

BOLDER, GREENER, TOGETHER



Birmingham City Council Climate Change Engagement Framework



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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is the Birmingham City Council Climate Change, Nature, and Net Zero Engagement Framework. It has been developed by the Principal Behavioural Change and Engagement Officer, David Evans, on behalf of the council with the support of the Route to Net Zero team and several organisations and individuals.

It builds upon Birmingham City Council's coordinated corporate approach to public participation outlined in the [Public Participation Vision & Approach](#) and recent commitments to involve residents set out in the Improvement and Recovery Plan.

To develop the ideas in this document we have:

- Reviewed the council's current published strategies and plans
- Interviewed and engaged with a range of experts in academia, public participation practitioners, local authorities, and local climate groups
- Developed initial drafts with support from the council's Public Participation, Public Health Behavioural Science, and Corporate Communications teams
- Organised a public workshop, where 85 Birmingham residents reviewed our early plans and put forward ideas and responses to be included
- Shared a draft with a cross-party group of local party group leaders via the council's Climate Change Nature and Net Zero Advisory Board and incorporated their feedback

By publishing this framework we aim to set out how we should approach different types of climate engagement: communications, behaviour change, participation, and partnerships.

Communication



Behaviour Change



Participation



Partnership



Birmingham City Council has long been clear about being a citizen-led organisation, and nowhere is that more important than when we are thinking about our collective response to climate change.

It's well recognised that the UK has made impressive progress on reducing our emissions through changes to energy infrastructure like the phasing out coal powered generation. To date, these shifts have made the UK a world leader in reducing emissions, yet, so far they have had very little impact on people's daily lives. However, as the government's own net zero strategies show, we know that the rest of the journey to net zero will need us to make some changes to the ways we all live and act. With this in mind, I believe that how governments understand their role in working with people and organisations to influence these changes will be critical in making our response a success for people and planet.

Given this, Birmingham City Council has developed this Climate Change Engagement Framework - a climate change-specific version of our public participation framework which provides an evidence-based approach on how we can work with the city to respond to the greatest challenge of our lifetimes.

This framework is also in response to growing calls for the UK Government to give public engagement more attention in its response to climate change. The Rt Hon Chris Skidmore's Mission Zero Independent Review of Net Zero described public engagement as "the missing piece of the puzzle", citing that despite half of the national net zero strategy requiring actions from individuals, little strategic thought has been publicly published about how to engage people.¹

This call for a climate engagement strategy has been echoed by several other respected organisations and experts like the Climate Change Committee², The Centre for Climate and Social Transformations³, the Institute for Government⁴, Ashden Climate Charity, Climate Outreach, Involve CiC⁵, and others^{6,7}.

We agree with their arguments, however, our framework is about more than listening to the experts, it's about recognising lessons learned in

Birmingham and understanding that governing with people will often be more effective than governing for them. Whether it's working with communities to save lives during the pandemic, or delivering award-winning community-led home insulation schemes⁸, Birmingham is at its best when we truly work together to take on big challenges.

So far, our early efforts in applying this approach to the climate space have been positive. Our climate change engagement progress was recently ranked the 4th highest out of all 132 UK Single Tier local Authorities⁹, and we are openly publishing climate insights & data via the city observatory¹⁰, sharing our progress transparently, and working closely with communities and organisations across the city.

There is no doubt that the council's current financial climate poses a significant constraint on what can be supported and resourced. However, how we work as a city will matter for years to come, and so, developing our climate engagement approach now, even with some limitations, will be beneficial in the long run.

With all this in mind, this framework aims to set out an evidence-informed approach to climate engagement. That means explaining how we should communicate on climate-related topics, how we can help enable sustainable behaviours, why we want to involve citizens in our work, and understanding the need to collaborate with city stakeholders. Collectively, these will all play an important role in delivering a transition that happens with people and organisations rather than to them.

Finally, I would like to use this space to thank the citizens and experts that fed into the content of this framework, as well as the residents, activists, students, pupils, charities, businesses, faith groups, and universities which began this work as members of the Route to Zero Taskforce in 2019.

Councillor Majid Mahmood
Cabinet Member for the Environment and Transport

During the Summer of 2022 the eyes of the world were on Birmingham as it delivered the most sustainable Commonwealth Games in history.¹¹ Alongside other landmark sustainable infrastructure projects like HS2 and the innovative Tyseley Energy Park, the games showed that our young, diverse, and creative city is forging a path to live more sustainably whilst protecting people and planet.

These changes are part of a bigger shift in Birmingham as it grows from the birthplace of the industrial revolution to become the heartland of a new, green industrial revolution. From our history as a city of 1000 trades to a city of 1000 welcomes, and one day a city of 1000 parks,¹² we believe there are huge benefits that can be realised from acting rapidly on climate change now. With the right collective response, we can build a healthier, safer, inclusive, more prosperous, and greener Birmingham.

