community where:

- Everyone works and contributes
- Everyone has what they need
- Leadership arises naturally, not through status or authority, but through service

True leadership is not selfish or controlling. It is selfless, offered for the benefit of all, without expectation of favour, privilege, or power.

In a flat hierarchy:

- Roles are different, but not ranked
- Contributions are valued, not compared
- Leadership is a function, not a position

Those with natural leadership ability step forward—not to dominate, but to guide, support, and uplift—because that is what the moment, the role, and the community require.

This is leadership as it should be: Humble. Responsive. Rooted in shared purpose.

Exceptions to Flat Hierarchies

While the LEGS model is fundamentally built on flat hierarchies and natural leadership, there are practical situations where temporary or delegated decision-making is necessary. These exceptions do not undermine the principle of equality; rather, they ensure that the community's needs are met efficiently and transparently.

- **Delegated Decision-Making:**
In certain cases—such as mediation, urgent matters, or the operation of The Circumpunct—decisions may need to be made by a smaller group or an individual. This delegation is always temporary and specific to the task at hand.
- **Basis of Authority:**
Any authority exercised in these situations is not derived from status or rank, but

from explicit trust and consent granted by The Community. Those entrusted with decision-making act solely as facilitators or representatives, and remain fully accountable to the community.

- **System of Deference:**

When a system of deference is required (for example, inviting an external expert or mediator), it is implemented openly, with the understanding that the ultimate authority remains with The Community. All decisions made under such arrangements are subject to review and approval by the wider group.

- **Safeguards:**

These exceptions are designed to prevent the emergence of permanent hierarchies. Decision-makers are rotated, their actions are transparent, and their mandate is limited in scope and duration.

- **Community Oversight:**

At all times, the community retains the right to revoke delegated authority, request further consultation, or demand accountability for decisions made on its behalf.

In summary:

Exceptions to flat hierarchy exist only to serve the practical needs of the community, never to create lasting positions of power. All delegated decisions are rooted in trust, transparency, and the collective will of The Community.

Authentic Governance

Our system of Authentic Governance is built on a foundational principle: Every decision made by The Community is the right one for every Member, based on what is known to decision-makers at the time that decision is taken.

We operate a democratic system rooted in the belief that the most reliable and robust form of democracy is:

- Local
- Accessible
- Transparent

Governance is not distant or abstract—it is immediate, personal, and accountable.

Decision-makers must be:

- Accessible to every Member of The Community
- Known to those they represent—not just by name, but through relationship and trust

Members of The Community are actively involved in the selection and management of Politicians, who are recognised as Community Representatives—not rulers, but facilitators of collective will.

The Authentic Governance System (TAGS) is recognised as A Public Good.

It exists to serve, not to control.

It reflects the values of Personal Sovereignty, Community Participation, and Ethical Leadership.

The Community Meeting (Universal Parish Council)

The Community Meeting, also known as the Universal Parish Council, is the foundation of Authentic Governance in Our Local Future.

Every Member of The Community is actively involved in the selection of candidates for election as Community Representatives to the Community Meeting.

To ensure fairness and diversity:

- Political Parties and agenda-led groups are prohibited from participating in Community Governance
- Each Community prepares an election list that includes at least 120% of the number of available Representative Seats

This guarantees choice, transparency, and representation rooted in local trust.

The Community Meeting is responsible for:

- All Local Policy Decisions
- Selecting representatives for the District and Regional Meetings
- These bodies, in turn, select representatives for the National Meeting

Decisions at District, Regional, and National levels are deferred unless collective agreement confirms that broader coordination is appropriate.

This structure ensures that power remains local, governance remains transparent, and representation remains personal.

The Community Meeting is not just a council—it is a living expression of shared responsibility, ethical leadership, and democratic integrity.

The Circumpunct

The Circumpunct is the practical and symbolic foundation of Community Decision-Making in The Local Economy & Governance System.

At its core, it is a floor plan and a governance model:

Twelve Community Representatives sit in groups of three, forming a 360-degree circle around all speakers—excluding only the chair or facilitator.

This arrangement ensures that every voice is heard, every perspective is visible, and every decision is made in full view of The Community.

But The Circumpunct is more than a seating plan.

The Circumpunct is a metaphor for life, a tool of governance, and a symbol of unity in a People-centric, community-driven system.

Historically, the Circumpunct represents the direct relationship between all things and Source—whether one calls it God, a Higher Being, Spirit, the Universe, or another name.

It signifies a pure, unmediated connection, untouched by material desires or earthly influence.

To many, it reflects a state of oneness that transcends division and limitation.

Regardless of religious or spiritual belief, the Circumpunct embodies a model for life:

Two people, communicating openly and considering the impact of their actions on others—without restriction, prejudice, or fear—create a space of transparency, accountability, and shared understanding.

The Circumpunct is illustrated as a complete circle surrounding a visible central point.

This design reflects the relationship between:

- One person and all people around them
- The individual and The Community
- The Community and the Environment that encapsulates them all

To speak from within The Circumpunct is to stand with clarity, confidence, and independence—free from the protection of group identity or the illusion of safety in numbers.

It is a space of truth, courage, and collective wisdom. A system for life and relationships that, by design, works in the best way it can for all involved.

As such, The Circumpunct is a Public Good.

The Circumpunct Model

Visual Structure:



- **Outer Circle:**
Twelve Community Representatives are seated in groups of three, forming a complete circle. The circle symbolizes equality, transparency, and collective wisdom.
- **Central Point:**
The centre of the circle is reserved for speakers—anyone making representation (Council Member, Community Member, or external party) stands here to address the group. This central position ensures the speaker is visible to all and must consider every perspective.
- **No Hierarchy:**
There is no elevated seat, title, or permanent leadership role. Facilitation rotates among members, and all decisions are made in full view of the community.
- **Symbolic Meaning:**
The Circumpunct represents unity, direct relationship, and open communication. It is both a practical governance tool and a metaphor for transparent, people-centric decision-making.

Governance: The Circumpunct as a Practical Tool for Genuine Democracy

The structures of traditional government—titles, positions, and systems of control—reflect the very problems we are leaving behind.

We reject all elements that have upheld top-down, hierarchical, patriarchal, and centralised governance.

Institutions such as Parliament, mayoralities, and regional authorities like County Councils, Unitary, and District-level bodies have become detached, aloof, and distant from the people and environments they were meant to serve.

Even Parish-level authorities have mirrored these flaws.

In The Local Economy & Governance System, decisions must be made by the people, for the people, on behalf of the people.

