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Rethinking Local Democracy

Edited by
Desmond King
and
Gerry Stoker

Published in association with the
ESRC LOCAL PROGRAMME

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First published 1996 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-63853-8 ISBN 978-1-349-24756-1 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-24756-1

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
05 04 03 02 01 00 99 98 97 96

Copy-edited and typeset by Povey-Edmondson
Okehampton and Rochdale, England

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Preface

This book is a product of the Economic and Social Research Council's (ESRC) Local Governance Programme. It emerged following two conferences sponsored by the ESRC and organised by Professor Gerry Stoker. The participants in the first conference at Strathclyde University on 20–21 May 1993 included:

John Benington
Desmond King
Kieron Walsh
John Gyford
Robin Hambleton
Vivien Lowndes
John Stewart
David Beetham
Hugh Ward
Mike Goldsmith
Patrick Le Gales

Hal Wolman
Davina Cooper
Ann Stewart
Margaret Hodge
Rod Rhodes
Jim Bulpitt
Dave Marsh
Karen Mossberger
Larry Rose
Gerry Stoker

The participants in a second conference held on 26–27 September 1994 at St John's College, Oxford, were:

John Benington
Desmond King
Kieron Walsh
Vivien Lowndes
David Beetham
Hugh Ward
Margaret Hodge

Allan Cochrane
Keith Dowding
Elizabeth Frazer
Anne Phillips
Hal Wolman
Mike Goldsmith
Gerry Stoker

The participants of both conferences contributed to the development of this book. We are grateful to them for their time and insights.

The discussions held at the two conferences were enjoyable and thought-provoking. The development of the book has been a challenge but we are thankful that our contributors proved themselves to be responsible and responsive. Helpful comments from two

referees – George Jones and Geraint Parry – helped us to refine the project in its final stages. Jean McDougall and Neil McGarvey eased the process of production.

The book is dedicated to the memory of Kieron Walsh. He was a fine colleague and a good friend. His chapter was complete when he died of a heart attack in May 1995. Some minor editorial corrections have been made with the help of staff at the Institute of Local Government Studies.

GERRY STOKER

In memory of **Kieron**