
When We Own It:

A model for public ownership in the 21st century

Privatisation has failed – it’s a fringe, extreme ideology. A majority of us believe public services should work for people not profit.

But **how do we make sure public ownership is efficient, effective, accountable, caring, green, innovative** – and so wildly successful that no future Margaret Thatcher can ever dismantle it? And what would make it feel like we really do ‘own it’?

This report will attempt to answer those questions. It looks in particular at public transport, water, energy, Royal Mail: industries where we have to start from scratch and recreate them in publicly owned form.

How do we make 21st century public ownership wildly successful?

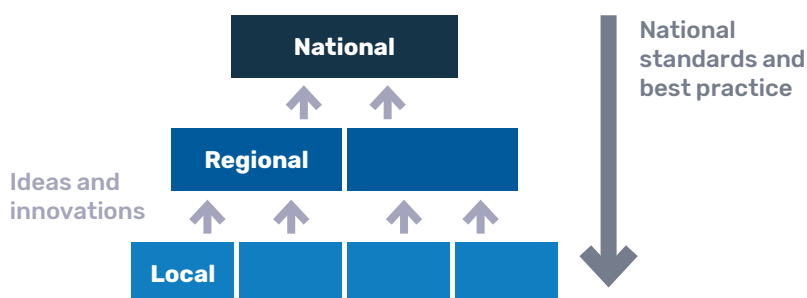
Introduce public duties for the big challenges we face

Public ownership can help us tackle challenges like climate breakdown and huge inequality. Publicly owned organisations will have new duties, for example to **decarbonise**, to ensure **access for all** to crucial services, to work with **communities**, to steward **public assets and land**. This will lead to better public outcomes, like:

- Great public transport that makes it easy not to own a car, wherever you live
- Still and sparkling water fountains in every town #socialismwithasparkle
- Green new deal jobs to transition to zero carbon energy
- Reopening post offices across the country with postbanks

Make it local, regional and national

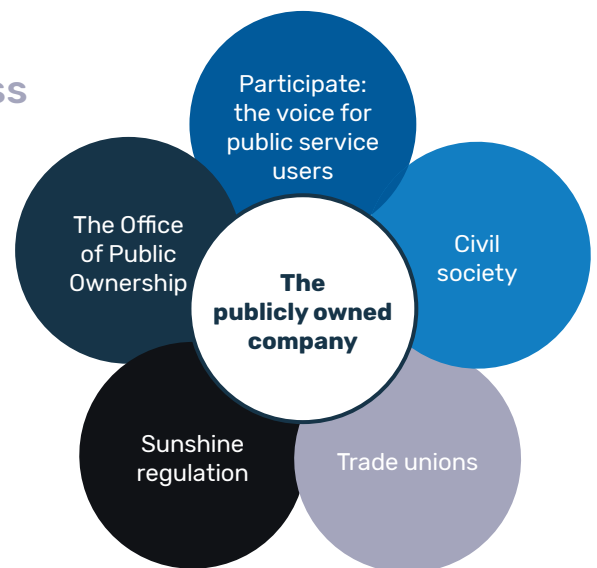
Public ownership isn’t about ‘renationalising’. It will be local, regional and national. Publicly owned organisations will operate primarily at different levels, for example, bus companies are local, water companies regional and the National Grid is national.



In every sector, the local level is key for responsiveness and new ideas, the regional level for strategy and the national level for standards, equality and best practice.

Create a new structure to ensure success

The key organisations in the new structure will include the **publicly owned companies** which sit at the heart of the model, **'Participate'** a powerful new organisation representing users and citizens, **civil society** including social, environmental and community groups, the **Office for Public Ownership** to promote best practice and innovation, **sunshine regulation trade associations** who share data to improve services and the **trade unions**.



Maximise participation and accountability

We'll replace inefficient regulators, using their budgets to create 'Participate' an independent, democratic organisation to represent the people who use public services. It will hold publicly owned companies to account, fight any threat of privatisation and maximise participation.

You can get involved by: finding out what's going on because all **data** is available; **voting for Participate representatives**; attending **board meetings**; going to a **shopfront** on your high street; **feeding back** with complaints and compliments, problems and proposals; suggesting **new ideas** online; popular **planning**; participatory **budgeting**; **joining with workers** to improve public services; **voting against any proposals to privatise**.

Put the public in public ownership

Publicly owned companies will be managed by professionals day to day, and held accountable by a supervisory board representing the broad, long term public interest.

A number of different groups need to be involved in 21st century public ownership. Alongside elected politicians and people appointed for their expertise, we'll include the people who use public services, workers and civil society (social, environmental and community groups).

The supervisory board

Participate representatives

Trade unions and/or frontline workers

Civil society

Elected politicians plus independent non-executive directors



This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Share these ideas to spread the word about 21st century public ownership.