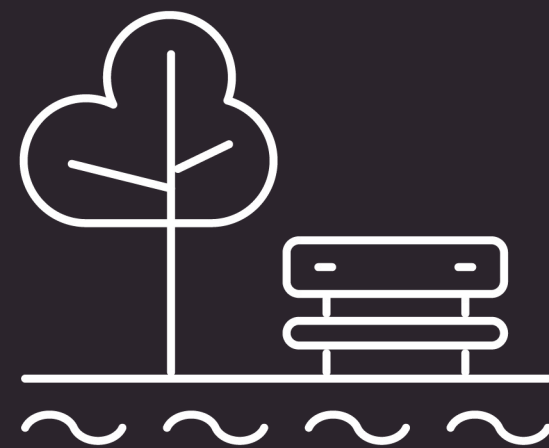




Empowering healthy places:

Utilising the powers and practices of councils in developing healthy neighbourhoods



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01	Introduction
02	Key powers and practices
03	Case studies
04	Recommendations for local government
05	Recommendations to national government

01 Introduction

Who are we?



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Director
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Madigasekera-
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Public Health
Strategic Lead:
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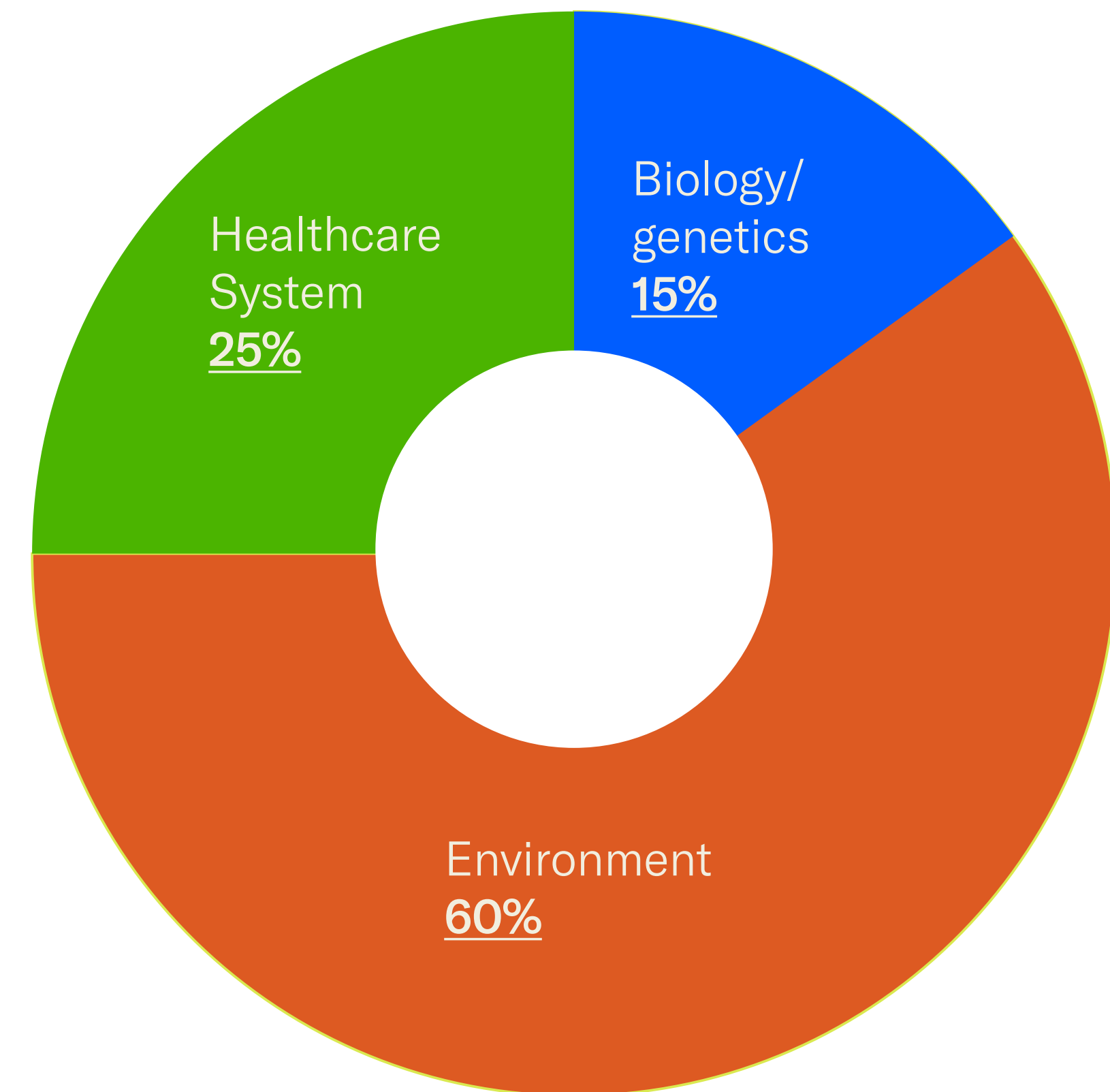


John White
Economies for
Healthier Lives
Programme
Manager
Liverpool City
Region Combined
Authority

Why healthy places matter

- Built environment **directly impacts physical, mental and social health.**
- About **60% of our health** is determined by our environment (social, economic and physical).
- Major differences in **healthy life expectancy at birth.**
- Integrated approach needed:
 - Physical** design
 - Social** factors
 - Environmental** conditions

Determinants of health



The role of planning in public health

- **Reforms** in 1800s by early **planners and public health practitioners** improved health and **life expectancy**.
- **Local health boards** established via 1848 and 1858 Acts.
- Councils' direct role in tackling ill health reduced by **expansion of the NHS**.
- **Marmot Review** (2010) highlighted problems in approach, revealing widening health inequalities.
- **Gap in healthy life expectancy** between most and least deprived areas now **increasing**.

