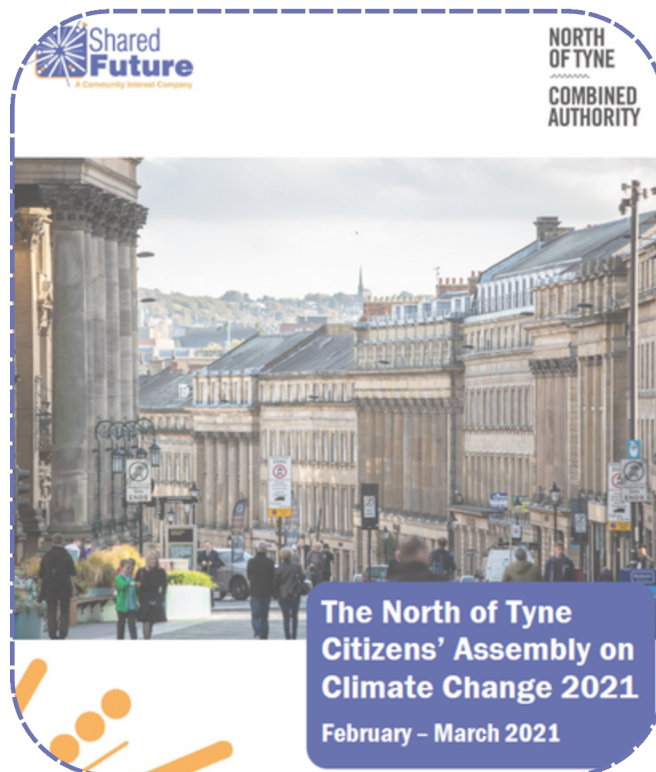


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**WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY**  
**Public Administration and Policy Group**

***Embedding climate assemblies:***  
***The influence of embedding on assemblies' scope and agenda***

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## Abstract

Deliberative mini-publics like climate assemblies have been labelled as indispensable democratic innovations for sustainability transformations. However, unclarity exists about their meaningful embedding into existing political, societal and administrative systems. An influential design consideration for climate assemblies is the scope and agenda the assembly will be entrusted with. This thesis therefore operationalises a framework of embedding consisting of four dimensions, temporal, spatial, practical and political, to enquire into the shaping of the scope and agenda of three local climate assemblies.

Incorporating evidence from document analysis and interviews, the research shows that embedding helps explaining the scope and agenda of the examined climate assemblies. The most detailed influence can be attributed to spatial embedding, which describes the manner in which the assembly is connected to decision-making spaces and civil society. However, the framework cannot fully explain how scope and agenda are assigned in the three cases. Thus, I propose extensions to the framework regarding transformativity, actors, and political embedding, and introduce further relevant aspects for scope and agenda that could be taken into account for future research and use of the framework. The considerations provide insights for practitioners and researchers alike.

**Keywords:** *Deliberative mini-publics; participation; climate change; climate assemblies; institutionalisation*

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**List of Abbreviations**

CCA .....*Climate Citizen Assembly*  
DMP.....*Deliberative Mini-Public*  
KNOCA ..... *Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies*  
NTCA ..... *North of Tyne Combined Authority*

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*For everyone nurturing democracy against all odds.*

# 1. Introduction and research aim

The climate crisis<sup>1</sup> poses an enormous challenge for human societies as they exist today and the natural basis they are reliant upon. As the IPCC finds: “Rapid and far-reaching transitions across all sectors and systems are necessary to achieve deep and sustained emissions reductions and secure a liveable and sustainable future for all. These system transitions involve a significant upscaling of a wide portfolio of mitigation and adaptation options” (Calvin *et al.*, 2023, p. 28).

To date, most states have failed to meet their emission reduction targets determined by the Paris Agreement (Climate Analytics, NewClimate Institute and IESR, 2024) and adaptation efforts lag behind as well (European Environment Agency, 2024). In the course of this, democracy has come under attack – some attest that it is the reason for deficient climate action, while others see it as the key for an accelerated transformation (Pickering, Bäckstrand and Schlosberg, 2020).

Whilst the earth is burning away, governments and citizens<sup>2</sup> around the world have thus been surfing the so-called ‘deliberative wave’, experimenting with deliberative, representative formats, complementing representative democracies (OECD, 2020). This is owed to the argument that representative democracy is not equipped for long-term decisions, as are required for a sustainability transformation in response to the ecological and climate crisis (Pfeffer, 2024). According to Willis, Curato and Smith, this can be explained through several interlinked arguments: the inability to consider medium to long-term issues and future people; the deficient modalities of how ‘technical, scientific and expert advice is used in the political process’; power struggles regarding vested interests in decisions; and the (lacking) responsiveness to citizens’ views and values (2022). Classifying this trend of governments ‘failing to deliver’, the OECD considers five interconnected drivers to this tendency: economic, cultural, political, technological and environmental (OECD, 2020).

In the wake of this deliberative wave, topics related to climate change have received attention in so-called deliberative mini-publics, for example climate assemblies (Willis, Curato and Smith, 2022). Deliberative democracy can be seen as better equipped for long-term decisions like responding to the climate crisis, as it might be able to integrate different perspectives on complex issues and can include non-present groups like future generations (Dryzek and Niemeyer, 2019). Furthermore, it still integrates expert knowledge systematically and is not concerned with personal re-election (Pfeffer, 2024). Moreover, it does not give priority to strategic vested interests as easily (Willis, Curato and Smith, 2022). Generally, it aims to make the relationship between citizens and political representatives an ‘informed dialogue’, instead of one-sided, disconnected monologues (Willis, Curato and Smith, 2022).

Additionally, the previously introduced transformation requires far-reaching changes and turnarounds with significant impact on citizens’ lives (Ainscough and Willis, 2024). This applies to the efforts to mitigate climate change, but also to the global challenge that adaptation to climate change poses. ‘Successful adaptation’ not only requires governments, but also “active and sustained engagement of stakeholders, including local communities [...] [and] civil society”

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<sup>1</sup> The author uses ‘climate change’ when referring to the anthropogenic long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns and ‘climate crisis’ when referring to the interconnected ecological, political and societal crises induced by it.

<sup>2</sup> The author wants to acknowledge that the term ‘citizen’ can be fairly excluding, even in the context of participatory governance, as the privilege of holding citizenship is not universal.

(UNFCCC, no date). Thus, the recognition “that such transitions need to engage the public directly, both to ensure better policy-making and to improve acceptance of decisions” (Smith, 2024, p. 3) has increased and fostered the prominence of climate assemblies (Ainscough and Willis, 2024).

However, not all climate-related topics have found equal attention in climate assemblies. Most climate assemblies, particularly on the national level, have focused their remit on climate mitigation efforts (Smith, 2024). According to the Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA), there is an “unmet need to use the climate assembly format to deliberate on how societies can best adapt to climate change” (Shaw, Wang and Latter, 2021, p. 1). There is a stark societal relevance to understand better how the scope of climate assemblies is constructed if assemblies continue to be a tool of participatory governance, to mobilise the potential of deliberative mini-publics for all climate-related issues of great societal importance, be it concerned with emission reduction efforts, adaptation strategies or questions of climate justice etc.

This societal relevance calls for further investigation into climate assemblies, particularly into their integration into constellations of political and policy institutions (Boswell, Dean and Smith, 2023) and how their scope impact their design and, subsequently influence policy action (Elstub *et al.*, 2021). The ‘scope of climate assemblies’ in this case encompasses the scope of the remit and the scope of the more detailed and concrete agenda, following the understanding of Elstub *et al.* (2021) (‘scope of the climate assembly agenda’).

Research on the agenda-setting of citizen assemblies has so far primarily focused on the agents of agenda-setting (Elstub *et al.*, 2021). Whilst certainly of utter importance, a focus on the agents or actors alone underplays the impact of other structural, systemic and integral influences on the agenda. Furthermore, it does not account sufficiently for the intrinsic systemic trade-offs and dilemmas that actors are confronted with when deciding on design questions like the scope and agenda (Pfeffer, forthcoming 2025).

Additionally, there might be a reciprocal relationship between the scope and embedding, which is not accounted for in focusing only on agents of agenda-setting. The embedding of DMPs can be scrutinised through exploring three dimensions of it, as outlined by Bussu *et al.* (2022): temporal dimension of embedding, spatial dimension of embedding, and the practical (as in concerning practices) dimension of embedding. Most recently, Pfeffer and Newig proposed that CCAs also need political embedding (2025). Even though relevant for the research on different types of deliberative democratic innovations, the concept of embedding is specifically relevant for **climate** assemblies, as the complexity and scale of climate change requires coordination across all policy arenas and different types of governance (Elstub *et al.*, 2021).

