

ENGAGING WITH LEADERS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Challenges for leaders, leadership and development

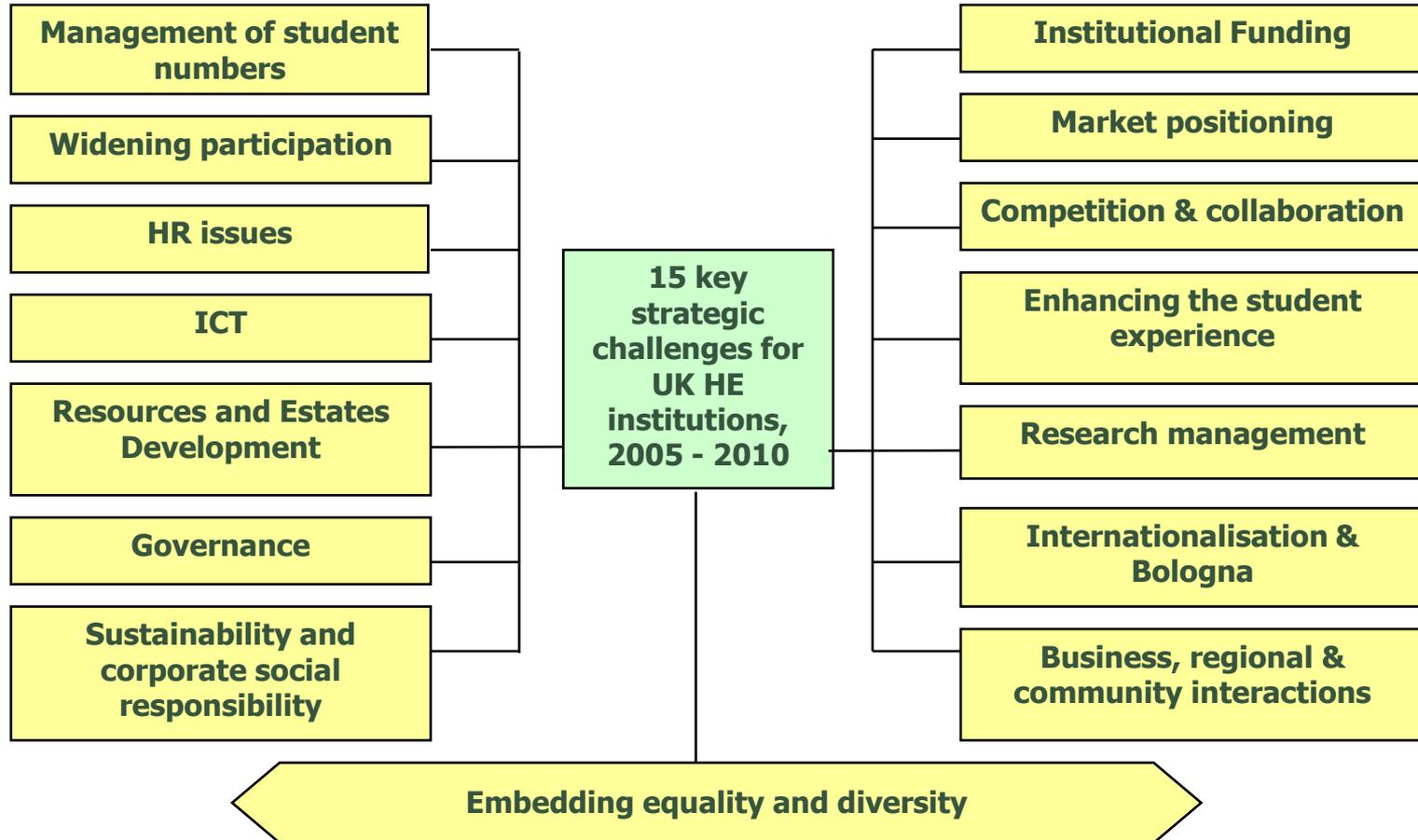
**Leadership
Foundation**
for Higher Education

