



# Anthropocene thinking *IMAGINING the ECOLOGIES of PLACE*

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THE LAND

THE PEOPLE

THE CITY





## WATER & MARITIME

To include:

Themed restaurant  
Tower  
Maritime trade & exploration  
Nautical exhibits  
Water at work  
Water displays  
Plant collectors gardens  
Boat trips



## PLANTS & FOOD

To include:

Themed cafe  
Gardeners' bazaar  
Horticultural displays  
Agricultural displays  
Allotment gardens  
Demonstration gardens  
Third World initiatives  
Plantsmans' gardens



## RECREATION & SPORT

To include:

Themed restaurant  
Themed cafe  
Gardeners' bazaar  
Home and gardens exhibits  
Tenement gardens  
City farm  
Water sports display and learning area  
Land-based sports display and learning area



## HEALTH & WELL-BEING

To include:

Themed cafe  
Planet Earth  
Plants and the Environment  
Plants and medicine  
Conservation  
Health & fitness gardens  
Gardens of Peace



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

To include:

Leisure Facility  
Themed restaurant  
Milestones in Science  
Innovative displays  
Energy displays  
Demonstration gardens  
Hi-Technology

## LEGEND



Water & Maritime



Recreation & Sport



Landscape & Scenery



Plants & Food



Health & Well-Being



Science & Technology

History & Heritage Trail

Education & Culture Trail