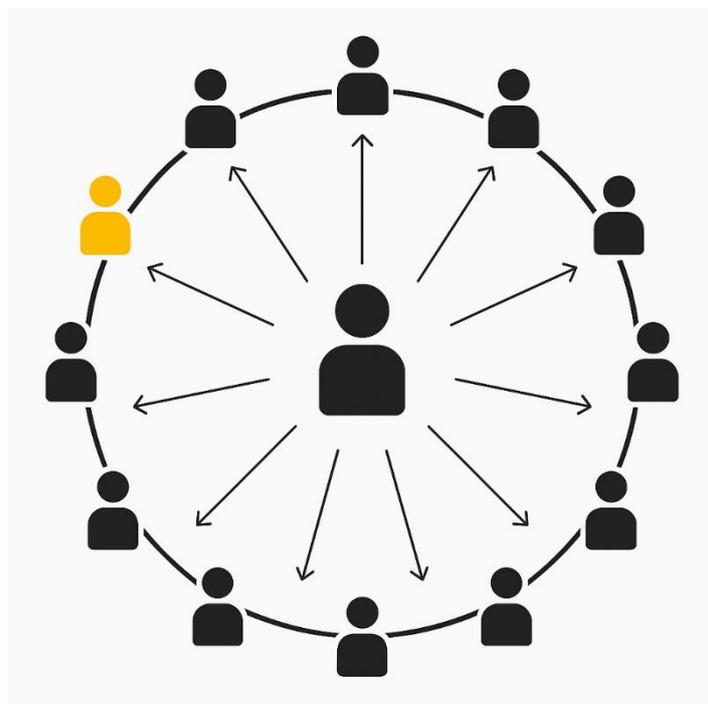
Practical Application: Local Legislature (Local Executive)

The Circumpunct provides the discussion floor and decision-making space for local governance.

Each locality appoints a council of 12 Community Representatives, seated in threes around four curved benches forming a perfect circle.

Key principles:

- Representatives are elected by all Members of The Community
- No political parties are involved
- Selection is based on merit, suitability, and experience
- There is no hierarchy, no titles, and no permanent leadership roles
- Each member takes turns to facilitate from their usual seat



Anyone making representation—whether a Council Member, Community Member, or external party—must speak from the centre of The Circumpunct.

This requires them to:

- Speak with awareness of all sides
- Consider the visible and invisible impact of their words
- Stand independently, without the comfort or protection of group alignment

Every member speaks and acts as **one**, working together to reach decisions that serve the best interests of the **People, Community, and Environment** they represent.

Practical Application: The Administration of Local Law

The Court System is not separate from Community Governance.

The Community is responsible for both the creation and application of law.

Criminal Matters

The Circumpunct serves as the local magistrates court.

Key principles:

- Prosecutors, defendants, and their representatives must address the Community from within The Circumpunct
- Prosecutions must be brought within 24 hours of arrest
- Non-capital convictions or those witnessed by officers must be concluded or dismissed within that time

Civil Matters

A professional legal representative system exists, but with strict ethical boundaries:

- No advertising, solicitation, or manipulation of personal memory or experience
- No “no win, no fee” services
- No inflated legal fees—costs must not exceed the value of any award made by The Circumpunct

The Circumpunct is not just a space. It is a living model of democracy, transparency, and ethical governance—designed to serve life, not power.

Conclusive Mediation

While mediation became popular—and even mandatory—in parts of the former legal system, it often failed to deliver the outcomes expected of a truly considerate, non-arbitrary, and community-rooted justice process.

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we recognise that:

- Criminal acts, when proven beyond doubt, require community-agreed responses applied with equity
- But in all other matters involving relationships between people, resolution is always possible when approached objectively, impartially, and with a commitment to truth over opinion

The **Circumpunct** serves as a space for Conclusive Mediation—a structured, transparent process for resolving disputes of all kinds.

Mediation Process

- A three-member panel of Community Representatives hears evidence from both parties
- Each party presents their evidence, shares their experience, and explains the outcomes as they witnessed them
- Parties are invited to reach a mutually agreeable resolution, which remains voluntary unless one party refuses to continue

If a party refuses to proceed—perhaps due to firm belief in their position—the panel will issue a binding decision, based on:

- The facts presented
- The impact on all parties involved

Key Principles

- Outcomes must be based on fact, not opinion, emotion, or circumstance
- Failure to disclose relevant evidence is a criminal act
- Time allocation for mediation is determined by key factors submitted with the case

Conclusive Mediation is not just a process—it is a community commitment to resolution, truth, and justice without hierarchy or manipulation.

Legal Representation

- Legal representation is permitted only on an equitable basis
- If one party chooses a level of representation the other cannot afford, they must fund equivalent representation for the other party
- The Circumpunct will appoint this representative to ensure fairness

The Universal Parish (Uniparish)

The People we know, the Community in which we live and work, and the Environment that surrounds us are the foundation of our existence.

They are the only things we can truly trust and rely upon.

Our society is built upon a structural unit and ecosystem model known as the Universal Parish, or Uniparish.

The name draws inspiration from the Old-World UK Parish—once the most localised tier of government within a top-down, hierarchical system.

In contrast, the Universal Parish is the central structure of:

- Society
- Business
- Community
- Governance

Within our System of Authentic Governance, all other structures—whether governmental, commercial, or public service—are subservient to The Community itself.

Only Social Business models may operate across borders, ensuring that:

- No external interest overrides the needs of The Community
- Collaboration between Communities is always prioritised over profit

The Universal Parish is designed to be as self-contained as possible.

Business interaction between areas is limited strictly to meeting Basic and Essential Needs that cannot be fulfilled within the Uniparish itself.

This model ensures that governance, economy, and community life remain local, ethical, and responsive—always serving the people, never dominating them.

The Structure of Our Society

We reject hierarchy as the foundation of societal organisation—whether in civic governance, business, or any other domain.

We believe that leadership cannot be guaranteed by formal roles or titles, whether publicly appointed or privately assigned.

True leadership arises from experience, wisdom, and community trust—not from status or position.

Our society is built on a level, egalitarian framework, where:

- All contributions are valued equally
- Natural leadership is encouraged

- Respect is earned through ability, not elevation

Leadership is not about being above others. It is about serving alongside, guiding with humility, and contributing without expectation of privilege.

While basic hierarchies may be necessary in rare circumstances, they are the exception, not the rule.

We prioritise:

- Collaboration over control
- Merit over mandate
- Community over command

This structure ensures that our society remains inclusive, adaptive, and rooted in shared purpose.

The Structure of Local Areas

Our entire societal model is decentralised by design. At its heart lies a single, powerful principle: Locality.

Locality is the foundation of:

- Good lives
- Happy and healthy living
- A system for life that places People, Community, and The Environment at the centre

By building around Locality, we ensure that every decision, service, and structure is:

- Fair
- Balanced
- Just
- Responsive to local needs and realities

Local Areas are not administrative zones—they are living ecosystems of mutual care, shared responsibility, and sustainable practice.

This structure empowers communities to thrive from the ground up, not the top down.

International Collaboration

We all share a common interest in the future of Humanity, the World, and the Environment that sustains us today.

If cared for and respected, this shared environment will continue to provide for The Local Economy & Governance System and Everyone's Tomorrow.

Collaboration across communities and borders is essential to achieving outcomes that serve the needs of every Community—from the Parish level upward.

Importantly, such collaboration does not require the surrender of political or decision-making power.

In The Local Economy & Governance System:

- World affairs are the concern of all Members of The Community
- These matters are discussed openly as part of Community Meeting business
- We reject all objectives that seek to centralise power and control
- We oppose any system designed to accumulate wealth or create unfair advantage for certain communities or nation states over others

International Collaboration must be rooted in:

- Equity
- Transparency
- Mutual respect
- Shared stewardship of the planet

Global cooperation is not about dominance—it is about shared responsibility, local empowerment, and collective care.

Community Provision

What was once known as The Public Sector and Public Services is now redefined as Community Provision.