This research aims to contribute to the understanding of how actors and different dimensions of embedding shape the (formation of the) scope of climate assemblies. It takes on two guiding research questions: *How do initiating bodies and actors shape the scope of climate assemblies? What roles do the assemblies’ temporal, spatial, practical and political embedding play in shaping the scope of climate assemblies?*

By acquiring clearer knowledge about the spatial, temporal, practical and political, and potential other dimensions of the embedding of climate assemblies, the author primarily seeks to advance

our understanding of how the agendas and remits of climate assemblies are set within the complex contexts of different interplaying governance actors, institutions and practices. This might further the knowledge on the neglect of other climate-relevant topics in climate assemblies and strengthen the case for meaningfully embedded climate assemblies within climate governance.

This thesis is structured as follows. In the following section, I will present the theoretical framework that the research utilises. I then illustrate the methodology used to answer the research questions. Subsequently, I employ the framework to analyse three cases of local climate assemblies in Germany and the UK, examining their scope and agendas. I conclude the thesis by discussing the findings on whether and how the actors and embedding shape the scope in the explored cases.

## **2. Theoretical framework**

This research builds on the conceptual framework of the embedding of mini-publics, which has been used as a tool for explaining and practically advancing DMPs simultaneously. The concept is grounded in theories of deliberative democracy, and mostly feeds off the systemic turn in these theories, moving the focus away from internal deliberation dynamics towards the integration of participatory governance into the political system (Bussu *et al.*, 2022; Boswell, Dean and Smith, 2023).

To analyse the formation of climate assemblies' scope and agenda I will employ the concept of 'embedding', as a means to describe how the formation process is embedded along four different dimensions. In the following, I will sketch the state of the art of research on deliberative mini-publics more generally before introducing embedding as the theoretical lens through which I explore the scope of CCAs.

### **2.1 Citizen assemblies**

Deliberative mini-publics is a term for a multitude of different types of participatory governance under the umbrella of deliberative democracy (Smith and Setälä, 2018). They share design features like facilitated group discussions in a random sample of citizens, with the involvement of evidence from experts and interested stakeholders (Smith and Setälä, 2018). Beyond those, mini-publics differ in terms of selection, numbers of citizens, time spent and output. One of the recently preferred choices is the citizen assembly (Escobar and Elstub, 2017).

The details of the design of citizen assemblies vary from case to case. Generally, there is a representative sample of the population, consisting of 50 – 160 citizens (numbers can vary) (Wells, 2022). The participants are invited randomly (sortition) and, after positive response, are assembled to represent the population according to categories like gender, age, ethnicity, class, region, voting preference (Machin, 2023). In most cases, there is a steering committee, advisory body or oversight panel of some sort, including key stakeholders (Wells, 2022). These can however take different roles in different configurations.

Citizen assemblies have been described as the 'most robust and elaborate model of representative deliberative processes' (OECD, 2020, p. 36) and have been applied at all levels of

government (Wells, 2022). They allow for extensive learning and in-depth deliberation and are therefore well suited for complex questions with wide implications. Citizen assemblies have been used for questions of institutional or constitutional changes and under conditions of political tension (OECD, 2020). A prominent example for this is the Irish Citizen's Assembly (*An Tionól Saoránach*) from 2016-2018, brought into being to solve the unresolved questions of same-sex marriage and abortion (OECD, 2020).

When it comes to interrogating the remit of such citizens' assemblies, Mulvad and Popp-Madsen (2021) distinguish between four degrees of decision-making power for sortition-based assemblies. They range from solely *consultative* bodies which give politicians access to popular/public opinion, to *agenda-setting* bodies, tasked with framing the matter at hand, to *legislative* bodies, holding all legislative power. In between the two latter positions there is a *co-legislative* position, with shared decision-making power between elected and sortition bodies. There are several empirical examples for the consultative and agenda-setting archetype (e.g. the G100 in Belgium; Irish Citizen's Assembly). However, the co-legislative and legislative degrees remain purely theoretical for now, with potential advantages and disadvantages in their future implementation (Mulvad and Popp-Madsen, 2021).

### **2.1.1 Critical perspectives**

In their review of core critiques of citizens' assemblies, Elstub and Khoban identify the following:

“Firstly, that members of the public do not have the capacity to engage in meaningful deliberation and decision-making. Secondly, that CAs do not contest power relationships in society. Thirdly, that they are excessively manipulated spaces, with participants having little control over their own agendas. Fourthly, that they are easily co-opted by public authorities and have little policymaking impact. Fifthly, they only include small numbers of participants, and therefore exclude most of the public from deliberation and decision-making. Sixthly, because they are representative, they do not do enough to promote the voice and interests of minorities and marginalized groups” (Elstub and Khoban, 2023, p. 113).

Elstub and Khoban themselves argue that some of these critiques can be rejected or at least mitigated. However, they acknowledge that some of the critiques are valid and have to be taken into account in order to have climate assemblies “provide democratic value in the right circumstances” (Elstub and Khoban, 2023, p. 122). However, some of their proposals are also conflicting each other. When proposing to democratise assemblies, giving them more say on the remit and accessible information, but at the same time institutionalising through deepening connections with government and legal bases, these two propositions might get in each other's way.

These analytical considerations can prove valuable when investigating the scope and agenda of citizen assemblies. Oftentimes, the proponents of assemblies propose fundamental improvements through democratising segments of and around the assemblies (like setting the agenda). Thus, democratic theory can remind us that there is more to it than simply adjusting a screw or two. Ultimately, this debate can be seen as a system-supporting vs. a system-disrupting rationale for citizens' assemblies. System-supporting rationales aim to support policymakers, assuming a willingness to act among them. System-disrupting rationales, on the other hand, assume unwillingness to act by policymakers and call for fundamental systemic change (Hammond, 2020). Depending on the underlying rationale, which can also include elements of both, commissioners, organisers, designers and policy-makers face different trade-offs when

setting scope and agenda for the assembly (Pfeffer, forthcoming 2025). For instance, with regards to the scope, the trade-offs encompass a decision between a narrower scope, which might increase policy impact, and a wider scope, which might allow space to challenge dominant agendas (Pfeffer, forthcoming 2025).

### **2.1.2 Climate assemblies**

Climate assemblies are, in essence, citizen assemblies that are tasked with remits that refer to climate action. KNOCA defines them as “citizens’ assemblies [...] on aspects of the climate and ecological crisis” (Smith, 2024, p. 3). They have gained increasing popularity in the last years during the ‘deliberative wave’ (Smith, 2024). However, climate citizens’ assemblies cannot be conceived as a ‘silver bullet’, solving all existing problems in democratic systems and the lack of climate action simultaneously (Ejsing, Veng and Papazu, 2023).

Reflecting on sortition as a means to mitigate the climate crisis and the crisis of liberal democracy simultaneously, Mulvad and Popp-Madsen highlight that context-specific designs will require solving *issues of power, expertise and participation* (2021). The problem of power refers to the question of how much decision-making power should be granted to a sortition-selected body. The problem of expertise refers to the epistemic basis for deliberation, the remits of discussion and the voices that may inform the debates. The problem of participation concerns how (and whether) non-participating citizens can be engaged in the decision-making process as well (Mulvad and Popp-Madsen, 2021).

Whilst different options for all these issues are available, these authors argue that sortition-led bodies like climate assemblies still have a long way to go if they want to meaningfully contribute to resolving the crises at hand. Even though climate assemblies might be more inclusive than other established political processes, they are sometimes struggling to incorporate questions of climate justice (Willis, Curato and Smith, 2022), even though there are examples which have included explicit requirements of social justice (Smith, 2024). This is mostly true with regards to questions of justice within the scope and agenda, as one can argue that assemblies are considering procedural justice within their deliberative design (Schlosberg and Collins, 2014). How to best include other dimensions of environmental justice, like distributive, recognitional and reparation justice, and their interconnections (Méndez-Barrientos *et al.*, 2024) seems uncertain still.

The scope and agenda of CCAs are connected to all of these presented issues and will therefore be resumed in the outline of the theoretical framework of embedding.

## **2.2 Embedding as a way to explore the scope of climate assemblies**

To inquire into the formation of climate assemblies’ scope I operationalise the concept of embedding, as consisting of four dimensions. In previous works, embedding of participatory governance efforts has often been used interchangeably with institutionalisation (Bussu *et al.*, 2022). If defined more along the lines of institutionalisation, embedding refers to how DMPs are employed within existing decision-making institutions (Ainscough and Willis, 2024). Defined in contrast to institutionalisation, embedded describes a ‘weakly normative status’ which can help to appraise which forms of institutionalisation are “desirable and productive” (Bussu *et al.*, 2022, p. 136).

For this research, I make use of an extended understanding of embedding, which takes into account the deployment in more than the existing decision-making institutions.

Previously, the normativity of the concept has implied a merely theoretical analysis of embeddedness of participation: ‘Has this normatively desirable status been reached yet?’. However, I argue that the concept has analytical value beyond this - not only when embeddedness is scrutinised to analyse whether it has been fulfilled. All participatory initiatives, like climate assemblies, are already embedded into these dimensions in some way, otherwise they would not surface at all. This is especially true for the more institutionalised parts of the assembly, like the setting of the scope and agenda (see Figure 1 below).