Horticultural Trail



Additional Display Areas



Buildings



Pedestrian Circulation



External Pedestrian Access



Car Parking



Tram Route



Structure Planting



Matrix Planting



Formal Planting



Grass

Information

Toilets

Nursing Mothers

First Aid

Telephone

Wheelchair Hire

Play Area

Restaurant

Cafe

Shelter

Event Areas

Entrance

High Street

Garden Centre

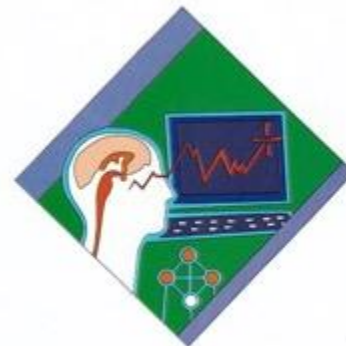
Gardeners Bazaar

Tower

Craft Village

Leisure Facility

Thrill Ride



# GENIUS LOCI

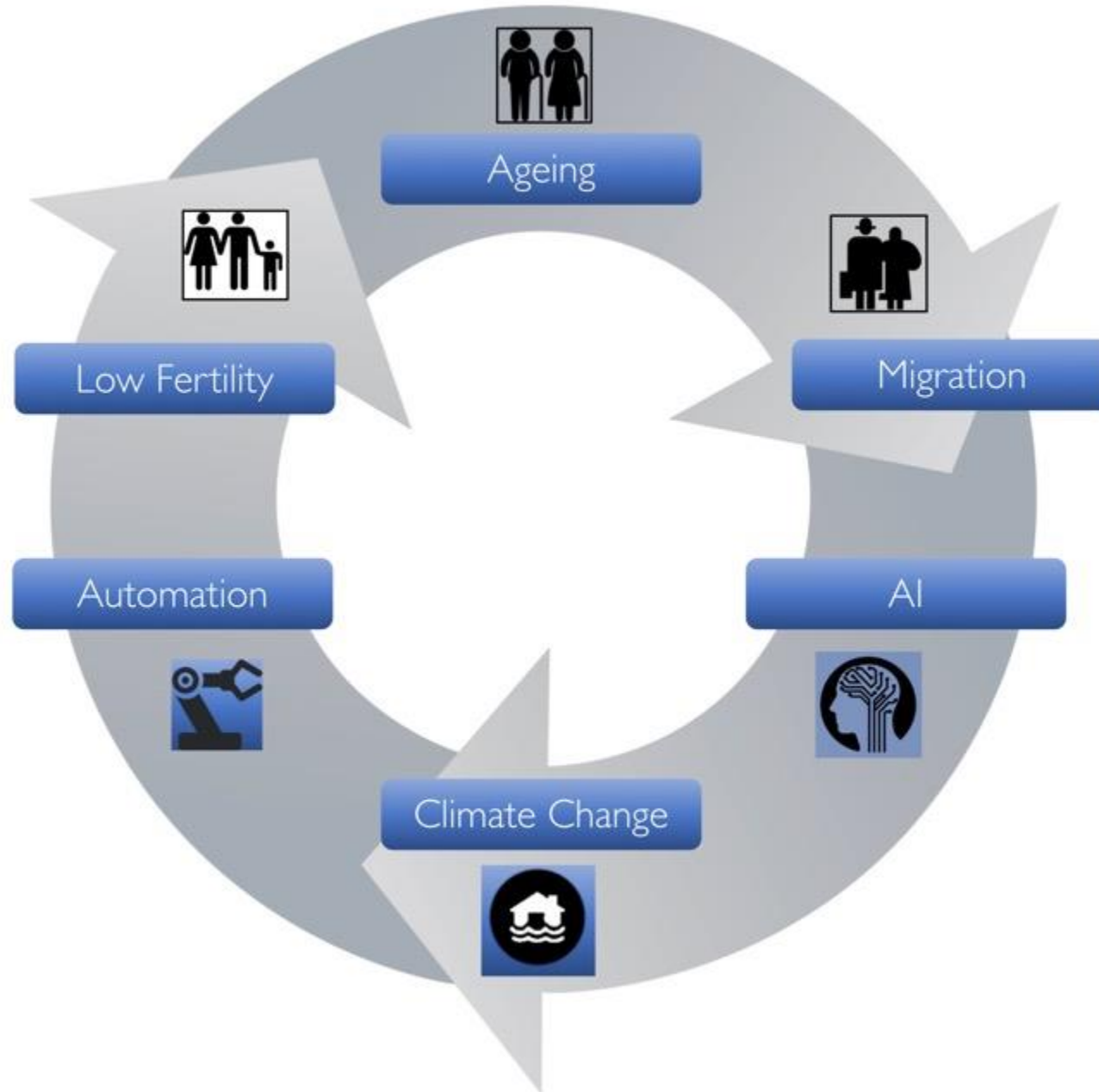
Spirit of the Place

# ZEIGEIST

Spirit of the Times

# DEMOGRAPHIC CLIMATE & TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

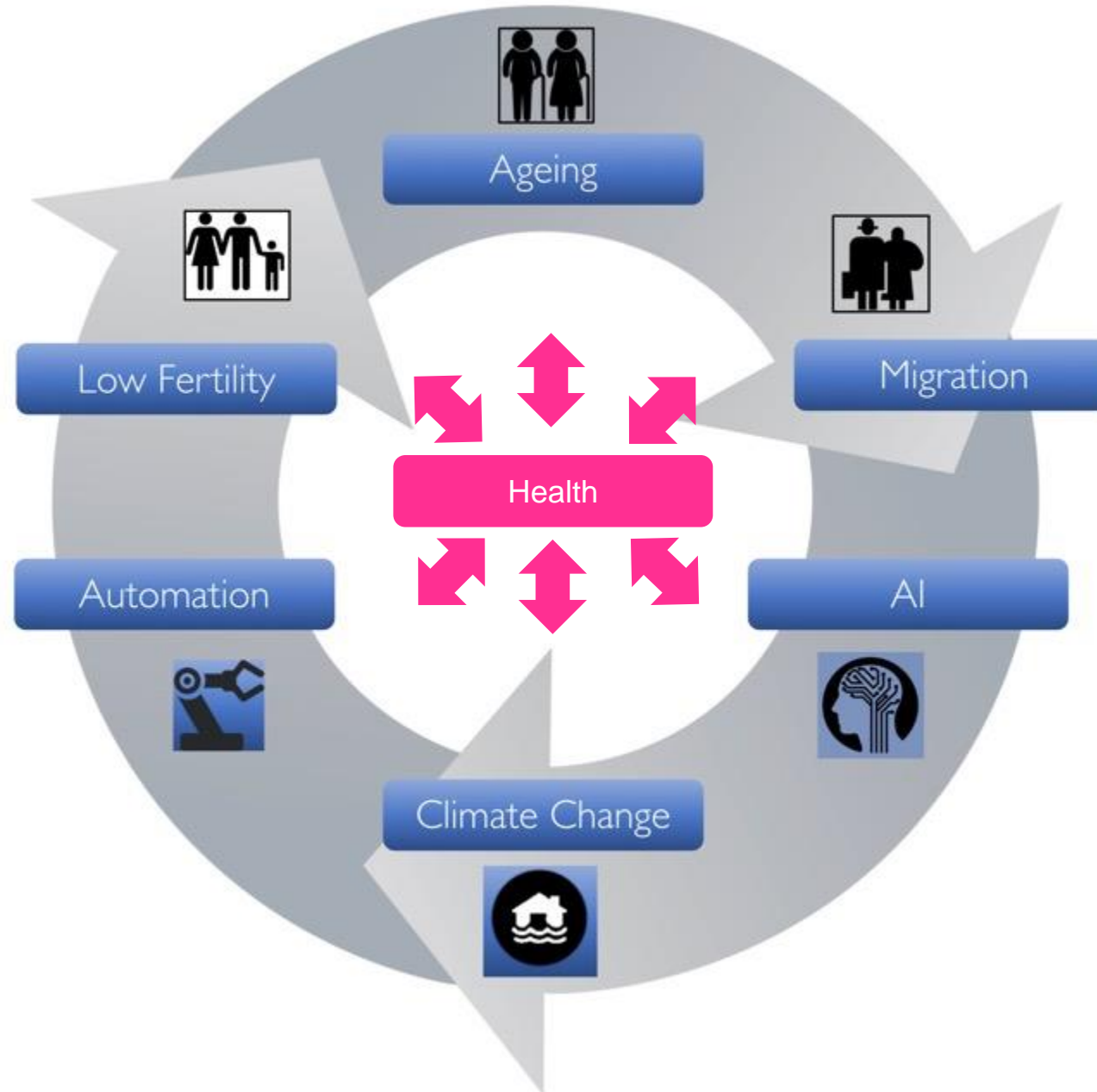
A benign or toxic  
cycle?



Vision, leadership  
and pragmatic  
management are  
needed to  
respond to these  
global trends.

# DEMOGRAPHIC CLIMATE & TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE

A benign or toxic  
cycle?



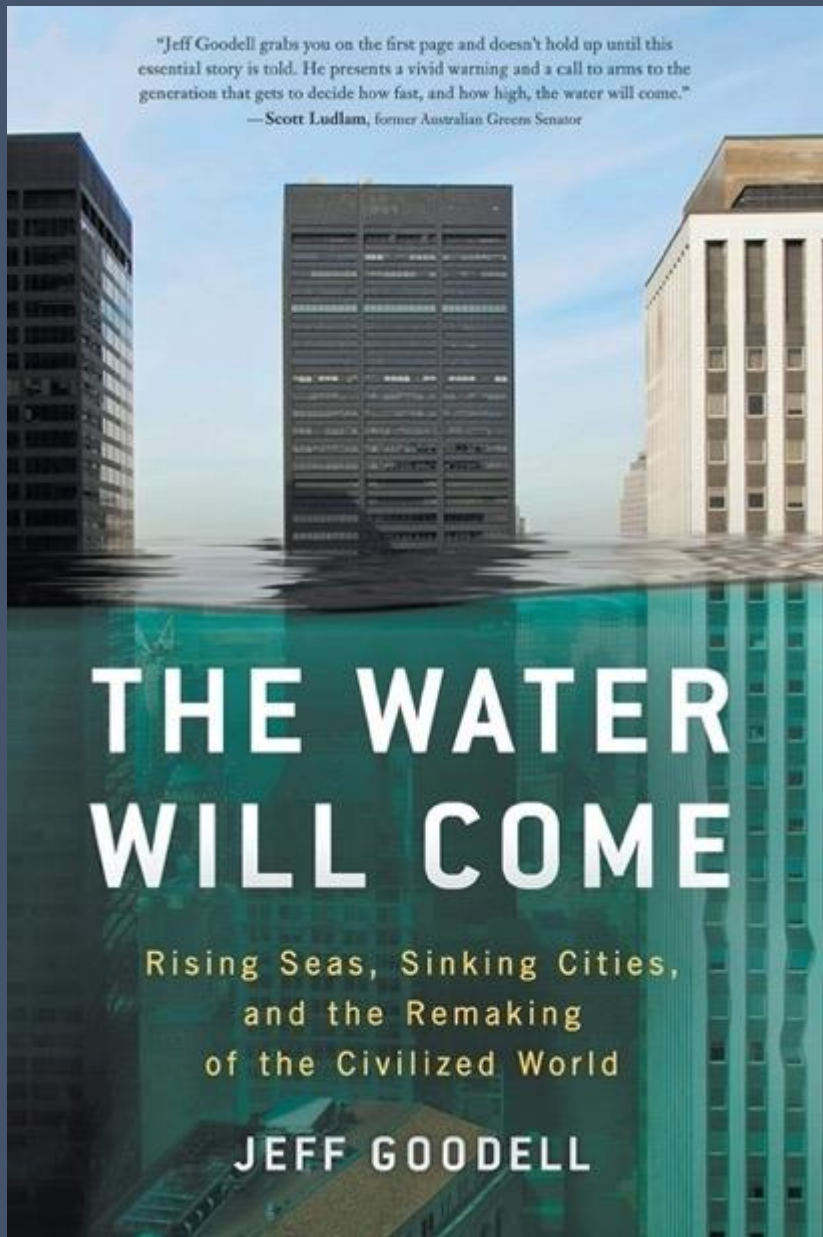
Vision, leadership  
and pragmatic  
management are  
needed to  
respond to these  
global trends.

***This is the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century  
challenge for  
government,  
business and  
education at  
national,  
regional and city  
level.***



“... if we are to build the city of the future, we must first imagine it...”

