



## WHY EVIDENCE-INFORMED CABINET DECISION-MAKING?

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### Why evidence-informed Cabinet decision-making?

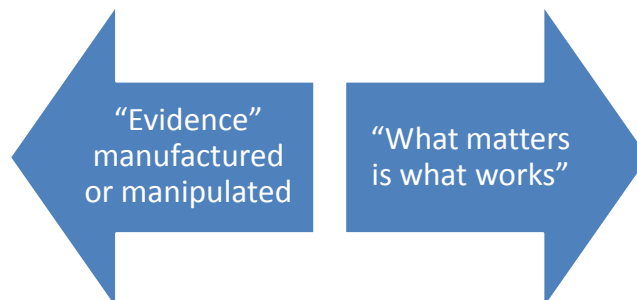
What are the  
benefits of  
Cabinets using  
evidence?

- Does evidence-informed policy produce better results?

## Structure of my presentation

- Definitions – seven types of evidence
- Seven benefits of using evidence
- Reflections - policy development process
- Conclusion

## Different approaches to evidence...



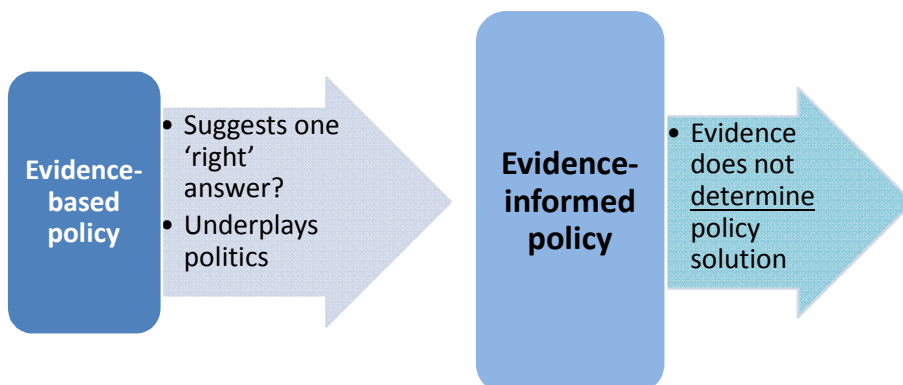
I will try to steer a middle course between the two

## Seven and a half types of evidence?

1. Scientific/medical
2. Large scale quantitative data
3. Qualitative evaluation
4. Policy evaluation
5. Census/statistical macro data
6. Opinion research
7. Management information/monitoring data
8. Anecdotal evidence or personal testimony

*Anything else?*

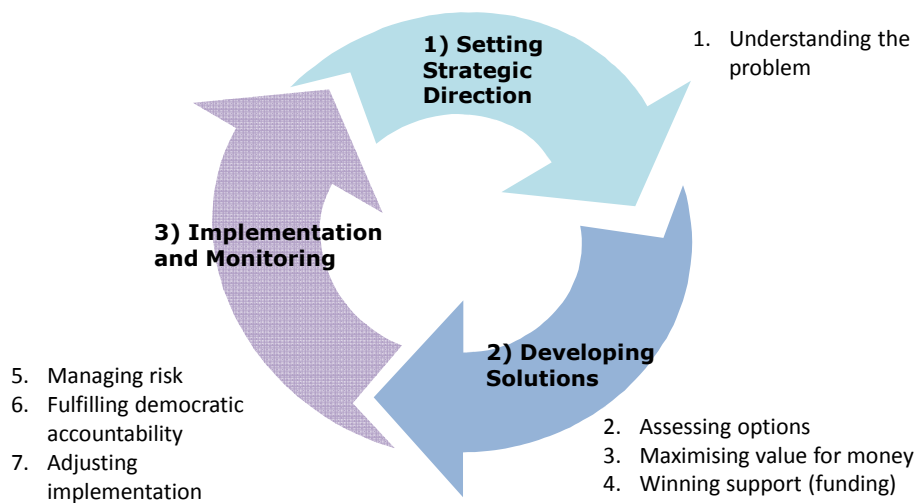
## Policy and evidence



## Why use evidence to inform Cabinet decisions?

- To understand the problem
- To select a solution
- To promote value for money
- To win support (and funding)
- To provide democratic accountability
- To manage risks
- To adjust implementation

## Reasons for using evidence



## Policy development process - analogies

- Oil industry
- Adversarial legal system
- Marxist dialectic (or pendulum)
- Trial and error

*There is no 'perfect fit' - policy will always be subject to revision*

## Chinua Achebe, 1986

“... development or modernisation is not merely, or even primarily, a question of having lots of money to spend or blueprints drawn up by the best experts available; it is in a critical sense a question of the mind and the will.

And ... the mind and the will belong first and foremost to the domain of stories.”

on the occasion of receiving the Nigerian Merit Award.