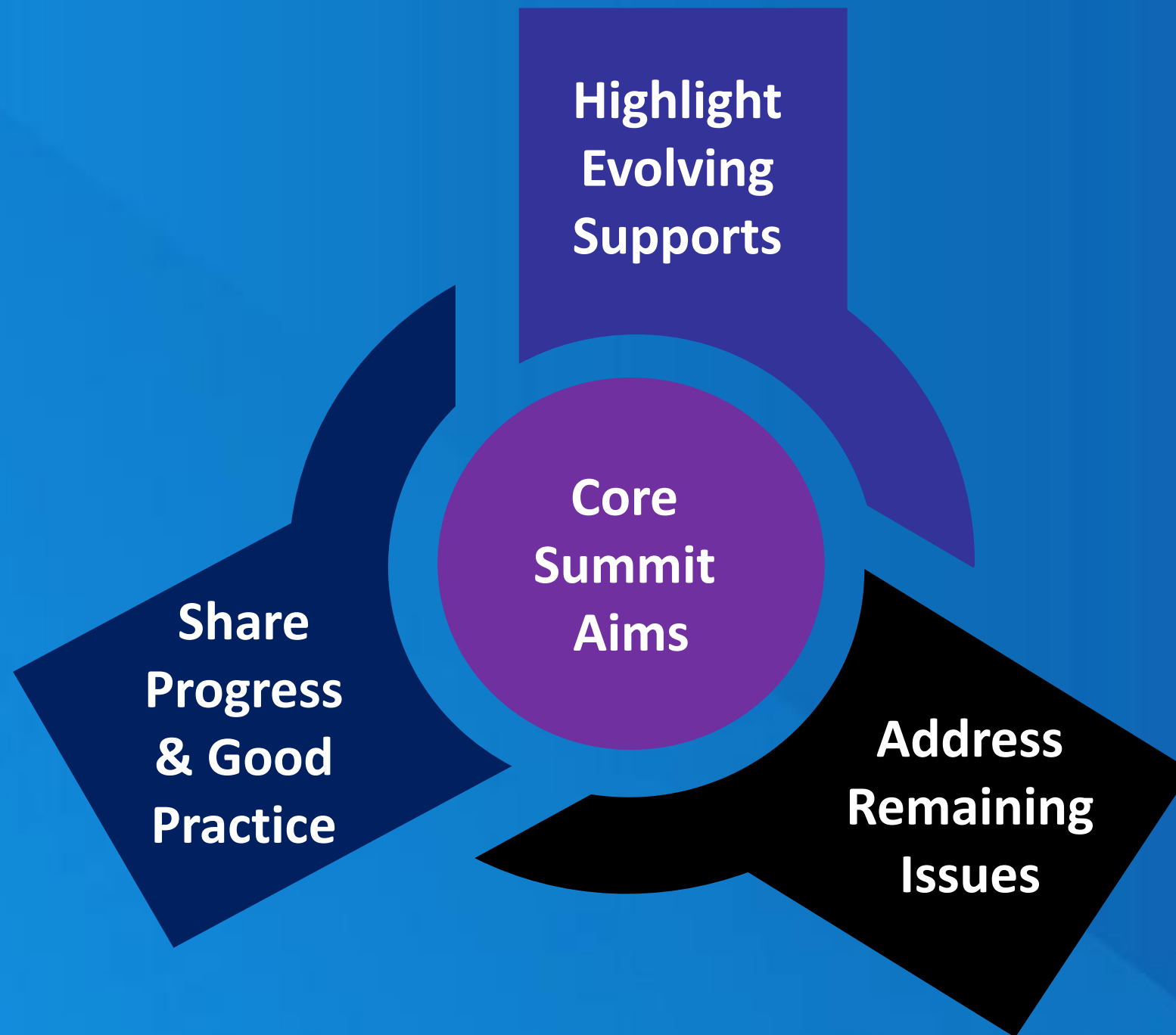


Higher Education Governance and Procurement

Higher Education Procurement Summit,
9th May 2017

Andrew Brownlee
Head of System Funding

Why a Procurement Summit?



