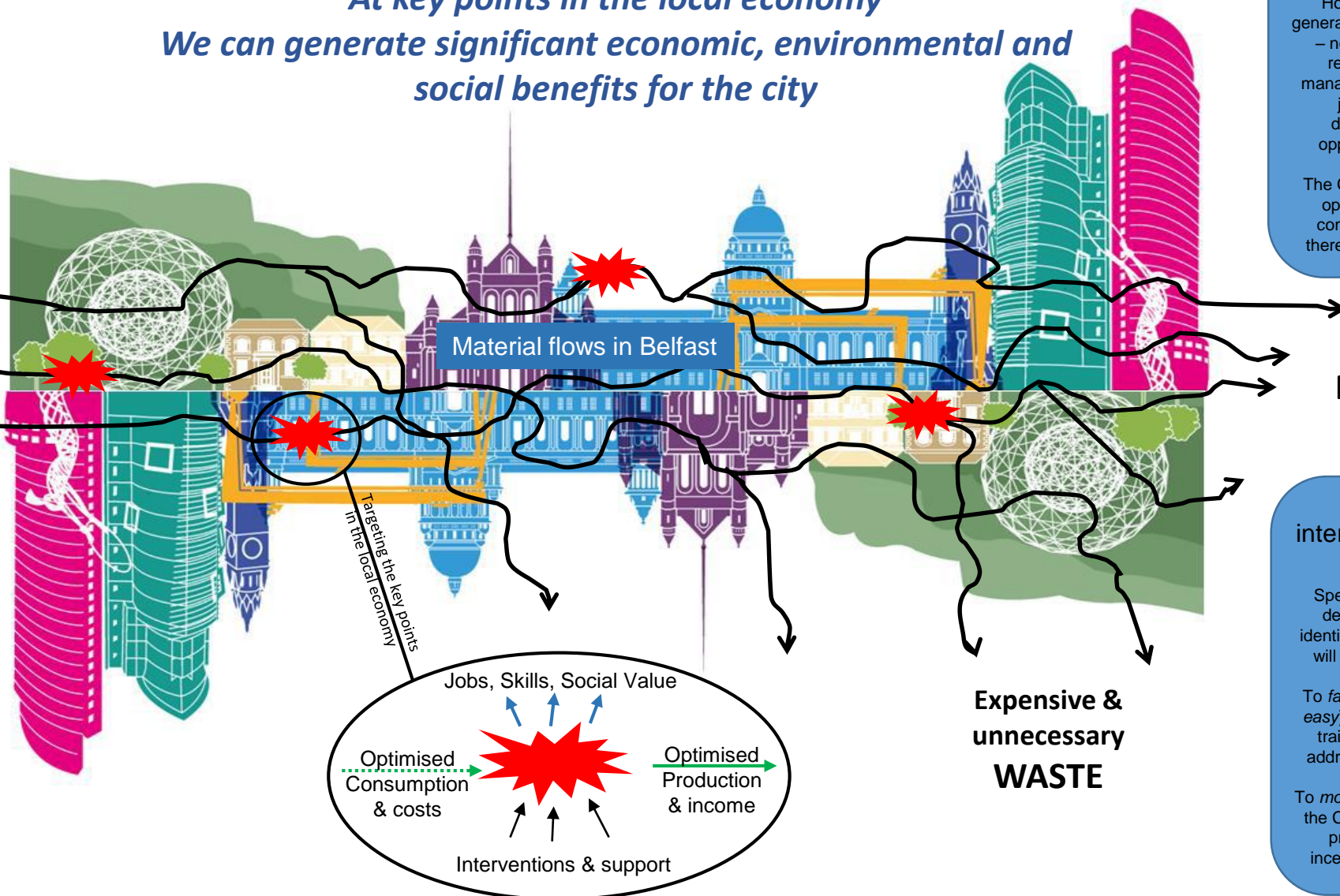


# Resourceful Belfast

*If we implement targeted interventions and support  
To stimulate Circular Economy solutions  
At key points in the local economy*

*We can generate significant economic, environmental and  
social benefits for the city*



## What are Circular Economy solutions?

A circular economy (CE) is one which keeps goods and materials in circulation, to make the best use and get the greatest value out of them. A CE encourages secure supply, sustainable consumption, efficient production and minimal waste.

This is in contrast to the traditional TAKE-MAKE-USE-DISPOSE (linear) approach.

Progressive organisations and administrations are developing new approaches to promote CE across all stages of the value chain – from design through manufacturing, supply chain management, retail models and consumer behaviour, as well as a range of post-consumer options other than recycling and disposal.

## Expensive & unsustainable CONSUMPTION

## Where are the key points in the local economy?

As a Council we have identified and nurtured individual opportunities to stimulate CE practices (see case study overleaf). We will continue to scan for additional opportunities in those areas where we have the most influence, but this approach is largely opportunistic.

One of the key elements of the Resourceful Belfast strategy will be to work with a number of partners to develop a more methodical approach and undertake a structured sectoral analysis to identify where the most impactful opportunities lie.

## What are the benefits?

The environmental benefits of a circular economy are self-evident – it puts much less pressure on the earth's resources and it minimises waste and associated greenhouse gases, thereby mitigating climate change.

However, CE approaches also generate significant economic benefits – not only in the obvious form of reduced materials and waste management costs – but in terms of jobs, employability & skills development, new business opportunities and technologies.

The CE also requires increased co-operation between individuals, communities and organisations, thereby improving social cohesion.

## What types of interventions and support are needed?

Specific support packages will be developed as opportunities are identified. However, these packages will achieve two broad objectives:

To *facilitate* the CE solution (make it easy) - increase awareness; provide training, equipment and finance; address legal and policy obstacles.

To *motivate* stakeholders to engage in the CE solution (make it attractive) - promote the benefits; provide incentives to change; address any negative perceptions.