Robin Middlehurst

- **Reflecting on survey & research evidence**
- **What does 'challenge' mean to you?**
- **Updated HE Challenges**
- **'Meta-themes' from the research**
- **Implications for institutions**
- **Implications for individuals & groups**

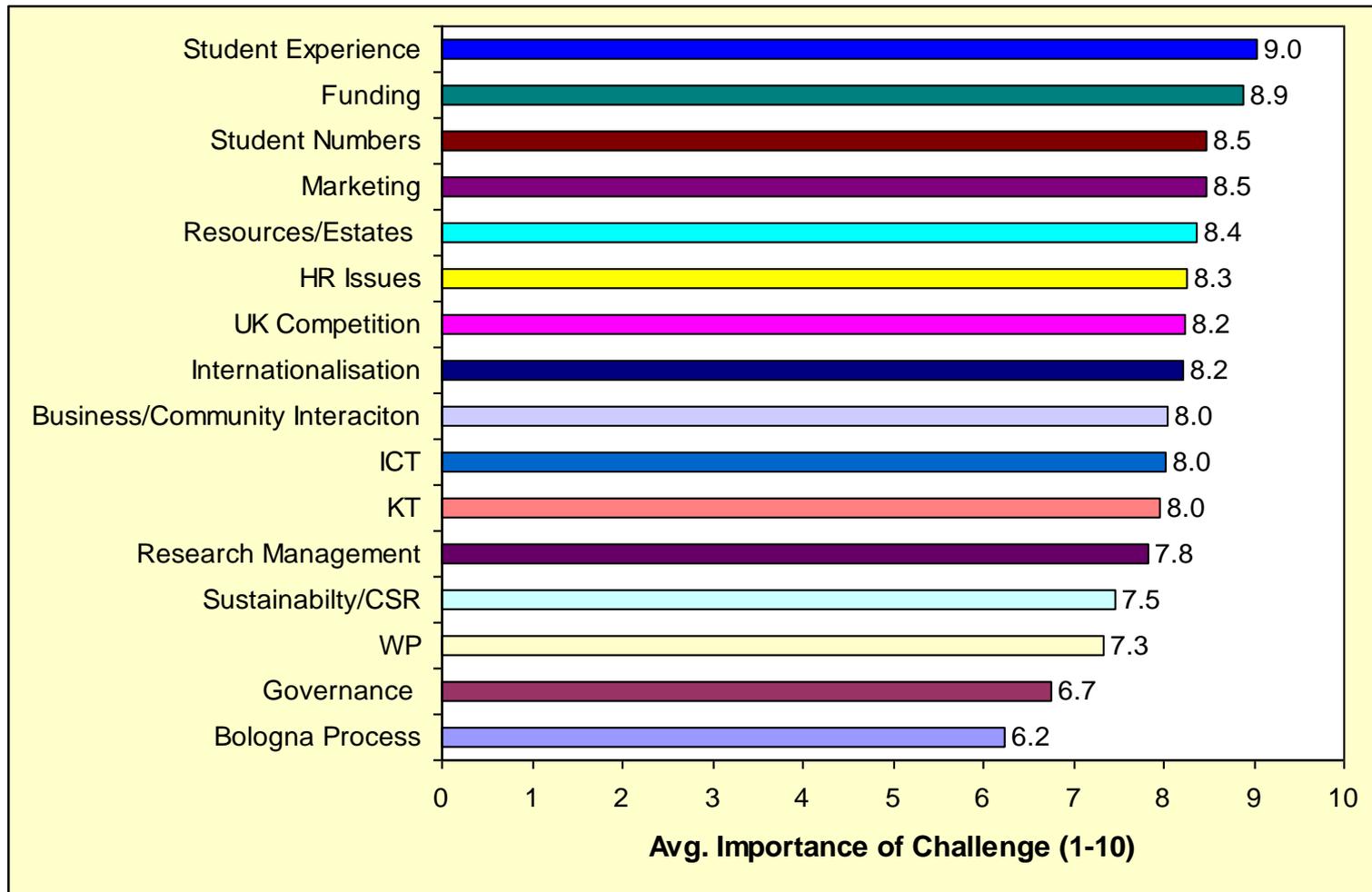






- **Importance of strategic challenges over 3-5 years?**
- **Confidence in HEI capacity to respond to strategic challenges?**
- **Perceptions of development needs in relation to the challenges?**
- **Small-scale 'snapshot' as prompt for debate: 100 responses, majority from senior HE staff + other biases....**