We know our city can achieve great things, but none of this will be possible unless everyone is able to play their part. No single organisation, business or individual can properly respond to climate change alone. We need to make this journey together – in collaboration with the people of Birmingham and the organisations and businesses that serve them.

Turning concern into action

Birmingham cares about the climate crisis. Almost all residents surveyed in 2020 by Birmingham City Council agreed that climate change is occurring (95%), that there is a climate emergency (89%), and that it will affect their family and friends (90%).¹³ National polling data suggests that concern still remains very high, and without urgent action, we know that the negative impacts experienced around the world and in Birmingham will be felt hardest by those in the most at-risk areas and those with fewer resources to respond with.¹⁴

Given the dire global and local impacts of climate change, it is unsurprising that 9 out of 10 people in the UK want to play their part and make more sustainable choices in the way they travel, consume, and live.¹⁵ However, making significant and sustained changes is rarely easy and there can be many barriers like cost, convenience, social

expectations, and a lack of knowledge.

These barriers highlight how relying on encouraging individual behaviour changes without addressing systemic factors fails to address the problem. Because of this, it is crucial that the council uses engagement methods to not only raise awareness of climate change and the behaviours that can help tackle it, but to also involve residents and organisations in the design of solutions to make sustainable living easier and more convenient.

People-powered policy making

Responding to the concerns of residents, the council has been clear about the need to take urgent action by declaring a Climate Emergency and Net Zero ambition in 2019,¹⁶ and later setting out ambitions to increase the city's green spaces and climate resilience as part of the City of Nature plan in 2022.¹⁷

These bold targets are now being translated into reality through the Net Zero Action Plan, the City of Nature Alliance, the Urban Forest Masterplan, the Our Future City Plan, and the Birmingham Transport Plan which collectively lay down a blueprint for a more sustainable city, accessible to all.

However, delivering these plans right first time will require the council to undertake a wide range of engagement activities to make full use of the knowledge and expertise that exists in our communities. By giving people a real voice in decisions and allowing them to see themselves as part of the transition, we can accelerate progress.

Working towards a just transition

The council is also clear that how we transition to net zero should help reduce social and economic inequalities rather than worsen them.

As part of the 2019 Climate Emergency declaration, we specified that Birmingham would aspire to achieve "net zero carbon by 2030 or as soon after a just transition permits – **making sure we take communities with us, protecting employment, and without impoverishing deprived communities.**"¹⁸

By using this wording, we made clear a commitment to supporting a transition to net zero that is:

Procedurally Just	Protects Worker's rights	Distributively just
Decides climate policy in a clear, open, and fair process, involving Birmingham's communities	Supports residents and their livelihoods as we transition to a more sustainable society	Fairly distributes the impacts of climate action and protects the most vulnerable

So far, we've worked towards a **distributively just** transition by:

- Using a Climate Risk and Vulnerabilities Assessment to highlight which communities are most at vulnerable to the impacts of climate change¹⁹
- Prioritising improvements to green space in the wards most vulnerable climate change impacts and least well served by green space²⁰
- Targeting fuel poor and low EPC rated households in our programme of retrofit and insulation work²¹
- Delivering a Transport Plan for the city that creates a fairer and more accessible transport network

We've also taken steps to **promote green jobs and sustainable employment** by:

- Providing grants for re-skilling in green qualifications and decarbonising SMEs²²
- Supporting the retrofit sector by providing a pipeline of work and coordinating with local schools and colleges to meet the skills demand²³
- Running grant schemes to help small and medium sized businesses make sustainable energy saving measures²⁴

Finally, when it comes to **procedural justice**, we are working to promote a more involved and open process by taking the following actions:

- Delivering a programme of communications to raise awareness and share progress of the city's response to climate change
- Sharing our progress and insights openly
- Developing climate-related partnerships with key stakeholders in the city
- Setting out our commitments to involve residents in this framework and the **BCC Public Participation Vision and Approach**

Our climate engagement vision

into the categories of communications, behaviour change interventions, In this document we define 'climate engagement' as range of activities which fall into the categories of communications, behaviour change interventions, public participation methods, and working in partnership with other organisations.

By setting out our approach in each of these areas, our aim is to shift climate policy from something that governments do to people, to something that is done with people.

Our vision is that Birmingham's citizens and organisations view the climate emergency as a shared city challenge, understand how to take meaningful action, and act together. The council will play a key role in this, embracing its role working with residents and organisations to tackle systemic barriers to action.



