



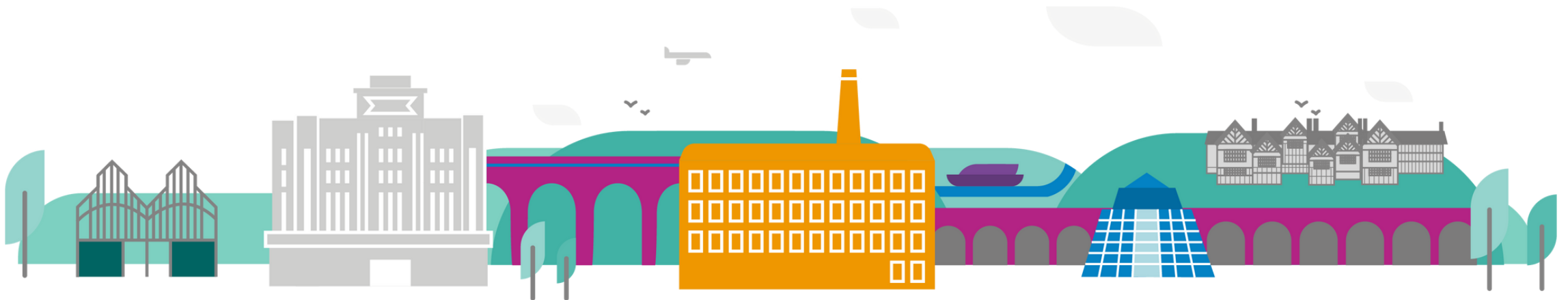
**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**Ambitious Stockport,  
creating opportunities  
*for everyone***

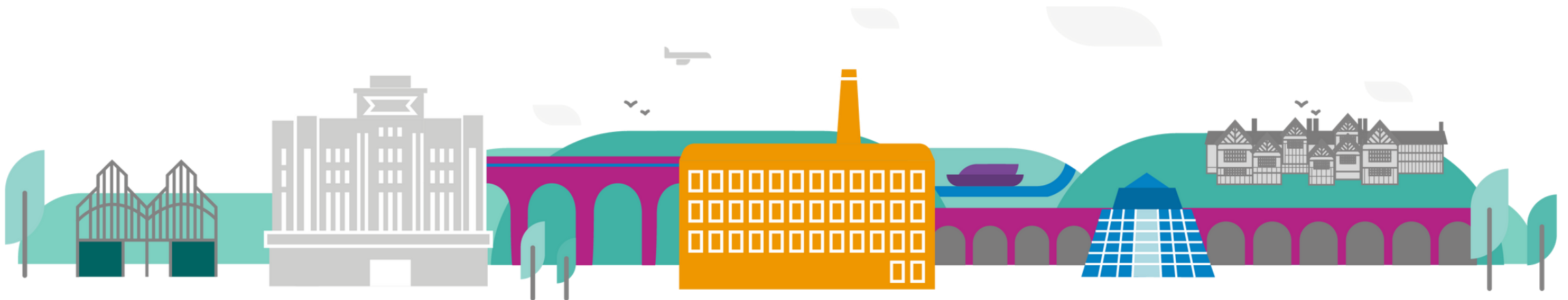


# Nick Leslie and Liz Atherton

Head of Climate Action Now and CAN Programme Manager



1. About Stockport
2. Climate-friendly borough engagement programme – creating routes to behaviour change
3. Resilience4Communities – a behavioural insights led adaptation project



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# About Stockport

Urban town in the south of Greater Manchester  
295,000 residents

8th most socio-economically polarised borough  
Most and least deprived suburbs in GM

Undergoing transformation - there's a buzz around Stockport!