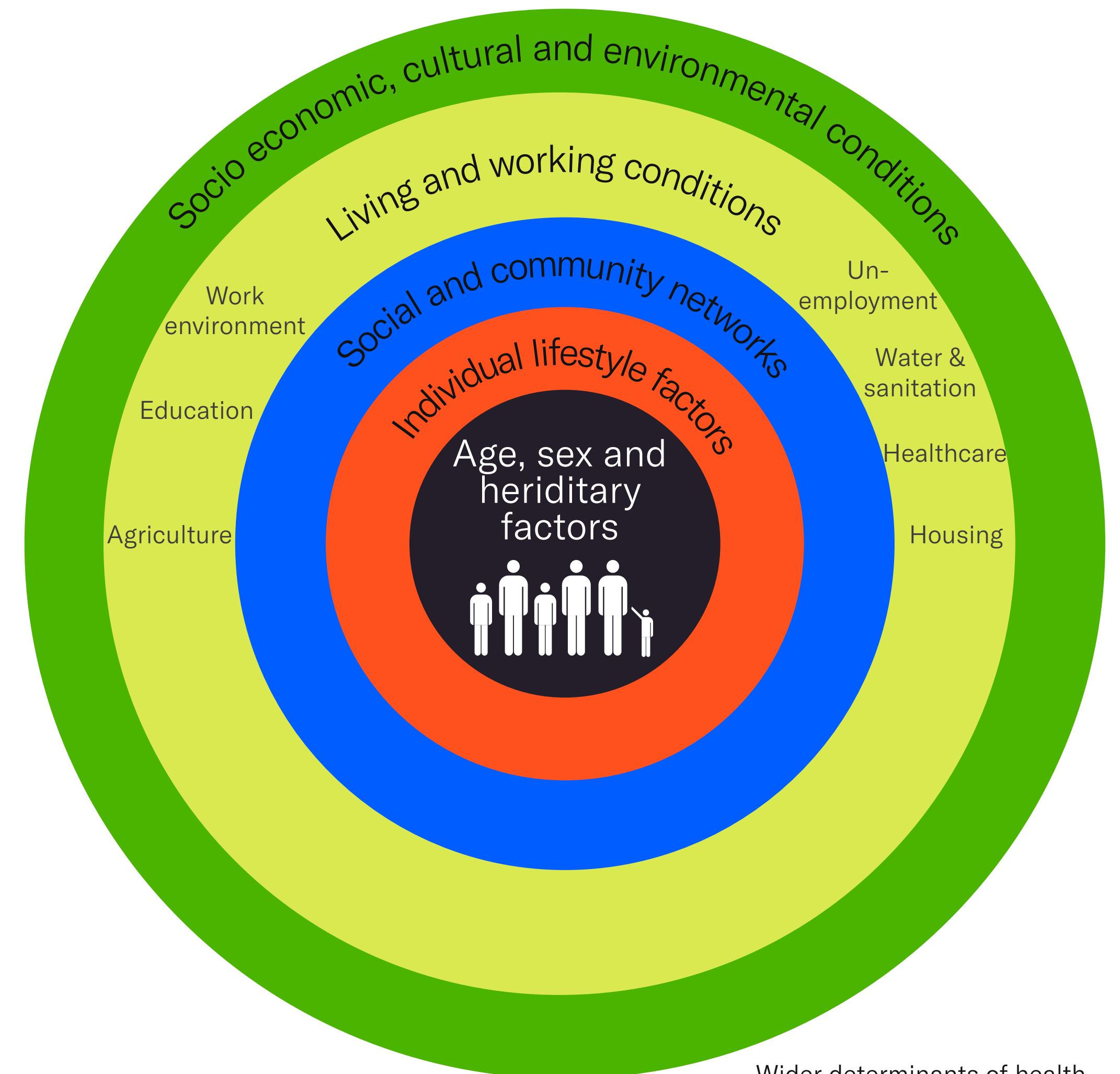


Marmot Review 2010 cover

Councils as health creators

- Councils can influence '**wider determinants of health**' by using planning and public health.
- **Creating health means providing conditions for people to be healthy** (Lord Crisp).
- Councils are **well-positioned to lead**, notwithstanding funding limitations.
- **Reconsidering existing powers** through lens of health creation can create positive change.
- **Strong leadership and partnering** is key to putting health and wellbeing first.

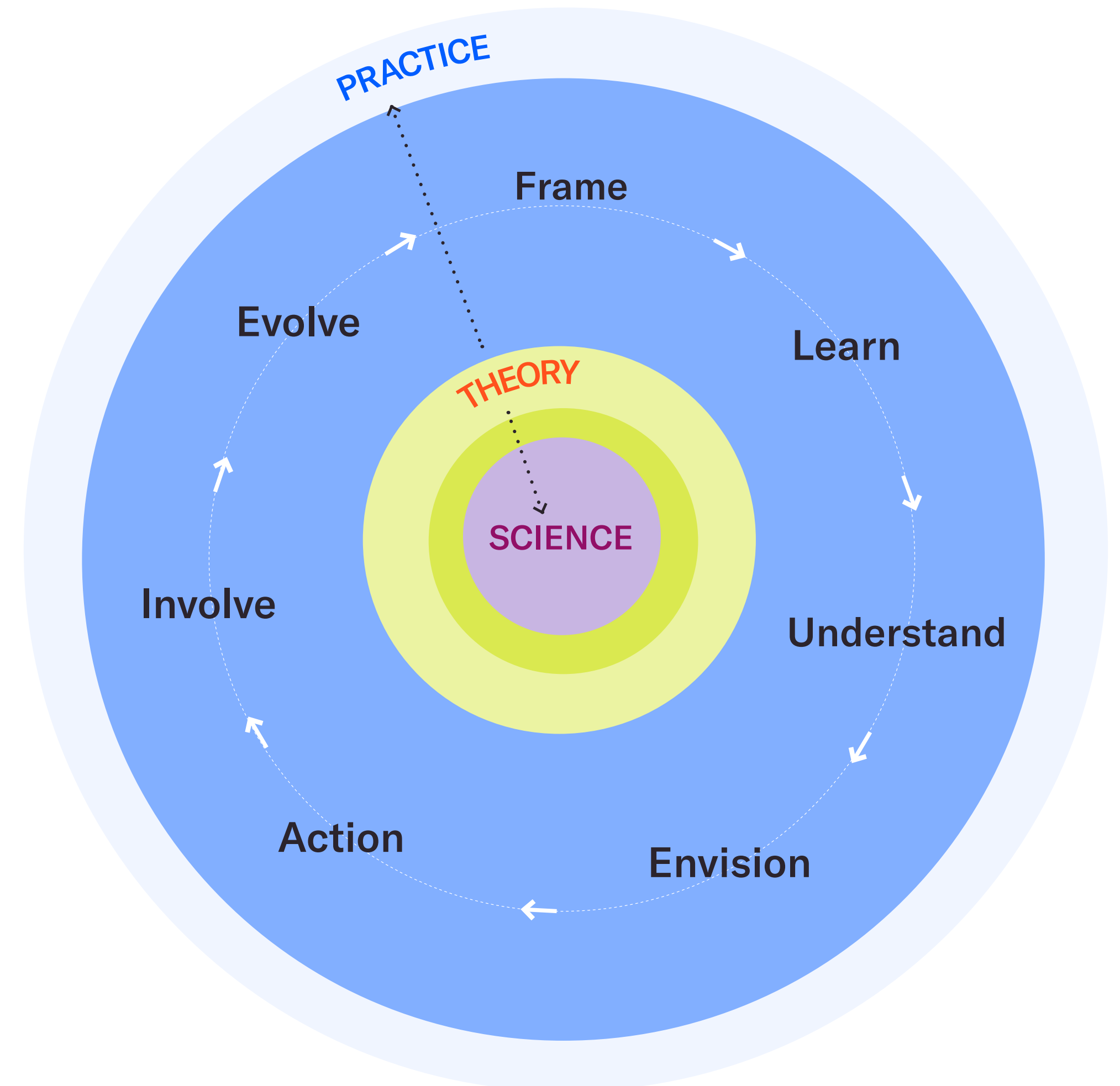
Wider determinants of health



Applied healthy placeshaping

- 1. Frame:** Apply health and well-being framework
- 2. Learn:** Develop place-specific understanding
- 3. Understand:** Humanise and spatialise evidence
- 4. Envision:** Set goals and create options
- 5. Action:** Define priorities and impactful interventions
- 6. Involve:** Engage community and stakeholders throughout
- 7. Evolve:** Monitor and adapt

Applied healthy placeshaping - Prior + Partners approach



Purpose of the guide

- 01 Empower councils to make the most of their existing powers and practices to create healthy neighbourhoods.
- 02 Summarise **key powers** and practices.
- 03 Highlight **best practice case studies**.
- 04 Set out key **recommendations for councils** looking improve health and wellbeing.
- 05 Recommendations for the **new government**.