Bussu *et al.* (2022) explain how an operationalisation of embeddedness that consists of three dimensions – spatial, temporal and practices – can give the concept more breadth, and offers a systematic framework for both future research and practical experimentation. Furthermore, their framework of embeddedness entails rootedness – a relational concept “that requires an assessment of how participation interacts with its context” (Bussu *et al.*, 2022, p. 137).

This approach takes a path similar to Boswell *et al.* (2023), who appraise *integrative design characteristics* in contrast to the *internal design characteristics* of DMPs. These integrative design characteristics focus on the embedding of DMPs in the social, political and administrative context. They pay attention to operational practice of existing democratic institutions, the efforts of connecting DMPs to civil society and connecting DMPs and their outputs in an ‘iterative relation to the policy process’ (Boswell, Dean and Smith, 2023). As this relation to the policy process, and especially the actors in it, can be made more explicit through adding a dimension of political embedding, I include this fourth dimension as well, following the recent conception of Pfeffer and Newig (2025). Below I explain each of these four dimensions.

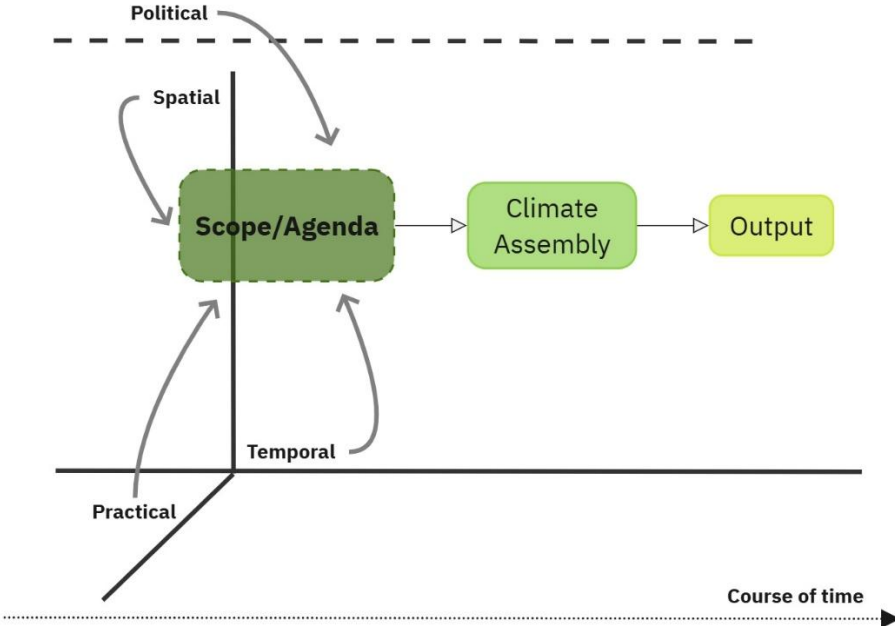


Figure 1: Conceptual understanding of embedding

### 2.2.1 Temporal dimension

The temporal dimension, often seen as defining embedding, describes how and whether the assembly is positioned as the opposite of occasional deliberation. The question here is whether there is a development of ‘a habit of using public deliberation with **some regularity**’ (Fagotto and Fung, 2014, p. 11). Developing this habit is what is often understood as institutionalisation of mini-publics, whether they are a reoccurring, somewhat established event. More concretely, this asks for mini-publics to **not** take place ad-hoc, one-off, and **impermanent**. Impermanency has been seen to give more power to commissioning organisations, as their (political) will decides whether and when an assembly takes place (Bussu *et al.*, 2022). The dimension asks for **iteration**, a regularity over time (Fagotto and Fung, 2014). In policy-terms, it can mean that the assembly is a **permanent part of the policy cycle** (OECD, 2020). More value-laden, this dimension can also mean that the assembly moves **from ‘exceptional’** (a rare instance) **to ‘permanent’** (Courant, 2022).

In this research, the temporal dimension is mainly considered to pertain to the history of deliberation in the cases, focusing on structural and practical aspects: the ‘degree of permanence’ in institutional structures and the ‘culturally habitual use of a specific practice’. The latter is explained by Bussu *et al.* (2022, p. 137) as follows: “We cannot understand whether participation is temporally embedded by examining institutional features of the participatory process alone; we must also ascertain how its temporality works productively in conjunction with the other political and policy cycles in which it is implicated and the civic communities with which it interacts.” This is where the temporal dimension connects to the other two dimensions of embeddedness that Bussu *et al.* (2022) describe.

### 2.2.2 Spatial dimension

The spatial dimension refers to the connection of the assembly to spaces where decision-making power is yielded (parliaments, executives, administration) (Edelenbos, Klok and Van Tatenhove, 2009). In the case of local CCAs, this can for instance be the commissioning body or the decision-making body that the assembly advises. These bodies can include **different levels of governments and governance**. For the policy space, this could mean that the remit of the assembly is spanning **several issues** rather than single issues (Fagotto and Fung, 2014).

The spatial dimension however not only refers to formal spaces but also refers to the embedding **in relation to civil society** – be it anchoring in community or government organisations (Fagotto and Fung, 2014). Anchoring also refers to **policy networks’ anchoring in democratic practices** (Sorensen and Torfing, 2005), implying a certain reciprocity.

These relations and interactions need to be managed. Thus, to allow for a more refined focus on the actors within spatial embedding, I adjoin to the spatial dimension the changing roles of actors in organising and governing DMPs. This comprises **boundary spanning** and **power over and power in expertise** (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019). Boundary spanning refers to actors that connect their organisation with other organisations, systems and environments (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019). They are building “sustainable relationships through networking, communicating and listening, understanding, empathising, resolving conflict and building trust”, thereby managing complexity and interdependencies (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019, p. 216). Power over and in expertise refers to not just holding ‘hard’ decision-making power. They

moderate knowledge input and output into processes like decisions on scope and agenda, considering their ‘professional knowledge’ and ‘local knowledge’ (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019).

Summing up, the two main theoretical extents to the spatial dimension of embedding are “the extent to which citizens can access and influence a variety of decision-making spaces” and “the extent to which participation connects these decision spaces to broader civil society” - embedding in social power (Bussu *et al.*, 2022, p. 138) .

### **2.2.3 Practical dimension**

The practical dimension describes the connections between the informal features of participatory policy-making and the formal democratic decision-making procedures (‘institutional embedding of interactive policy making’ (Edelenbos, Klok and Van Tatenhove, 2009). These formal practices include regulations for permanence, the right to participation, and system-level formalisation (Bussu *et al.*, 2022). I adjoin the role of formal regulations that specifically ask for citizen participation. The informal practices include seeing **participatory behaviour and attitudes** as important as methods and procedures, as well as **actors who build bridges across organisational and activist cultures** (Bussu *et al.*, 2022). This also concerns all other practices which help the actors create a “connection between the participation process and the local bureaucracy” (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019, p. 221). These practices can differ substantially in their approach, potentially including civic entrepreneurship, democratic facilitation, or, again, boundary spanning (Blijleven, Van Hulst and Hendriks, 2019). While the spatial dimension focuses on the extent and nature of the actors’ connections, the practical dimension focuses more on the quality traits of the specific practices.

### **2.2.4 Political embedding**

To account for the strategic consideration of the political context, Pfeffer and Newig (2025) introduced the concept of political embedding. Considering political embeddedness is especially relevant for all involved in ‘designing’ mini-publics, as it acknowledges **how political actors will interact with a process** (Pfeffer and Newig, 2025). This indicates relevance for the interrogation of the scope, as the political interests and context will shape those processes distinctively. The added value of operationalising political embedding in contrast to political context is that it explicitly asks for the interaction of actors and context, hence a real embedding, not merely the context surrounding it. It adds an opportunity to account for the connection between actors, political context and embedding, as it asks for their intentions and policy plans.

As the concept is very new with little empirical observations related to DMPs connected to it I will refrain from proposing further definitions and instead anticipate that this research will put more empirical evidence towards political embedding. This research will therefore further the empirical testing of its relevance.

## **3. Methods**

To understand how actors and the dimensions of embedding shape the scope of climate assemblies I applied a qualitative multiple case study research design. This approach allowed the

same research questions to be investigated in multiple case studies and using the same data collection techniques (Herriott and Firestone, 1983), which will be explained below. This also made it possible to cluster within these cases and make comparisons between the clusters (Elstub and Pomatto, 2022). Different data sources from the three different cases were used to answer the research questions, encompassing document analysis and semi-structured interviews. Further triangulation was achieved through conducting the interviews with several various stakeholders in each place.

### **3.1 Choice of cases**

Three cases of local CCAs were chosen from Germany and the UK. Both countries have seen an increase in the number of cases of citizen assemblies in the recent years, with both local and national examples. Whilst their national CCAs have been documented and analysed quite well, scrutinization of the local or municipal examples are rather rare but equally important. For finding the three cases I consulted the overview of [Bürgerrat.de](https://buergerrat.de) for local assemblies in both Germany and the UK. This webpage is run by the German NGO *Mehr Demokratie e.V.* The results were then filtered according to their specific reference to climate topics. This selection was further refined according to the criteria of *explicit climate related scope* and *assembly completed*. Cases that were disregarded because of these were for example dealing with very singular questions that could be considered climate-relevant, but made no explicit connection to it (e.g. asking citizens to deliberate about specific mobility choices). From this selection, two cases per country were initially chosen, fitting the criteria *most recent and one rural/one metropolitan region*. However, due to limited capacity of one of the German municipalities I decided to focus on the three other cases.

