THE 2016 LGA SHARED SERVICES MAP ANALYSED...

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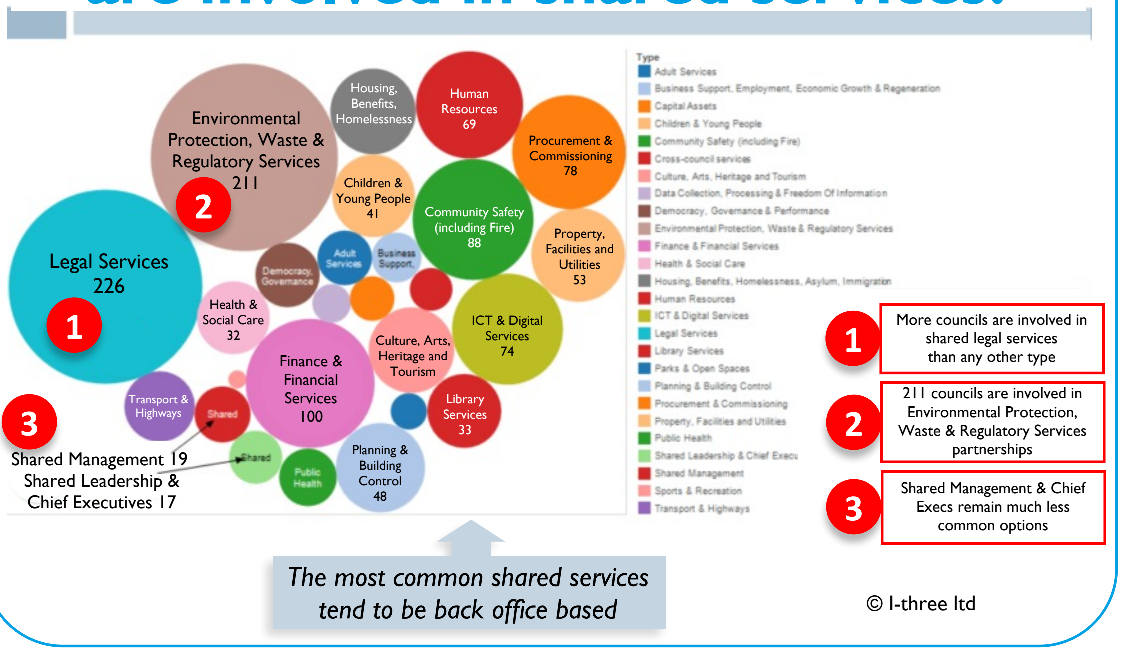
How many councils are involved in shared services?



I have added a link, at the end of this article, to a PowerPoint presentation of these and other pictures. They will be clearer to read and you can use the PowerPoint for meetings.

What does the map tell us?

Having applied data analytics to previous editions of the map, I was keen to see what comparisons could be drawn from the 2016 map data.

Where are the big savings being made, what are the most popular areas for sharing and are shared services increasing in number, or diminishing?

However, we need to temper any of the conclusions that my analytics evidences, with an understanding that the LGA are clear that the map is an *indicative guide* to trends and activity in shared services between councils.

For example, where suggested savings are involved, more councils did not state savings figures from their projects than provided them. A larger base of evidence of savings would have provided greater assurance of the figures for analysis.

What are the key facts?

224 shared services are shown on the map as operational

1,327 is the total number of partners in operational partnerships

£500m is the total savings reported by the operational partnerships

23% is the average savings reported by the partnerships

Many of the services which have saved the most are among the less 'contentious' areas such as property and procurement.

There is no reason why these areas should be limited to local authority peer-to-peer sharing. They could be done in geographic areas involving collaboration with other agencies.

This could be a useful prelude to better joint working in devolved areas.

What are the average savings by partnership type?