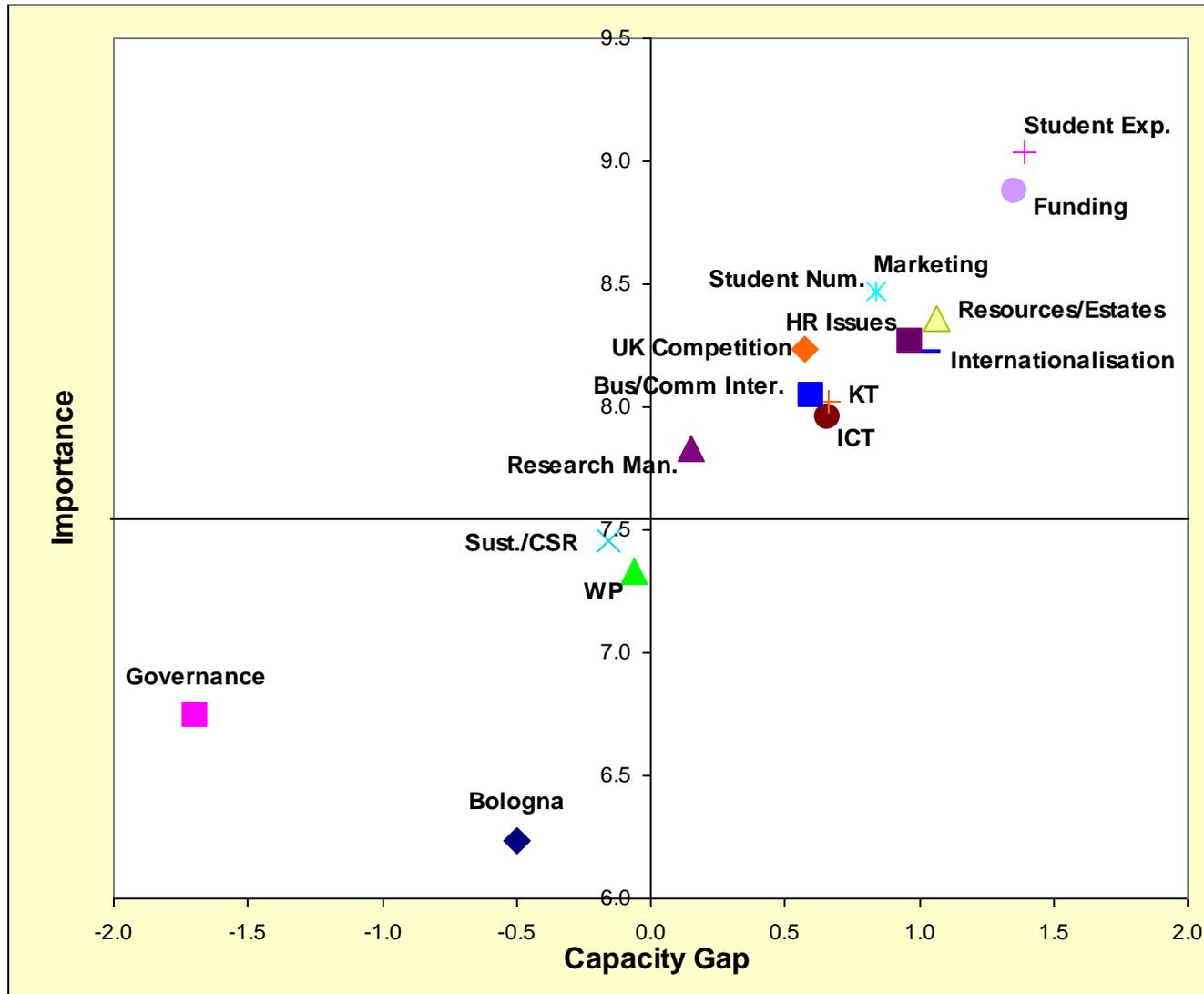
LMG Challenges for HEIs