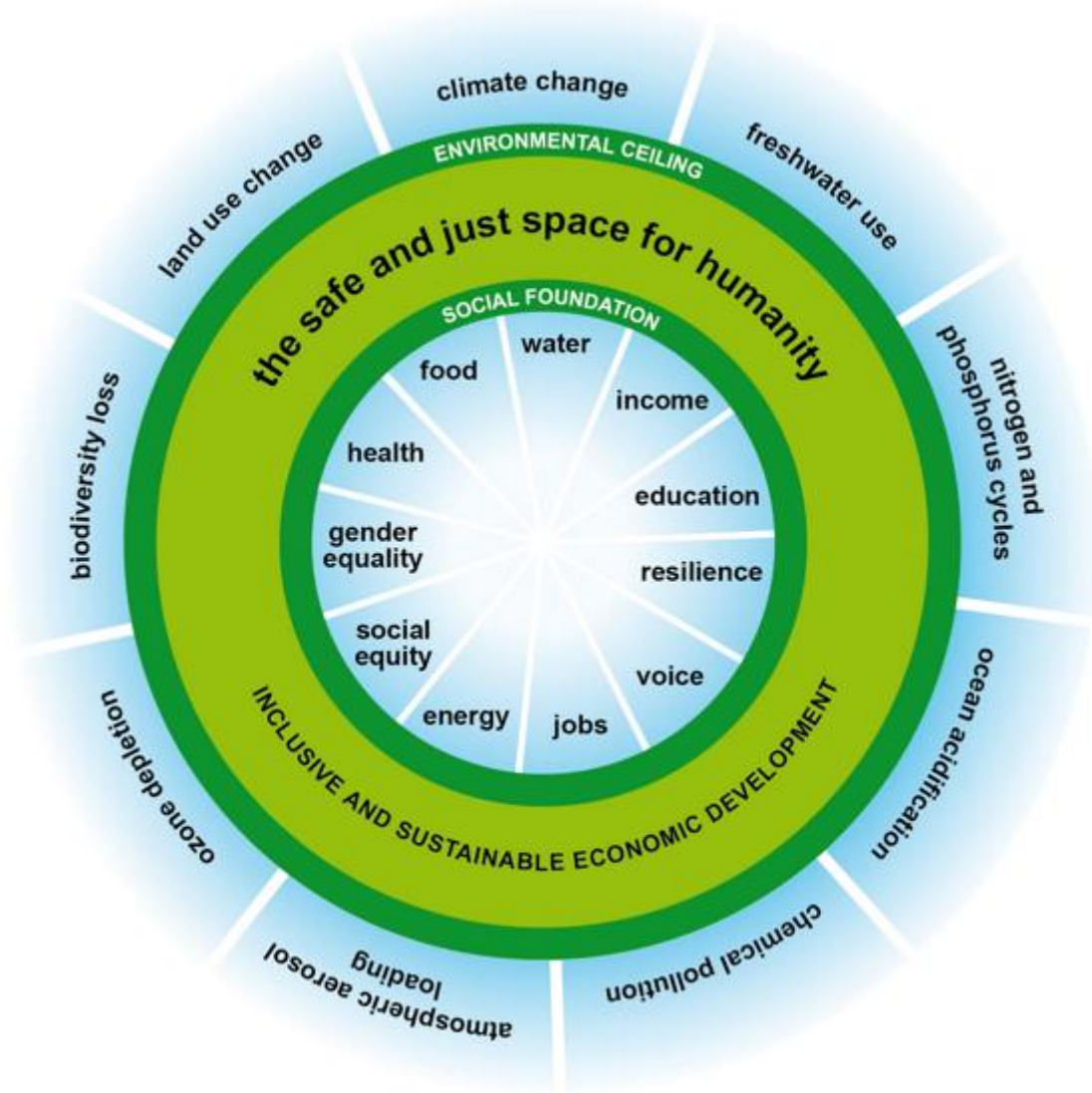
John Higgs  
*The Future starts Here – adventures in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2019



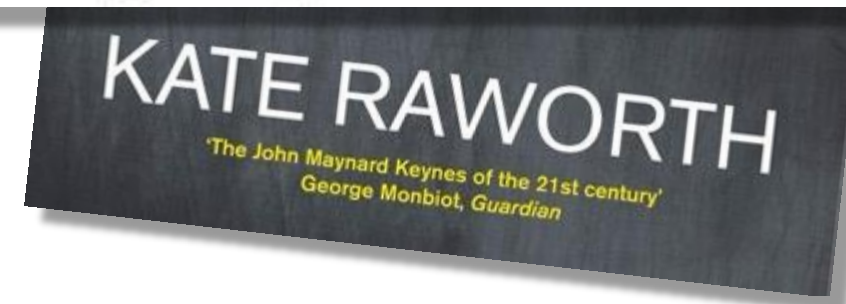
“.. do **inexorable**  
**processes** lead to  
**inevitable outcomes**..?”

.. we have Agency!