#### **3.1.1 Case descriptions**

This research thus drew on empirical evidence from three cases of local climate assemblies, two of which were located in the UK and one in Germany. The three case studies presented considerable differences, as outlined in Table 1 below. This section briefly introduces each of them.

Barnet, a borough of London, held a CCA in 2023, after the new Labour council came into power. Previously, the council had been governed by a Conservative majority, which had rarely addressed climate change. Labour had made a CCA about climate action a part of their election manifesto. The council therefore acted as the commissioning body. Their Sustainability Action Plan served as a starting point for the assembly, with the themes explored working towards it: Waste and Sustainable Consumption; Learning, Communications and Partnerships; Nature and Biodiversity; Transport; Housing, Buildings and Energy. An Oversight and Scrutiny Panel, consisting of stakeholders from the wider community, was set up to advise the planning team on e.g. evidence and the sessions. Furthermore, an Independent Expert Advisory Group advised on the evidence framework, speakers and process inputs. Day-to-day decisions lay with the planning team, consisting of council officers and staff from the facilitation provider. A special feature of the process in Barnet was the parallel implementation of a Youth Assembly.

The CCA in the North of Tyne Combined Authority was commissioned by the Combined Authority, but derived on the election promise of the directly elected mayor to implement a CCA. The Combined Authority set up an Oversight Panel and proposed a composition, taking into account

expertise, gender balance and geography of the region. It was tasked with determining the question and proposing and approving expert witnesses. Like in Barnet, there was a steering group (Citizens’ Assembly Organising Group) which was in charge of day-to-day decision-making and implementation. It consisted of officers from the authorities and representatives from the facilitation provider. The assembly members themselves decided on the specific themes after three introductory sessions, choosing for housing, transport and energy generation, with system change and nature being discussed as well.

The assembly in Backnang was implemented as part of their climate strategy, which required a participation format of some sort. It was mainly designed and developed by the administration’s climate protection manager and her senior staff lead, the first mayor<sup>3</sup>. They decided on the themes to be explored, namely living sustainably, electricity and heating, mobility, and climate adaptation. There was no Oversight Panel, Advisory group or steering group involved.

Table 1: Overview cases

<b>Place</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Question/ Scope</b>	<b>Steering committee</b>	<b>Assembly size</b>	<b>Year</b>
<i>Barnet, Borough of London, UK</i>	86.74 km <sup>2</sup> 389 101 inhabitants	Council	“Barnet has declared a climate emergency. What more can we do together to make Barnet more sustainable, now and in the future?”	Yes	40 (+20 in youth assembly)	2023
<i>North of Tyne Combined Authority [NTCA], UK</i>	5219.8 km <sup>2</sup> 816 000 inhabitants – mix of urban, rural and riverside communities	Combined Authority/Mayor	“What should we do in the region to address climate change and its causes fairly, effectively and quickly?”	Yes	49 (fully remote due to Covid)	2021
<i>Backnang, Germany</i>	39.37 km <sup>2</sup> 37 957 inhabitants	Local council	N/A – Aim: “Development of a viable climate consensus for ambitious climate protection in Backnang on the basis of current findings from the Backnang climate strategy, municipal heat planning, etc.”	No	14	2024

<sup>3</sup> Lead administrative staff of the building, civil engineering and climate department, elected by the local council.

## **3.2 Document analysis**

Document analysis is a “systematic procedure for reviewing or evaluating documents” (Bowen, 2009, p. 27). In this research, it was used for two main purposes. Firstly, it provided general background data on the context to produce reasonable questions to be asked in the interviews and as an addition to the knowledge base to verify findings from the literature research (Bowen, 2009). Secondly, and more importantly, it was used to trace changes and developments in the reviewed documents. Through comparing drafts to final versions and output, changes in the scope and agenda in the process were identified and relevant actors and institutions in the process were distinguished (Bowen, 2009).

For each case of a CCA, significant documentation was obtained through online data bank research and contacting relevant administrative staff. The amount and quality of data retrieved through this approach differed from case to case, as different local practices of documentation and legal requirements for data protection existed. For each case I aimed for a satisfactory number of documents, satisfactory meaning that the researcher has gained a basic understanding of the process, and the actors and institutions included. The number of documents analysed differed between the three cases, ranging from 3 in Backnang to 9 in NTCA and 11 for Barnet. An overview of the documents can be found in Appendix 9.7. The available documents were explored in ATLAS.ti, allowing for a basic coding structure (see Appendix 9.6). This aided structuring similarities within and across the documents but also highlighted differences and fundamental changes throughout the decision-making process. Most codes were conceived deductively, referring to the literature on embedding, and roles and responsibilities of citizen assemblies. Some codes were conceived inductively, stemming from practical issues which had not been highlighted in the literature. An example for this is the role of clear categories for theme prioritisation from the outset, presented below in the results section. This theme rapidly emerged from the document analysis, without having been captured in the deductive codes from the literature on embedding.

## **3.3 Interviews**

As indicated above, suitable and relevant interview partners were selected through the document analysis and internet search. They were contacted with a brief message, including the research information sheet (see Appendix 9.3). Further interview partners were selected through snowball sampling. For each case interviews were conducted until saturation was reached – either content-related saturation, with interviews not offering new insights; or sample-related saturation, when no new potential interview partners could be identified. Numbers of interviews differed between the cases. 2 Interviews were conducted for Barnet, 3 for Backnang and 4 for NTCA. An overview of the interview partners can be found in Appendix 9.8. For each case, semi-structured interviews were carried out. Semi-structured interviews allow for a consolidation of structured, pre-determined elements and open, deepening follow-up questions. This allowed for confirmation of the information gathered in the document analysis, but at the same time granted opportunities to dive into emerging topics and issues. The full interview guide can be found in Appendix 9.1.

The interviews were recorded and transcribed with the aid of OpenAI’s whisper speech recognition model. Using it through a locally run python-script secured the confidentiality of personal data. At the same time, transcripts were pseudonymised for further use.

### 3.3.1 Interview data analysis

The transcripts of the interviews were analysed using ATLAS.ti. On the one hand, I used coding categories based on the literature on embedding (deductive). On the other hand, I inductively produced codes that did not correspond to the dimensions of embedding. These were mostly informed by very practical factors. Combining deductive and inductive coding blocks, the approach can be considered hybrid coding (Gupta, 2023). An overview of the used codes, and where applicable, their grounding in literature can be found in Appendix 9.5.

### 3.4 Limitations of Methodology

Along with its strengths, this research has limitations. First, as is common with case-study approaches, trade-offs between choosing a range of cases and the depth of each case arose in the research. Three case studies can be considered a lot (many case studies in deliberative democracy research focus on one or two specific cases) and inevitably led to less depth in the evidence gathered in the cases. However, through different means of data triangulation I assured a satisfactory depth in each case (see above). Furthermore, compelling insights have been gained through engaging similarities and differences between the cases. Nonetheless, the study was not designed to be comparative in nature, resulting in less in-depth comparative value than could be obtained with a Qualitative Comparative Analysis, for instance (Ryan, 2022).

Second, one could argue that the same level of saturation could not be reached in all three cases, depending on the conceptualisation of saturation applied (Saunders *et al.*, 2018). This is due to the differing richness in data available for each case. While in one case four interviews had to be conducted in order to achieve a satisfactory understanding of the scope and agenda, another case presented itself to be satisfactorily understood after two interviews.

## 4. Results

In this section I highlight how each of the previously introduced dimensions of embedding have influenced the scope and agenda of the CCAs in the three cases. The results are presented along the four dimensions of embedding used for deductive analysis and enhanced with additional features derived from inductive analysis.

### 4.1 Temporal embedding

I found no evidence that temporal embedding influences the scope and agenda of the examined CCAs. Table 2 shows that many features of temporal embedding were not taken into consideration when defining scope and agenda of the three cases. Some features, like not having a history of re-occurring mini-publics or an iteration of participatory processes were mentioned during the interviews but could not be identified as influencing the scope and agenda. The only feature which could be identified as having (limited) influence on scope and agenda was whether there was an existing habit of using public deliberation with some regularity. This can be exemplified by explicit consideration of questions like ‘*Does Barnet have an existing vision for deliberative democracy?*’ in the scoping meeting for the assembly, which served as direct input into the workshop to finalise the question. Likewise, an administrative staff member reflected on the history of participation in the area when planning for the question:

*And, and then there was a bit of wider perspective that the timing of this meant that people hadn't really, they hadn't seen that much from the administration yet. And we hadn't done that much on sustainability before the citizens assembly. So, we've been doing some things, but we hadn't really publicised very much there that the previous administration, you know, didn't let people use words like climate change. And, you know, it was very quite like strict what was happening. And the kind of political viewpoint they had was that if we go in and we just ask about one specific topic, people are going to be like, well, what about this and what about this? And you haven't done this yet and you haven't done that yet. And I thought that was a really fair point and kind of did end up happening anyway, even though we had such a broad question. (Interviewee 7)*

In this case, the lack of previous efforts on participation with regards to climate change made the planning team very attentive to choosing a broad question, to be able to cover many potential issues that citizens might bring to the assembly and pre-empt dissatisfying citizens with a narrow scope.