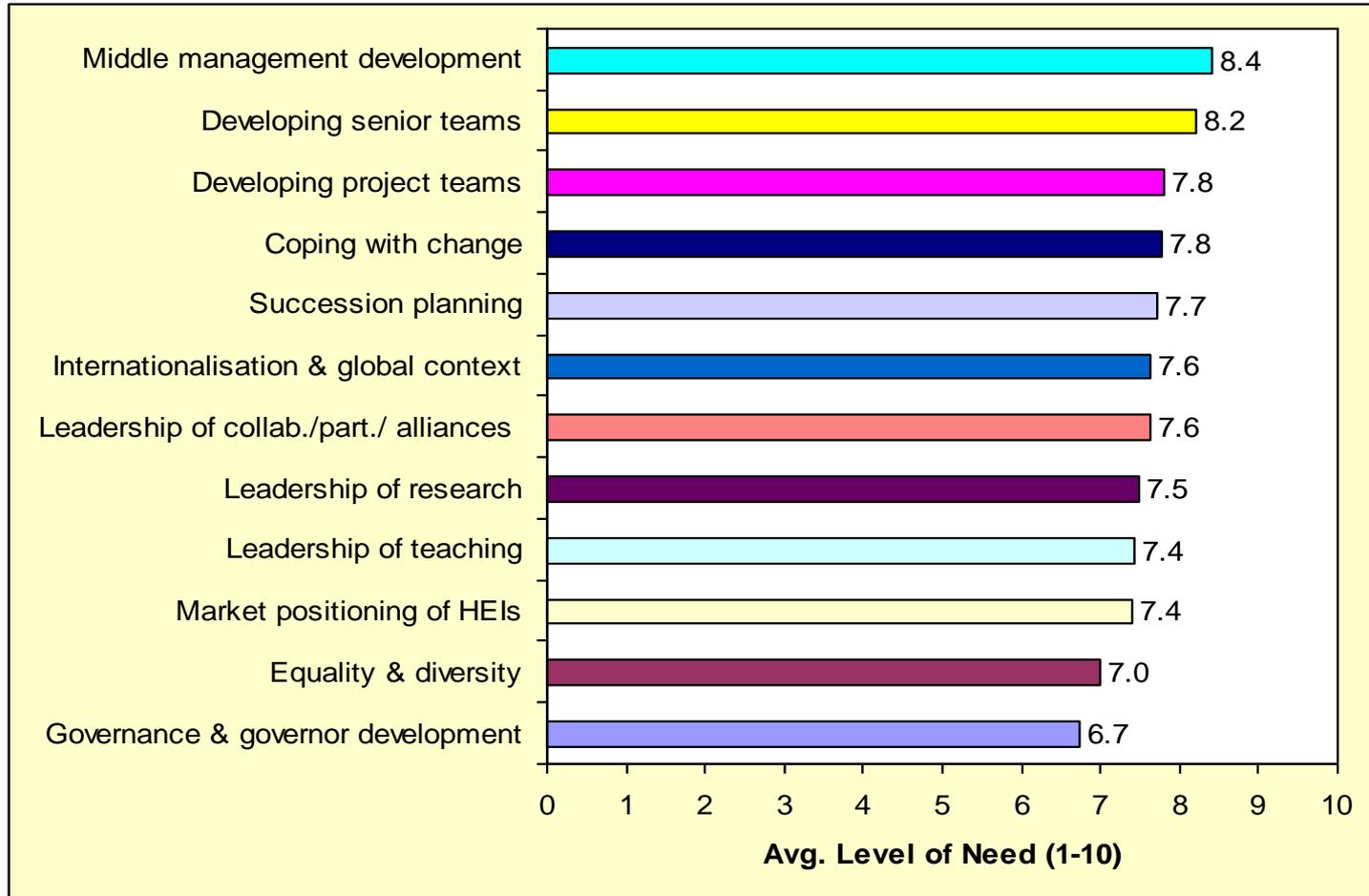
Total Sample (100)

