



Deliberative Mapping

CITIZENS AND SPECIALISTS INFORMING DECISIONS ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



briefing 2 **The Deliberative Mapping approach**

This briefing describes the Deliberative Mapping approach and how it can be used to foster more productive discussions between specialists and members of the public about complex policy issues where there is no obvious way forward.



What is Deliberative Mapping?

Deliberative Mapping is a methodology which can be applied to a problem to judge how well different courses of action perform according to a set of economic, social, ethical and scientific criteria. The aim is to use this approach as the basis for more robust, democratic and accountable decision making which better reflects public values.

Bringing specialists and citizens together

Deliberative Mapping is a unique approach because it combines assessment by individual specialists and members of the public (or citizens). Participants:

- appraise a complex problem for which there is no single obvious way forward
- systematically weigh up the pros and cons of each of the potential 'options' under consideration, and
- integrate their individual assessments to help identify a possible future course of action.

Emphasising diversity and social learning

Deliberative Mapping emphasises the value of involving a wide range of participants. Panellists are recruited from a diversity of socio-economic and demographic backgrounds to include a wide range of perspectives on the issue. Specialists are selected, in consultation with a stakeholder advisory panel, to reflect knowledge and views from a variety of relevant disciplines and organisations. In the one application of this approach so far, 34 members of the public, including people from a host of different backgrounds, and 17 specialists took part (see Briefing 3 in this series).

The Deliberative Mapping approach is underpinned by a belief in the capacity of

people to work together. Instead of forcing consensus it aims to reveal the reasons for different points of view, and their implications, and so help foster greater understanding. It relies on people being able to learn, debate and work towards a decision that is broadly acceptable to all parties. Relations between the individuals involved must therefore be based on trust and mutual respect.

The process involves giving careful consideration to the best way of supporting everyone so that their views are heard, using an appropriate mix of individual interviews and group discussions, with high quality facilitation throughout.

How does Deliberative Mapping work?

Deliberative Mapping integrates two independent but complementary approaches to informing decision making:

- Stakeholder decision analysis (SDA) which is a qualitative group based process (see Briefing 4 in this series)
- Multi-Criteria Mapping (MCM) which is a quantitative, computer-assisted interview process (see Briefing 5 in this series).

Participating members of the public are divided into citizens' panels. Citizens' panels and specialists participate in a variety of processes, separately and together, to appraise the options for the problem under consideration (see Figure 1).

Citizens and specialists have the opportunity to learn from each other's discussions and decisions. Citizens have access to a wide variety of information from specialists, ranging from high quality written materials through to the joint workshop discussions. Specialists have the opportunity to discuss their views with each other, and discover different views through face-to-face contact with citizens.

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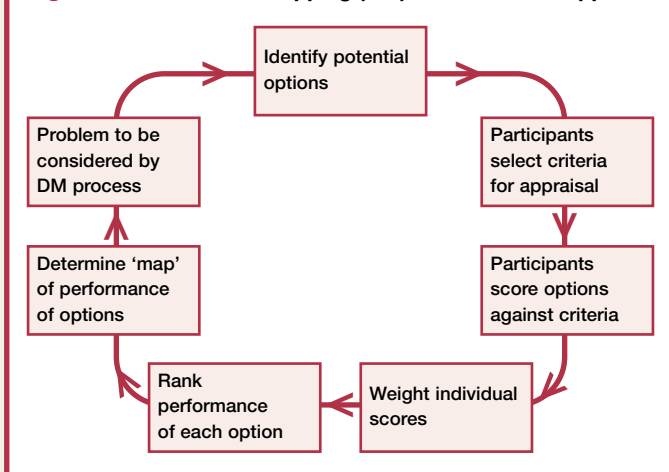
Figure 1: Deliberative Mapping participation process

