

DELIBERATIVE ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES



Clear Remit

A clear, plain English challenge or question is placed before a group. This remit goes to the core of the issues and provides a strong and open platform for discussion about the trade-offs.

Detailed, in-depth information provided from multiple, diverse sources is provided to the participants to help them understand the dilemmas. Stakeholders familiar with the dilemmas will be asked to help define some of the important sources to present to the group. By doing this the group can move beyond opinion to an informed and more balanced view. Not all participants read everything, but collectively an enormous amount is read, understood and used in the conversations and decisions.



Information



Representative

A random sample of people affected by the decision are actively recruited to participate. Key filters are used to help stratify this sample to 'represent' the broader demographics.

The processes are built to ensure maximum involvement from all participants. It builds the thinking from individuals, to smaller groups to the whole group. The issues are weighed up and discussed in various ways before final recommendations are made.



Deliberative



Influential

The groups report must have weight. It needs to be considered at the highest level of decision-making and responded to directly. Some members of the group will be asked to present their report and recommendations directly to the decision-makers to demonstrate the gravitas of the report and the role of the process.

All deliberative processes enable the participants to prepare their own thinking and report 'from scratch'. We do not provide a draft position for review, or ask for comments on a pre-prepared document. This is allowing people to review the evidence, discuss and dialogue about the options, actively negotiate with each other, and finalise a shared solution for their report. Hence, the group's report is a 'blank page' - created by the deliberative group themselves - and presented unedited to decision-makers.



Blank Page Report