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*'Something special in the air': new bars, art, music and restaurants are turning heads in Stockport*

**The latest part of Stockport's mammoth transformation**

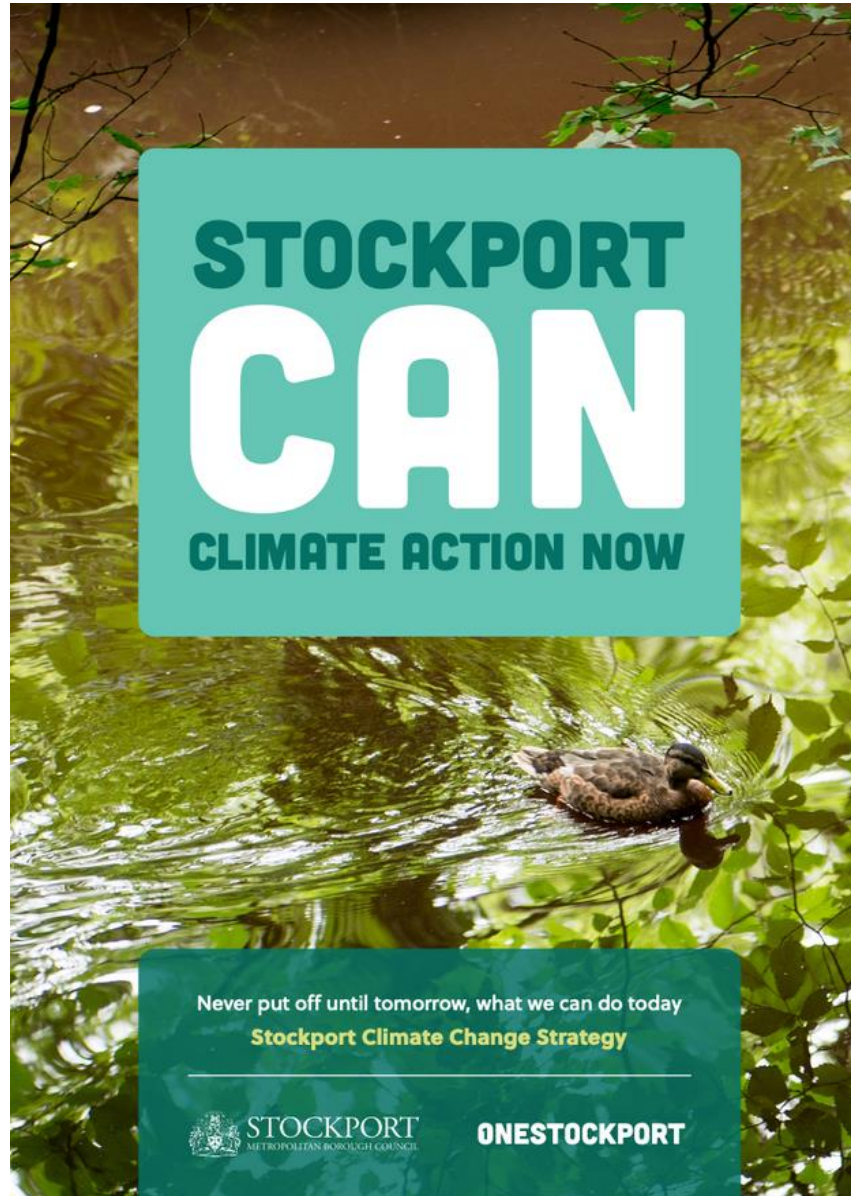
*It's part of a £145-million transformation of the area*