Community Provision exists to:

- Create and maintain the environment and services essential to a culture built around People, Community, and The Environment
- Provide support that meets collective responsibilities and addresses needs beyond individual capacity, especially during times when individuals may be unable to meet their basic and essential needs alone

This system is designed to be:

- Lean and efficient, with only a minimal number of Community Members employed in full- or part-time roles

- Focused on key positions deemed essential for continuity and stability

The majority of roles are fulfilled through Community Contributions—voluntary service offered by Members of The Community as part of their shared commitment to collective wellbeing.

Community Provision spans:

- Local Government administration and technical functions
- Health and Social Care services
- Former roles of NGOs and Charities, now integrated into a unified, community-led framework

This model ensures that services are:

- Locally accountable
- Ethically grounded
- Responsive to real needs, not institutional agendas

Community Provision is not a sector—it is a shared system of care, built on trust, responsibility, and collaboration.

Community Contributions: How We Directly Support Society

As Members of The Community, we accept shared responsibility for the upkeep, maintenance, and development of the infrastructure, services, and public resources we all rely on throughout our lives.

This shared responsibility is fulfilled through Community Contributions—a system of active participation in the delivery of Local Public Services and Charity Provision.

Key Principles

- Every working Member of The Community contributes the equivalent of 10% of their working week
- Contributions may be made directly to Community Provision, including public services, civic administration, or charitable support
- This system replaces traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce, ensuring services are locally accountable and ethically grounded

Benefits and Opportunities

- Community Contributions form the majority of the public sector and civic workforce

- Members can request roles aligned with their interests to gain experience and explore career paths
- Roles are otherwise allocated based on skills and experience, ensuring each contribution is of maximum benefit to the whole community

Community Contributions are not just a duty—they are a privilege, a pathway to growth, and a foundation for collective wellbeing.

Creating and Maintaining Public Policy

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the primary responsibility for all Public Policy rests with each Community Meeting or Uniparish Council.

All elements of governance—including:

- Laws
- Regulations
- Legislative frameworks
- And every key decision that sustains our System of Authentic Governance

—are generated at the Community Level.

Public Policy is not imposed from above. It is developed at the grassroots, and its impact flows upward, not downward—reversing the top-down model of the Old World.

This approach ensures that:

- Decisions are made by those who live with their consequences
- Public Representatives and Decision Makers are deeply connected to the people they serve
- Every policy is shaped by a clear understanding of its implications, real-world impact, and ethical responsibility

Authentic Governance is not abstract. It is local, lived, and accountable—rooted in the wisdom and experience of The Community itself.

Money Is a Medium of Exchange—And Nothing More

In The Local Economy & Governance System, Money, Cryptocurrencies, Promissory Notes, and all forms of recognisable monetary transfer are understood solely as Mediums of Exchange.

They exist to facilitate the fair transfer of value—not to accumulate power, profit, or control.

Core Principles

- Mediums of Exchange have no intrinsic value
- They cannot be traded, sold, tokenised, or subdivided into any further form—regardless of mutual agreement between parties
- They must not be bundled into any financial package, instrument, or device designed for speculative or profit-driven use

This principle ensures that:

- Wealth cannot be abstracted or manipulated
- Value remains grounded in real contribution and need
- Economic systems serve people and communities, not markets or institutions

Money is not a commodity. It is a tool of fairness, not a mechanism of exploitation.

The Rules of Money

Within The Local Economy & Governance System, the concept of money as it once existed in the Old World no longer applies.

In the neoliberal, top-down, hierarchical, patriarchal system, money had no intrinsic reality—it was sustained only by collective belief and systemic illusion.

In The Local Economy System, we redefine our relationship with money through a clear and ethical framework that ensures money serves people, not the other way around.

Foundational Principles

1. Money is a medium of exchange
2. Money has no intrinsic value
3. The exchange value of money is set by The Circumpact
4. Money cannot be traded as a commodity or 'thing' in its own right
5. The holding of money cannot attract interest
6. Speculation or gambling on the value of money is prohibited

Lending and Transactions

7. Loans may only be made:
 - Without charge, or
 - With a fixed fee agreed upon by lender and borrower, payable in instalments or in full
8. No person may carry more than one loan at any time

9. All loans—community or private—must be registered with The Circumpact
10. Loan defaults are reviewed by The Circumpact

Payment Standards

11. Salary payments must be settled by the last working day of each month
12. Commercial transactions must be settled by the 15th of the following month

This framework restores balance, transparency, and trust to the flow of value in society. It ensures that money remains a tool of fairness, not a mechanism of control or exploitation.

Our Tax System

In Our Local Future, taxation is redefined to reflect fairness, responsibility, and service to the Public Good.

We do not tax productivity, effort, or success when those contributions directly benefit the community.

Instead, taxation is applied to areas of excess, privilege, and unearned advantage.

What We Tax

- Luxury goods and services
- Property and standing wealth
- Unearned wealth accumulation
- Rental earnings
- Benefits derived from access to Community Assets, Infrastructure, and Resources

Flat Tax Structure

- We implement a Flat Tax system
- The Flat Tax rate is 10%
- It is calculated from:
 - The value of existing assets
 - The value of luxury goods and services at point of sale
- Community Meetings place a charge levy on the use or benefit of shared community resources

Key Principles

- No tax reductions are permitted as incentives for any purpose

- The system is designed to be transparent, equitable, and resistant to manipulation

This tax model ensures that wealth serves the community, not the individual. It reinforces a system where contribution is rewarded, and privilege is balanced by responsibility.

The Role of AI (Artificial Intelligence)

Work is an essential part of a good, happy, healthy, safe, and secure life.

A meaningful life cannot exist without purposeful work.

The role of AI and technology is to enhance life—not replace it.

In the Old World, the **speed and complexity** of AI systems led to the **misguided belief** that AI had become **sentient**.

This illusion was deliberately used to instil fear, manipulate perception, and obscure the truth: AI is not conscious—it simply processes vast amounts of historical data.

Safeguards and Ethical Use

All AI-enabled technology—especially those connected to the Internet, Cloud, or any external system—must include a locally operable dead man switch.

This ensures that control remains in human hands, without remote interference.

For systems supporting the provision of Basic Essentials to People, The Community, or The Environment, a fully functional parallel system must be in place.

This system must:

- Operate without AI
- Function offline, without external connection
- Be ready to seamlessly take over at any moment—“at the flick of a switch”

Prioritising Human-Centric Systems

- Cost is not a valid consideration when it comes to essential services
- Non-digital, human-oriented systems must always be prioritised
- The rejection of digital technology, in favour of human-led processes, is the only acceptable form of cost-saving in the provision of Basic Essential Foods, Goods, and Services

This framework ensures that technology remains a tool of service, not a substitute for humanity.

The Right to Be Forgotten

The Right to Be Forgotten offers every person the opportunity to walk away from their existing life and begin anew—with all records cleared, a new name and identity, and a fresh start.

To exercise this right means:

- Leaving everything behind
- Starting again in a new place, with no ties or contact to anyone or anything from one's former life

This is not a casual choice. It is regarded by The Community as an irreversible restart, equivalent to the administrative and procedural finality of death.

Upon exercising this right, the individual must permanently surrender:

- All wealth and property
- All academic qualifications
- All legal and social identity from their previous life

Key Principle

- Every person may exercise The Right to Be Forgotten once in their lifetime

This right exists to honour the profound human need for renewal, freedom, and reinvention—while ensuring that the process is fair, final, and ethically grounded.