CITIZENS' PANELS AND JOINT WORKSHOP	SPECIALISTS' INTERVIEWS AND WORKSHOPS
<p>Meeting 1. Introduce panellists and facilitation team; agree ground rules; discuss initial thoughts about problem in question, provide information.</p> <p>Meeting 2. Clarify, discuss and then agree meanings, definitions and implications of the options to be appraised.</p> <p>Meeting 3. Discuss and agree a shared set of criteria to be used by the panel to judge the pros and cons of the different options.</p> <p>Meeting 4. Panellists score options under chosen criteria; panel reviews performance patterns; decide what issues to take to joint workshop.</p> <p>Joint workshop. Panellists join specialists to discuss issues raised in their deliberations.</p> <p>Meeting 5. Discuss workshop outcomes; panellists re-score options; weight criteria to reflect priorities.</p> <p>Meeting 6. Panellists discuss individual and full panel results. They evaluate the process.</p>	<p>Scoping interview. Discuss project and views about the problem in question.</p> <p>First MCM interview. Use MCM software to structure the appraisal of options under weighted criteria.</p> <p>Joint workshop. Specialists exchange views with citizens and respond to questions.</p> <p>Second MCM interview. Use MCM process to elicit any changes in specialist appraisals.</p> <p>Specialist workshop. Specialists reflect on the various perspectives and emerging findings. They evaluate the process.</p>

Citizens and specialists follow the same basic framework for option appraisal, described in Figure 2. They assign a score to each of the options. This reflects the performance of each option in light of criteria which are developed by the participants themselves. The criteria are weighted to reflect their importance. This allows the option to be ranked in order of their overall performance.

The result is a 'map' of the way the performance of each option under consideration varies under different perspectives. These results are further interpreted through qualitative analysis of transcripts which record the deliberations of individual specialists and the citizens' panels.

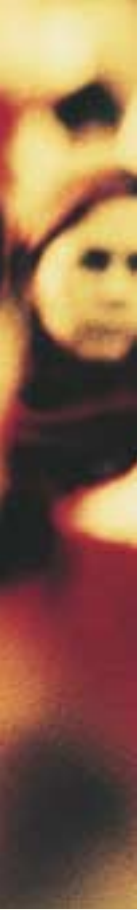
Figure 2: Deliberative Mapping (DM) framework for appraisal



What are the challenges of setting up a Deliberative Mapping process?

Deliberative Mapping is a multi-faceted approach which has been set up to address complex problems. Hence there are a number of issues which policy makers and researchers need to consider before using this method to investigate citizen and specialist perspectives on a particular issue. These include:

- How do citizens, specialists and others define the meanings, components and boundaries of the issue in question?
- What do these different groups want or



need to know to help them arrive at an informed judgement?

- How should uncertainty be handled within the process of deliberation and judgement?
- What resources do participants require to assist them?
- How are the results of the process to be used in policy-making?

Deliberative Mapping is complex, time consuming and expensive. It needs strong project management and high quality facilitation. This places significant demands on sponsors, practitioners and participants.

Evaluating Deliberative Mapping

Evaluation is integral to all stages of Deliberative Mapping, from design of the process through to implementation and analysis.

In the one application of the process so far, Deliberative Mapping was used to examine the question of how to reduce the gap between the number of people who are waiting for kidney transplants, and the much lower number of donor kidneys available (see Briefing 3 in this series). This application demonstrated that Deliberative Mapping is a practical method to inform technical policy decisions in a robust and accountable way.

By balancing a variety of specialist and citizen perspectives, Deliberative Mapping may help to foster more productive discussions about policy, although there is no guarantee that the outcomes will be fed successfully into a policy-making process. Nevertheless, where there is conflict between specialists and/or where the public has strong views about what policy makers should do, Deliberative Mapping can show how assessments were made, and the reasons underpinning the judgements of those who were involved.

About the Deliberative Mapping briefing paper series

This is one of five briefings which explain Deliberative Mapping. This is an approach designed to help specialists and members of the public weigh up evidence to reach a joint decision on a complex policy issue where there is no obvious way forward.

The five briefing papers are:

1. Opportunities and challenges for involving citizens in decision making
2. The Deliberative Mapping approach
3. Deliberative Mapping in practice: the 'kidney gap'
4. Citizens' panels in Deliberative Mapping: a user guide
5. Using the Multi-Criteria Mapping (MCM) technique.

Further information

These briefings are available to download at www.deliberative-mapping.org

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