"Narratives that help explain where a community is, where it wants to go, and how it intends to get there are an important enabler of transformation." (IPCC, 2022, Sixth Assessment Report)²⁵

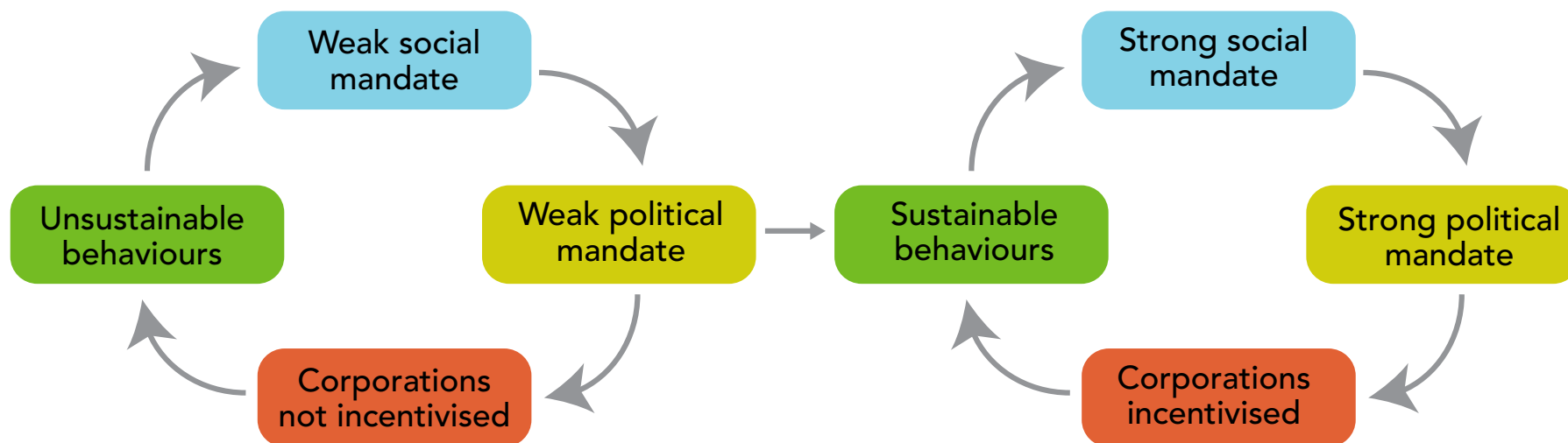
How we talk about climate change matters. As a political topic, taking action on climate change currently enjoys broad support across society, yet misinformation, challenges to public trust, and political polarisation could pose a threat to this consensus.

Given this, the council has a clear responsibility to act for the people of Birmingham and demonstrate how we deliver meaningful positive local impacts to inspire city-wide action.

Whilst communications alone won't directly lead to significant changes in behaviour, they can influence them and have other benefits such as increasing public trust, inspiring action, and raising awareness. All of these are critical parts of building a strong social mandate and creating a positive feedback loop of sustained action:²⁶

Our aims for climate communications are:

- To raise awareness of the climate change and the actions we can take
- To raise awareness of the benefits and co-benefits of these actions
- To share what other organisations and individuals are doing to tackle climate change
- To build trust in the council as a leader in climate action by being transparent about our own actions and progress

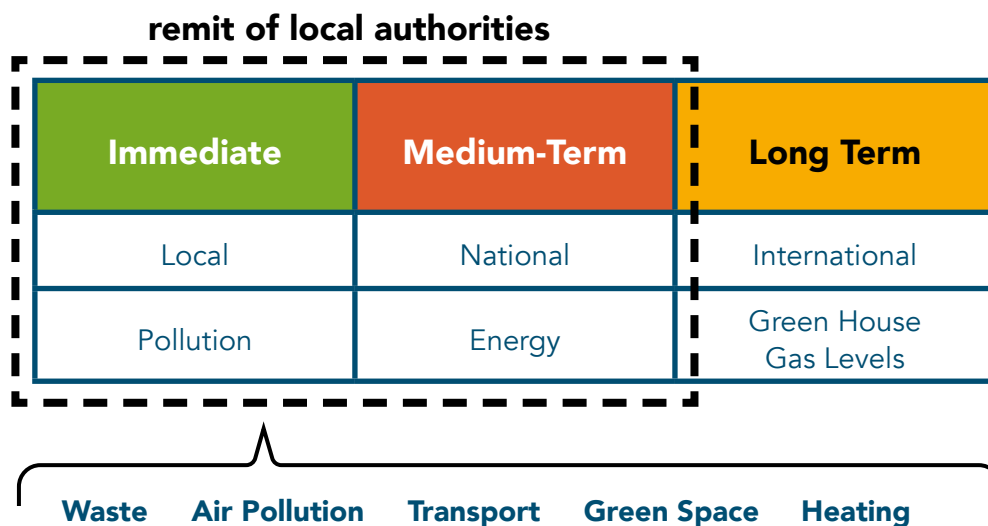


1. Keep it Local

"It's right isn't it? Local government has powers to make change – so let's see it happen!" - Local resident

Research conducted in Birmingham has demonstrated that most people think about the impact of climate change in three different temporal and geographical horizons. What is generally seen as within the responsibility of the local authorities is usually the immediate, local impacts and actions, as well as some of the medium term, national issues.