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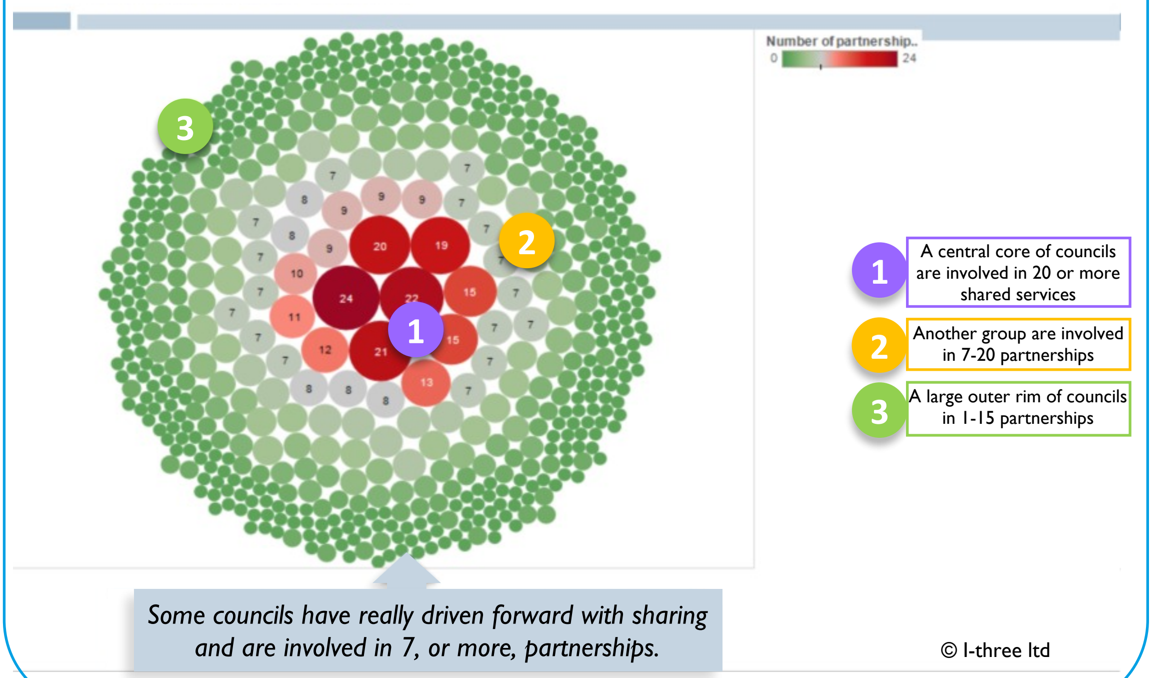
Some partnerships are truly mature and involve multiple sharing arrangements.

These authorities can truly evidence that they have achieved collaborative advantage and 'know how to share'.

Many others are still early in their journeys of sharing and have yet to develop multiple arrangements.

It will be interesting to see how this pattern develops as partners develop more trust and experience.

How many partnerships are councils involved with?



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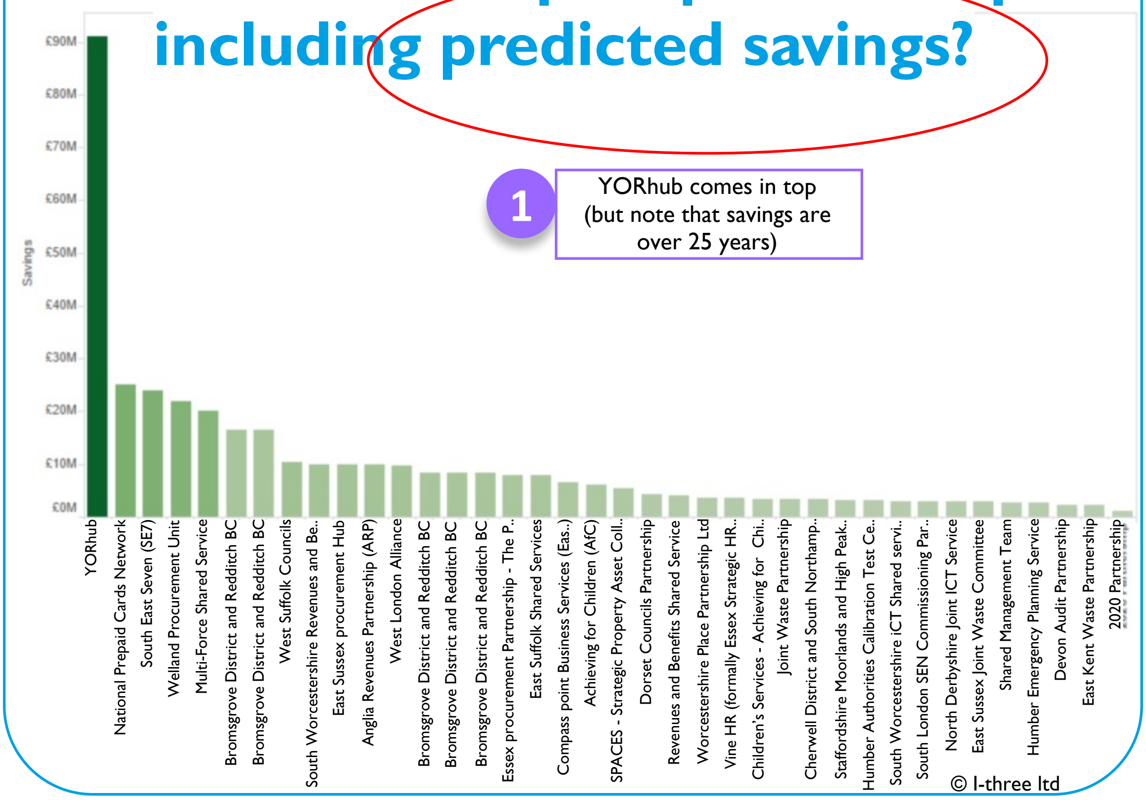
The scale of savings among the 'premier league' of sharers is impressive and must be making a substantial contribution to maintaining services in these areas.