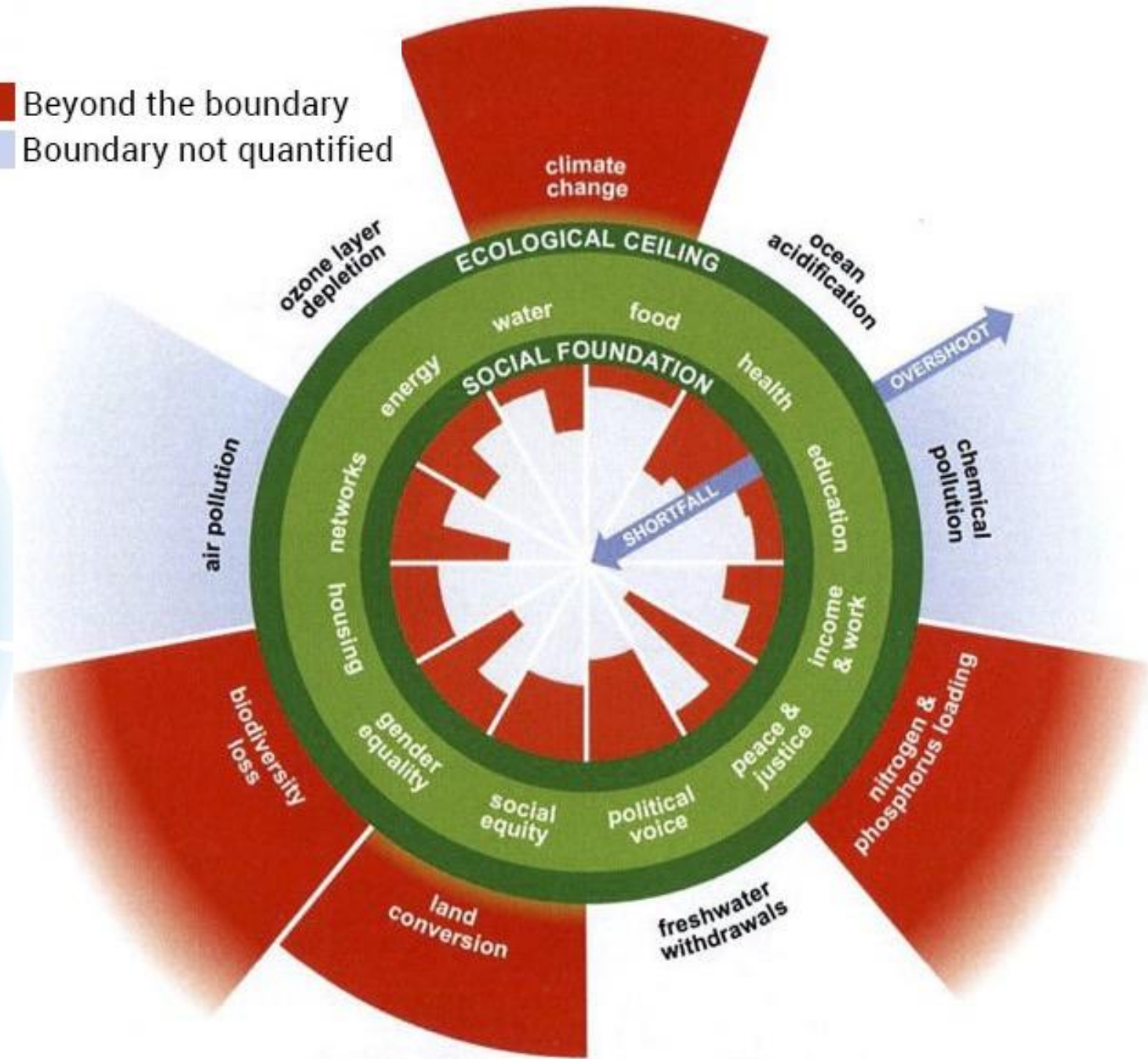
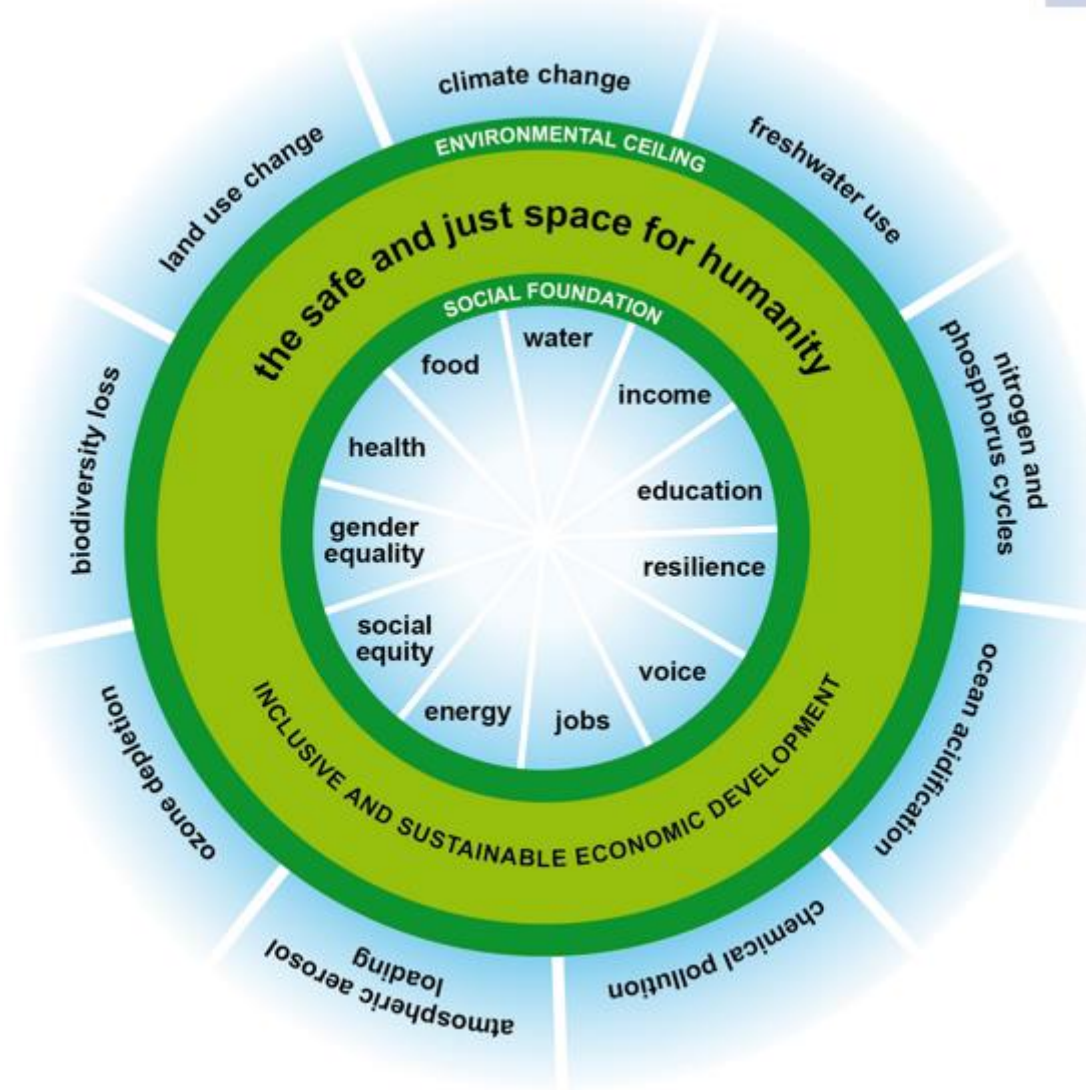
Peter Lesley



'The Doughnut: a 21st-century compass. Between its social foundation of human wellbeing and ecological ceiling of planetary pressure lies the safe and just space for humanity.'<sup>1</sup>



■ Beyond the boundary  
■ Boundary not quantified



# Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# “A chance for local people to shape the future of their town”

- a design-led event with local people at the heart
- capture and explore people’s ideas
- find consensus amongst the community



# Charrette Approach



- Charrette format places community at the centre of decision making process
- Involves people at the very start of preparing CaS Plan
- Increase understanding of the planning process
- More economical and time efficient
- Shared consensus and ownership
- Provides a joined-up approach

# Community Animation



## Our Strategy:

- Include as many local people and young people as possible
- Reach those who would not normally attend
- Use social media – twitter & facebook
- Posters, banners and leaflet distribution
- News stories and features in local press

## We targeted:

- Local schools and students including North Highland College (UHI)
- Community Councils, Ward Members and groups
- Services providers from THC Services and Highland Highlife
- Members of Highland Youth Voice and Scottish Youth Parliament
- Key service institutions (NHS, Dounreay Decommissioning, HIE)



**Your Wick, Your Vision**  
**Ur Inbhir Ùige, Ur Làirsinn**

**Charrette for WICK**  
Your Wick, Your Vision

**Help design your town - your chance to share your ideas.**

If you're interested in shaping the future of your town then the Wick Charrette is for you. This dynamic and interactive planning event will help develop a vision and options for future development. Drop in for a few minutes, a few hours or come along to every session and share your ideas.

**A vision for Wick**  
Thursday 21 Feb: 2pm-8pm  
Saturday 23 Feb: 11am-4pm

**The emerging options**  
Sunday 24 Feb: 6.30-7.30pm

**Report back on Wick's future**  
Tuesday 26 Feb: 7pm

All events take place at the Wick Assembly Rooms.  
Refreshments provided.

**Come and have your say about the future of Wick**



**Your Thurso, Your Vision**  
**Ur Inbhir Theòrsa, Ur Làirsinn**

**Charrette for THURSO**  
Your Thurso, Your Vision

**Help design your town - your chance to share your ideas.**

If you're interested in shaping the future of your town then the Thurso Charrette is for you. This dynamic and interactive planning event will help develop a vision and options for future development. Drop in for a few minutes, a few hours or come along to every session and share your ideas.

**A vision for Thurso**  
Friday 22 Feb: 2pm-8pm  
Saturday 23 Feb: 11am-4pm

**The emerging options**  
Monday 25 Feb: 6.30-7.30pm

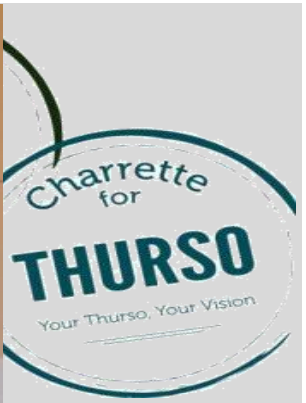
**Report back on Thurso's future**  
Wednesday 27 Feb: 7pm

All events take place at the Pentland Hotel, Princes Street, Thurso.  
Refreshments provided.

