

Liveable Cities

Wellbeing and the liveable city
7 December 2012
Royal Society

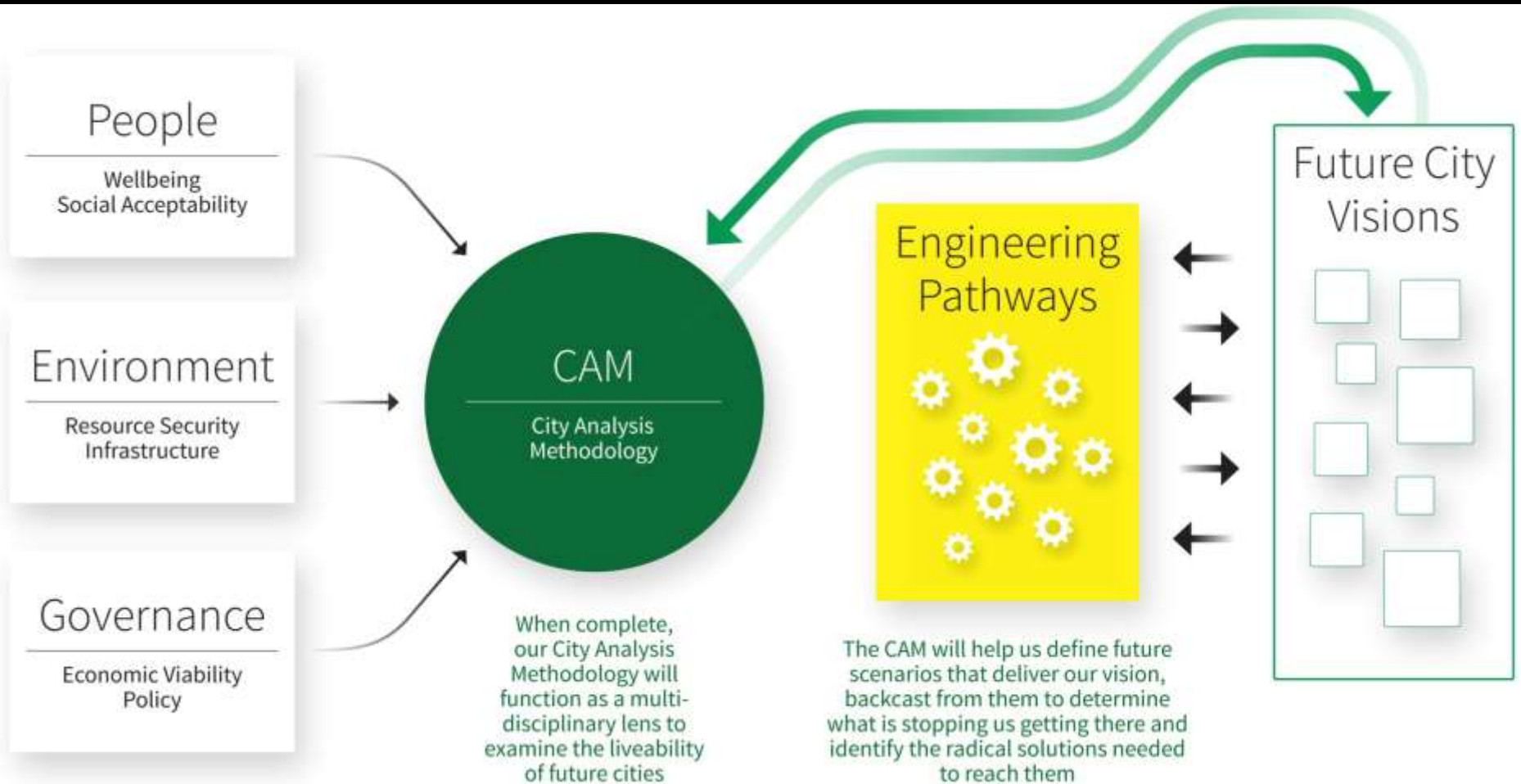
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