Higher education highly innovative in finding solutions



Delivering shared service procurement solutions before the formation of the Office of Government Procurement



Sectoral initiatives to ensure value-for-money across a range of services including insurance, journals and internal audit



Strong codes of governance in place for universities & IoTs & stringent associated reporting requirements



Proactive and innovative approach in institutions to improving procurement performance



Commitment to continuous improvement with urgency to seek out efficiencies

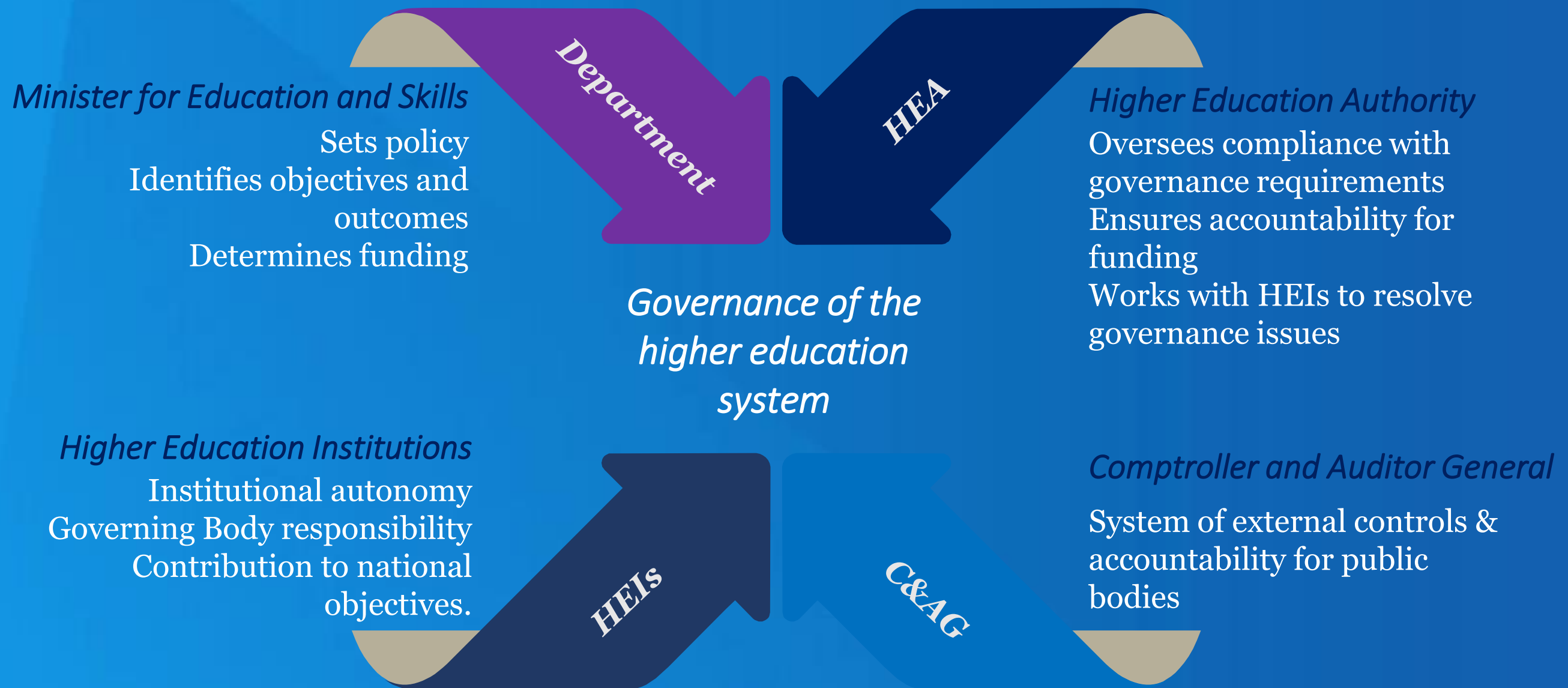


Shared ICT infrastructure supported by HEAnet (and also Educampus for IoT software systems)