What is a healthy neighbourhood?

Quality of Life Framework

- Used to **structure the guide** due to its **comprehensive nature** and focus on practical, actionable elements that contribute to **healthy neighbourhoods**.



What is a healthy neighbourhood?

Quality of Life Framework

A sense of control



Health equity



Connection to nature



Quality of Life Framework

What is a healthy neighbourhood?

Quality of Life Framework

A sense of wonder



Getting around



Connected community



Quality of Life Framework

02 Key powers and practices

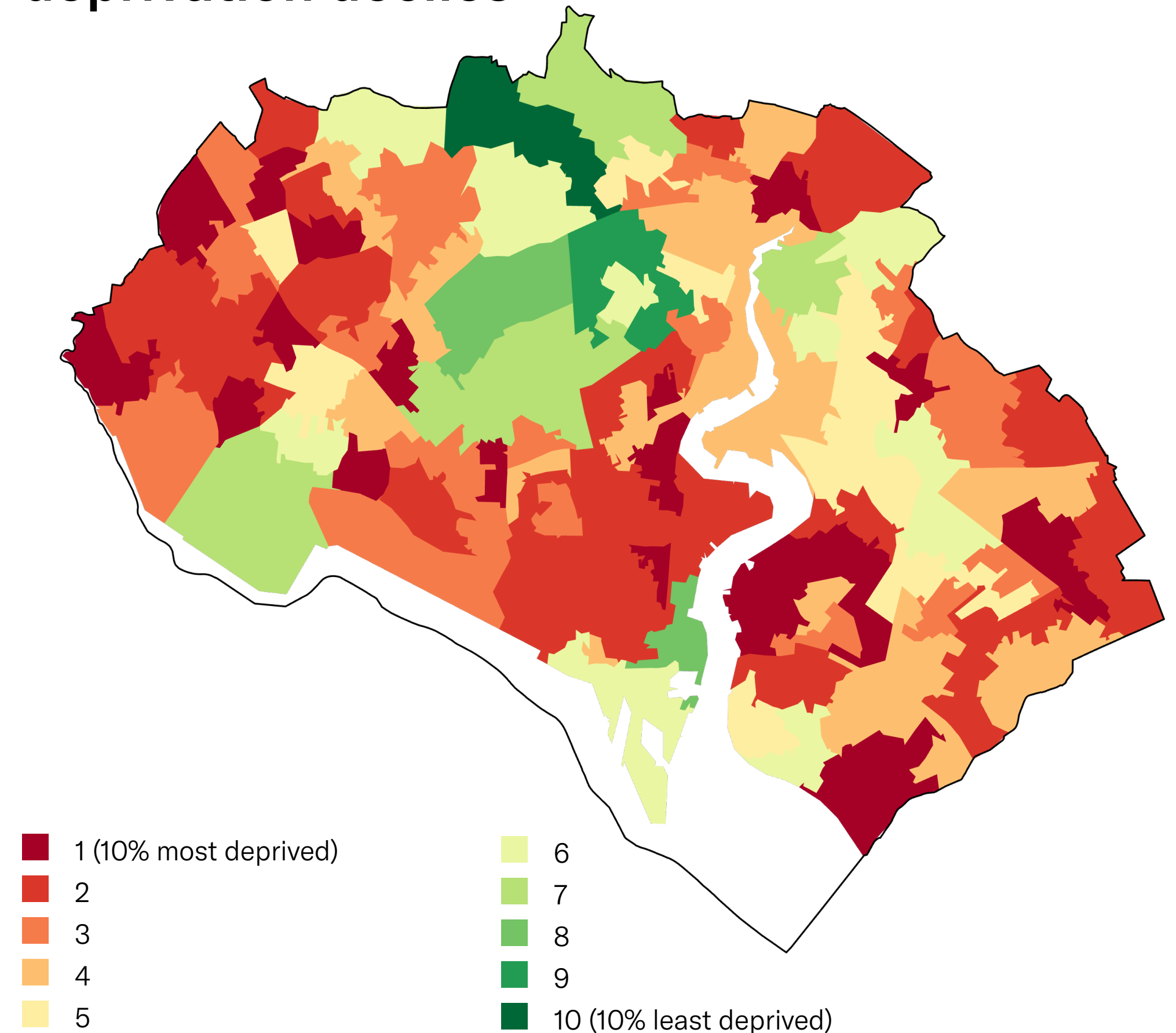
Overview of powers and practices

- Links can be made between **all aspects of council work** and **health**.
- **Quality of Life Framework** is one of many ways to **frame understanding**.
- **Most impactful powers and practices**, which will depend on **local circumstances**:
 - Use of data and evidence
 - Housing standards and affordability
 - Green and blue spaces
 - Healthy food choices
 - Air, noise and light
 - Getting around

Use of data and evidence

- **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments** can be a tool to understand needs at a neighbourhood level and should define council priorities, feeding into all departments works.
- **Health Impact Assessments** should review both plans and policies as well as development proposals. The earlier they are used the better.