- **Analysis by 'sector group' showed subtle (& only indicative) differences**
 - internationalisation v UK competition
 - managing research v student numbers
 - **Sustainability & CSR important to GuildHE members**

Challenge Capacity Gap



Development Needs



Total Sample (100)

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- **'Middle-level' development & developing senior teams rated highest across all SGs**
- **'Leadership of teaching' rated higher outside Russell/94 Group; management of research higher within**

- **Future context & shape of LMG in HE**
- **Becoming a Leader**
 - **Career trajectories & selection**
- **Leadership in Practice (general)**
 - **Evolving roles, structures & cultures**
- **Leadership in Practice (specific)**
 - **Teaching, Research, Strategic Partnerships, Diversity**
- **Leadership Development**
 - **Evaluation of contribution to individuals, teams & organisation**

- **New directions?**
 - Change & adaptation
 - Roles, structures, relationships & identity
- **Dilemmas?**
 - Approaches to leadership
 - Tensions
 - Organisational cultures changing?
- **Unfinished business?**
 - Gaps in research
 - Issues for HEIs
 - Issues for individuals & groups

Continuity & change

- **Time-frames for change**
 - Value of longitudinal studies & building on previous research
- **Incremental change, quality enhancement v step change**
- **Adaptive v transformational leadership**
- **Need for step-change?**
- **Is leadership at all levels fit for (new) purpose(s)?**

- **Roles**

- **Adaptation: numbers, portfolio range, influence & delegated powers (PVCs, DVCs)**
- **Bounded & crossing boundaries: hybrid, multi-professional roles (PMs, PVCs)**
- **New professions emerging**
- **Variety, flux, many drivers of change**
- **'Squeezed', 'shared', overlapping, mixed line-relationships**

- **Structures & re-structuring**
 - Larger & devolved, top team structures, 'structured networks'
- **Relationships & Identities**
 - Informal & social, professional networks, project working groups
 - Balance between 'cosmopolitan & local'