**Come and have your say about the future of Thurso**









WICK





## WANTS

A range of facilities were indicated that would improve the quality of life for young people in both towns (Go Kart Track; a dog walking park, retail Outlets appropriate to their age group etc)

They were concerned about the steep drop in business activities and the closing of shops

Surfing was something that could be developed to give greater quality of life and employment opportunities

A better use of vacant sites within the town

# Town & River



*“The river runs through the middle, but the two sides of the town work very well together.”*

**WICK**

# Town & River

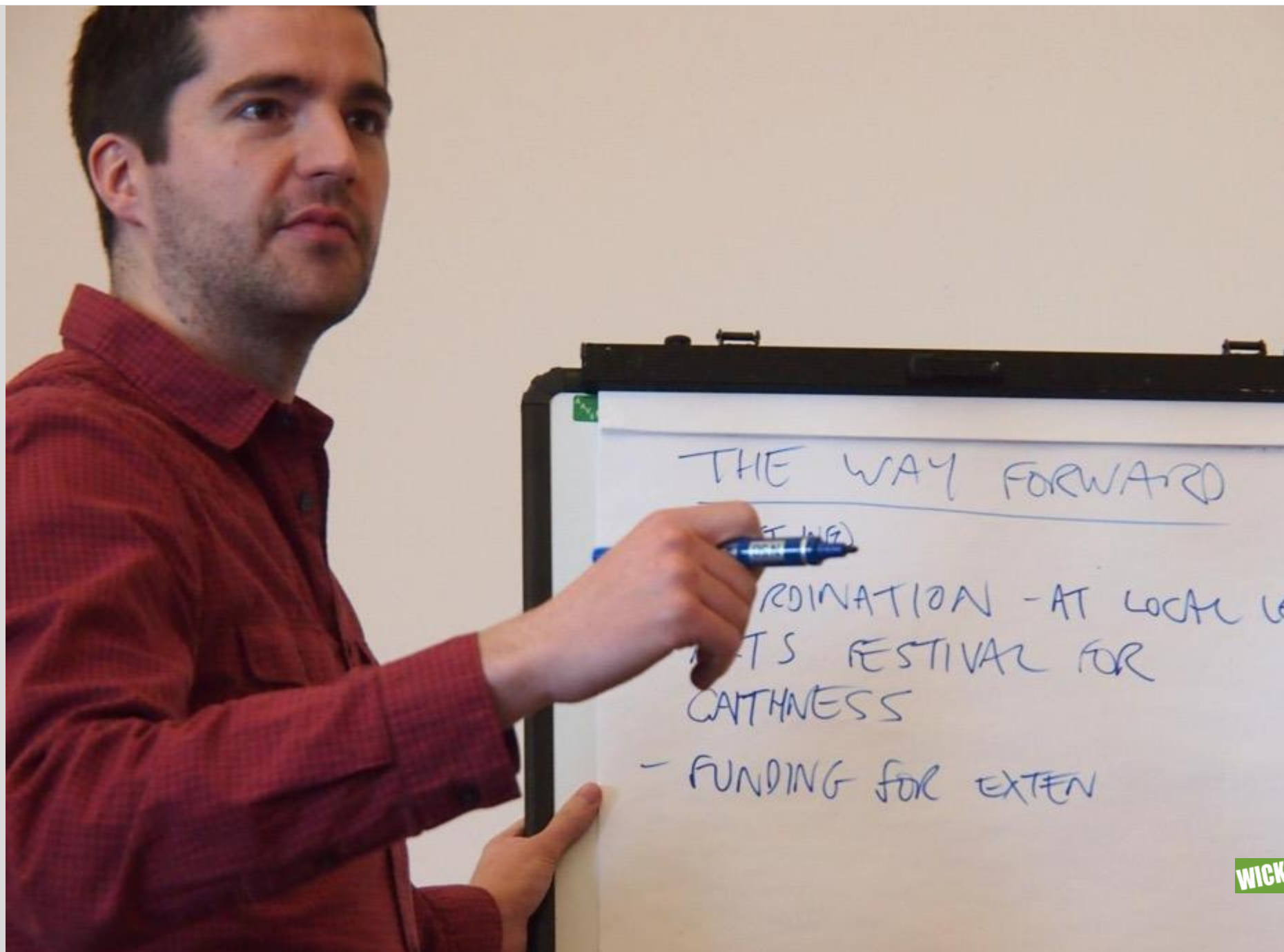
There are many pleasant green spaces that could be linked up

1. The River Wick is visually 'close' to people
2. The walkway upstream of the Bridge is green and beautiful on both banks but Poundstretcher is an eyesore
3. There are many gap sites along the north bank that could be made better when viewed from Pulteneytown
4. What is the future for the Swimming Pool?



# Local Heroes & Artist in Residence





## THE WAY FORWARD

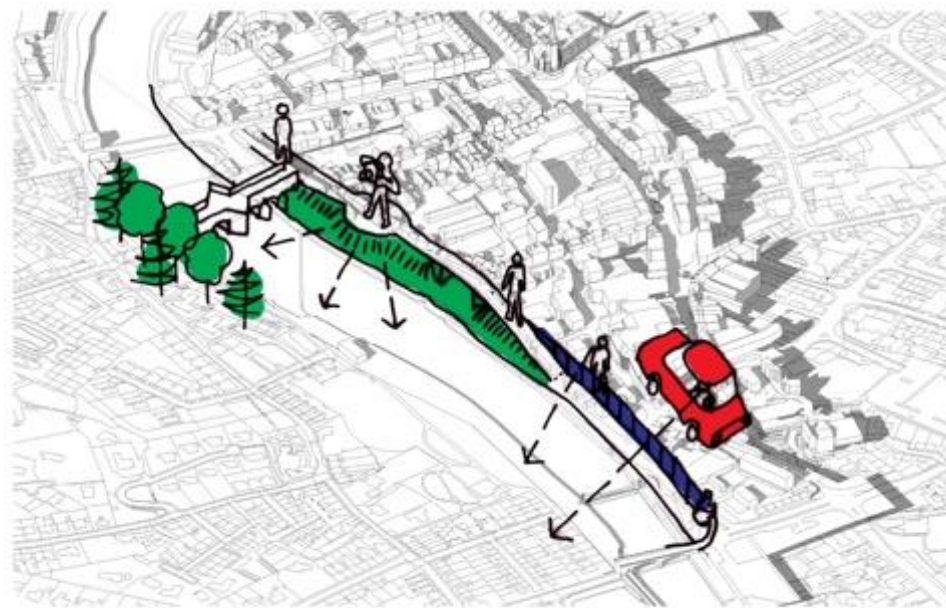
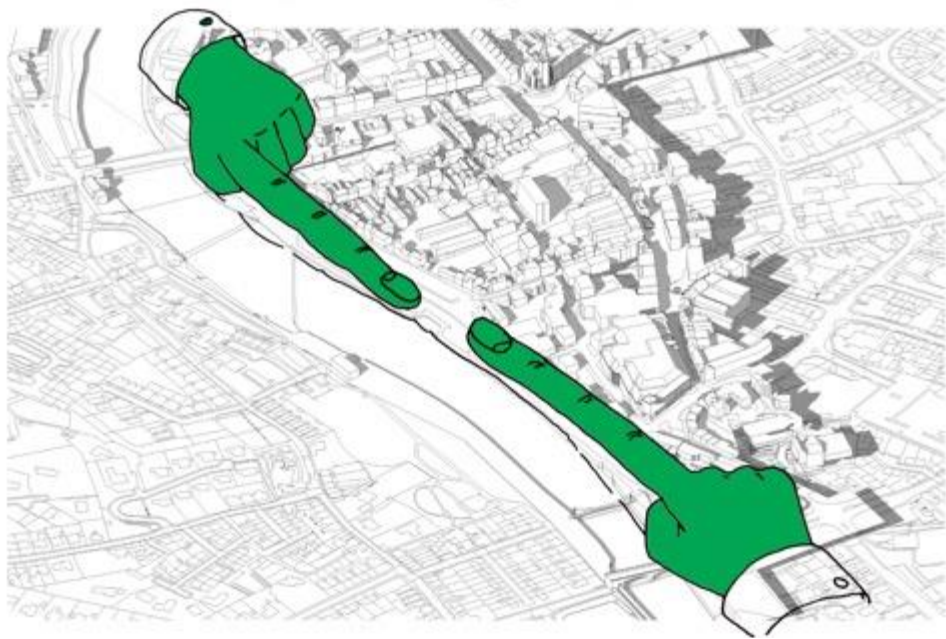
(1/2)