Southampton health deprivation deciles



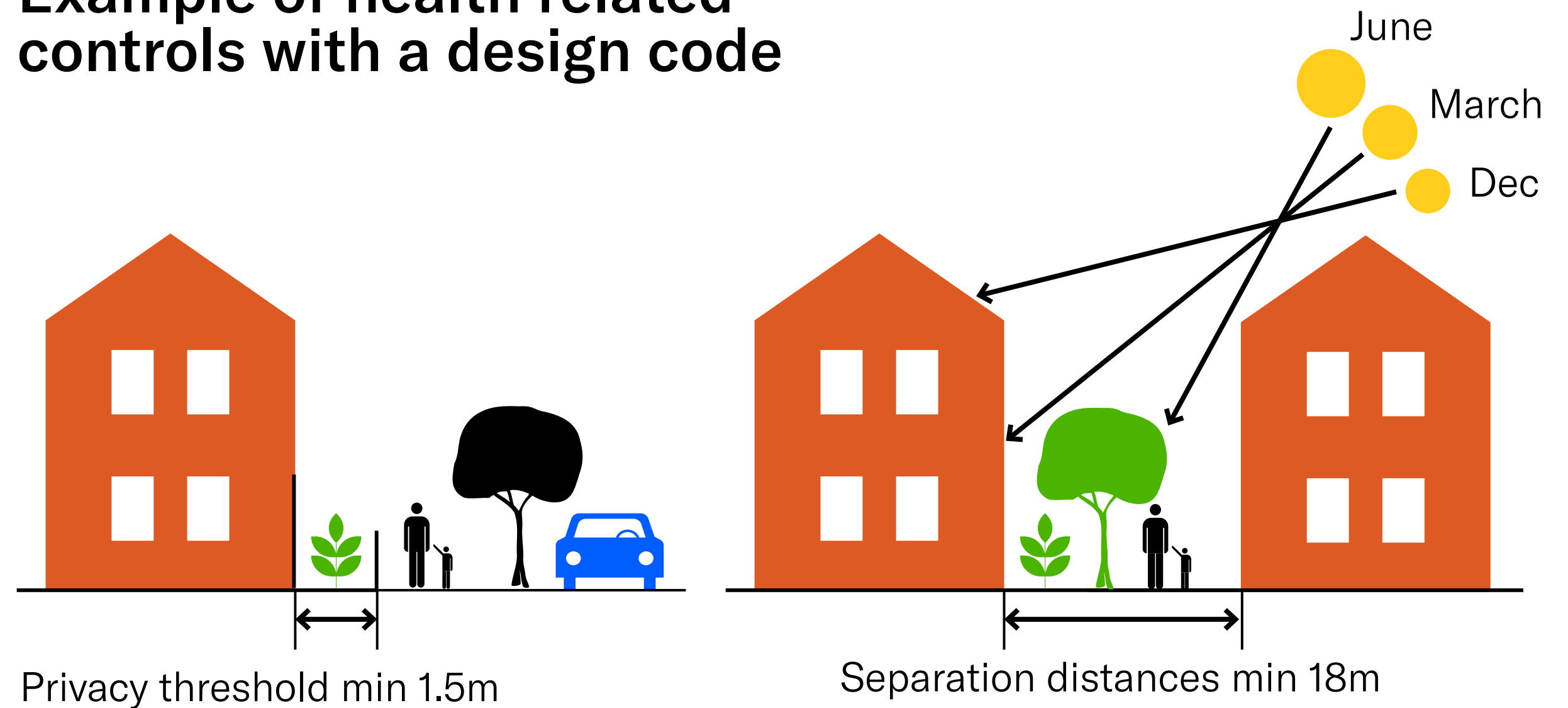
Health deprivation deciles

Source : Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Housing standards and affordability

- **Evidence** and engagement to understand specific local **housing needs**.
- Planning can **secure** the appropriate **size, tenure, type and location** of homes.
- A return to **housing targets** could improve rate of delivery, provided it is matched with additional support.
- **Design codes** can integrate health evidence to raise quality.
- **Direct delivery** of new homes can target specific local priorities.
- **Environmental health powers** can be leveraged to improve the quality of existing homes.

Example of health related controls with a design code



Green and blue spaces

- Planning can **avoid loss** of spaces, define **standards** for levels of provision and **identify priority sites**.
- Policies can reference **national guidance**, including Sports England's 'Planning for Sport' and Fields in Trust approach to play space.
- Promoting **multifunctional spaces** can be most impactful at integrating activity and nature into everyday life.



King's Crescent Play Street

Source: muf, Henley Hale Brown and Karakusevic Carson architects

Healthy food choices

Requires **collaboration** across sectors:

- **Planning controls** on hot food takeaways and encouraging choice through site allocations.
- Public health commercial determinants work including **bans on unhealthy advertising** on public land.
- **Promoting healthier working practices** in food businesses through environmental health powers.



Houlton allotment and community garden

Air, noise and light

Poor air quality is the **largest environmental risk** to public health in the UK.

- Reducing emissions and impacts requires a **cross sector approach**.
- **Air quality management areas** provide evidence and spatial approach. An **air quality strategy** directs interventions.
- Should feed into **planning and transport priorities**.

Planning and enforcement powers can reduce impacts of **noise and light pollution**.



TfL Healthy Streets

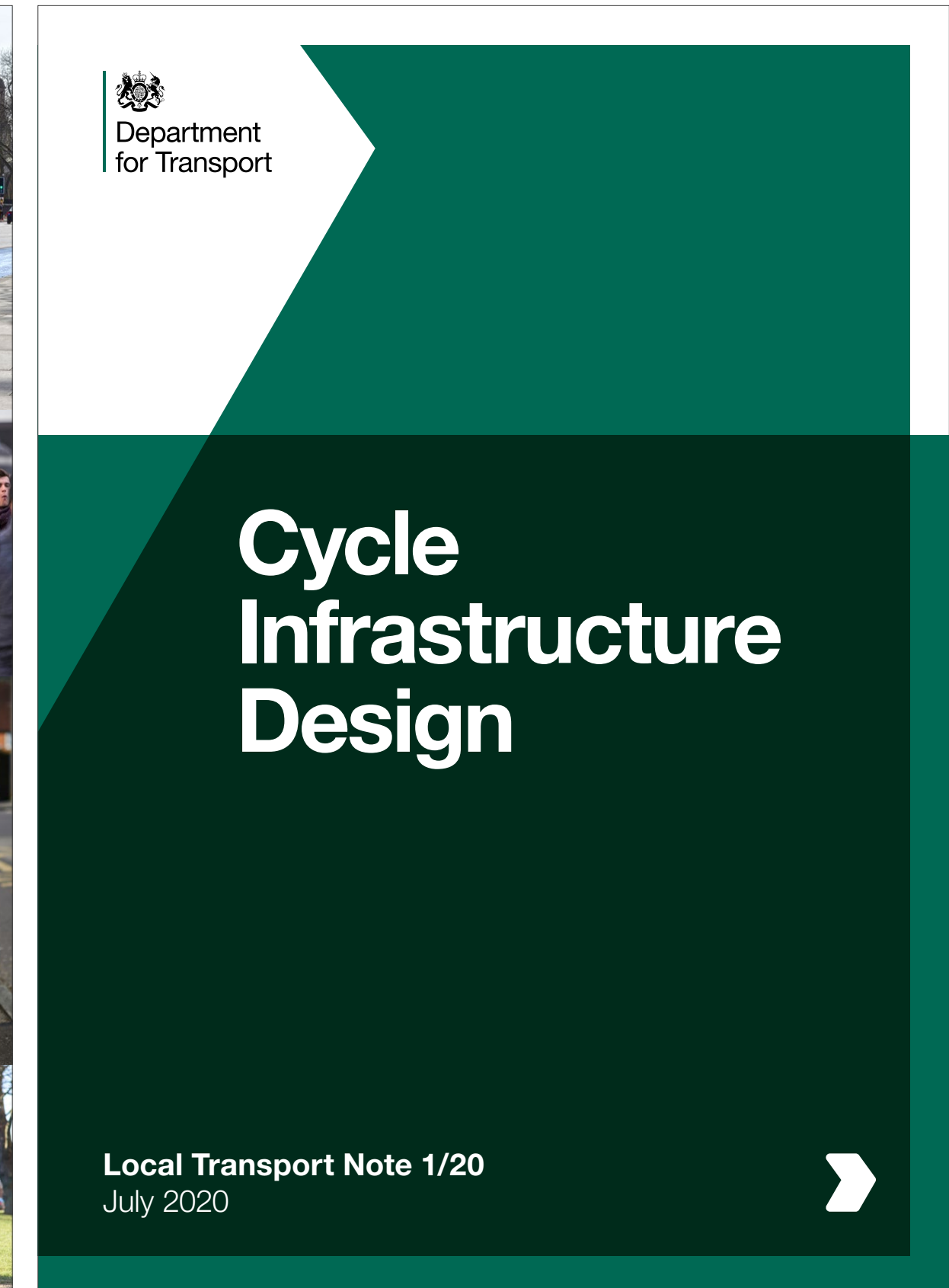
Getting around

Get **people moving**, reduce **emissions** and improve the quality of a place by promoting **active travel**.