These issues can be summarised into the following categories:



Keeping most messages within these immediate, relevant, and local topics to avoid overly focusing on distant long-term issues will be key to creating impactful council communications. Research indicates that whilst talking about long-term horizons is important, it can sometimes overwhelm people's sense of what is achievable at the local and individual level.²⁷

Grand narratives about the future of our planet can be a powerful call to action, however, there was a strong consensus that Local Authorities are best placed to build enthusiasm for the meaningful change that can happen within their communities. This was particularly true for the issues of waste, air pollution, transport, green spaces, and heating.

2. Keep it Accessible

"I think if you ask more than 50% of the people out there, they wouldn't know what Net Zero is. I know a little bit about it, but I don't know a lot, if I'm honest." – Local resident

Alongside making messages relevant to local communities, the language around climate change needs to be accessible and clear. Many terms like 'Carbon Neutral', 'Net Zero', 'Greenhouse Gases', and 'Carbon Sequestration', are complex and not universally understood.

As well as keeping our language clear, there is also a need to break down complex scientific concepts into their core components and messages. This is particularly relevant for issues like air quality, heating solutions, and waste processing.

In addition to using accessible language and messages, communications can also be made more accessible by using trusted messengers and community leaders. Speakers outside of the council can lend some messages more authority and reach audiences who may not typically receive council communications.²⁸

Finally, in making communications accessible, consideration should be given to the medium and audience. Is a digital campaign accessible to its target audience? Have any possible language barriers been considered? Do our communications meet the audience in places and spaces where they exist already, and are we providing them with the right information at the right time?

3. Keep it Honest

"I'd want it to tell me what they're gonna spend the money on as well. Is it more green space? And what is it gonna be best to do?"

Because actually, if somebody said to me,

'This is your carbon tax, John, because you're driving in every day, but this is what we're doing with your money,' then you might think,

'Okay. Fair enough.'" – Local resident

People value fairness in public decision making and evidence suggests that many are in support of local green initiatives that go beyond national goals.²⁹

However, we know that ambitious policies need to sustain public trust by doing the following:

- Be clear about why decisions are made and how council resources are being used
- Publish the insights and data which informs our decision making
- Provide a clear feedback loop when public participation has been used in a decision
- Avoid overusing the language of crisis, unless it is backed up by meaningful action and decisions
- Back up ambitious targets with clear detailed plans
- Don't misleadingly the public and present unsustainable actions as sustainable, i.e. 'greenwash'

4. Keep it Human

"Most immediately, I would say pollution in the environment is the most important issue. In fact, what they're saying is it's damaging to young children even if they haven't got the condition now, that it is having an impact on their lungs."

So that, to me, is the most immediate." – Local resident

Research shows that people tend to relate much more to human related stories, especially when they are from members of our community or people we know.³⁰

Human-centred stories can be a powerful way to inspire action. Spotlighting local negative impacts of climate change can bring home the reality of the situation (e.g. the health impacts of heatwaves on the elderly) whilst real examples of local positive actions can help others feel like they too can make a difference (e.g. a local solar scheme).

Additionally, we also know that information isn't everything in creating change. Not having all the detailed knowledge and data on climate science isn't a barrier to taking a meaningful action and often people's values and identities will be a bigger motivation for action. If we can help show sustainable behaviours as both aspirational and appealing, we can help accelerate meaningful and widespread climate action.

“Communication about specific behaviours will have a limited impact unless there is an overarching communication strategy that ‘joins the dots’ between climate impacts, and the wide range of climate ‘solutions’ (including behavioural changes) that society can deploy over the coming decades.” - The Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation, 2020³¹

To date, most of the UK’s progress in reducing emissions has resulted from phasing out coal-powered energy generation and increasing renewable energy generation.³² These changes have occurred with little direct effect on people’s lives or behaviours. However, to make the rest of the journey to net zero and improve health outcomes, there are emissions reduction which will need to come from changes to the way we travel, heat our homes, deal with waste, and consume goods.³³ We also know that behaviour change will play a crucial role in protecting nature and preparing Birmingham for future climate risks such as flooding and heat stress.³⁴

Our approach to enabling a shift in behaviours is all about creating an environment where sustainable behaviours are the easiest and most attractive options, rather than expensive or inconvenient. In practice, the interventions to achieve these changes can be things like education campaigns, persuasion, incentivisation, training, environmental restructuring, and enablement.

The council’s statutory powers and duties means that it has many choice-shaping powers in areas like transport, planning, and waste. These provide us with mechanisms to influence some behaviours, yet achieving the range of behavioural shifts needed to address climate change will require a bigger reach. By working with citizens, organisations, and businesses to collectively make the right interventions, we can help create a city which makes sustainable living attractive and achievable.