COORDINATION - AT LOCAL LEVELS  
FESTIVAL FOR  
CAITHNESS

- FUNDING FOR EXTEN

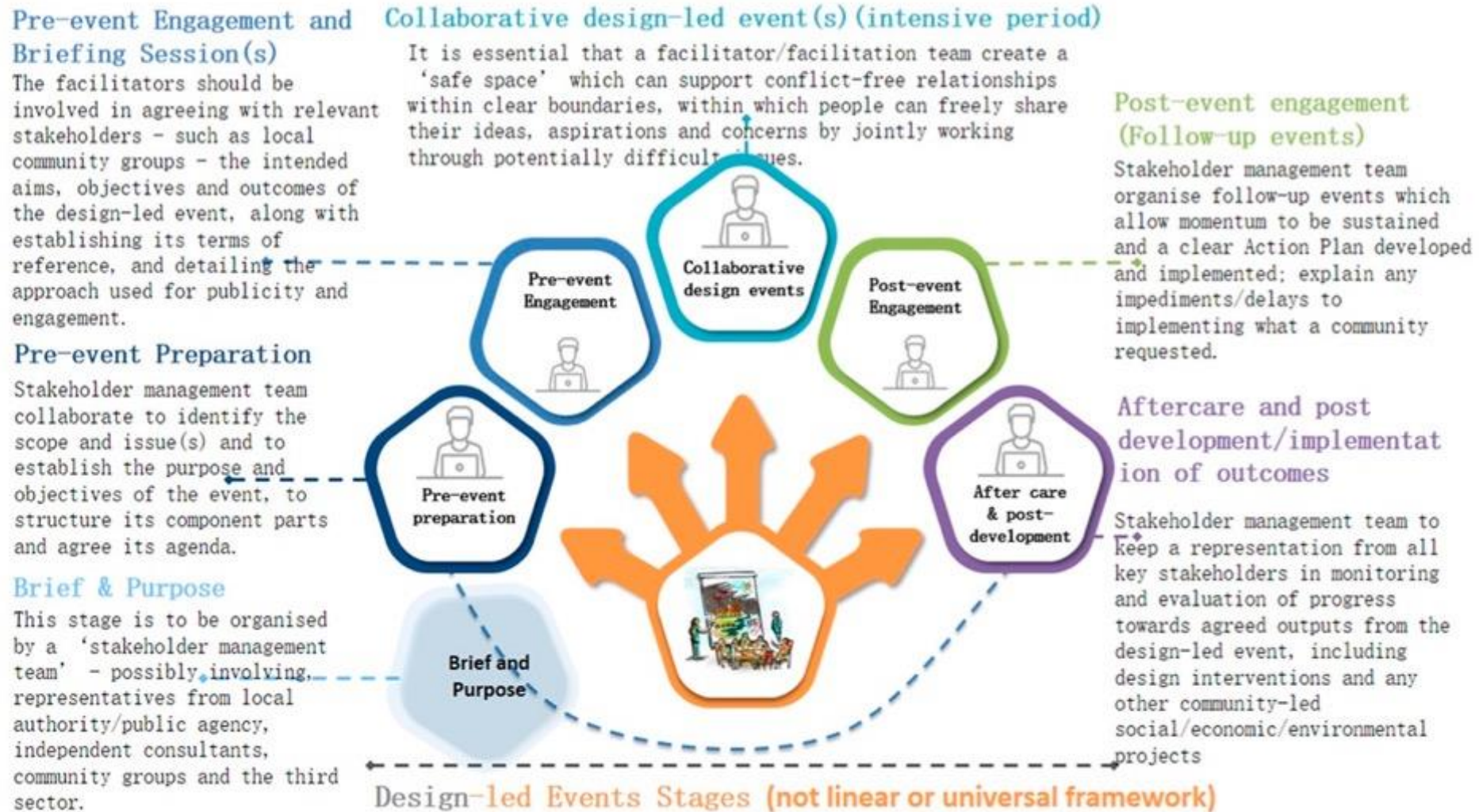












**Figure 7.** Integrating the insights drawn from the survey and the workshop’ suggests that design-led event stages are highly likely to follow six key stages. Although the processes may be portrayed as running linearly in this diagram—in order to make them intelligible—in reality, the stages within them are very ‘messy’ and they are not so clear-cut, with potential interactions between them.

### Changing the Focus: Viewing Design-Led Events within Collaborative Planning

# A Scotland of Better Places

Professor Duncan MacLennan

June 2021

Research commissioned for the David Hume Institute's **Action Project** investigating the actions needed for Scotland to become more prosperous, sustainable, inclusive and fair.

The content and opinions in this report are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the David Hume Institute, registered Charity number SC009579. Any errors or omissions are the responsibility of the author. If you are using this document in your own writing please cite: Prof. Duncan MacLennan (2021) A Scotland of Better Places, research commissioned by the David Hume Institute.



## PART ONE: CONTEXT

- Project Purpose and Approach
- Places and Policies: Meanings and Perspectives
- Multiple Scales of Place
- Past Experiences
- Do We Need to Say More?