Other aspects of temporal embedding that emerged from inductive analysis were planning for continuation of participation afterwards and having to rush preparations, but neither was found to have a strong influence on the scope and agenda.

*Table 2: Summary table presenting influence of temporal embedding features*

<b>Temporal embedding</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Habit of using public deliberation with some regularity	Limited explanatory power
Mini-publics as reoccurring, established	No explanatory power
Not one-off, not impermanent	Not mentioned
Iteration, permanence over time	No explanatory power
Permanent part of the policy cycle	Not mentioned
Assembly moves from exceptional to permanent	No explanatory power
[Planning for] continuation afterwards	No explanatory power
Rushing preparations	No explanatory power

## **4.2 Spatial embedding**

For the dimension of spatial embedding, I found evidence on the influence on the scope and agenda in the examined cases. This section is therefore structured along the features of spatial embedding that played an important role in the studied cases, as shown in Table 3.

### **4.2.1 Connecting to decision-making spaces**

Across the three cases, the connection of the CCA to decision-making spaces was stressed as decisive for setting scope and agenda. Some qualities of connecting to decision-making spaces emerged as specifically influential through the inductive analysis: the aspiration to create an opportunity to learn from citizens; the wish for reciprocity between citizens and decision-making spaces; and the authority of the mayor's role in two cases. A designated connecting role was given to councillors in all cases, namely as observers within the assembly, but this was not found to have an influence on the scope and agenda of the CCAs.

Table 3: Summary table presenting influence of spatial embedding features

Spatial embedding	Evaluation
Decision-making spaces	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Learning from citizens</i></li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reciprocity</i></li> </ul>	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Authority of mayor's role</i></li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
Power over/power in expertise	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Focus on lay language</i></li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
Relation to civil society	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Consult interest groups</i></li> </ul>	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Include interest groups</i></li> </ul>	Distinct explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reach 'not the usual suspects'</i></li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Accountability of stakeholders</i></li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
Actor boundary spanning	Distinct explanatory power
Policy networks anchoring in democratic practices	Limited explanatory power
Different levels of government and governance	Limited explanatory power
Spanning several policy issues	Limited explanatory power
Practical relevance for citizens	Limited explanatory power
Clear distribution of roles	Distinct explanatory power
Connect to existing policies	Limited explanatory power

In two cases, the establishment of the assembly was closely connected to a personnel change in the mayor's office.

*So, he made concessions on the issue of climate [...] Well, before he was elected. [...] When he became mayor, he actually included this issue. (Interviewee 5)<sup>4</sup>*

*Well, the mayor had set the task. (Interviewee 8)*

The influence of the change in the mayor's office therefore influenced the initial establishment of the assembly and, at least in NTCA, also the official task for the assembly. There was however no direct influence of the mayors on the specific scope and agenda in the examined cases.

Furthermore, the aspiration to create an opportunity to learn from citizens was present in all three cases, influencing the decision-making for scope and more specific agenda points:

*Because for us it was... I wished for it, but I never know whether it will turn out that way, but it was a very important piece of realisation for us, watch out, politics needs unfiltered feedback from the grassroots from time to time: how are issues really thought about, how*

<sup>4</sup> „Also er hat im Thema Klima Zugeständnisse gemacht [...] Also, bevor er gewählt worden ist [...] Er wurde Oberbürgermeister, er hat tatsächlich dann dieses Thema mit einbezogen.“

*are they really discussed, and what are the solutions. That helps local politics [...]*  
(Interviewee 4)<sup>5</sup>

In the specific case above, this entailed an inclusion of mobility and parking-space agenda points. This was owed to the fact that councillors had wondered about the actual opinion of the citizens for some time and felt that it was quite a ‘polarised’ topic, which needed clarification from citizens.

In some instances, the aspiration in design choices was expressed not just to learn from citizens, but to promote reciprocity between citizens and decision-making bodies. In one case, this also included more stakeholders that were actively involved by the oversight panel in setting the scope:

*Because, you know, my feeling about that is we all need to respond better to citizens, be it the private sector, the voluntary sector, activist groups, the local council, whoever. So, so we were pushing that unions did the same, the private sector did the same, activists did the same. (Interviewee 6)*

More specifically, an approach of reciprocity influenced the specific choice of knowledge brokers invited to inform the assembly about certain topics:

*[...] we did a panel towards the end, of senior council officers with responsibilities for like the relevant areas. And it was just like they stood up and they said a bit about what they did, a couple of challenges that they have and a couple of things they think worked well in the borough. And then people could just ask them questions and they went round tables, and it was super interactive. And I think that is probably one of the best things we did because I think that's when people really started to understand what we could actually do and what could change. [...] So, we're all a bit like we need fewer presentations and more just like officers in the room, even though what you, what we were trying to do was not have the council give all of the information. (Interviewee 7)*

Another example for a reciprocal relation could be found in the case of Barnet, where the facilitation providers actively planned for a feedback loop within the course of the assembly, giving the draft recommendations to the council, who could comment on the potential impact on carbon emissions before returning it to the assembly. In Backnang, the wish for reciprocity not only guided the specific scope and agenda but substantiated the understanding that educated the overall purpose of the assembly (Interviewee 4). In all cases the way that connections to decision-making spaces were accounted for connected to the feature of power in expertise.

#### **4.2.2 Power over and power in expertise**

Whilst the power in expertise laid with the Oversight Panel in NTCA and the Expertise group in Barnet, it was held mostly by the climate protection manager in the case of Backnang. This impacted the way different types and channels of expertise were accessed in all cases. The Oversight Panel of the NTCA assembly focused their decisions on a broad array of expertise to choose for specific thematic input for the assembly:

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<sup>5</sup> „Weil des war für uns... ich hab mir des gewünscht, aber ich weiß ja nie, ob des dann auch so wird, aber es war für uns ein ganz wichtiges Stück Erkenntnis, Achtung, die Politik braucht ab und an mal von der Basis ungefiltert rückgekoppelt: wie werden Themen wirklich gedacht, wie werden sie wirklich besprochen, und was sind Lösungswege. Das hilft der Kommunalpolitik [...]“

*It was very much using the contacts and the knowledge and the insight of the other members of the advisory management group. That was a very varied group we had [...] They were there because of their experience, their knowledge and their understanding. [...] because we had people who are academics at the university, we had people from the voluntary sector, we had people who had an active engagement in things like Friends of the Earth, etcetera. So we had a variety of people who were members. And then sometimes if you know, if there's something specific needed or the topic was, whatever the topic was, we would say, well, look, that's the topic. Does anybody know who would be good? [Interviewee 6] would make suggestions, other people would make suggestions. I made a few suggestions. You know, it's you just we made suggestions. And then we would look at what was the background of those people, what had they been involved with and what was their availability as well? (Interviewee 8)*

Although the Oversight Panel did not have responsibility for choosing specific agenda points in this case, as this was decided by the assembly itself, they had power over which expertise to include. A similar role was taken by the expert advisory group in Barnet, even though the executive decision about which speakers were invited was with the planning team.<sup>6</sup> In the case of Backnang, power to prepare each workshop lay with smaller groups of administrative staff, directed by the climate protection manager and the first mayor. These two also made executive decisions about speakers and the input they should give.<sup>7</sup>

Connected to the element of expertise was the emphasis on lay language (easy language) in scope and agenda. This was found to be considered in all three cases and was mostly advised to experts chosen to give input for the assembly. The indicated can be demonstrated by quotes like the following:

*But also, it's like very much briefing people: 'Don't use jargon where possible', talk as if you were talking to, like your nan or someone down the pub or something like that. (Interviewee 3)*

#### **4.2.3 Relation to civil society**

Another formative feature of spatial embedding was the embedding in relation to civil society. Several issues had an influence on the scope and the agenda across all three cases: the aspiration to reach 'different suspects' than usually; counting on the accountability of stakeholders; consulting interest groups and including interest groups. The last two proved to be differing in their effects substantially, hence I will present them in two parts.