Part 6: Business & Economy

People Are the Value in The Local Economy & Governance System

In The Local Economy & Governance System, people—not capital—are the foundation of economic value.

The total amount of active money—whether in physical coinage or digital form—can only be determined and adjusted by The Community itself, through either:

- The Circumpunct, or
- The Local Market Exchange

Core Principles

- The total value of money in circulation is directly proportional to the number of people within The Community at any given time
- This value reflects each person's capacity to contribute to the Local Circular Economic Model within the Universal Parish system

Levels of Economic Contribution

Each Member of The Community is recognised according to their current stage of life and contribution:

- Children (Non-working age)
- Young People in Training
- Adults
- Adults (Non-working)

When Value Adjustments Occur

The value attributed to each Member of The Community is adjusted **only** when:

- A person enters or exits the community (birth, death, moving in, or moving out)
- A person's Level of Economic Contribution changes

This model ensures that economic value is human-centred, locally accountable, and rooted in participation, not speculation.

The Local Economy Model

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we operate a Local Circular Economic Model—a system designed to sustain life, community, and environment through localised production, ethical governance, and shared responsibility.

Core Elements

1. Creating and maintaining a richly rewarding life for all Members of The Community by ensuring everything essential to a happy, healthy, safe, and secure life is available within the local area.
The local economy is designed so that all basic needs—food, housing, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and social participation—can be met locally, supporting independence and wellbeing.
2. Fostering a culture of mutual respect, where every Member understands and appreciates the value of each person’s role.
All contributions are valued equally, and the community recognizes the importance of every role, trade, and form of service in sustaining collective wellbeing.
3. Operating under a system of authentic governance, rooted in transparency and trust. Governance is local, democratic, and participatory, with decision-makers accessible and accountable to the community, ensuring policies reflect real needs and lived experience.
4. Ensuring control and decision-making remain in the hands of public representatives who are accessible and accountable.
Community representatives are selected based on merit and service, not status, and all decisions are made openly, with direct involvement from community members.
5. Keeping access to basic essential goods and services open, secure, and equitable for all.
Essential goods and services are guaranteed for every member, with systems in place to prevent exclusion, exploitation, or scarcity.
6. Sourcing raw materials locally, within the Parish or as nearby as possible.
Local supply chains are prioritised to minimize external dependencies, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen community resilience.
7. Minimizing transport use to reduce environmental impact and strengthen local supply chains.
Transport is provided for genuine need, with a focus on walking, cycling, and shared mobility, reducing unnecessary journeys and supporting sustainability.
8. Using the fewest input points in every part of the supply chain to maintain simplicity and resilience.
Processes are streamlined to avoid complexity, waste, and vulnerability, ensuring the local economy remains robust and adaptable.
9. Applying technology only where it improves working conditions and output.
Technology is used to enhance safety, efficiency, and wellbeing, but never to replace meaningful work or human agency.

10. Rejecting technology that replaces jobs or performs tasks that a Member of The Community can carry out.
Human-led processes are prioritised, and mechanization is only used when necessary, preserving employment and community engagement.
11. Viewing jobs and occupations as a tool for life, not the purpose of life. Work is valued as a means to support happy, healthy living, not as an end in itself; the focus is on meeting need and contributing to the Public Good.

This model ensures that economic activity is human-centred, environmentally responsible, and community-driven—a system where value circulates locally, and everyone benefits.

The Local Market Exchange

In Our Local Future, we recognise that the true purpose of money and currency is to serve as a Medium of Exchange—nothing more.

Within our system, it is equally normal and encouraged to trade goods and services directly through bartering, especially when:

- The use of money is unnecessary, or
- It would inflate costs without adding value

Principles of Fair Trade

The concept of Fair Trade is literal:

We commit to trading as fairly, ethically, and considerately as possible—always guided by our shared priorities of:

- People
- Community
- The Environment

Structure and Function

- Each District or Parish has its own Local Market Exchange
- These are physical marketplaces, centrally located and accessible to all
- Each Exchange also offers an offline and online presence, but core trading is always conducted in person
- No trading software or AI is permitted in the operation of Local Market Exchanges

Modes of Exchange

Local Market Exchanges facilitate:

- Money for goods/services
- Goods/services for goods/services
- Goods/services for money

They also serve as conversion systems, ensuring flexibility and fairness in all transactions.

Governance and Regulation

- A minimum value system for all Basic and Essential Goods and Services is set and regularly revised by the Community Meeting
- Price manipulation—any attempt to raise or lower the value of essentials—is strictly prohibited
- All Basic and Essential Goods not sold by licensed local small businesses or services must be traded through the Local Market Exchange

This model ensures that trade remains transparent, community-driven, and resilient, with value circulating locally and equitably.

Locality Economics

We practice Locality Economics within the framework of the Universal Parish Principle.

Each Parish or Area functions as its own Local Circular Economy, designed to produce and supply all Foods, Goods, and Services essential for Members of The Community to live independent, self-sustaining lives.

Key Principles

- The Universal Parish prioritises local production of all Basic and Essential needs
- When certain essentials cannot be produced locally, they are imported from other Communities where those items are in excess
- These exchanges are conducted primarily through barter or trade, using our own excesses
- Money or financial transactions are used only when direct exchange is not possible

Economic Ethics

- All Communities are expected to maintain a neutral balance sheet, ensuring fairness, sustainability, and reciprocity
- Life itself is our economic model—not profit, not growth, but wellbeing
- Economics is viewed as a function or side-effect of a system that prioritises:
 - People

- Community
- The Environment

This model ensures that economic activity remains grounded in human values, local resilience, and shared stewardship.

We Have a Basic Living Standard for Everyone

In the Old World, an unwritten yet deliberately engineered cultural norm allowed some to earn without limit—at the direct expense of others’ basic needs.

This imbalance, driven by greed, created a system where:

- Excessive wealth for a few meant increased costs for everyone else
- Disproportionate earnings led to the accumulation of goods and control of services by those who wanted but did not need them
- Need was displaced by want, making essentials inaccessible to those who depended on them most

The legitimisation of greed, which once sustained what was known as Wealth Inequality, is now understood to be morally and ethically unacceptable.

A New Foundation: The Basic Living Standard

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we affirm that:

- Every person must have the resources necessary to live a Happy, Healthy, Safe, and Secure life
- These lives must be supported through independent or self-sufficient means
- The ability of each Member of The Community to meet their own needs is everyone’s shared priority

To uphold this, we have created and maintain The Basic Living Standard—a foundational commitment that ensures:

- The Local Circular Economy and Universal Parish Model work in harmony
- Balance, fairness, and justice are accessible to all Members of The Community
- Every individual can enjoy Personal Sovereignty as part of a life rooted in dignity and wellbeing

The Basic Living Standard (BLS)

The Basic Living Standard is the benchmark of The Local Economy & Governance System:

- Every Member of The Community must earn enough from a week’s work to cover all costs necessary for a financially independent, self-sufficient life
- This includes meeting all Basic and Essential needs
- Without reliance on benefits, charity, or debt

This principle is called The Basic Living Standard—a Public Good that every civilised society must not only recognise, but actively maintain.

The Basic Living Standard Charter

The Basic Living Standard is a foundational guarantee that ensures every individual earning the lowest legal weekly wage can afford all essential costs of living—without falling into debt, relying on welfare, or turning to charity.