- Promoting a **place based approach** across transport and planning teams.
- **Prioritising accessibility** by walking and cycling when **allocating sites** for development.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure **Plans to identify priorities**.
- **Investing in infrastructure**, applying Local Transport Note 120.



Department for Transport - Vision for walking and cycling

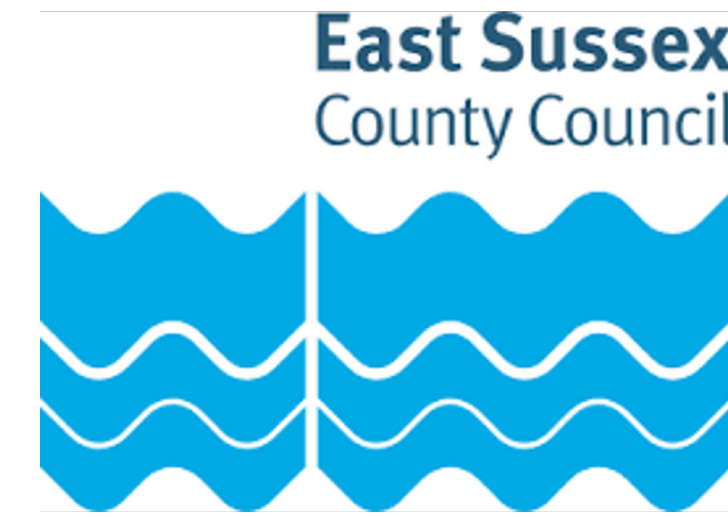


Department for Transport - LTN 120 Cycle infrastructure design note

03 Case studies

Good practice case studies

- **East Sussex County Council:** Memorandum of understanding between planning and public health.
- **Liverpool City Region:** Health in all policies and the Civic Data Cooperative.
- **Southampton City Council:** The role of a Spatial Planning for Health Specialist in Southampton.
- **Sheffield City Council:** An advertising and sponsorship policy to tackle the commercial determinants of health.



Council logos

Case studies: lessons learnt

- Adopting a **‘health in all policies’** approach is a useful mechanism for prioritising health and wellbeing.



Child at play. Source: Sven Brandsma on Unsplash

Case studies: lessons learnt

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- Partnership, **collaboration** and trust is essential, as is strong leadership.



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- Adopting a **‘health in all policies’** approach is a useful mechanism for prioritising health and wellbeing.
- Partnership, **collaboration** and trust is essential, as is strong leadership.
- **Tailored approaches** based on local needs are vital – there’s no one-size-fits-all approach.



Child at play. Source: Sven Brandsma on Unsplash

Case studies: lessons learnt

- Adopting a **‘health in all policies’** approach is a useful mechanism for prioritising health and wellbeing.
- Partnership, **collaboration** and trust is essential, as is strong leadership.
- **Tailored approaches** based on local needs are vital – there’s no one-size-fits-all approach.
- Introducing a role or team that straddles public **health and planning** can be really beneficial.



Child at play. Source: Sven Brandsma on Unsplash

04 Recommendations for local government

Understanding a place

- Strengthen the role of **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments**.
- Better value **local lived experience** by integrating community engagement throughout planning and public health processes.



Community consultation event

Source: Silvertown Prior + Partners

Collaboration

- Improve **partnership working** both within councils and with the NHS. This should include making the most of **Health and Wellbeing Boards**.
- Promote **cross-team working**, particularly between public health, planning, building control and environmental health.
- Recognise that it is **not just the public sectors responsibility** to deliver health improvements.
- **Harness flexibility** by making the most of the flexible remit of public health teams and the **health improvement duty**.



Oakfield Swindon

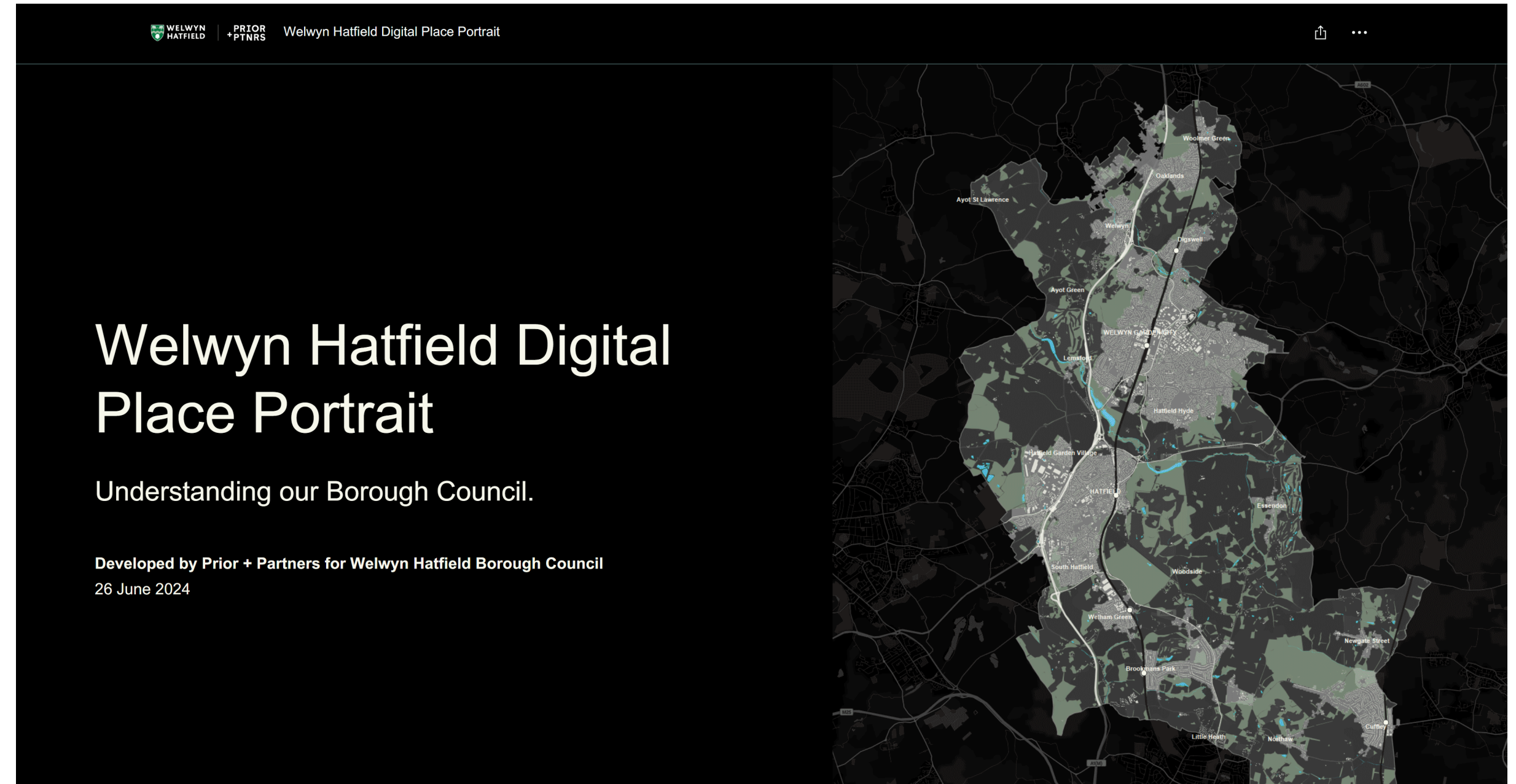
Source: Nationwide, Igloo regeneration, Metropolitan Workshop

Create health and treat ill health

- Consider adopting a **health in all policies** approach.
- Recognise the significance of **Local Plans** as a tool to understand places and provide **vision and strategic direction**.
- **Target resources** by investing financial and staff resources into projects that respond to specific health needs.
- **Better leverage powers, standards and regulations** - make the most of local JSNA data, enforcement powers and the health improvement duty.