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<sup>6</sup> "And that is probably the second most or one of the most tricky bits of the process as well, because that's the point at which you need to make decisions about what all this is. And that of course sets you up for your evidence journey. And the information you end up giving the assembly and that ultimately does guide the conversations that we've had. So based on like all the chats that we've had before, it felt sensible for us as a design team knowing again that this was a Council Commission process. This isn't a community led process. It's commissioned by the Council, who are going to ultimately be responsible to responding to some stuff, even if they're not the people taking action on it, [...]" (Interviewee 9)

<sup>7</sup> „Und jeder Workshop wurde fachlich vorbereitet. Mit einer kleinen Arbeitsgruppe. Es wurden Themen definiert und diese Themen wurden dann auch im Rahmen von Präsentationen aufgearbeitet. Also es gab immer einen Block Grundlagen. Dann gab es ein Impulsreferat von einem externen Referenten, der gesagt hat, in der Praxis finden gerade folgende Prozesse statt. Das ist gerade Lebenswirklichkeit. Und dann hat man daraus abgeleitet Fragestellungen formuliert und ist dann in die Gruppe gegangen.“ (Interviewee 4)

Consulting and/or including interest groups had strong influence on the decision made about scope and agenda, but the mechanisms differed. On the one hand, consulting interest groups mainly focused on getting the opinions of predefined stakeholder groups on the question or scope. These consultations made a notable impact, as one administrative staff member reflects:

*But yeah, aside from that, I would say when we were designing the question, we did some consultation with like the environmental sector, took a few different to like, check their views on them. And one of the bits of feedback we got from that group was that the language wasn't strong enough, which is why we included that question that opened it.*  
(Interviewee 7)

On the other hand, in Backnang and Barnet, involvement of community groups went beyond consulting with them, they were made a component in the process, allowed and invited to give input to the assembly at certain points. This included an extensive information market with active community groups in Barnet and workshop involvement in Backnang. Priorities were set for “early, credible and authentic ways” to include interest groups (Interviewee 3).

However, clear boundaries for community group involvement were seen as crucial in both cases, either set by the facilitation provider or the administration executives. This was done to ensure a fair process, keeping the focus of involvement with the sortition-selected assembly. The approach of NTCA differed in this regard, as the focus of meaningful involvement of interest groups was with the distinct and carefully selected Oversight Panel. The idea was to create a “robust and, and well designed and balanced and fair process”, to give legitimacy and credibility to the informed decisions taken by the assembly.

#### **4.2.4 Actor boundary spanning**

Across all three cases, distinct examples of boundary spanning were found to be influential for the scope and agenda. In all cases, actors from the local council or administration took on new roles to connect previously non-connected, or less connected, areas and actors. The observed attributes of boundary spanning were mostly the building of sustainable relationships through networking and resolving conflict:

*But yeah, I did a lot of inputting into the content and particularly because, because we worked with an external partner, they obviously don't know [Place B] and they don't know the borough. So that was like a big part of my job. [...] And so, a lot of that was also just going to other people within the organisation to get them to feed into the content as well.*  
(Interviewee 7)

This interviewee described how their role shifted towards connecting previously more siloed areas of the administration to have them contribute to the agenda points of the assembly. An example of that was also the inclusion of 14 Barnet staff members at the question setting workshop who all were actively involved in arriving at a question.

Some of the boundary spanning happened within the organisation, but it also stretched onto the involvement of civil society actors, sometimes leading to sustained, deepened connection with organised civil society and the council/administration:

*I would say I spent most of my time doing stakeholder engagement. So, we had all the stakeholders on the [Organisation C] side at the community level and then also on the*

*council side. And I was that kind of one person trying to pull all of that together and get people in the same room. (Interviewee 7)*

*The big bonus we got out of that is we are just so much better connected into the community now and community groups that are doing activities on this. So, we achieved some really, really nice things, but that kind of like a work that takes a really long time around building trust and building connections, it really accelerated that. And so, I think, you know, anything we do in future that's community facing or trying to involve community groups again, we're in a much stronger position to do that. (Interviewee 7)*

In Barnet, the engaging of the community in setting the scope and agenda (and within the wider process) led to a deeper connection of community and administration. While this deepening did not have a discernible influence on scope and agenda, but was more of an outcome of the design process, it still descended from the boundary spanning of administrative staff.

However, at times there were actor groups excluded from active boundary spanning, as a person from the oversight panel described:

*Well, I – the, the, the liaison with politicians within the [...] authority, we had nothing to do with that really. That was, that was dealt with by [Interviewee 2]. (Interviewee 6)*

As the Oversight Panel was in charge of setting the scope, but was not formally connected to the local politicians through the administration, the council's interests and experiences were not explicitly enclosed in the scope and agenda.

#### **4.2.5 Clear distribution of roles**

A feature of spatial embedding that came up through inductive analysis was the importance of clearly distributed roles in the process. Whilst the need for boundary spanning and collaboration across several spaces was highlighted in all cases, setting boundaries to this through clearly distributed roles was also mentioned. One decisive aspect that was mentioned across all cases was keeping in mind that the assembly does not have decision-making powers, which lie exclusively with the local council. This framing shaped the agenda and roles accordingly:

*But we also made sure that no alliances were formed where the interest groups from outside tried to influence the process, i.e. Klimaentscheid, ADFC, all the organisations I mentioned, they were added to the workshops as stakeholders depending on the situation and were able to contribute and discuss. But in the end, when it came to formulating the recommendations, they had no say. They only had an advisory role. (Interviewee 4)<sup>8</sup>*

Furthermore, clear governance structures that help setting boundaries in terms of role distribution were stressed:

*We did like an open call out through that and that was really nice because we were having some community groups, like really trying to muscle in on the process, which [Interviewee*

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<sup>8</sup> „Aber wir haben auch darauf geachtet, dass da jetzt keine Allianzen entstehen, wo die Interessensgruppe von außen versucht, den Prozess zu beeinflussen, also Klimaentscheid, ADFC, alle, die ich genannt hab, die wurden situativ zu den Workshops dazu genommen als Stakeholder, die konnten sich da auch einbringen, diskutieren. Die hatten aber am Ende, als es um die Ausformulierung der Empfehlungen ging, kein Mitspracherecht. Die hatten nur eine beratende Rolle.“

9] was pretty clear about. You know, you have to have clear governance structures to invite people to participate. It can't just be whoever like shouts the loudest gets to be involved. And so, we did have like an oversight and scrutiny panel which was made-up of community representatives, and we'd been careful about selecting a mixture of people on that. So, we got representation kind of across the borough, different priorities, [...] (Interviewee 7)

However, the dynamic of clear roles also sharpened the wish for accountability within these roles:

[...] the end should be really wider appreciation and understanding of enabling citizens to be as fully informed as possible so that they, as citizens, can as fully as possible inform those who are politicians. I'm not trying to take it away from politicians because that's what they're there for. But there ought to be an obligation of response, which is something other than, yes, it's a good report. (Interviewee 8)

The results in this previous section also shared a lot of connections and can therefore not be considered secluded, as they might be a considerably artificial segmentation. For instance, there is a strong connection between reciprocity and civil society involvement, which could be observed in Barnet. Here, the wish for reciprocity and civil society involvement in the making of scope and agenda sparked more connections between the council and community groups, leading to a sustained collaboration throughout the process of the assembly and afterwards.

### 4.3 Practical embedding

The features of practical embedding differed strongly regarding their influence on scope and agenda, as is shown in Table 4. Strong influence was identified for new roles and practices taken up by public servants and the inductively derived feature of local specificity. This was specifically enclosed within practical embedding, as connections to distinct (local) practices became explicit:

*I wanted topics where I could say that there are always examples of what we can specifically do here. In this case, 'we' always means the urban community. Sometimes it's more what the administration can do. Sometimes it's more what citizens can do. (Interviewee 2)<sup>9</sup>*

Table 4: Summary table presenting influence of practical embedding features

Practical embedding	Evaluation
Relation btw. Informal and formal	No explanatory power
Regulations for permanence, system-level formalisation	Limited explanatory power
New roles & practices of public servants	Distinct explanatory power
Role of formal (participation) regulations	Limited explanatory power
Informal procedures & regulations	No explanatory power
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial restraints</li> </ul>	Limited explanatory power
Local specificity	Distinct explanatory power

<sup>9</sup> „Ich wollte Themen, wo ich sagen kann, hier gibt es immer Beispiele, was wir hier konkret tun, tun können. Wir heißt in dem Fall immer die Stadtgesellschaft. Mal ist es mehr, was die Verwaltung tun kann. Mal ist es mehr, was der Bürger tun kann.“

Strongly related but not restricted to boundary spanning (see above), new roles and practices taken up by public servants were shaping the scope and agenda in all cases. New roles were ranging from communication and coordination outside and within the administration; logistics; keeping the council informed. At times, these new roles in the process posed a challenge for staff members:

*Also, I was so busy managing all the other aspects of it. It wasn't my specialist area, and there wasn't the capacity in the organisation for someone to say, oh, I'll do that. So, we hadn't thought about how we'd do a lot of the communication stuff. It was just when it started, it's like, we need to do this, we need to do that. I'm thinking, oh my God. So, if I was doing one again, I would say, let's get, you have that right at the beginning: And what's your capacity? What's your asset? What have you got for it? I would get this, who's our market? What's the impact that we want from it? The citizens, doing a citizen's assembly, and then you think about all the different routes for getting the information out, and doing a feedback loop to people as well. (Interviewee 3)*

When it comes to new practices being picked up by the administration, two examples stand out. In Backnang, the leading administrative staff, and the whole administration, became an active role model in the process of developing the scope and agenda. They specifically singled out topics which were part of their expertise and area of responsibility, for which they could present the administration and its staff as good examples. For instance, the lead staff was an expert in local sustainable living, so the topic became one of the focal points for the agenda, with her giving input on the topic and her experience.