Our aims for behaviour change are to:

- Use evidence-based methods and engagement activities with citizens when diagnosing and understanding existing behaviours
- Take a systematic behavioural science approach when designing interventions to encourage new sustainable behaviours
- Test and evaluate interventions underpinned by behaviour change models and theories to measure their effectiveness after implementation

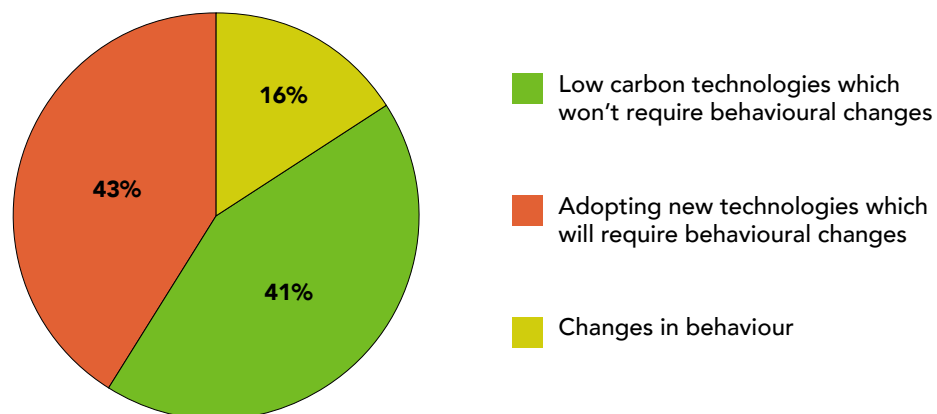
Which behaviours do we mean?

It’s often said that many of the solutions to climate change already exist and that the challenge we currently face is making them financially, physically, and socially viable. Whilst some net zero solutions won’t directly impact people’s lives, others will require a level of individual behaviour change.

Reviewing the UK Government’s Net Zero Strategy, the Climate Change Committee have analysed that almost 60% of the emissions reductions expected to achieve the UK’s 2050 Net Zero target will require some kind of behaviour change.

These behaviour changes fall into two categories: changing individual behaviours (e.g., embracing active travel or having a more sustainable diet) and adopting a new technologies (e.g., using electric vehicles or heat pumps):

Estimated % of emissions reductions from the UK Governments Net Zero Pathway associated with behavioural changes



Source: CCC, 2020, The Sixth Carbon Budget

Drawing from the government's net zero strategy, the following behaviour changes have been identified by the CCC as being key to achieving the UK's targets:³⁵

Household energy

- Widespread adoption of heat pumps and shift away from fossil fuel boilers
- Nationwide household energy efficiency improvements, such as cavity wall, underfloor, and solid wall insulation
- Installation of smart meters, time-of-use tariffs, solar panels, home energy storage and smart appliances

Transport

- An eventual full transition to electric cars and vans and no new sales of petrol or diesel from 2035
- A possible role for hydrogen in powering Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs)
- A 9% reduction in car use for journeys by 2035
- Increased use of public transport and active travel
- Slower growth in air travel than is currently predicted

Diet and Agriculture

- A 20% reduction in beef, lamb, and dairy consumption by 2030
- A 50% cut in food waste by 2030

Waste and Consumption

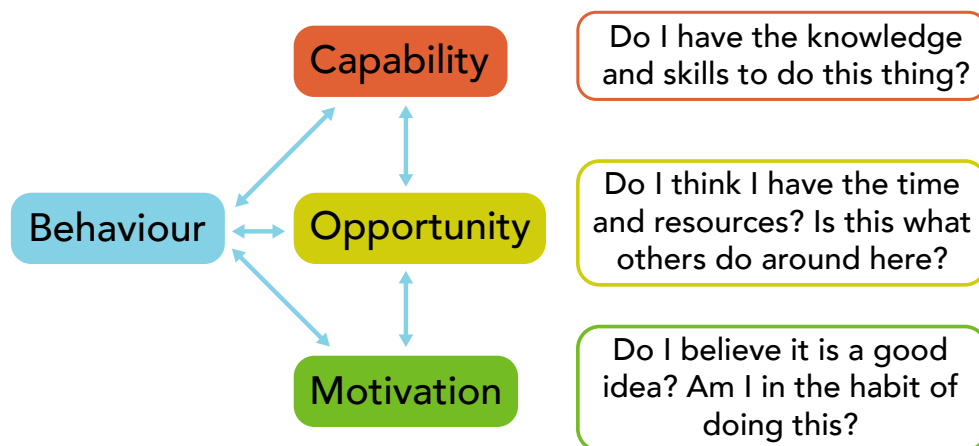
- An increase towards a 70% recycling rate across the UK
- An increase in circular consumption: more repairing, re-using, pre-owning, and take-back schemes

With these target areas identified from national policy & legislation, local authorities like Birmingham City Council can better identify the behaviour changes needed to achieve net zero alongside other areas like improving air quality and protecting our natural environment.