**'Fabulous' Stockport named best place to live in north-west England**

© 15 March

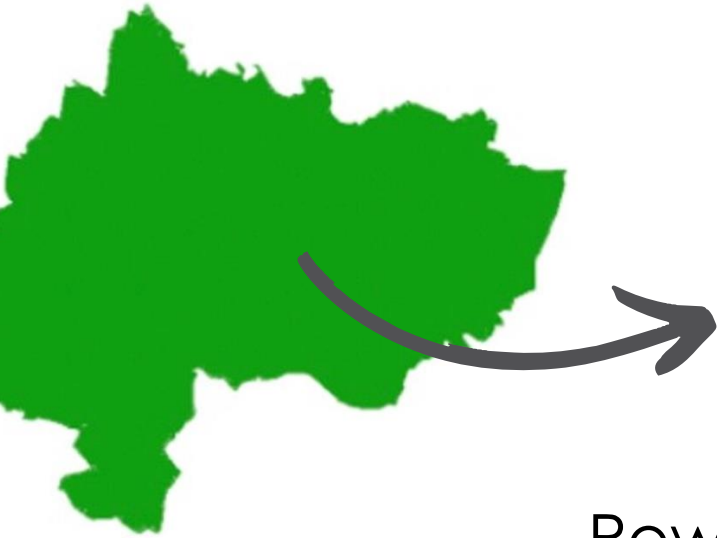
# Context

- CAN strategy 2020
- Team established 2021
- Initial actions set out but approach & programmes to develop



**Stockport  
Council -  
operationally  
Net Zero by  
2030**

**Stockport -  
carbon  
neutral by  
2038**



Own operations

2%

Powers or influence over

33%

No direct powers over

65%

## C. CLIMATE FRIENDLY BOROUGH

Working with businesses and local people to take action.



To make a difference on climate change we need to encourage businesses and communities to work differently. We can play a key role in this by providing the conditions to facilitate and enable change within external organisations.

We know that there are many people in the borough, particularly young people that are passionate about climate change. We need to harness this energy to help people to make a difference. We also need to encourage individual behaviour change through education and advice.

**We already have examples of where this has been developed:**

- Stockport Local Fund – £1m fund that community groups can apply for to help improve neighbourhoods.
- Stockport has risen 23 places in the Sustainable Growth Index which means it is in the top 30% of local authorities in the UK.
- We Love Stockport campaign includes a business awards scheme which aims to encourage businesses to address their impact on the local environment.
- Over 20 Stockport schools took part in a Climate Summit in November 2019.

### OUR AMBITION

**We will** develop a Stockport CAN (Climate Action Now) campaign, including social media, that provides information and advice to residents about action they can take.

**We will** continue to put children and young people at the heart of our approach utilising established forums and developing a climate change network.

**We will** ensure procurement policy considers carbon neutral considerations by March 2021 and run our own services through this test.

**We will** add climate action as a consideration within the Stockport Local Fund for 2020.

**We will** add climate action to our business development framework so that we will have supported 100 businesses to consider climate change by March 2021.

**We will** continue to grow the climate action business network and target businesses that have the highest carbon footprint.

How do we embed and mainstream actions to fully tackle the 2 & 33%?

How do we engage, influence and enable actions to tackle the 65%?

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# Approach

- Internal and external
- Awareness raising and education > leading to behaviour change
- Defined strands > target engagement
- Peer led spaces that are forums for ideas and info
- Appreciative inquiry principles
- Being responsive to opportunities
- Theory of change – positive, fun, action-led