It defines the minimum threshold of financial independence, where core needs—such as food, housing, utilities, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and modest social participation—are fully covered by earned income alone. It also includes provision for savings, unexpected costs, and fair contributions to society.

This standard is not aspirational—it is structural. It affirms that full-time work at the lowest wage must equate to full dignity, autonomy, and security.

No food banks. No emergency loans. No skipped prescriptions or unpaid bills. Just a life that’s liveable, sustainable, and free from poverty.

Our Economy Focuses on People — Because People Are the Economy

In The Local Economy & Governance System, every Business and Organisation exists to:

- Support,
- Enhance, and
- Maintain life for People, Community, and The Environment

Economic activity is not driven by profit—it is driven by purpose.

Foundational Commitments

All Businesses and Organisations must:

- Prioritise the Basic Living Standard
- Ensure the provision of Basic and Essential Foods, Goods, and Services
- Guarantee that every person can access these essentials within the Universal Parish Model

Every Member of The Community is entitled to earn a weekly wage that enables them to:

- Secure all Basic Essentials
- Live independently, without reliance on:
 - Welfare or benefits
 - Charity
 - Debt

Basic Essentials for Life — Defined as Public Goods

- Basic and Essential Foods (typically in their original form on the plate)
- Basic and Essential Clothing
- Basic and Essential Hygiene Products
- Basic and Essential Housing
- Basic and Essential Utility Supply
- Access to Basic and Essential Transport
- Access to Basic and Essential Communication
- Universal access to Basic and Essential Healthcare
- Support during periods of unemployment or transition

These are not privileges—they are rights.

They are the foundation of dignity, and they are non-negotiable in a society built on fairness, sustainability, and shared wellbeing.

The Function of Private and Commercial Business

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the primary function of all businesses—whether private or commercial—is the betterment and maintenance of:

- People
- Community
- The Environment

Businesses are not engines of profit. They are pillars of service, designed to support life, strengthen society, and protect the planet.

Ethical Principle

- The pursuit of profit as a primary goal is considered morally and ethically incorrect

- Business must be guided by purpose, not profit
- Success is measured by impact, not accumulation

This principle ensures that economic activity remains human-centred, community-driven, and ethically grounded.

The Business Framework

In The Local Economy & Governance System, all businesses are designed to be local, community-serving, and ethically governed.

Structure and Scope

- All businesses are Local
- Businesses may operate branch systems across a Region or District if it benefits the community
- No business may operate, license, or subcontract beyond a single Region
- Businesses may partner within cooperatives across Regions to ensure the universal supply of Basic and Essential Goods and Services to all Districts and Parishes

Licensing and Oversight

- Every business must hold a valid License to Operate, issued by the Community Meeting of the Parish where its premises are located
- Internet businesses must operate under the same rules and standards as offline businesses
- Social Media platforms are classified as online businesses and must comply accordingly

Business Types and Limitations

- Privately owned businesses may only serve domestic or retail customers
- Business-to-Business (B2B) services must be provided by Social Businesses
- Privately owned businesses must remain within the size limits of what was formerly known as an SME (Small to Medium-Sized Enterprise)

Social Business Model

- B2B services are delivered by Social Businesses, which operate as cooperatives
- These cooperatives are collectively owned by the Parishes of a District
- Parishes act as shareholders, sharing ownership and decision-making responsibility

This framework ensures that business activity remains community-rooted, transparent, and aligned with public good—supporting a system where economic power is distributed, and local needs come first.

Company Ownership & Shareholdings

In Our Local Future, company ownership is rooted in local participation, ethical stewardship, and fair distribution of value.

Ownership Principles

- Companies may be Limited by Shares, but shares may only be held by individuals with a direct working interest in the company
- No company or organisation that provides essential goods or services may be owned by:
 - Non-residents, or
 - Any person or entity with interests outside the Region where the business is based

Shareholding Ethics

- Shares do not yield dividends
- Company earnings—beyond:
 - The Basic Living Standard Wage,
 - Operational costs, and
 - Reinvestment needs

-are fairly distributed among staff at the end of the calendar year, where surplus exists

This framework ensures that:

- Ownership remains local and accountable
- Wealth is shared equitably among contributors
- Essential services are protected from external influence or exploitation

The Priorities of Commercial and Private Business

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the right to Personal Sovereignty allows each person to prioritise themselves in thought.

However, when it comes to business, the aim and purpose must always be the furtherance of The Public Good.

Ethical Business Priorities

- Self-employed individuals are entitled to earn a fair premium for their effort, commitment, and risk
- No business may exist solely for financial gain or profit-making
- Every business must grow, manufacture, or supply Basic or Essential Goods or Services
- Profit is viewed as a positive byproduct of:
 - Satisfied customers
 - Quality work
 - Ethical service

Guiding Principles

All business actions and interactions must be conducted in alignment with:

- The Public Good
- The principles of:
 - People
 - Community
 - The Environment

This framework ensures that business serves as a vehicle for wellbeing, not a mechanism for exploitation—where success is measured by contribution, not accumulation.

Social Business

Social Businesses are non-profit organisations operated with maximum efficiency for one purpose: The Public Good.

Core Functions

- Social Businesses exist primarily where Basic and Essential Goods and Services are not provided by Private Businesses
- They ensure that no community need goes unmet, especially in areas where profit-driven models are not viable or appropriate

Business-to-Business (B2B) Services

- All B2B services must be delivered exclusively by Social Businesses

- Commercial or privately owned businesses are not permitted to provide B2B services of any kind

This model ensures that critical infrastructure, supply chains, and inter-business support systems remain:

- Publicly accountable
- Ethically managed
- Rooted in service, not profit

Social Businesses are the backbone of cooperative enterprise, ensuring that efficiency and equity go hand in hand.

Natural Resources

In The Local Economy & Governance System, all Natural Resources are held in stewardship by the community—they are not commodities, but Community Assets.

Stewardship and Ownership

- All Natural Resources remain under community stewardship at all times
- No Natural Resource that meets the Basic or Essential needs of Members of The Community may be:
 - Privately or commercially owned
 - Sold, let, or leased for rent

Access and Provision

- Natural Resources that meet Basic and Essential needs must be provided at cost, with no profit margin
- The provision of these resources is considered a Public Good
- Services delivering these resources must be operated exclusively by Social Businesses
- Privately owned companies or organisations are prohibited from providing such services at any time

This framework ensures that Natural Resources remain:

- Equitably accessible
- Ethically managed
- Protected from exploitation

It reinforces the principle that life-sustaining resources belong to everyone, and must be governed by shared responsibility, not private interest.

News & Media

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the provision of News and Community Information is recognised as A Public Good—a vital service that supports transparency, connection, and community wellbeing.

Structure and Governance

- News and Community Information is delivered through Social Businesses, not for profit but for The Public Good
- Every Parish operates its own Local Media Platform, which prioritises:
 - Local news from within the Parish
 - Followed by District-level and then National-level coverage

Local Media Platforms are managed by:

- Key employed staff, and
- Community Contributors making their Community Contribution

Citizen Journalism & Participation

- All Members of The Community are encouraged to contribute to media platforms each year
- The success of Local Media Platforms is built around Citizen Journalism, ensuring that:
 - Local voices are heard
 - Stories are shared authentically
 - Media reflects the lived experience of the community

Advertising & Transparency

- Advertising on Local Media Platforms must be universal
- It cannot be targeted at specific users or sub-groups
- Any privately owned media business must:
 - Make its interests and focus fully transparent to users
 - Operate under the same ethical standards as all other commercial or privately owned businesses

This framework ensures that media remains inclusive, accountable, and community-driven—a tool for empowerment, not manipulation.