## PART TWO: SIX BIG PLACE-BASED POLICY PROPOSITIONS

- Context
- Reconnecting Scottish Government with Changing Communities
- Infrastructure in Place, Elastic Space
- Reversing Fiscal Resource Centralisation
- Making Land Work Effectively
- Building Homes, Community Capacities and Skills
- Thinking Enterprise

## PART THREE: ACTIONS AT SCOTLAND LEVEL

- Beyond Business as Usual
- Places as Creative Ecosystems
- Wider Visions, Less Clarity
- A Long History of Bad Applied Geography
- Strengthening and Broadening Regional Economic Partnerships

## PART FOUR: ACTIONS FOR CHANGING CITY-REGIONS

- The Economic Distinctiveness of Real Cities
- Covid-19 and Scotland's Cities
- Covid-19 has had a pronounced negative effect on the Central Business Districts (CBDs) of the major cities.
- Covid-19 has underpinned shifts in housing demand in and around Scotland's Cities
- Covid Impacts and Housing and Neighbourhood Poverty
- Changing Governance at City-Region Levels

## PART FIVE: ACTIONS FOR CHANGE IN RURAL AREAS

- Shaping Rural Narratives and Policy Framings
- Changing Economic Development in Rural Scotland
- Rural skills
- Microbusiness
- New Times, New Roles
- Housing, Services and Governance
- Final Words: A Different Future

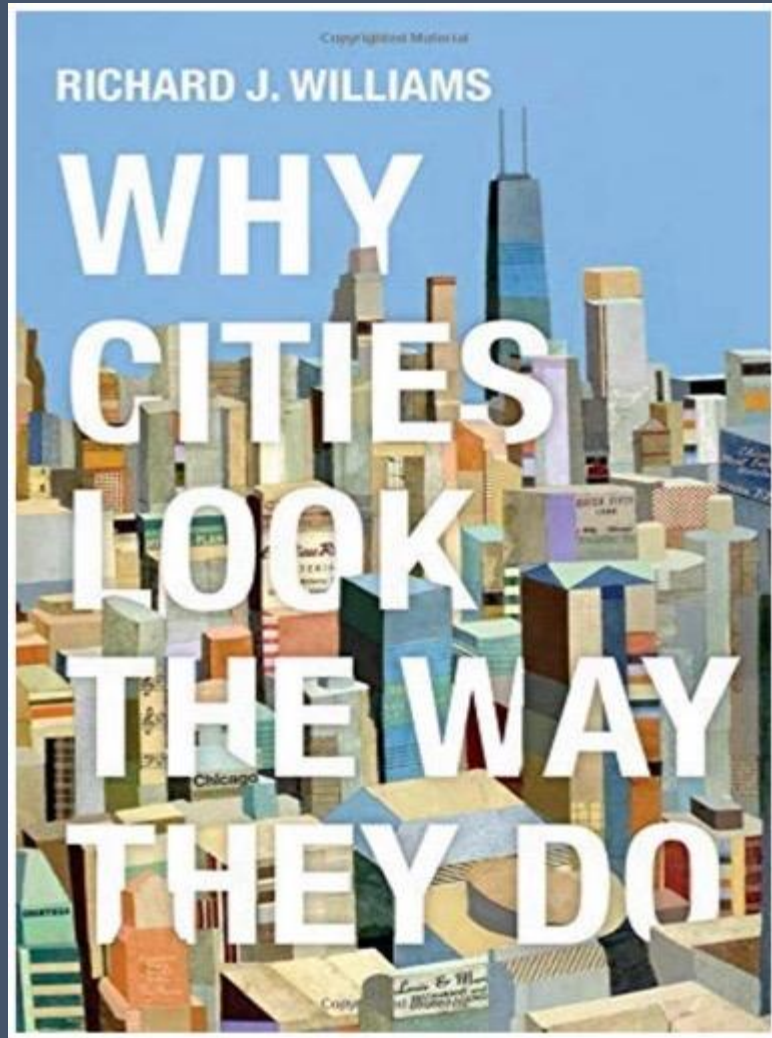
## PART 6: ACTIONS FOR CHANGE AND TOWNS

- Diversity in Nature and Trajectory
- Last Words for New Stories

# The Place Principle

*“Those responsible for providing services and looking after assets in a place need to work and plan together, and with local communities, to improve the lives of people, support inclusive and sustainable economic growth and create more successful places.”*

**Scottish Government**

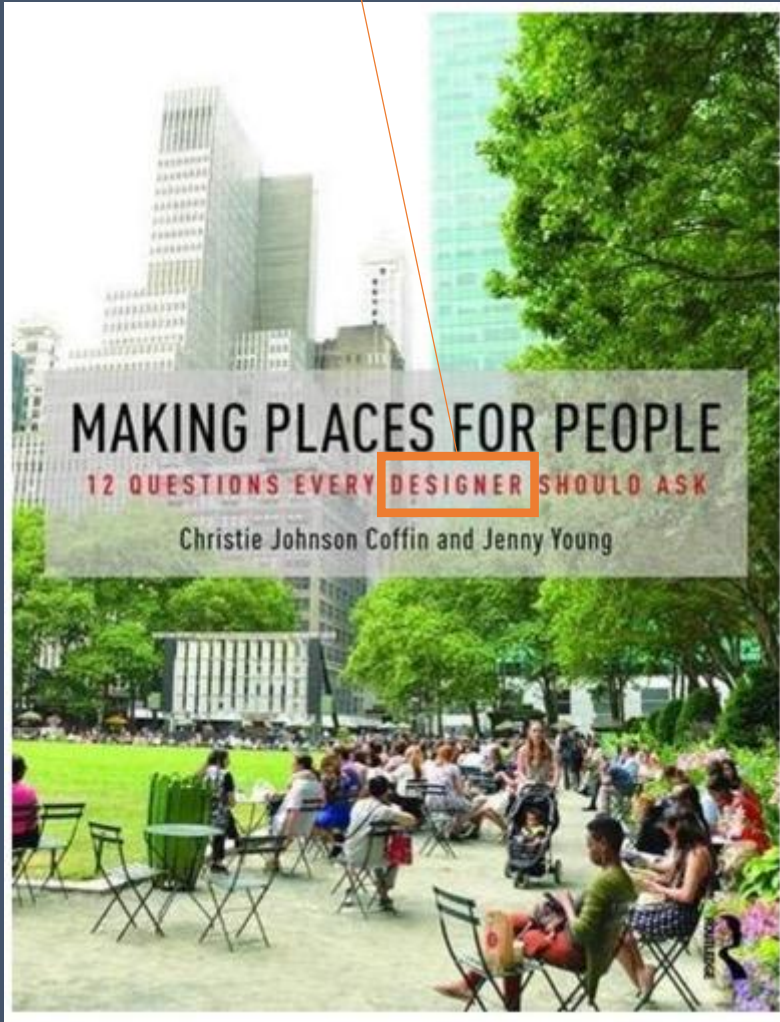


Why Cities look the way they do  
*Richard J Williams*

## *All about* PROCESS

- ☐ Money
- ☐ Power
- ☐ Sex
- ☐ Work
- ☐ War
- ☐ Culture

12 questions every CLIENT ...



**Making Places for  
People**  
*Christie Coffin & Jenny  
Young*

- ☐ What is the 'story' of this place?
- ☐ Whose place is it?
- ☐ Where is it?
- ☐ How big is the place?
- ☐ What 'logic' supports it?
- ☐ Balance of community, privacy and economy?
- ☐ What makes it useful?
- ☐ Does it support health?
- ☐ What makes it sustainable?
- ☐ Who does (and will) like it?
- ☐ What is the evidence that it will work?
- ☐ Does it support social equity?



# WHAT IF...? / SCOTLAND

IDEAS FOR  
A BETTER  
PLACE

Scotland + Venice 2021 for the 17th International Architecture Exhibition 22  
May – 21 November 2021, V&A Dundee

# What if...?/ Scotland

Project

About the work

Exhibition

Plan your visit

Places

Research locations for the project

Announcements

News about the exhibition

Events

Find out about live events, tours and talks

Writing

Essays and Reviews about the exhibition

Team & Support

Collaborators, funding and credits



## What does the future of your place look like? What if you could change it?

*What if...?/Scotland* seeks to re-engage the civic role of design professions by asking citizens from across Scotland to share their hopes and dreams for the future of the places they call home.

*What if...?/Scotland* encourages collaborative thinking, and demonstrates how community-led, grassroots engagement can stimulate local discussions which become global conversations.