Skills

- **Deliver education and training** across the workforce and at all levels of seniority.
- Update planning roles and associated job descriptions to **develop the capacity of planning teams.**
- Invest in skills and capability around the **use of data and evidence** and also the infrastructure required to support this.



Example digital platform - Welwyn Hatfield and Prior + Partners

Advocate for change

- Campaign for a planning system that **prioritises health** by creating or joining a movement, like the Better Planning Coalition.
- **Celebrate what local authorities do** to create healthy neighbourhoods - involve local councillors to advocate for change and improve engagement and communication.

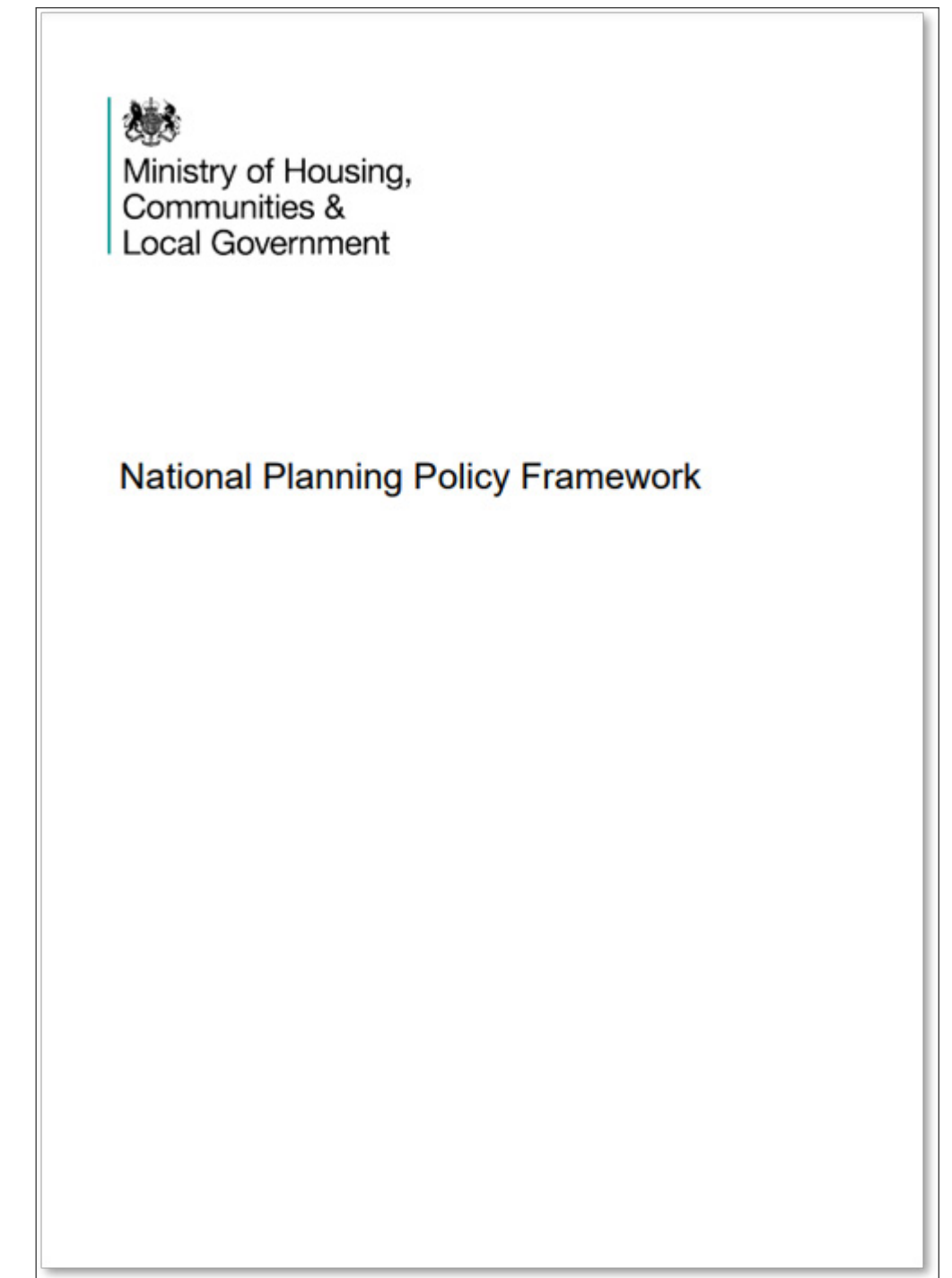


Members of the better planning coalition

05 Recommendations to national government

Recommendations to national government

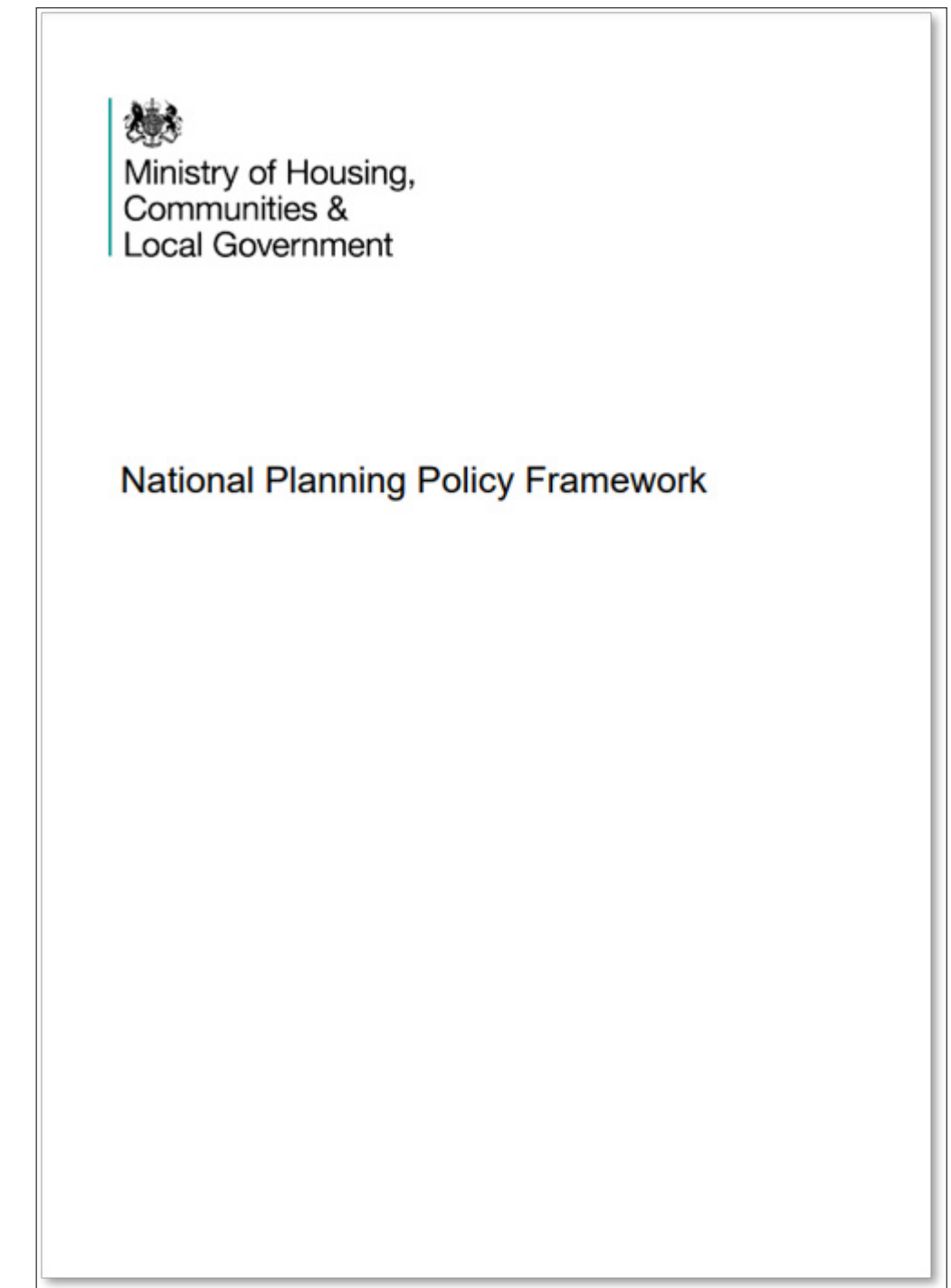
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National Planning Policy Framework

Recommendations to national government

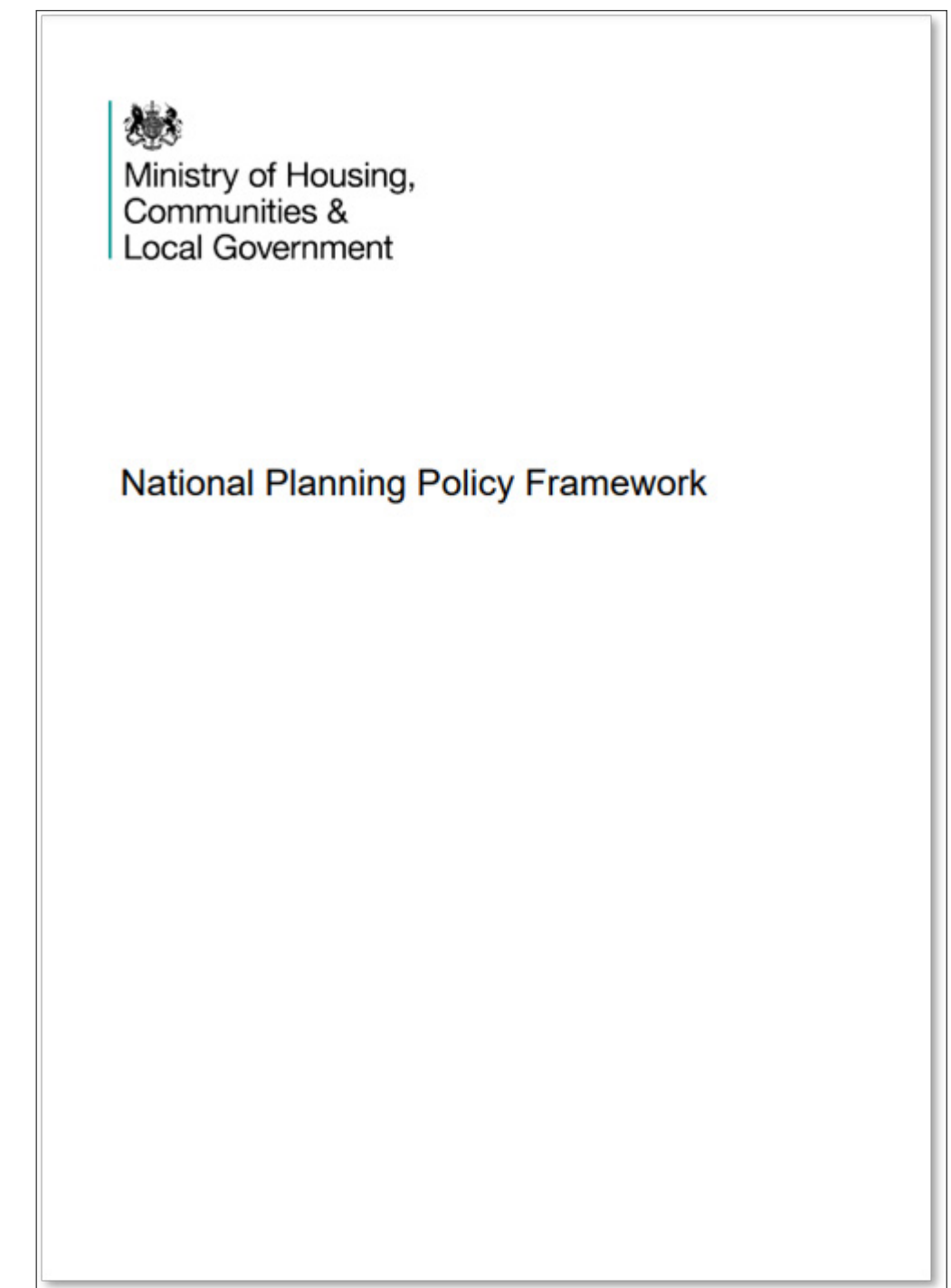
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National Planning Policy Framework