How can we shape behaviours?

There are a huge variety of theories and models for influencing behaviour change. These theories can help illuminate barriers and solutions, yet because human nature is complex, no one theory will can provide all the answers in every situation.

Nevertheless, theories provide a good starting point, and, like many public sector organisations, the council often uses the COM-B model in policy making. This model breaks down the factors which influence whether a behaviour happens into 3 simple categories:



Source: Michie et al, 2011³⁶

Applying this model helps us to identify barriers to sustainable behaviours, from which interventions can be designed, tested and evaluated.

Additionally, understanding barriers and motivating factors requires policy makers to listen to and understand personal experiences, as it can be difficult to anticipate the full range of factors which already shape their behaviours.

Putting it into practice

Following on from understanding a behaviour, or a lack of, any interventions chosen need to be implemented and evaluated with their target audience.

Whilst testing whether an intervention has achieved the desired behaviour change or not is important, it is also necessary to assess how acceptable the intervention was perceived to be, how affordable it was, whether it can be done at a larger scale, and if there were any unintended outcomes or issues of fairness.

Evidence based testing and assessment also allows us to compare interventions with other partners. Given that many of our ambitions and goals for behaviour change are shared across many local authorities, there is likely a great benefit in sharing experiences to replicate successes and avoid common pitfalls.

People's lives will have to change, from the way they travel and heat their homes, to what they eat and drink. The transition will be successful only if government works with people, rather than imposing solutions from on high – Institute for Government, 2021³⁷

As the previous section on behaviour change discussed, we know that the response needed to prevent and prepare for climate change will involve some changes to the ways we live. To ensure that the decisions made are fair and that the council acts with people's interests, there is a real need to involve the public through participation.

Public participation can refer to any method of involving members of the public in a decision-making or delivery process and can take several different forms. Involving the public in these processes can deliver a wide range of benefits like helping the council to make better informed decisions, increasing legitimacy and trust, improving our understanding of what the population really thinks and feels, hearing from marginalised groups, sourcing new ideas, and inspiring people to take action in their own lives.³⁸

Our aims for public participation are:

- Apply the principles of accessibility, fairness, and respect set out in the council's [Public Participation Vision and Approach](#) To climate-related participatory methods and events
- Undertake a systematic approach to select participatory methods for appropriate decisions & processes
- Work to make participation genuinely inclusive, reaching beyond those already well engaged
- Strive to keep participatory processes legitimate and transparent

Deciding the method

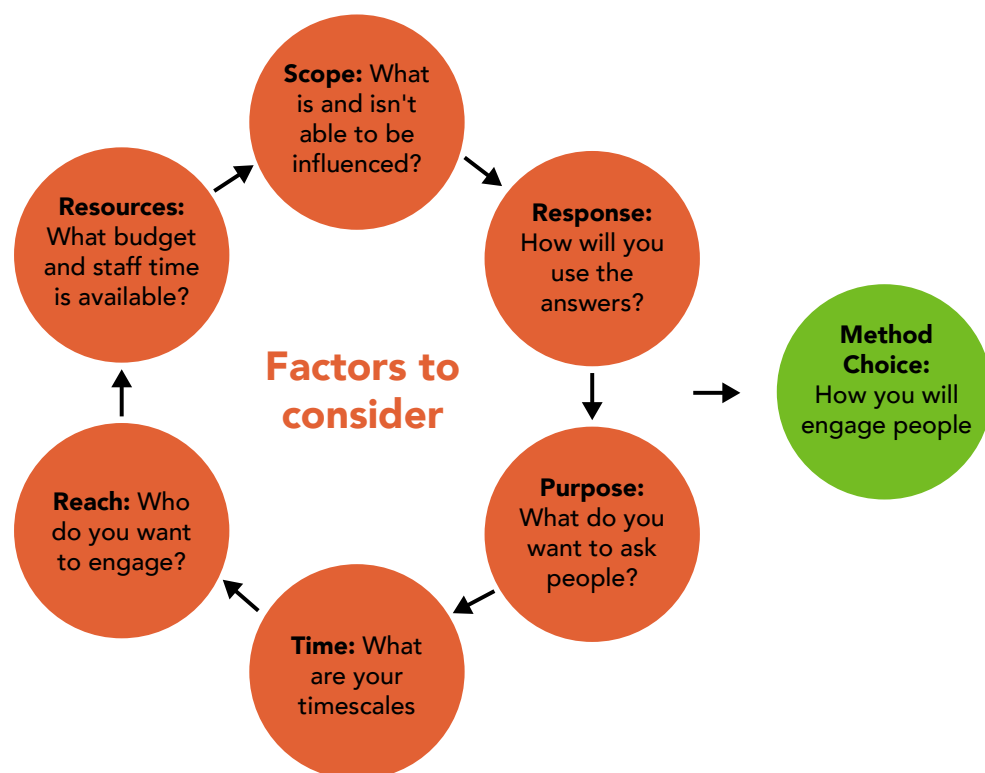
As our Public Participation Vision and Approach details, we can group types of public engagement activities into the following categories:³⁹

Empowering	Supporting people to independently shape where they live and take meaningful action
Collaborating	Working together to design and deliver an action
Involving	Working together to decide the best way forward
Consulting	Inviting and responding to feedback on ideas and decisions
Informing	Providing balanced information to help people understand a problem and/or solutions

These categories also lie on a spectrum, where the top (empowering) gives the greatest influence to the public and the bottom (informing) the least.