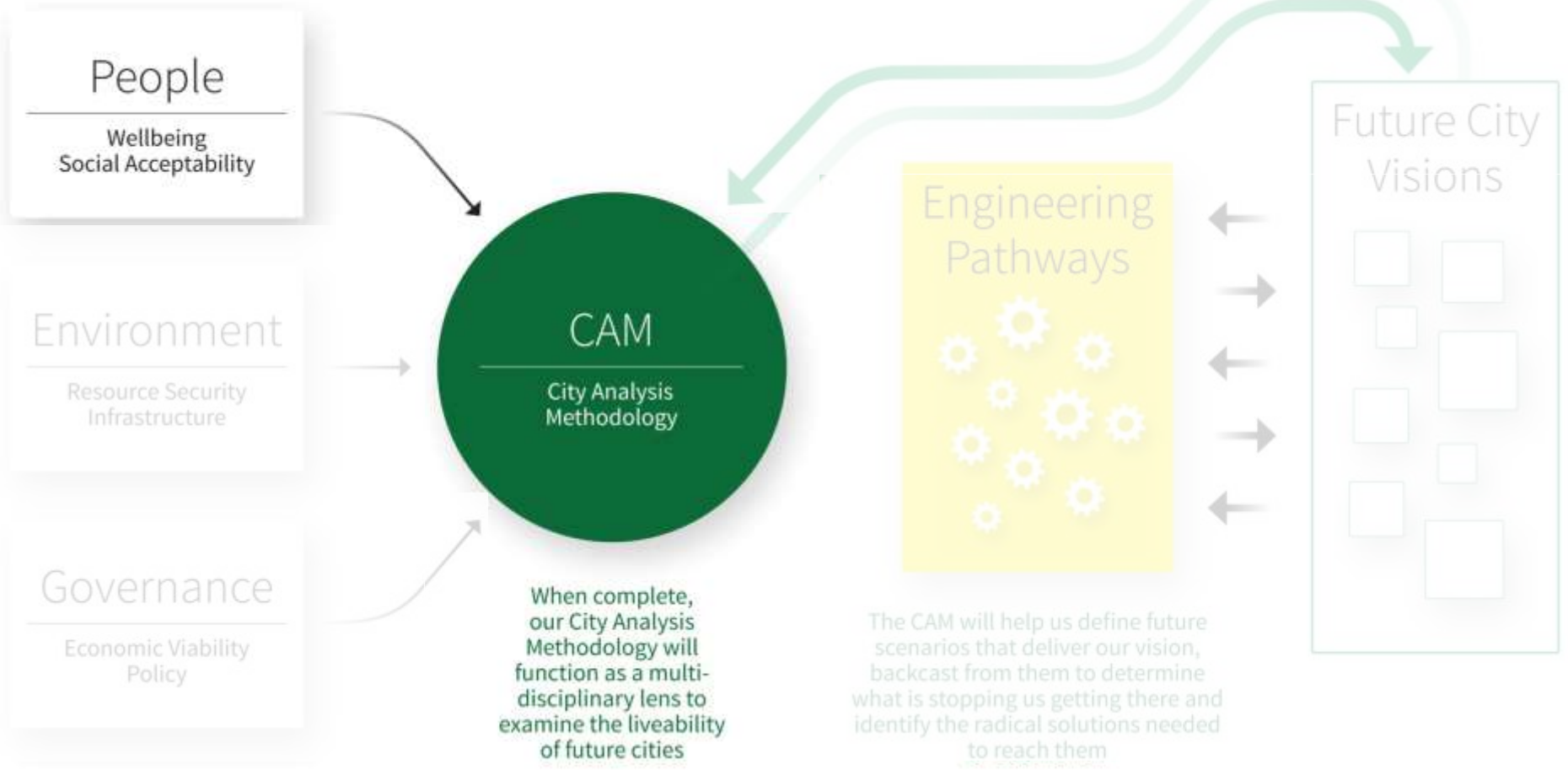
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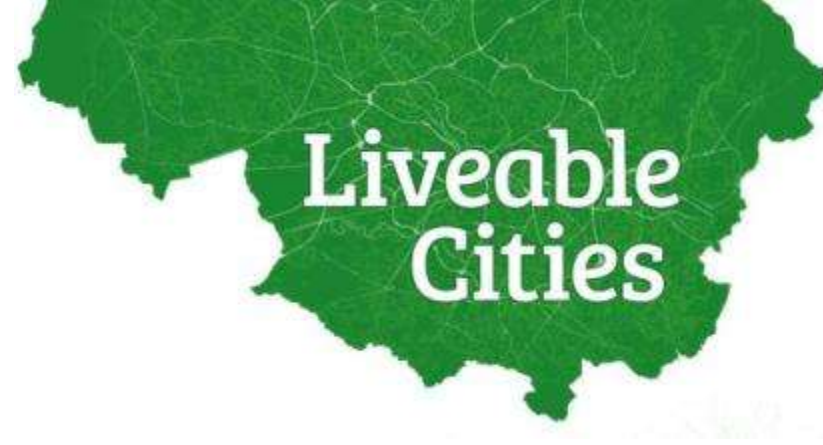