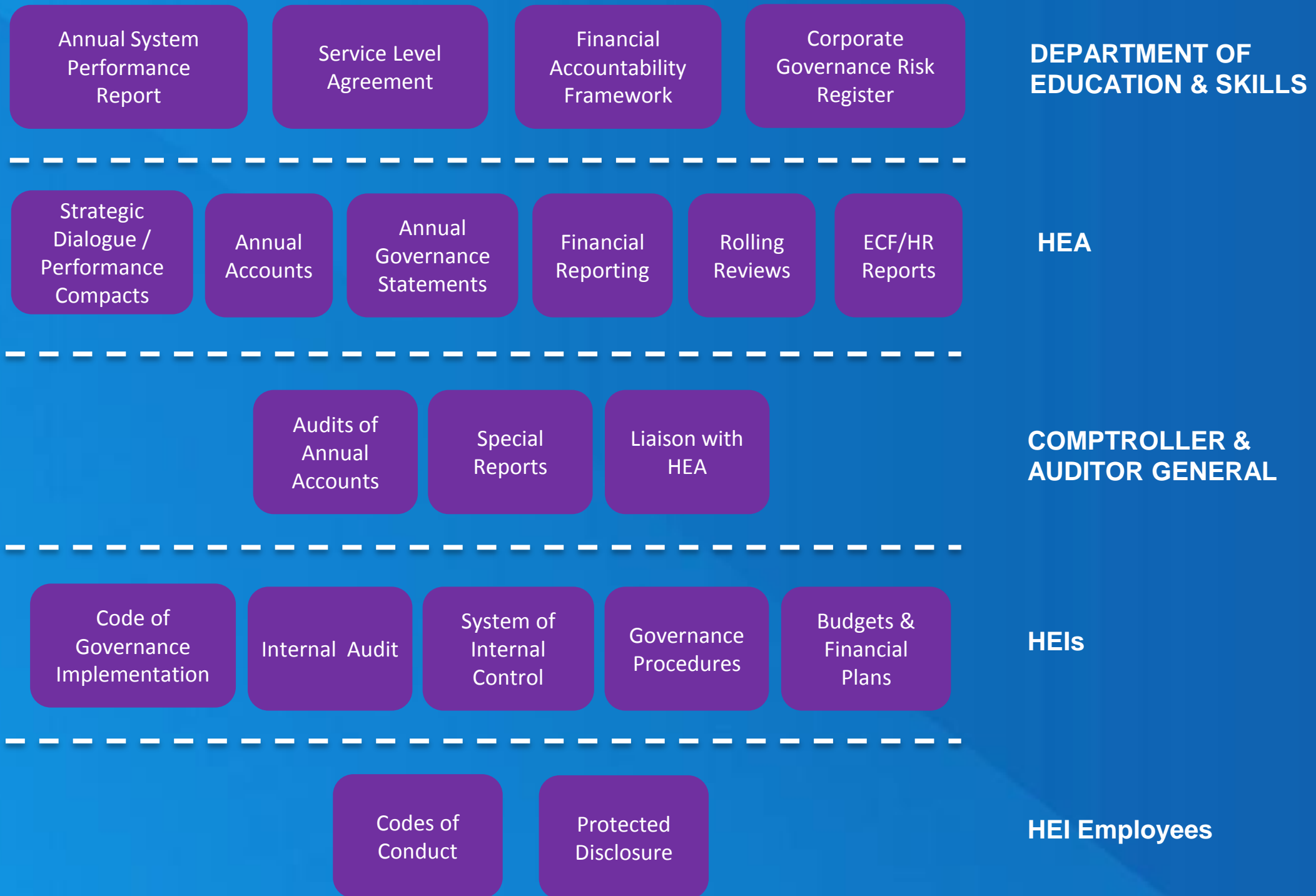
HEA focus on greater clarity on HEI governance expectations

- During 2015 the HEA reviewed its approach to the oversight and governance of higher education institutions
- Building on existing governance and accountability infrastructure with improved and more transparent mechanisms
- Balancing the autonomy of HEIs with the need for timely and responsive interventions by the HEA where necessary
- Increase awareness of governance and accountability as key pillar of the HE sector - procurement a crucial part of this
- Culminated in establishment and communication of Governance Framework for the Higher Education System
- Available on HEA website:
<http://www.hea.ie/en/funding/governance>

Governance framework sets out key responsibilities



A range of mechanisms now in place to frame governance



New developments include financial memo & rolling review

- The rolling reviews cover specific elements of governance processes
- Combine desk research of the approach across the higher education sector with more detailed review of practice across a sample of institutions, with four key objectives:
 1. to provide assurance that governance processes are operating effectively;
 2. to inform understanding of how particular aspects of governance are implemented within HEIs
 3. to assess whether there are any deficiencies to be addressed
 4. to assist in the development of best practice approaches across the sector.

Why is procurement such an issue?

- Disclosure of instances of non-competitive procurement in the annual governance statements and financial statements
- Non-competitive and non-compliant procurement raised at PAC – strong criticism of HEIs, HEA and Department
- Creates impression of a sector not sufficiently accountable in use of public funding and of weaknesses in controls and oversight
- HEA needs reassurance that sector is expending funds properly and transparently
- Establishment and evolution of the OGP and EPS offers significant potential for savings across the sector
- Need to demonstrate what the sector has achieved but also recognise what the sector could be doing better

What are we hoping to achieve today?

- Present the findings of the rolling review (it will be available online from the close of today's event)
- Recognise progress of the sector and work to do
- Avail of new opportunities (EPS evolution, OGP frameworks)
- Identify and share good practice and build networks
- Communicate problems, identify how non-compliance arises and what can be done to mitigate it
- Agree future actions & priorities