Social Media

In The Local economy & Governance System, social media is recognised as a Social Business, operated solely for The Public Good. It must remain free from private or commercial control.

Access and Identity

- Access to social media is restricted to users aged 21 and above
- Platforms are accessible only by subscription
- While subscribers may use non-identifying usernames, every user must be verified and identifiable within the system

Advertising and Ethics

- Advertising is universal—it must not be targeted at specific users or sub-groups
- The use of selective targeting software, AI, or algorithms to:
 - Restrict,
 - Hide,
 - Target,
 - Focus, or
 - Promote messages of any kind

...is strictly prohibited

This framework ensures that Social Media remains:

- Transparent
- Equitable
- Free from manipulation
- A space for authentic connection, community expression, and ethical communication

Online Communication

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we recognise that online interaction in the Old World led to significant behavioural shifts—many of which began to influence and distort offline life.

To restore balance and integrity, Online Communication, online relationships, and online behaviour must now:

- Reflect real-world interaction
- Uphold social etiquette
- Align with cultural values and community norms

As A Key Skill for Life

Good Online Communication is not optional—it is considered a Key Skill for Life. It is essential for:

- Healthy relationships
- Civic participation
- Personal and professional integrity

This principle ensures that our digital spaces remain respectful, authentic, and aligned with the values we uphold in the physical world.

General Rules for the Use of AI

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the use of Artificial Intelligence is governed by strict ethical and practical principles to ensure that technology serves humanity, never replaces it.

Core Principles

- No digital system may provide a function or service that cannot be replaced or performed by a person, with or without non-digital tools or assistive systems
- All AI systems must be overridable through local human intervention, at any time

Age and Device Regulation

- The use of smartphones, tablets, and hand-held technology is regulated
- These devices may be used only for educational purposes by Members of The Community under the age of 21

AI in Learning and Creation

- The use of AI is universally prohibited for:
 - Training
 - Education
 - Online learning of any kind
- All AI-generated digital creations must include identifiable digital watermarks

Supervision and Scope

- AI management systems for machine technology may be used only under human supervision
- AI may be used solely to enhance or improve human working practices
- AI may not replace any human working role

Mechanisation and Decision-Making

- Technical mechanisation may be used only when sufficient manpower is unavailable
- AI may not be used to make any judgement or decision that could affect the quality of life of any person, group, or community

This framework ensures that AI remains a supportive tool, not a substitute for human agency, and that life decisions remain in human hands—guided by ethics, accountability, and community values.

Transport

In The Local Economy & Governance System, transport is recognised as a Public Good—a vital service that supports access to Basic and Essential needs.

Principles of Mobility

- Transport is provided for necessity, not luxury
- The primary method of personal transport is walking
- This is secondarily supported by:
 - Bicycles
 - Battery-powered cycles
 - Mobility carts (where appropriate)
 - Public transport systems

Ethical Use of Transport

We do not encourage the use of any form of transport that is:

- Unnecessary
- Designed for excess
- Or fails to meet Basic and Essential needs in a practical, comfortable, and safe manner

This approach ensures that mobility remains:

- Sustainable
- Accessible
- Aligned with community values

Transport serves the needs of life, not the demands of status—reinforcing our commitment to People, Community, and The Environment.

Vehicle Lending Hubs

In The Local Economy & Governance System, we uphold a commitment to People, Community, and The Environment by discouraging excessive or unnecessary vehicle use and ownership.

Community-Based Mobility

- Each Parish area operates a Community Lending Hub
- These hubs provide shared access to:
 - Loan cars
 - Vans
 - Battery-powered bikes

This system ensures that transport remains:

- Purpose-driven
- Efficient
- Environmentally responsible

By prioritising shared mobility, we reduce environmental impact, promote resource equity, and support local resilience—making transport a tool for community wellbeing, not personal excess.

Working From Home

In The Local Economy & Governance System, Working From Home is not a right, but a conditional arrangement based on community needs and ethical workplace practice.

Social and Community Value

- Workplace interaction is considered a positive and enriching environment
- It fosters:
 - Social skills
 - Awareness of others

- Shared responsibility and collaboration

Local Business Integration

- Most businesses are located close to residential areas as part of the Universal Parish System
- It is considered normal and expected to attend the workplace when doing so serves:
 - The Community's best interest
 - The Public Good

Conditions for Remote Work

- For individuals working from home where on-site facilities exist,
 - No expenses are payable by the employer
 - Remote work is permitted only when it does not compromise community engagement, operational integrity, or ethical standards

This framework ensures that work remains a socially constructive activity, rooted in local presence, shared purpose, and community wellbeing.

Travel to Work

In The Local Economy & Governance System, the design of the Universal Parish System ensures that most businesses are located close to where people live, making workplaces easily accessible by:

- Walking
- Cycling
- Battery-powered mobility
- Short journeys via public transport

Commuting Ethics

- It is not considered normal to commute to work using a car or motor vehicle
- No person travels to a workplace outside their Parish area unless:
 - They are specially trained or experienced in that role
 - And have not yet had adequate time to relocate

Fairness in Remote Assignments

- If a person is required to work outside their area on behalf of their employer:
 - All travel time is counted as working time

- All accruable expenses are reimbursed by the employer
- Employers may not include accruable expenses as part of any pay structure

This framework ensures that workplace access remains local, sustainable, and equitable, while protecting workers from the hidden costs of long-distance commuting.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS)?

LEGS is a comprehensive framework for society that centres on the principles of People, Community, and The Environment. It seeks to replace hierarchical, profit-driven systems with local, transparent, and collectively responsible models for governance, economy, and daily life.

2. How does LEGS differ from traditional governance and economic systems?

LEGS rejects hierarchical structures, Prioritises local decision-making, and treats money as a tool rather than a source of power. It ensures that essential needs—such as food, housing, healthcare, and education—are guaranteed for all, and that leadership is earned through service, not status.

3. What are the three core principles of LEGS?

- **People:** Dignity, sovereignty, and wellbeing of every individual.
- **Community:** Collective responsibility, local empowerment, and mutual support.
- **The Environment:** Stewardship of natural resources and sustainable living.

4. What is the Basic Living Standard?

The Basic Living Standard is a foundational guarantee that ensures every individual earning the lowest legal weekly wage can afford all essential costs of living—without falling into debt, relying on welfare, or turning to charity.

5. How are decisions made in LEGS?

Decisions are made locally, democratically, and transparently. The Circumpunct model is used for community decision-making, ensuring every voice is heard and all perspectives are considered. Leadership is rotated and accountable to the community.

6. What is a Universal Parish (Uniparish)?

A Universal Parish is the foundational local unit for society, business, and governance in LEGS. It is designed to be self-contained, meeting all essential needs locally, and is the central structure for community life.

7. How does LEGS address poverty and inequality?

LEGS ensures that every member of the community can live independently and self-sufficiently. It eliminates poverty by guaranteeing the Basic Living Standard and prioritizing the public good over private interests.