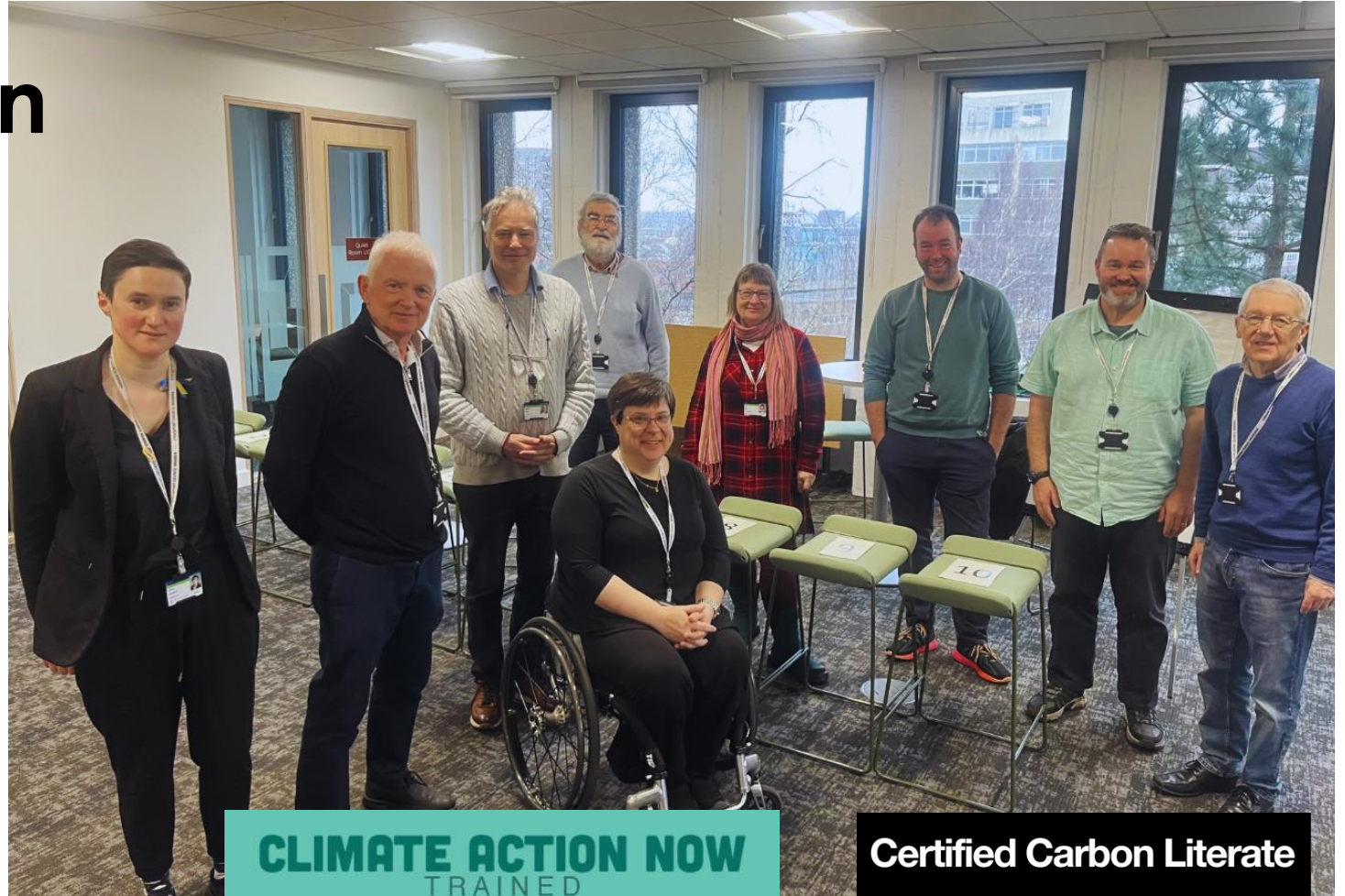


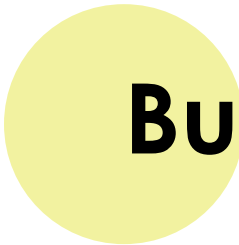
ANNUAL CAN SUMMIT

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# Council Carbon Literacy

- Bespoke Stockport course
- Embedding behaviour change
- Delivered by the CAN team
- Open to all and targeting key teams





# Businesses

- Climate Action Business Forum
- We Mean Business Carbon Literacy



## CLIMATE ACTION BUSINESS FORUM

A network for Stockport businesses interested in the risks and opportunities associated with climate action



CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING FOR STOCKPORT BUSINESSES






# Communities

- Stockport Green Network
- Greenstock
  - 800+ people attended this year
- CAN community funding



## Greenstock 2024



# Young People



## Climate Action

Stockport Schools Climate Assembly  
Primary



## Democracy In Action

Stockport Schools Climate Assembly



- Schools and Youth Climate Assemblies
- Insights from young people every year
- Results in action
  - Eco-friendly period products
  - Book Worms gardening clubs
  - Swap shops and composting



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# Impact

303

Members and officers Carbon Literacy trained

112

businesses engaged

1803

young people participating in the Schools Climate Assembly 2023/24

“We feel genuinely privileged to be a part of youth democracy and we can't wait for the next one!”