As a result, it can be tempting to assume that there is a hierarchy of the most effective types of participation. However, for participation to be genuinely meaningful, the participants' input needs to have real and demonstrable influence on decisions made.

Therefore, making sure that the right engagement method is used for the right decision is crucial. One way to achieve this is to ensure that the method of engagement fits with our ability to properly plan, deliver, and act upon the outcome of the event:



Making it legitimate

Alongside choosing the most suitable participatory method for the decision being taken, we need to make sure that the process is done in a fair and legitimate way.

This means, as mentioned, that there should be a clear and honest commitment on how the process will influence a decision from the start, making participants aware of its purpose, hopes, and limitations. Additionally, the processes should also aim to involve those who are most impacted by the decision, rather than only those who are typically engaged with the council. Whilst the council's 'usual suspects' are valued for their regular involvement, listening to a wide range of voices and views reflective of those impacted by the decision helps make any outcomes more legitimate.



Local residents and community groups who worked with the council to retrofit 649 properties in Balsall Heath and Acocks Green. Photo courtesy of Retrofit Balsall Heath, 2023.

In order to involve a range of people, processes should strive to be inclusive and accessible, making sure that barriers which would stop some participating are addressed where possible. This could be supported through remuneration, covered expenses, and/or providing or paying for childcare and eldercare.

Finally, participatory processes should also be considered in the wider audience of residents in Birmingham. Are efforts being made to explain to people not involved in the process what is happening and how citizens voices are being used to make a decision? Public participation isn't only about helping us arrive at the right decision for residents, but also about building trust and showing others how a decision was made fairly and legitimately.

There is no one size fits all solution for participation and many different processes will have different trade-offs. However, by considering the guidance here and in our [Public Participation Vision and Approach](#), we can help make processes inclusive and legitimate.

Deliberating solutions

In recent years, a particular type of participation known as 'deliberative mini publics' have become increasingly popular as a way of accelerating up climate policy with public consent.

From the Municipality of Milan to the UK Parliament and the French Government,⁴⁰ these mini publics, often called citizens' assemblies or citizens' juries, make use of a smaller, randomly selected and demographically representative group of residents to listen to evidence, discuss ideas, exchange views, and collectively make recommendations on behalf of a wider population. This process, known as deliberation, functions similarly to a jury in a court of law, where ordinary people review the evidence around a decision, and then make an informed recommendations outside of politicised environment.

The recent popularity of these deliberative mini publics has been termed by the OECD as a 'deliberative wave',⁴¹ where many governments around the world, including over 40 UK local authorities, have been using juries and assemblies to help to unblock the barriers to climate action by using these consensus building processes.

Making use of these deliberative mini publics can be a great way to complement existing participatory processes and build trust in climate-related decisions. However, properly running mini-publics is a resource and time-intensive process. If Birmingham is to make use of these methods, appropriate thought must be given to the costs, purpose, and impact of the process. Further information and guidance on climate assemblies and juries can be found [here](#).



A citizen's panel, held in Birmingham, deliberating UK retrofit policy. Photo courtesy of the Climate Change Committee, 2022

Working in Partnership

Our partnerships are valuable, and we are committed to ... deepening these relationships to demonstrate as a city we are much more than the sum of our parts. – BCC 2022-2026 Corporate Plan

Our ability to build a greener and bolder Birmingham will be strengthened if organisations and groups in our city are able to work together in unison.

Birmingham's businesses, public institutions, faith organisations, community groups, cultural organisations, and charities all serve the citizens of our city and have a significant role to play, given their different skills, audiences, and networks.

Working in partnerships has been an important feature of much of the council's work to date. Whether it's been our involvement in establishing Tyseley Energy Park Partnership or our success running retrofit programmes with community groups, working with the right stakeholders has already brought benefits to climate action in Birmingham.

As our work expands, we are now looking to grow and deepen new partnerships with the Birmingham Faith Covenant, the City Partnership board, local schools, businesses, and community groups.