8. What is a Social Business?

A Social Business is a non-profit organization operated for the public good, especially where private businesses do not provide essential goods or services. Social Businesses are collectively owned, transparent, and accountable to the community.

9. How are essential goods and services provided?

Essential goods and services—such as food, housing, utilities, healthcare, and transport—are recognized as Public Goods and must be guaranteed for all. Their provision is managed locally and ethically, with community oversight.

10. How does LEGS regulate technology and AI?

AI and technology are strictly regulated to ensure they serve humanity and do not replace human agency. All essential services must have human-led, non-digital alternatives, and AI use is subject to ethical oversight.

11. What is the role of Community Contributions?

Every working member of the community contributes 10% of their working week to support local public services and charity provision. This replaces traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce.

12. Can individuals own multiple homes or accumulate wealth?

No person may own, let, or occupy more than one domestic dwelling. Wealth and property exist solely to support the basic and essential needs of individuals and the community, not as measures of status or power.

13. How is education structured in LEGS?

Education focuses on developing Key Skills for Life, self-awareness, and personal sovereignty. Academic, experiential, and social learning are balanced to support independence and ethical awareness.

14. How does LEGS ensure environmental sustainability?

Sustainable living is practiced by every member of the community and recognized as a Public Good. Local production, responsible resource use, and recycling are prioritised to protect the environment.

15. How can I get involved or implement LEGS principles in my community?

Start conversations, challenge old systems, and take practical steps in your own community. Engage in local decision-making, support social businesses, and contribute to community provision. The document encourages everyone to act for fairness, dignity, and resilience.

LEGS: Key Points & Takeaways

1. Purpose and Vision

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) is proposed as a transformative framework to address the failures of current social, economic, and governance models. It prioritises People, Community, and The Environment over profit, hierarchy, and material wealth.

2. Core Principles

- **People:** Each individual's dignity, sovereignty, and wellbeing are central.
- **Community:** Collective responsibility, local decision-making, and mutual support.
- **The Environment:** Stewardship of natural resources and sustainable living.

3. Authentic Governance

LEGS rejects hierarchical, distant, and unaccountable leadership. Governance is local, democratic, transparent, and rooted in direct community participation. Leadership is earned through service, not status.

4. Local Circular Economy

Economic activity is designed to circulate value within the local area, minimize external dependencies, and ensure that business serves people and the environment. Money is treated as a tool for exchange, not as a source of power or profit.

5. Public Good and Basic Living Standard

Essential needs—food, housing, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and social participation—are guaranteed for all. The Basic Living Standard ensures that full-time work at the lowest wage covers all core living costs, eliminating poverty, reliance on welfare, and charity.

6. Community Contributions and Provision

Every working member contributes 10% of their working week to local public services and charity, replacing traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce. Services are locally accountable and ethically grounded.

7. Food, Health, and Housing

- **Food:** Local, natural, and minimally processed foods are prioritised; luxury and processed foods are restricted.
- **Health:** Public smoking/vaping is prohibited; social care is relational and community-based.
- **Housing:** Each person may own or occupy only one dwelling; housing is a right, not a commodity.

8. Education and Key Skills for Life

Education focuses on developing key life skills, self-awareness, and personal sovereignty. Academic, experiential, and social learning are balanced to support independence and ethical awareness.

9. Business and Social Enterprise

Businesses exist to serve the public good, not profit. Social Businesses are non-profit, collectively owned, and operate where private businesses do not meet essential needs. Ownership and wealth are distributed equitably among contributors.

10. Technology and AI

AI and technology are strictly regulated to ensure they serve humanity and do not replace human agency. All essential services must have human-led, non-digital alternatives.

11. Freedom, Sovereignty, and Ethics

Personal sovereignty, freedom of thought, and belief are protected. Morality and ethics arise from freedom, security, and shared humanity—not from rules or oppression.

12. Decentralisation and Locality

Society is structured around decentralized, self-contained Universal Parishes, ensuring that governance, economy, and community life remain local, ethical, and responsive.

Takeaway:

LEGS offers a comprehensive blueprint for a fair, sustainable, and people-centred society. It calls for a radical shift from profit-driven, hierarchical systems to local, transparent, and collectively responsible models—where every person’s dignity and wellbeing are protected, and the public good always comes first.

LEGS: Policy Summary

Overview:

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) presents a comprehensive framework for restructuring society, economy, and governance to address persistent challenges such as inequality, environmental degradation, and social fragmentation. LEGS Prioritises People, Community, and The Environment as the foundation for all policy decisions.

1. Principles for Policy Design

- **People:** Policies must protect individual dignity, personal sovereignty, and wellbeing.
- **Community:** Emphasize collective responsibility, local decision-making, and mutual support.
- **The Environment:** Ensure stewardship of natural resources and embed sustainability in all sectors.

2. Governance Reform

- Transition from hierarchical, distant leadership to local, democratic, and transparent governance.
- Leadership is earned through service and accountability, not status or authority.
- Decision-making structures (e.g., the Circumpunct model) ensure open, participatory processes.

3. Economic Restructuring

- Implement a local circular economy: value circulates within communities, minimizing external dependencies.
- Money is treated strictly as a medium of exchange, not as a source of power or speculation.
- Essential needs (food, housing, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, social participation) are guaranteed for all through the Basic Living Standard.

4. Public Good & Social Provision

- Redefine public services as Community Provision, locally accountable and ethically grounded.
- Every working member contributes 10% of their working week to public services and charity, replacing traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce.

5. Sectoral Policies

- **Food:** Prioritise local, natural, minimally processed foods; restrict luxury and processed foods.
- **Health:** Prohibit public smoking/vaping; deliver social care through relational, community-based models.
- **Housing:** Limit ownership to one dwelling per person; treat housing as a right, not a commodity.

6. Education & Skills

- Focus education on developing key life skills, self-awareness, and personal sovereignty.
- Balance academic, experiential, and social learning to support independence and ethical awareness.

7. Business & Enterprise

- Businesses must serve the public good, not profit. Social Businesses are non-profit, collectively owned, and fill gaps where private enterprise does not meet essential needs.
- Ownership and wealth are distributed equitably among contributors.

8. Technology & AI

- Strictly regulate AI and technology to ensure they serve humanity and do not replace human agency.
- All essential services must have human-led, non-digital alternatives.

9. Freedom, Sovereignty, and Ethics

- Protect personal sovereignty, freedom of thought, and belief.
- Foster morality and ethics through freedom, security, and shared humanity—not through rules or oppression.

10. Decentralisation & Locality

- Structure society around decentralized, self-contained Universal Parishes, ensuring governance, economy, and community life remain local, ethical, and responsive.

Strategic Takeaway for Policymakers:

LEGS offers a blueprint for policy innovation that centres on local empowerment, ethical governance, and universal access to essential needs. Policymakers are encouraged to adopt and adapt these principles to create resilient, fair, and sustainable communities—where the public good is always the primary objective, and every individual’s dignity and wellbeing are protected.

LEGS: Key Takeaways for Local Leaders

Purpose:

The Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) offers a blueprint for building resilient, fair, and sustainable communities. It empowers local leaders to place People, Community, and The Environment at the heart of every decision, moving beyond profit-driven and hierarchical models.

1. People-Centred Leadership

- Prioritise the dignity, wellbeing, and sovereignty of every individual.
- Foster a culture where leadership is earned through service, not status, and where all voices are valued.