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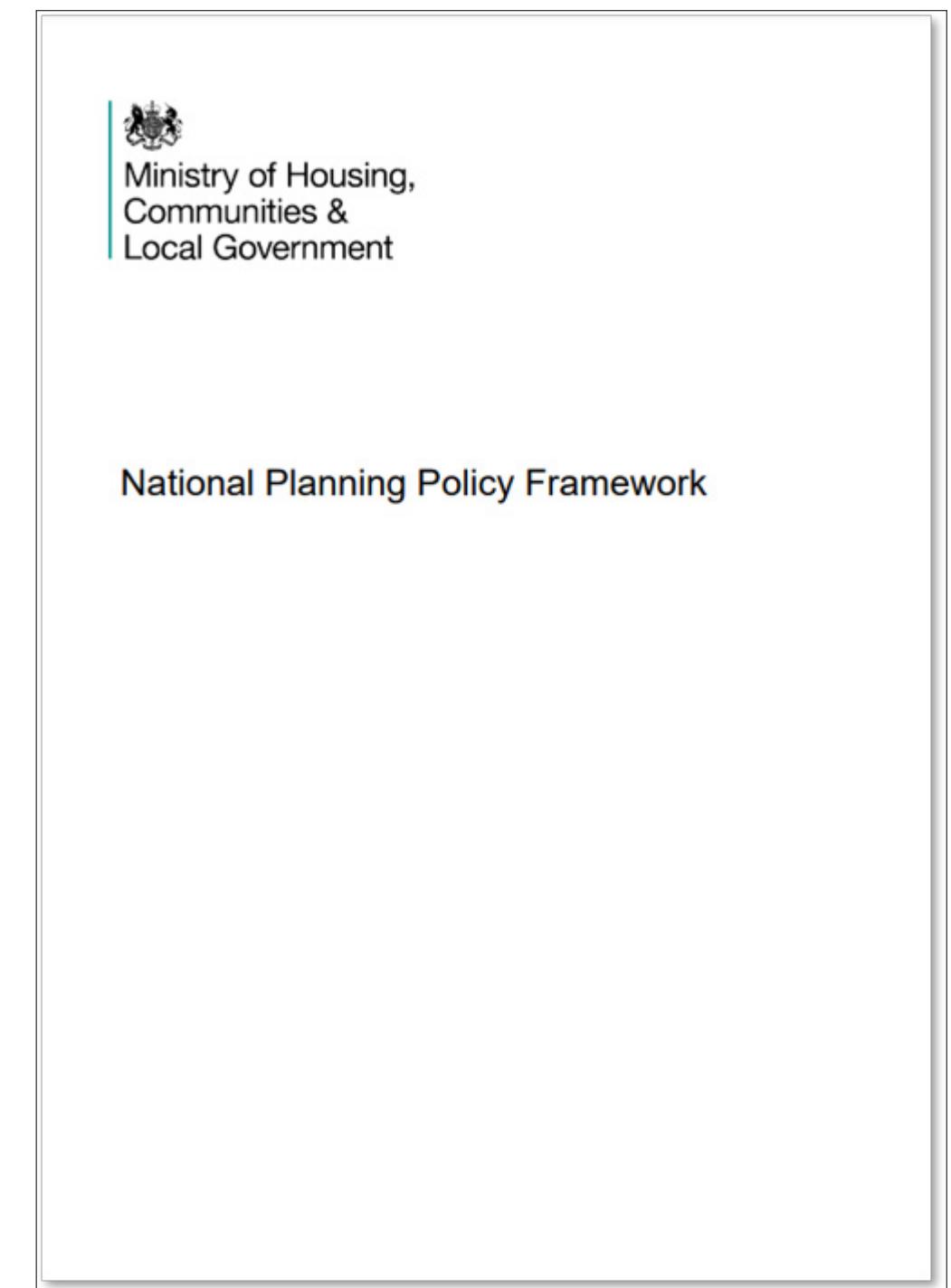
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National Planning Policy Framework

Recommendations to national government

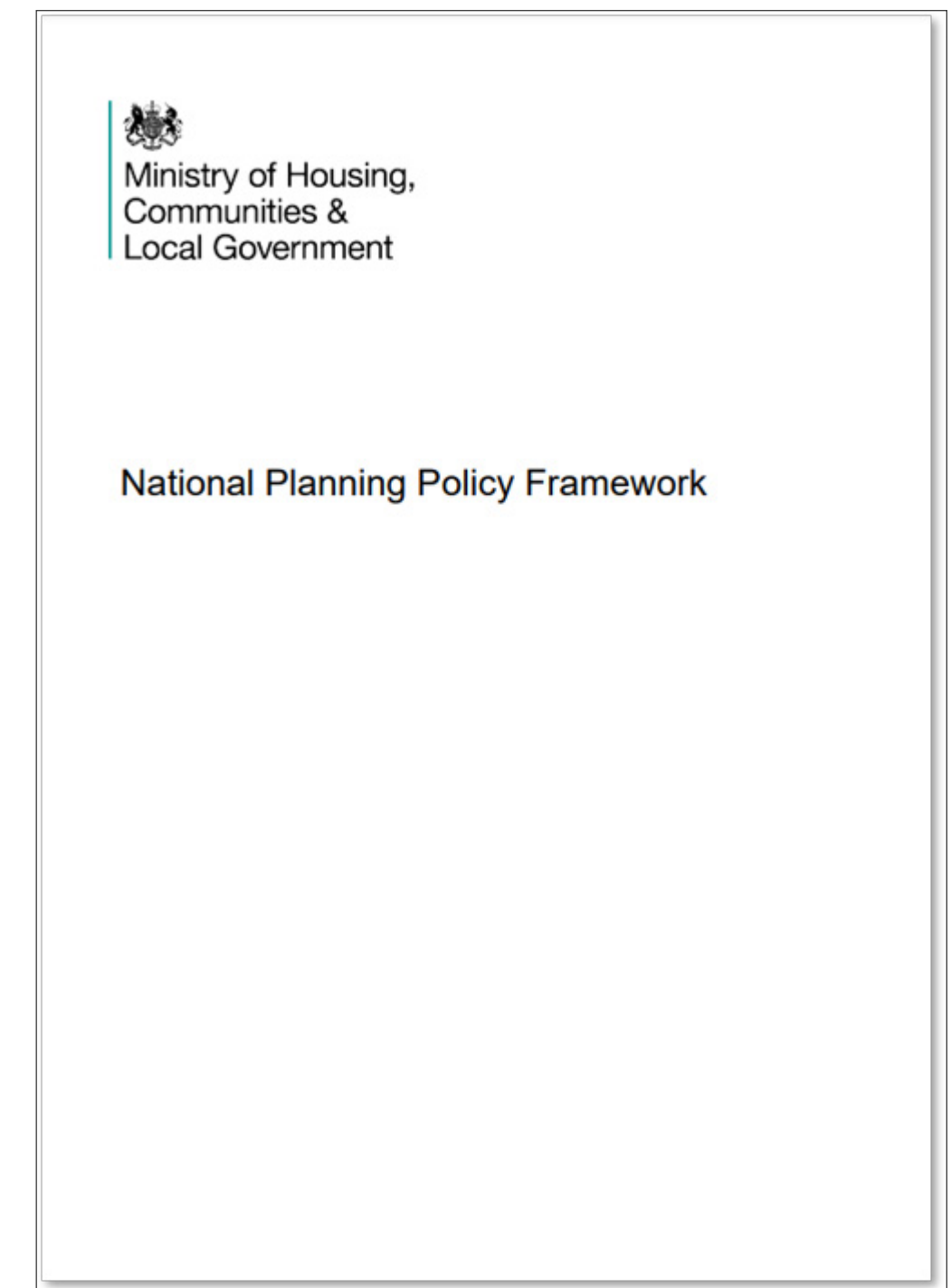
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National Planning Policy Framework

Recommendations to national government

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- 02 Reestablish the purpose of planning** as a tool to improve health and wellbeing.
- 03 Establish a taskforce** to explore more evidence based strategic planning methods.
- 04 Rethink building regulations** to prioritise the creation of healthy homes.
- 05 Address the current capacity, skills, and knowledge gaps** within the local government planning system.



National Planning Policy Framework

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