1039

residents taking part in climate events so far in 24/25

77%

for collaboration & engagement in the Climate Scorecards

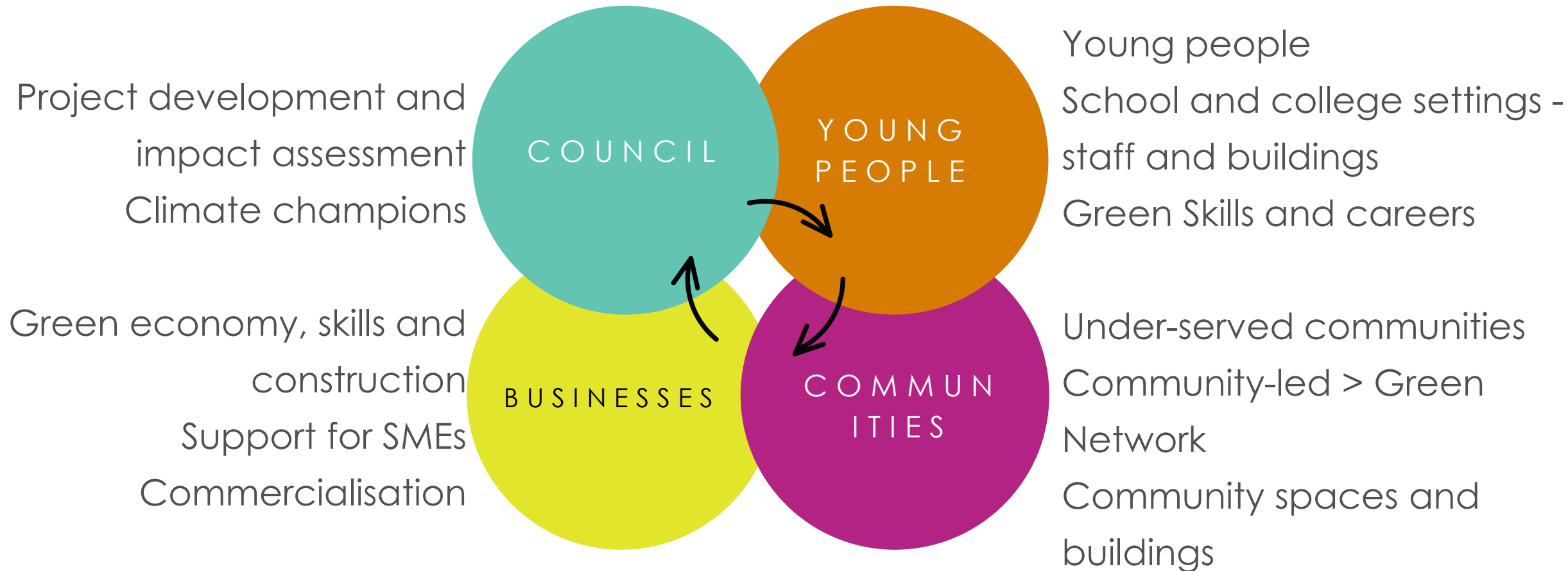
“It made a daunting subject much more actionable and achievable!”