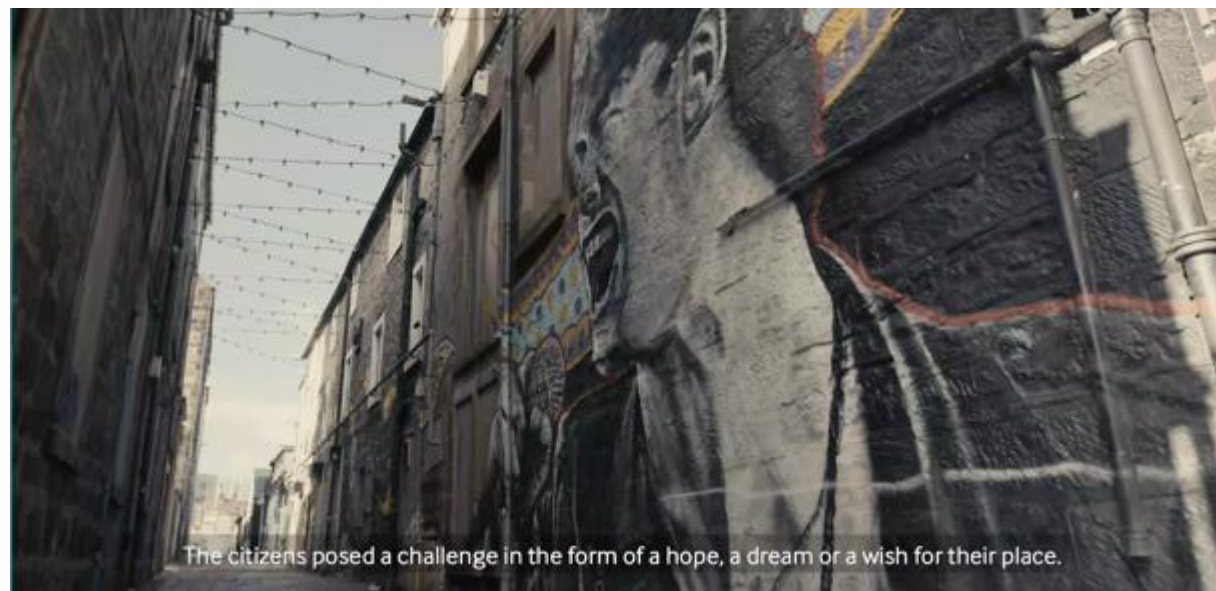
How will we live together? What if...?



Our places face major challenges.



The climate emergency, housing and inequality.



The citizens posed a challenge in the form of a hope, a dream or a wish for their place.

# Re-engaging the civic role of architecture

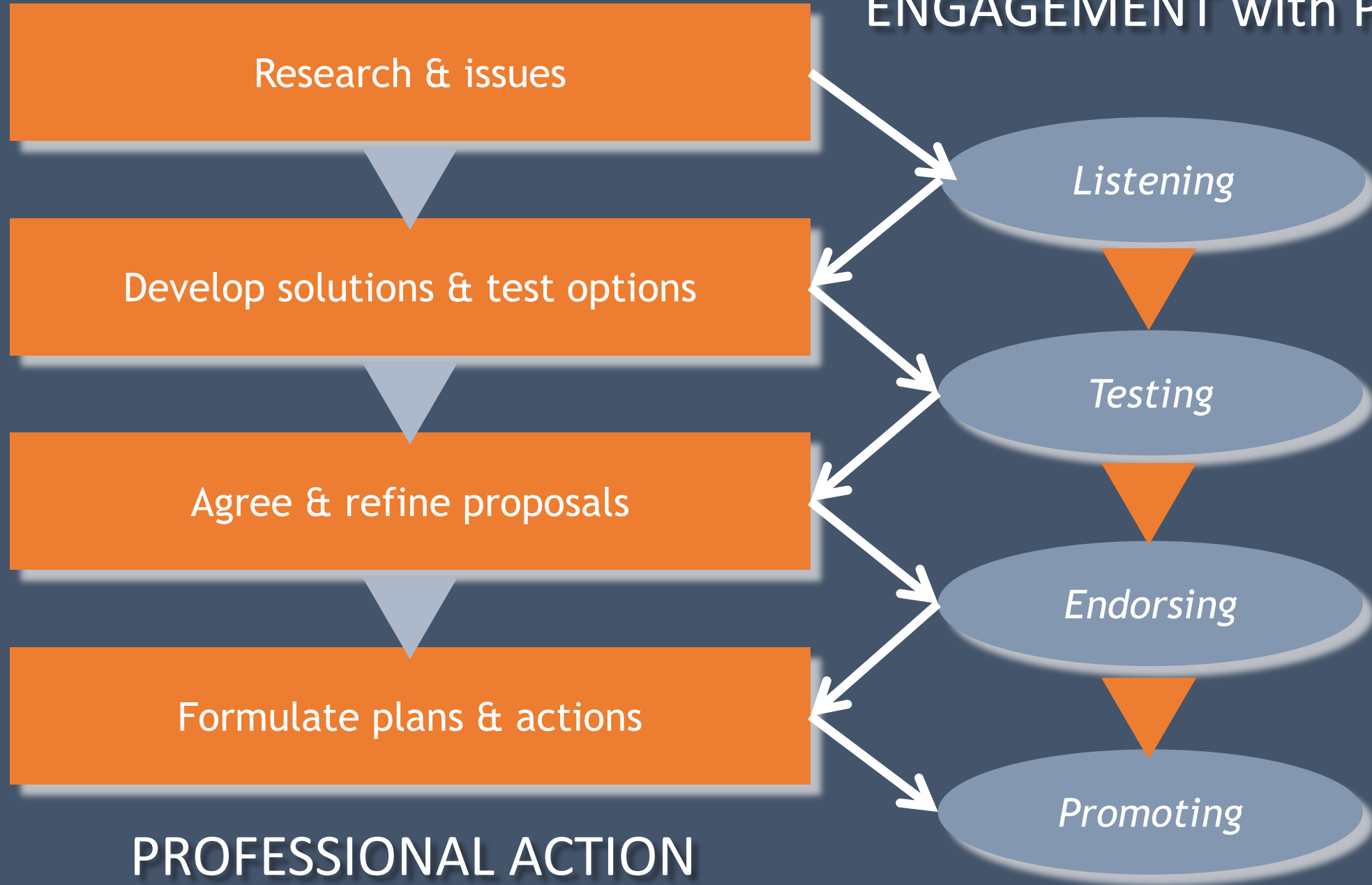
A dialogue between Scotland's architects and designers and the country's citizens to explore ideas which respond to their hopes, dreams and ambitions for the future of their places.

Ewan Anderson, 7N Architects: How can you strip away all the layers of machinery and bureaucracy in the process that goes into making places into something very, very direct?



it's the young people that understand the future better than we do.

# ENGAGEMENT with PEOPLE



# CityUrbanist\Glasgow

“stretch corporate thinking”

“address gaps in knowledge & understanding”

“bridge between Council, communities & developers”

“connect activity across City Council Family & design community”

“provide an over-arching narrative”

“get the best out place-making in the CDP”

“represent the City and the People of Glasgow”

**Everyday\City**

**Metropolitan\City**

**International\City**

# Proposals for Regulations on Local Place Plans



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# DESIGN

We are limited only by  
our imagination