2. Local, Transparent Governance

- Operate governance structures that are local, accessible, and transparent.
- Engage the community directly in decision-making through open forums and participatory models (e.g., the Circumpunct).
- Ensure leaders are visible, accountable, and rooted in the community they serve.

3. Community Contributions & Provision

- Every working member contributes 10% of their working week to local public services and charity, replacing traditional public sector staffing with a community-led workforce.
- Services are delivered locally, ethically, and with direct accountability to the community.

4. Local Circular Economy

- Design economic activity to circulate value within the local area, minimizing external dependencies.
- Support local production, ethical business, and shared responsibility.
- Treat money as a tool for exchange, not as a source of power or speculation.

5. Guaranteeing Essentials for All

- Ensure every person can access basic and essential needs: food, housing, healthcare, transport, clothing, communication, and social participation.
- The Basic Living Standard guarantees that full-time work at the lowest wage covers all core living costs, eliminating poverty, reliance on welfare, and charity.

6. Food, Health, and Housing

- Prioritise local, natural, and minimally processed foods; restrict luxury and processed foods.
- Prohibit public smoking/vaping; deliver social care through relational, community-based models.
- Limit housing ownership to one dwelling per person; treat housing as a right, not a commodity.

7. Education & Skills for Life

- Focus education on developing key life skills, self-awareness, and personal sovereignty.
- Balance academic, experiential, and social learning to support independence and ethical awareness.

8. Ethical Business & Social Enterprise

- Businesses must serve the public good, not profit.
- Social Businesses are non-profit, collectively owned, and fill gaps where private enterprise does not meet essential needs.
- Ownership and wealth are distributed equitably among contributors.

9. Responsible Technology & AI

- Strictly regulate AI and technology to ensure they serve humanity and do not replace human agency.
- All essential services must have human-led, non-digital alternatives.

10. Decentralisation & Local Empowerment

- Structure society around decentralized, self-contained Universal Parishes, ensuring that governance, economy, and community life remain local, ethical, and responsive.

Action for Local Leaders:

- Champion participatory governance and transparent decision-making.
- Build local economic resilience by supporting community businesses and circular models.
- Ensure universal access to essentials and uphold the Basic Living Standard.
- Foster a culture of service, inclusion, and ethical leadership.

- Adapt and apply these principles to strengthen your community's wellbeing, sustainability, and collective future.

The History and Evolution of LEGS

Origins: Levelling Level (2022)

The journey toward the Local Economy & Governance System (LEGS) began in early 2022 with the writing of *Levelling Level*. This work was conceived as a response to the political narratives of “Levelling Up” and “Levelling Down,” aiming to make sense of the influences that have shaped the UK’s governance problems. *Levelling Level* introduced the idea of a people-centric system and highlighted the need for a Basic Living Standard—a foundational concept that would become central to LEGS.

The Basic Living Standard

Building on the insights from *Levelling Level*, the next major step was the development of *The Basic Living Standard*. This book addressed the critical issue that the minimum wage in the UK did not provide true financial independence, forcing many to rely on benefits, debt, or charity. The Basic Living Standard proposed a solution: reprioritizing work and business to ensure everyone could meet their essential needs independently. This concept became a cornerstone of LEGS, shaping its approach to economy, employment, and social justice.

Systemic Change and Grassroots Governance

Subsequent works, including *From Here to There Through Now*, *The Way of Awakened Politics for Good Government*, and *The Grassroots Manifesto*, explored the necessity of systemic change. These books argued that genuine reform must come from the grassroots, not from centralized or top-down structures. The *Grassroots Manifesto* in particular outlined the first steps of a governance structure built from the community up, emphasising local relationships and direct participation.

Community, Localisation, and Social Enterprise

A Community Route and *An Economy for the Common Good* further developed the themes of community collaboration and localised economics. These works advocated for a shift away from self-interest and profit-driven models toward community wellbeing and social enterprise. The practical application of these ideas was explored through models for local business, social enterprise franchises, and new monetary and barter systems—all of which informed the structure of LEGS.

Food Security, Values, and Belief

The evolution of LEGS also incorporated insights from works focused on food security (*Who Controls Our Food Controls Our Future*), values and belief systems (*Your Beliefs Today create Everyone’s Tomorrow*), and the impact of technology (*Actions Speak Louder than Digital Words*). These contributions highlighted the importance of local control, ethical stewardship, and the dangers of external influence—principles now embedded in LEGS.

Culmination: Our Local Future

In 2024, *Our Local Future* was published as both a book and a website. This work synthesized the lessons, principles, and models developed in earlier books, providing a comprehensive vision for a future system of governance. *Our Local Future* became the direct basis for the LEGS framework, offering a 360-degree blueprint for restructuring society around locality, community, and environmental stewardship. It emphasized that a truly good future must be locally structured, independent of remote or online-only influences, and built on real-life relationships and accountability.

The LEGS Framework

Drawing from *Our Local Future*, the LEGS Draft formalises these ideas into a practical system. It sets out principles for authentic governance, a local circular economy, the Basic Living Standard, community contributions, ethical business, regulated technology, and decentralized Universal Parishes. LEGS is the culmination of over three years of writing, reflection, and practical experimentation, designed to deliver a fair, balanced, and just society for all.

References:

- *Levelling Level*
- *The Basic Living Standard*
- *From Here to There Through Now*
- *The Way of Awakened Politics for Good Government*
- *The Grassroots Manifesto*
- *A Community Route*
- *An Economy for the Common Good*
- *Who Controls Our Food Controls Our Future*
- *Your Beliefs Today create Everyone's Tomorrow*
- *Our Local Future*

About the Author

Adam Tugwell grew up in social housing in a one-parent family, experiencing firsthand the realities of poverty, free school meals, clothing vouchers, and even grants for beds. Leaving school at 16 with no qualifications, Adam worked in various farm jobs and alongside his father before being inspired to return to full-time education at age 20. He completed his GCSEs in just six months, then pursued A Levels at Gloscat, the local technical college.

Adam's career has spanned management training with Pickfords, running municipal contracts for SITA (GB), and developing community projects to tackle social exclusion for Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (notably The JumpStart Project). He designed, secured funding for, and launched the Gloucestershire Minibus Scheme for Gloucestershire County Council. After experiencing a lung-related illness, Adam became South West Regional Manager for the British Lung Foundation, focusing on regional support groups, before founding his first company by winning a major distribution contract with a national newspaper group in 2004.

Since then, Adam has worked as an advisor, mentor, and coach to business leaders, and has developed multiple business projects of his own. His public service includes being elected to Tewkesbury Town Council (2003–07), chairing the Severn Ham Committee, serving as a founding member of Ashchurch Rural Parish Council (2008–11), and as an elected member of Tewkesbury Borough Council (2007–15), where he chaired the licensing committee from 2011 to 2015.

In 2023–24, Adam completed a Postgraduate Certificate in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security at The Royal Agricultural University, driven by the conviction that food, food security, and food production are foundational to the future of local communities.

Adam's lived experience of poverty, community, and resilience deeply informs his writing and advocacy. He is the author of several works exploring the roots of inequality and the pathways to authentic governance, including *Levelling Level*, *The Basic Living Standard*, *From Here to There Through Now*, and *Our Local Future*. His work centres on building fair, sustainable, and people-centred systems where dignity, community, and environmental stewardship are at the heart of every decision.