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# Iterative Approach

- Programme established - how can we extend it?
- Role of the council?
  - Uniquely placed to bring people together and facilitate actions



# Resilience 4 Communities



- Mitigation > adaptation
- Aim – create behaviour change in communities that will increase resilience to extreme heat
- Behavioural insights led – informed by household surveys, stakeholder interviews and research
- Co-developing solutions



# Edgeley



Edgeley

MDC town centre west



# Resilience 4 Communities - insights

## 1ST LEVEL PROBLEM

**FINANCIAL CAPITAL: EDGELEY FACES LIMITED FINANCIAL RESILIENCE, FUNDING GAPS FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND HEATWAVE PREPAREDNESS, INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE BACKLOGS, AND HIGH ENERGY BURDENS.**

### Limited Financial Resilience Among Households:

Only 57% of respondents reported having enough savings to cover a week's worth of expenses in an emergency, highlighting a critical vulnerability.

**Gap Between Climate Adaptation Plans and Budget Allocation:** While the government has climate change adaptation plans in place, there is no dedicated budget for their implementation, and planned capital investments are not reviewed for climate considerations..

**Insufficient and Unpredictable Funding for Heatwave Preparedness:** Minimal or unpredictable funding is available for pre-event or during-event heatwave response actions.

**Public Infrastructure Maintenance Backlog Due to Insufficient Budget:** Although there is an annual budget for infrastructure maintenance, it is insufficient to meet all maintenance needs, resulting in a critical backlog due to its reactive nature..

### No Dedicated Budget for Risk Reduction

**Initiatives:** Edgeley lacks a dedicated budget for risk reduction, exposing the community to increased vulnerability from climate hazards, such as heatwaves, floods, and other emergencies.

**Lack of Business Continuity Planning for Heatwaves:** Many local businesses have continuity plans for heatwaves, including operational adjustments and financial resources to cover potential losses.

**High Levels of Energy Burden Among Households:** Many households in Edgeley face energy burdens, with energy costs consuming a large portion of their income.

## 1ST LEVEL PROBLEM

# SOCIAL CAPITAL: EDGELEY FACES LOW TRUST IN SERVICES, LIMITED DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, INSUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS, PERCEIVED INEQUITIES, AND HIGH CRIME CONCERNS, AFFECTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE.

**Low Trust in Local Public Services:** Only 53% of respondents trust local public services (e.g., police, council, emergency services) to act appropriately during heatwaves, which aligns with generally low trust in local government across the UK.

**Limited Future Planning for Disaster Response Personnel:** Disaster response personnel in Edgeley receive training and resources to meet current needs, but there is insufficient planning for how climate change could alter these needs, limiting the community's long-term preparedness.

**Limited Stakeholder Engagement in Heatwave Risk Management:** Although some key stakeholders are involved in heatwave risk management, engagement is limited, hindering the development of a comprehensive and inclusive approach to addressing heat risks.

**Minimal Integration of Family Violence Prevention in Heatwave Plans:** While some disaster response personnel have family violence prevention training, formal integration of these considerations into heatwave response plans remains minimal, risking insufficient protection for at-risk individuals during heat events.

**Generalized, Non-Specific Heatwave Response Plan:** The existing heatwave response plan for Edgeley is based on general guidance from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) rather than a plan tailored to Edgeley's specific needs, reducing its effectiveness for local resilience.

**Lack of Targeted Heatwave Response for Vulnerable Groups:** Edgeley's heatwave response plan does not identify all social groups, including vulnerable populations, and lacks targeted measures to meet their needs, nor is it regularly tested with all participating organizations, limiting its practical effectiveness.

**Moderate Levels of Mutual Aid, with Room for Strengthening:** While 76% of respondents feel they can rely on neighbors for support during times of need, this is slightly below the threshold for a higher resilience rating, indicating opportunities to further strengthen community bonds.

**Low Community Trust in Authorities and Services:** Only 50% of respondents trust the police, local government, and emergency services.

**Perceived Inequities in Public Support and Opportunities:** Only 25% of respondents believe Edgeley receives the same financial support as neighboring communities, while only 40% and 41% perceive equal educational and employment opportunities, respectively.

**Limited Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups in Disaster Risk Management:** Few, if any, social groups, including vulnerable and marginalized communities, have active input into disaster risk management decisions, reducing the inclusiveness of resilience planning.