RC2: Wellbeing



Research Challenge

2



How do we ensure that radical engineering takes into account the human dimensions of living and working in a city?

How can our understanding of human and organisational aspirations and behaviour inform engineering solutions to deliver low carbon living?

How do we assess quality of life, wellbeing and citizen aspirations, and translate them into design criteria for transforming the engineering of cities?

Research Challenge

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Wellbeing definitions, indicator sources & indicator categories

Olden

no. 2015/078

THE WORLDS OLDEST

Subjective wellbeing finally defined!

By Ruut Veenhoven (1984)

Subjective wellbeing [is] the degree to which an individual judges the overall quality of her or his life as whole in a favourable way. Adding to this definition, Andrews and Whithey (1976) define subjective wellbeing as 'both a cognitive evaluation and some degree of positive or negative feelings, i.e., affect' (p. 18).

Intuitive definition of wellbeing

Wellbeing may be defined as 'doing feeling good, and doing good- feeling well'. 'Doing well' conveys the material dimension of welfare or standard of living, suggesting a foundation in economic prosperity. 'Feeling good' expresses the 'subjective' dimension of personal perceptions and levels of satisfaction. The second line... reflects.... the moral dimension.... wellbeing was not simply about 'the good life', but about 'living a good life'. (Sarah C. White, 2009)

Friday Wellbeing definition

the physical, social goals and
state, it is not
absence of

"All the News I Feel Like Printing."

The P

VOL. I... No. 1

Subjective wellbeing definition

By ALKIRE, S. (2007)

To capture subjective wellbeing, she proposes the separate measurement of life satisfaction and happiness, and that the satisfaction measure consider life overall and several distinct domains that are argued to be important namely, material wellbeing (food, income, housing); health, work, physical safety, relations with friends and family, education, ones neighbor- actively help

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Mental wellbeing

The dynamic process that gives people a sense of how their lives are going, through the interaction between their circumstances, activities and psychological resources or 'mental capital.' (nef/Foresight, 2008)

New wellbeing definition

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cteristics which Institute at
individuals and

Friday, 7 December, 2012

What is wellbeing?

- A positive state of physical, mental and social being
- Not just the absence of pain, discomfort or incapacity
- A dynamic process
- Requires basic needs to be met
- Involves social connectedness, giving, being active, taking notice and continuing to learn
- Enhanced by a variety of conditions, including a healthy and attractive environment

Indicator sources

Found over **2,300**
indicators from **98** sources

Scale range	Count	Example
International	20	Eurobarometer
National (International)	7	Canadian Index of Wellbeing
National/local (International)	1	Quality of Life in New Zealand's Cities
Subregional (International)	1	Illinois State Civic Index
Local (International)	2	City of Dresden Citizen Survey
National	22	Opinions and Lifestyle Survey
National/local	2	Measuring Progress/SDIYP
National/sublocal	1	Citizen Survey
Regional/local	1	North West Mental Wellbeing Survey
Local	2	Place Survey
Local/sublocal	2	Wellbeing and Resilience Measure
Sublocal	37	Life Satisfaction Index

Indicator examples

Category	Example
Community participation	Do you feel a sense of community in your local neighbourhood?
Crime	How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?
Environment	Percentage of wards in the 10% most deprived areas
Housing	How satisfied are you with your flat/accommodation?
Planning	Share of sustainably-classified buildings of all new and renovated buildings
Political participation	Participation rates in most recent election
Psychological health	Overall, how happy did you feel yesterday?
Social support	How often do you speak to your neighbours?

Indicator analysis & selection

Indicator analysis

Step 1

- Does the *category* (e.g. Crime) fit? Should it be split?

Step 2

- Does the *category* and *indicator* fit with the wellbeing, low-carbon and built environment factors?

Step 3

- How many factors? How strong? Grouping? availability of data?
- Which *indicators* will be used?

Indicators we wish to use?

Category	Indicator
Community participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Percentage of people who feel they belong to their neighbourhood• How would you describe your sense of belonging to your neighbourhood?• What sorts of things stop you from doing any activities you would like to do?
Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal crime rate• Percentage of children who feel safe going to/from X• How safe do you feel walking alone in this area after dark?• How safe do you feel walking alone in this area during the day?• How safe do you feel in [CITY NAME]?• It is safe to be out and about on the streets

Gaps in the selected indicator set

Category	Gaps
Information & knowledge	Indicators needed about the quality of information and knowledge sought? Indicators needed about what media people use to access information and knowledge?
Infrastructure	Are any indicators needed?
Political participation	Indicators as they relate <i>only</i> to wellbeing?
Private services	Additional private services needed?
Spirituality	Any indicators needed?

Questions

What would you need to do differently to create/achieve a low-carbon city?

If emphasis is on x, how will this impact on quality of life/wellbeing?

What measures should we be using to look at this?

liveablecities.org.uk



Transforming the Engineering
of Cities to deliver Societal
and Planetary Wellbeing

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