Our aims for partnership working are:

- Work to establish links with key organisations to share approaches and inform a joined-up city-led response to climate change
- Continue and deepen our existing climate-related partnerships on specific policy areas and introduce new ones where appropriate
- Develop a narrative of a city-led response to climate change by sharing insights and data on Birmingham's net zero journey with stakeholders and citizens

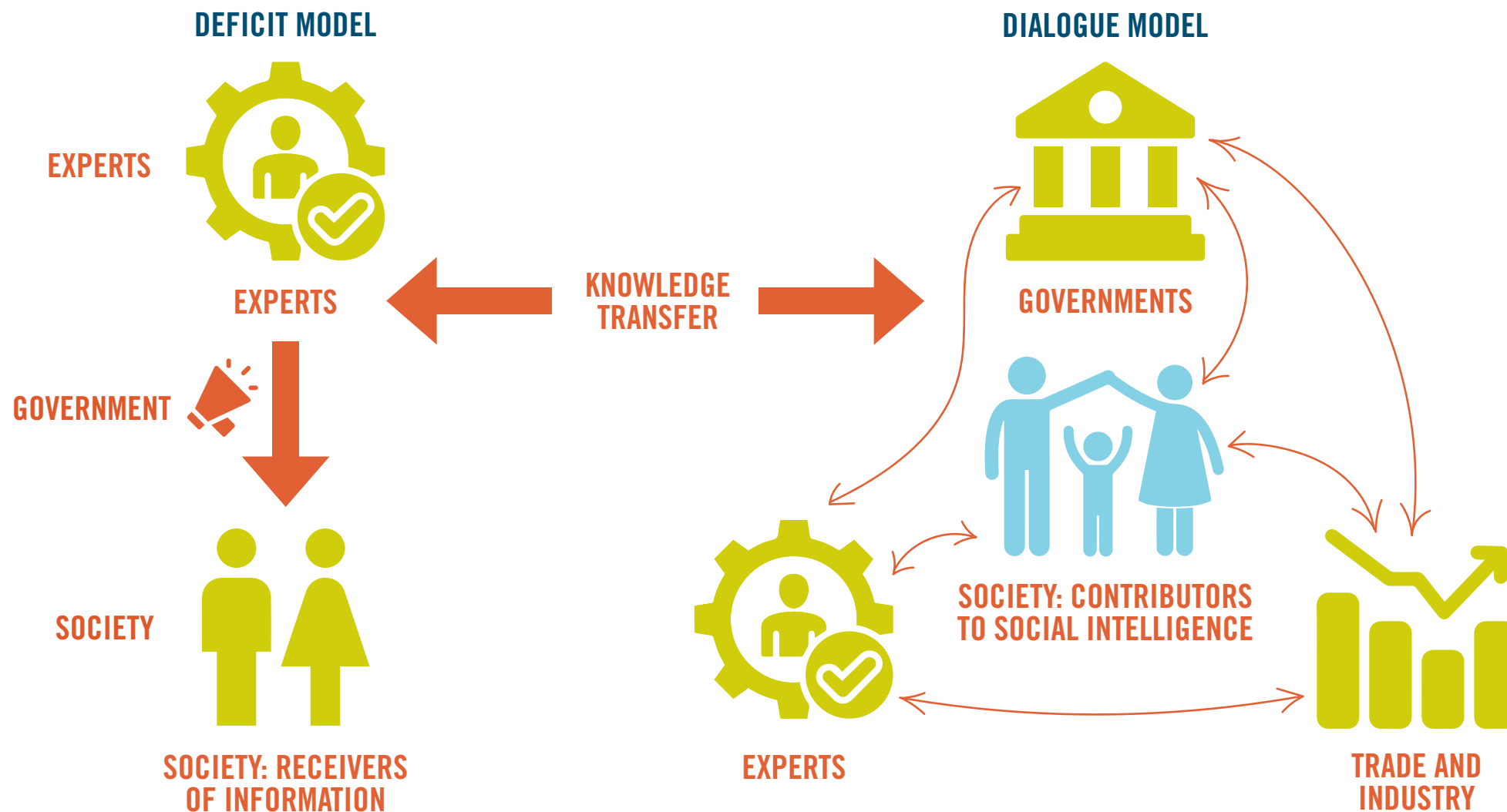
Conclusions

A focus on our role as citizens can create a virtuous circle between on the one hand government policy that enables behaviour change at scale, and on the other, engaging hearts and minds to increase demand for that policy – Climate Outreach, 2023

This framework, which builds upon the Public Participation Vision and Approach, has outlined the principles and processes for climate engagement to help accelerate climate action and promote a just transition. It's done this by providing evidence-informed communications principles, reviewing the role of behaviour change in national net zero targets, examining best practice for participatory design, and explaining the need for partnership working. Implementing this work will require us to test and learn as we go, measuring our impact, and reporting openly on progress. The collective goal of these efforts is to work towards building an approach based on dialogue rather than deficit⁴² and to help make climate action in Birmingham something that happens with people and not to them.



Learners at Allens Cross Forest School.
Photo courtesy of EcoBirmingham, 2024



Source: Courchamp, F. et al., (2017)

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