**Absence of a Heatwave Risk Reduction Plan:** Edgeley currently lacks a heatwave risk reduction plan, representing a significant vulnerability in light of increasing heatwave frequency and severity.

**No Recent Heatwave Risk Mapping:** Heatwave risk mapping has not been conducted in Edgeley in the past five years, creating a gap in understanding localized vulnerabilities to extreme heat events.



1ST LEVEL PROBLEM

NATURAL CAPITAL: EDGELEY LACKS COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, SUFFICIENT TREE COVER, PERMEABLE SURFACES, AND UTILIZATION OF NATURAL CAPITAL FOR HEATWAVE RISK REDUCTION, LIMITING CLIMATE RESILIENCE.

Lack of Coordinated Natural Resource

**Management:** Natural resource management in Edgeley is largely handled by individual landowners, with minimal mechanisms for knowledge-sharing or community input. This fragmented approach may undermine long-term resilience and sustainability efforts.

Insufficient Tree Cover in Urban Areas:

Although Edgeley has a robust tree canopy (15-40% coverage), there is an opportunity to expand tree cover, particularly in urban areas. Increased canopy would help mitigate the urban heat island effect and improve local resilience to climate change.

Limited Use of Permeable Surfaces:

Much of Edgeley's land is covered by impermeable surfaces like roads and pavements, with limited integration of green infrastructure to manage stormwater. Existing green spaces are isolated features rather than integrated into urban development to reduce runoff.

Lack of Natural Capital Utilization for Heatwave

**Risk Reduction:** Edgeley's natural resources are not currently leveraged to reduce heatwave risks. The concept of using natural capital (such as green spaces) for climate adaptation is new to local governance, indicating a need for further exploration and implementation of these strategies.

# Solution -

## What If: An Ideas Cafe

- Disused Victorian school
- Transforming into a resilience hub
- Leveraging social value from the MDC development to improve building
- Led by community organisation and co-developed
- Building trust, capacity, resilience
- Creating a space where behaviour nudges can happen





## Two examples:

- Mother in tower blocks that overheat - brought her young children who have autism to play in the space over summer so they could cool down
- Family who asked to hold child's party in the space, had never hosted a party before, were helped by the What If team – future volunteers

Fun

Positive

Action-led

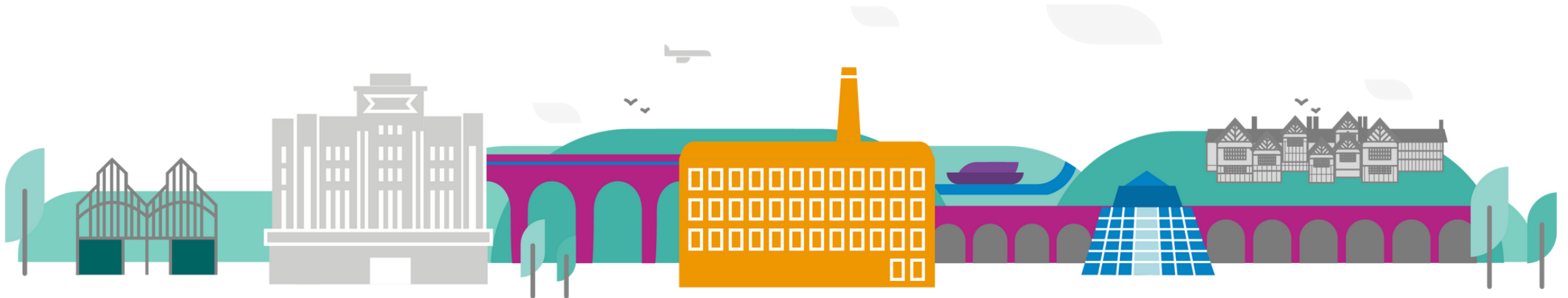
Peer-led

Meaningful

Opportunistic

Iterative

Reflective



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# Thank you