In Barnet, the administration itself underwent a practical learning process during the course of the preparation of the assembly. As the assembly should only be the starting point of a bigger strategy on participation, one objective of the process was training council staff in facilitation, to increase the local possibilities for follow-up formats. While this did not have a direct influence on the scope and the agenda itself, it shaped the process and the practices that were put to use during the course of the overall assembly process.

Additionally, focusing on local specificity was a feature of practical embedding with decisive influence on the scope. Whilst it was present in all three cases, it was guided by differing considerations:

*[...] really helpful for the design and, and thinking about, you know, what are the key issues for the borough? What are things that people feel really passionately about? (Interviewee 7)*

*Yes, the most important aspect was the question of what moves citizens, what is essential for their practical, climate-protecting actions. (Interviewee 4)<sup>10</sup>*

*Local councils have their own climate change programme. You don't want to end up with a lobbying list for central government. (Interviewee 1)*

This feature strongly related to each local context, as different conditions led to different priorities for the 'local'. For instance, in Barnet, local business did not really play a role, neither in

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<sup>10</sup> „Ja, der wichtigste Aspekt war die Frage, was bewegt die Bürger, was ist für deren praktisches, klimaschützendes Handeln essenziell.“

contributing to the process, nor in being an agenda point. This was mainly due to the lack of strong local businesses that were influential or had a verifiable climate impact – they were mostly small businesses that were “worried about making ends meet”. A further example is the involvement of a workshop on climate adaptation in Backnang. This was organised as ‘severely local’, with citizens being asked to come up with adaptation suggestions for distinct places in town.

#### **4.4 Political embedding**

Political embedding had been conceptualised as acknowledging how political actors will interact with a process. As it is a relatively new addition to the concept of embedding (Pfeffer and Newig, 2025), there are no specified features of it yet, but the definition given above.

The exact manner varied in all of the cases, but political embedding was a decisive factor for all of the processes. In all cases, the ‘window of opportunity’ for the citizens’ assembly was connected to a change in the mayor’s office or local council. The most decisive factor therein was that the assembly had been part of an election pledge – by the mayor in NTCA and the Labour party in Barnet, which both won the respective elections. In both places, the assembly process was closely connected with the declaration of a ‘climate emergency’. However, this declaration only had a traceable influence on the scope in Barnet, where it ended up being a part of the official question. The influence of the political embedding was less strong, or more subtle, in Backnang, as the focus was much more with one central actor, the climate protection manager, than in the other cases. The influence on the scope and agenda can therefore not be scrutinised as much, as she could decide relatively independently. However, the creation of her role had been a political issue in the first place, exerting indirect influence on the process. As she functioned as a gatekeeper with decision-making power over the agenda, topics that were close to her heart (like sustainable living, see above) were able to make it onto the agenda. Nonetheless, it was expressed that the assembly had only been possible due to a recent change in the mayor’s office as well who was supportive of the idea of an assembly.

#### **4.5 Further influential aspects**

Additionally, I found some other aspects that were not included beforehand, but derived inductively, as they were found to strongly influence scope and agenda. These include the influence of ‘best practice’ and similar cases; the standard methodology of the facilitation provider; and setting clear categories for theme prioritisation from the outset.

The influence of best practice examples for the scope and agenda was strong in all cases but distributed differently depending on the governance of the project. In Backnang, where the organisation and decision-making power over scope and agenda lay with two key figures, they used previous processes in the area as a role model for the process. But also, with regards to the content they turned to role models, for instance most of their workshops introduced innovative approaches from other municipalities. Barnet and NTCA looked to best practice for their scope and agenda, as one interviewee from Barnet reports from the scope workshops:

*And so, I thought that was a really nice thing about those workshops as they brought this breadth of experience of delivering these processes that meant that they could draw from those, and they were so well researched and so knowledgeable. So, they weren't ever trying to pretend like this is the only way to do it. It was like, you know, we have to find the*

*way that works best for you. So be honest about the issues you have, be honest about the challenges for the council and we can look to best practise. But if we have to do it totally differently, that's always a possibility. (Interviewee 7)*

This 'playbook' for CCAs is closely connected to the influence of the standard methodology of the facilitation provider, which had a strong influence in both UK cases. In Barnet this implied a focus on involvement of community groups when identifying the scope:

*We always try and work really closely with that commissioning organisation during the design process, and we always advise that we try and to involve stakeholders or community groups or people that might be impacted by decisions that come off the back of it. Within that design process as well. (Interviewee 9)*

As described above, this led for instance to the explicit reference to the 'climate emergency' in the question.

*It was, you know, it was straightforward for them. It was a new world for me. I'd never done anything like that before. So, the main focus I had really was in trying to help to get some concision into and thoughtfulness into the nature of the questions. And I'm trying to ask sufficiently open and realistic questions so that people could identify with them and feel engaged by the issue which was being discussed. (Interviewee 8)*

As the quote above introduces, the person on the Oversight Panel in NTCA needed the experience of the facilitation provider in order to contribute sufficient input to the scope and agenda, explicitly the questions that people were asked to deliberate.

Another influential aspect was clear categories for theme prioritisation from the outset. This was specifically strong in Barnet, where the categories were an explicit part of the methodology for the question setting workshop. These categories considered aspects like broad or narrow, which actors to consider, which trade-offs to consider, or which topics actually fall into the control of the local council. This can be exemplified with the topic of transport, which was discussed as being hard to tackle for the council alone, as it is connected with Transport for London much more, but still ended up being an agenda point, due to its relevance for people's everyday life.

A summary of the presented results is displayed in Table 5 below. In the following section, these results will be discussed.

Table 5: Summative table of results

Dimension	Most influential features	Examples of influence on scope and agenda
<b>Temporal</b>	None	Limited influence in Barnet through choosing a broad question due to the history of lacking participation on climate change
<b>Spatial</b>	Connection to decision-making spaces	Wishing for reciprocity in the scope: putting potentially ‘polarised’ topics on the agenda (Backnang)
	Power over/power in expertise	Distributed and non-distributed power over expertise brought in different expertise for the scope, leading to e.g. the Oversight Panel choosing the scope and the assembly deciding on the agenda (NTCA)
	Relation to civil society	In particular, consulting and including interest groups, e.g. leading to a scope explicitly referring to the climate emergency (Barnet)
	Actor boundary spanning	Putting together several, previously more siloed administration staff members to work on the question (Barnet)
	Clear distribution of roles	Choosing for an agenda that encompasses topics which can be recommended on by citizens while clarifying decision-making power remains fully with the council (Backnang)
<b>Practical</b>	New roles and practices of public servants	Singling out topics that are part of the administrations expertise and responsibility like local sustainable living (Backnang)
	Local specificity	Sorting out topics that could become a ‘lobbying list for central government’ (NTCA)
<b>Political</b>	Not applicable	For instance, connected to the declaration of a ‘climate emergency’, or part of an election pledge

## 5. Discussion

In sum, my analysis suggests that the different dimensions of embedding have differing levels of influence on the scope and agenda of CCAs. Examining them throughout the process reveals that distinct characteristics of the dimensions can influence the scope and agenda at different points in time. Furthermore, the results reveal that some features of the dimensions do not seem to have an influence on the scope and agenda in the examined cases. This suggests a stark contrast between the initial *Anspruch (aspiration)* of the framework as ‘weakly normative’ and practice, but opens a range of possibilities for the intentional advancement of influence on the scope and agenda of CCAs. Furthermore, it poses questions on the suitability of the framework, which will be discussed below.

Overall, initiating bodies and actors shape the scope of the assemblies distinctively in all three examined cases. However, the exact ways and patterns of influence differ in the three cases. In all three cases, the decision-making power over the scope and agenda lay with the commissioning organisation, in some instances influenced by designated local interest groups and the commissioned facilitation provider. Some elements of the dimensions of embedding of

the assemblies played a decisive role for the scope of the assemblies, for instance some aspects of the spatial embedding, which were influential in all three cases. Other elements were not found to be influential in all three cases, like most aspects of the temporal embedding. Barnet can be considered an outlier to this, with an explicit influence of the history of deliberation. Practical embedding was found to be influential in some aspects, however, I also found that it can sometimes not be clearly demarcated from spatial embedding – as it is unsettled whether actors or their practices are more decisive for the scope and agenda. The political embedding has been found to play a decisive role in all three examined cases, as the interaction of actors and their political intentions were crucial for the scope in all three places. However, the dimensions of embedding could not entirely explain the scopes and agendas of the examined CCAs, hence some additional aspects of relevance were identified.

On a surface level, the results seem to highlight the importance of employing a system's view on CCAs – many aspects of the dimensions describe connections that can only be interrogated when scrutinising the way the assembly and its governance are embedded within the political, administrative and social context. For instance, the stance of civil society initiatives had a stark influence on the scope in two out of three cases. These explicit effects were disclosed through the interrogation in the different context through dimensions of embedding.