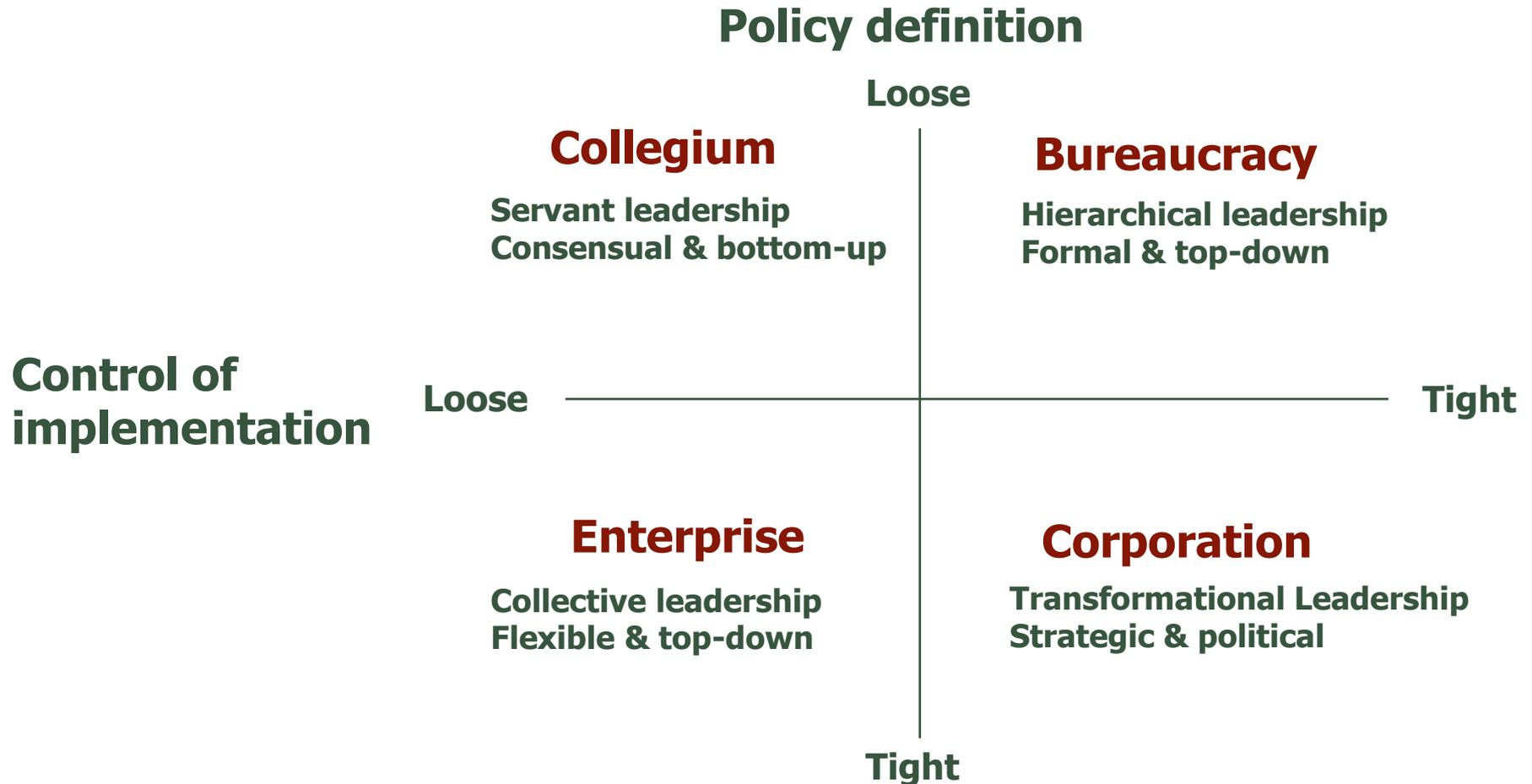
- **Approaches to Leadership**
 - Heroic & distributed > 'blended'
 - Horizontal & vertical
 - Multiple sources of power & authority, many leaders
 - Contribution to organisational effectiveness?
 - Rhetoric & reality
 - Positive & negative leadership actions, behaviours
 - Context (and timing) are key
 - Importance of effective *management*

'A leadership web?'

- **Autonomy**
- **Individualism**
- **Top down, planned**
- **Ambiguity**
- **Formality**
- **'Administrators'**
- **Specialists**
- **Strategic**
- **Collegiality**
- **Direction**
- **Collective action**
- **Bottom-up, emergent**
- **Clarity**
- **Informality**
- **'Academics'**
- **Generalists**
- **Operational**
- **Managerialism**

'A dynamic system, a system in transition?'

Organisational culture



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(adapted from McNay, 1995)

Gaps & new research?

- **Links to wider social science & management literatures**
- **Comparative research:**
 - Different HEIs, different disciplines/professions
 - Academic & other staff groups
- **Working constructively with conflict**
- **Cross-sector & collaborative working**
- **“Performance” and “effectiveness” (link to LD)**
- **Integration, engagement & ‘citizenship’?**

Issues for HEIs

- **Achieving integration & engagement**
 - Language, perspectives, priorities, structures & systems v people & relationships
- **Motivation & measurement of 'performance'**
 - Nature, determinants, who's responsible?
- **Role tensions & career routes**
- **Educating recruiters and selectors**
- **Preparation for entry **and exit** from roles**
- **Cultural analysis, understanding values**

Issues for individuals & groups

- **Career routes & career management, professional identities & succession planning**
- **Role analysis, negotiation, engagement**
- **VC, DVC & TMTs – power, patronage, ‘leader v leadership’**
- **Roles + recruitment; VCs, PVC/DVC, Registrars, Deans**
- **Management education + tailored leadership development**

**“If we want things to stay as they are,
things will have to change”**

Giuseppe Tomasi di Lampedusa (1896-1957)