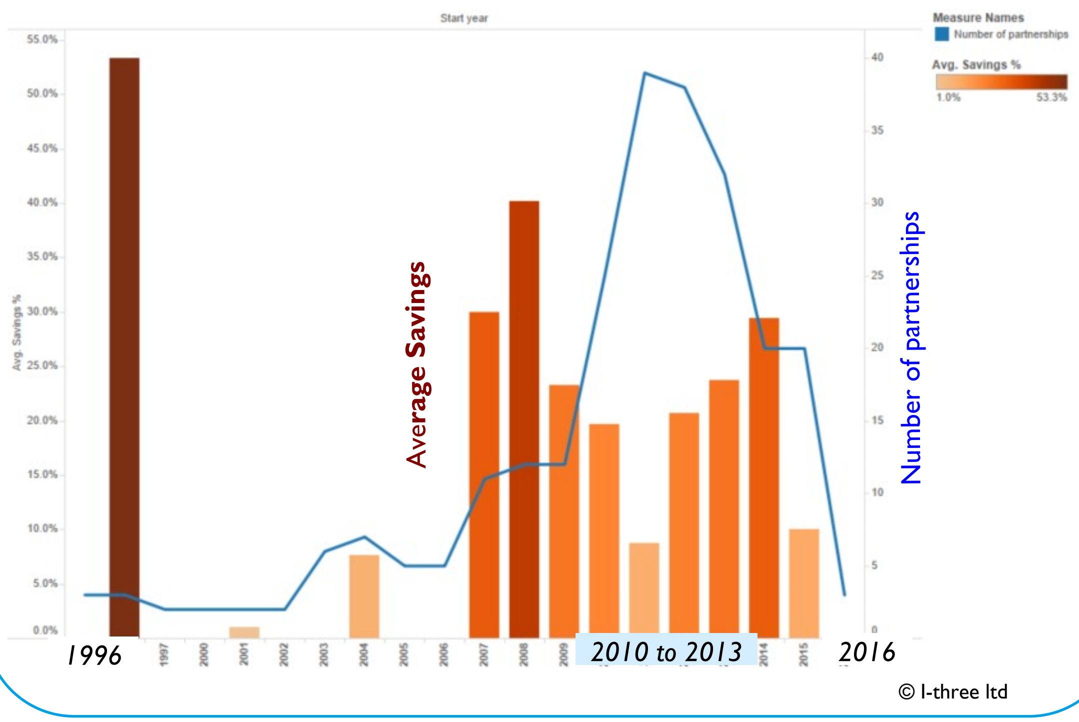
Who are the top 40 partnerships including predicted savings?



The period 2010-13 saw the biggest number of new shared services start, but the percentage saved during this period was less impressive.

Were these initiated to enable other services to share later, or was this a period when some shared services were started to 'keep up with the Joneses' rather than on the business logic?

What is the pattern of shared service start-ups?



You can download a more in-depth PowerPoint analysis of the LGA Map data at www.i-three.co.uk