This inquiry therefore is in consonance with what Boswell et. al (2023) call *integrative design characteristics*. Many advancements of the features of the dimensions of embedding can be considered substantiating the polity and politics domain of these integrative design characteristics. For instance, the multifaceted features of connecting to decision-making spaces offer a cutting-edge way to illustrate the “focus on optimal arrangements for connecting DMPs into operational practice of existing democratic institutions” (Boswell, Dean and Smith, 2023, p. 184) in practice.

These results contribute an empirical groundwork to the actual dilemmas and trade-offs actors face in setting the scope and agenda for climate assemblies. Furthermore, they showcase what topics these trade-offs put forth in practice. The trade-offs are specified by the guiding principle and whether the rationale of the assembly follows a system-supporting view or a system-disrupting view. For instance, the trade-off regarding the scope would be having a narrower scope to increase policy impact vs. a “wider scope that allows space for challenging dominant agendas” (Pfeffer, 2024, p. 848). Some of these guiding principles for setting the agenda in CCAs could be observed in the selected cases as well. For instance, this applies to legitimacy (considered and achieved through involvement of stakeholder groups), authority (choosing a topic that can be acted on within the commissioning authority) or timing (opportunity to affect change). The latter was e.g. connected to several aspects of embedding in the research: temporal embedding, but also aspects of spatial embedding, like the connection to a change in the mayor's office or election promises. This aligns well with the system-supporting rationale of timing described by Pfeffer, where CCAs are purposely aligned more with timescales of existing policy processes (forthcoming 2025).

These results are therefore mostly in line with the (limited) work on agenda setting for climate assemblies, for instance Pfeffer (2024, forthcoming 2025). For the examined cases, the research confirms what has been proposed by Pfeffer (forthcoming 2025): choices regarding the agenda-setting of CCAs have a crucial impact on policy impacts, legitimacy and emancipatory value of

these processes. My research demonstrates how these can play out in practice and which trade-offs (also Pfeffer (forthcoming 2025) are involved.

However, these occurrences are strongly context-sensitive. For all of these aspects it should be noted that observations and empirical work have been mostly executed on CCAs on national level. However, what is considered 'context' can be very different on local levels. Time scales are different, margins to take actions are restraint by other levels of government, and actors might or might not work together differently than they do in national government. One example for this could be the directly elected mayor in NTCA who had experienced some controversy with the local councils. The research contributes to the study of the context and design choices but is of course not exhaustive – it can therefore just be the starting point for more empirical research. As local assemblies seem to be flourishing more than any other level of government (Wieczorek, Freier and Oppold, 2025), more inquiries on local CCAs are urgently needed (Lewis *et al.*, 2023).

While many characteristics developed similar influences in all three cases, like planning for reciprocity being a decisive factor for the scope, specific differences became apparent between the processes. For instance, election campaigns for the mayor's office had a decisive influence on the scope of the agenda in NTCA. In contrast, the mayor's office seemed to be an enabling factor in Backnang but was not as closely connected to the decision-making for the assembly, as this task was delegated to the executive first mayor. This could be attributed to differences in the political and administrative system. The mayor of the combined authority was elected directly as part of the devolution deal with central government (Lemprière and Lowndes, 2019). As a result, there might have been a strong sense of duty to 'deliver' with the CCA. Furthermore, the process was embedded within a legislative period that strived to secure a greater devolution deal. This would successfully evolve into NECA<sup>11</sup>. Aspects similar to this example, which refer more to the *political context*, cannot be fully comprehended within the dimensions.

## 5.1 Framework and critique

The research advances and refines the existing framework of embedding in several ways. First and foremost, it gives an empirical substance to how the described dimensions and their specific features play out in practice. Furthermore, it refines the features by specifying some of them with input from practice. For instance, the feature of relating to civil society was substantiated by different qualities this connection could take, e.g. differentiating between consulting with or including interest groups. Additionally, my research advances the framework by adding features to the dimensions which had not been demarcated in the literature before. This refers, for example, to highlighting the importance of clearly distributed roles within the spatial embedding. This is an important refinement, as it clearly cuts the influence of interest and stakeholder groups and cements the final decision-making power of the commissioning authority.

This highlights yet another trade-off which practitioners might encounter as they navigate local DMPs: how 'closely' do they want to embed the mini-public within civil society and decision-making spaces and how to keep a clear distribution of roles without usurping power fully. Furthermore, my research highlights the importance of the recently introduced dimension of political embedding (Pfeffer and Newig, 2025). In all three cases, it was imperative to consider the

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<sup>11</sup> North East Combined Authority, succeeding authority of the NTCA after a new devolution deal had been brokered.

interaction of political actors, examining their interests and the political context. Only through the interrogation of the political embedding explanatory mechanisms like an explicit connection to election pledges were made obvious.

It needs to be emphasised at this point that certainly, there is no holy grail of a theoretical framework that will enable us to observe these processes through a fully explanatory lens – they are too messy and complex. And indeed, some scholars have advocated to give more consideration to the messy politics of local climate assemblies (Lewis *et al.*, 2023). Nevertheless, exploring these cases through a framework of embedding offers an opportunity to unpack the messiness and complexity in a structured and systemised way.

Whilst the framework has helped to derive some interesting insights about the scope and agenda of CCAs, its use also raised issues about the framework itself. Although the four dimensions support a structured and systematic inquiry, one should also ask whether these dimensions are not too restraining, especially if following them as a ‘research guideline’, recalling the ‘weakly normative’ origin of the framework. Returning to the transformative potential that is often attested to DMPs (Pickering *et al.*, 2022), one might wonder where and how this *transformativity* can be accounted for in the framework. This connects to the question of whether embedding actually fosters transformative potential or rather ‘tames’ it by incorporating it in the existing structures of the system, discussed below. It remains unclear whether there is any transformative approach or claim in the framework.

Furthermore, the embedding does not allow for focusing so much on actors, though actors – and their (new) roles – are quite influential, which aligns with the findings of this research. This non-focus poses a contrast to literature on new roles of public administration staff in participatory governance (see Blijleven *et al.* (2019). It becomes especially important considering that many of the newly added specified features of the dimensions of embedding relate to the way actors interact with the process. This can be illustrated briefly by the importance of the wish for reciprocity in the spatial embedding or the emphasis on the new roles of actors in the practical embedding.

## 5.2 Theoretical limitations

The most pressing limitation of the research might be its blindness to power dynamics. The framework itself seems to be slightly blind to power dynamics, which also persisted in my analysis. Power could be a better explanatory capacity *why* some features of embedding are not as influential, for instance within the spatial dimension. While administration mostly wished for a collaboration of equals, this is simply not the case in a council-induced process where the final decision-making power lies with the council. Transformations and transitions, and that seems to be what CCAs have been hailed for near and far, need to take power into account. For instance, Avelino (2021) would argue that such processes could not be examined without questioning power. Following her proposals, questions like ‘How is knowledge mobilised as [...] an instrument for enabling/constraining change?’ could help investigate further the distinct way power has influenced how knowledge is being mobilised in the examined cases.

A further limitation to its relevance might be the approach of the research itself. In the end, it can be considerably irrelevant what scope, and agenda, goes into the CCA if nothing of the recommended output is being implemented. This was more or less the case in NTCA, according

to an interviewee, and will still have to be observed in Backnang and Barnet. This is also in line with the latest literature on the lacking policy ‘impact’ of CCAs (Pfeffer *et al.*, 2025).

Additionally, one needs to consider the substantially different situation of elected officials on local level. They often participate on voluntary basis and are often very involved with their local communities. While this cannot invite the fallacy that local democracy in either the UK or Germany is flawless, it certainly shapes the context of the assembly and the purpose it takes strongly. Comparisons, and taking knowledge from the literature, is therefore complicated, as most (empirical) scholarship of CCAs covers national assemblies.

### **5.3 Limitations of research**

The most important limitation lies in the limited cases that have been included in the research. Whilst all of the three cases presented interesting insights, there is a lack of research into empirical examples of local CCAs, so future investigation in more and differing cases, subsequently allowing for comparisons between the cases and lessons for practice, is recommended.

Furthermore, the research was limited due to varying insights into the cases in terms of number of interviewees. There were differing numbers of interviewees between the cases, which led to the inclusion of some stakeholders in some cases, while they could not be included in others. This is connected to the limiting factor of varying depth of interviewing: while some interviews were very in-depth and insightful, others were of less depth, needing to be counterbalanced with other sources of information.

Additionally, the view of citizens participating in the agenda, *de facto* dealing with the scope and agenda, lacked in the research. This was specifically lacking in the case of NTCA, where assembly member decided on the actual agenda topics themselves. Future research could inquire into the resonance of chosen scope and agenda within the assembly and within the output.

Lastly, the approach of the research cultivated a strategy of looking back onto processes that had already happened. This generated different data than research that is being part of the process in real time. Interviewees had memory gaps with regards to the elapsed process and highlighted parts of it that they vividly remembered, which is a selective memory. As opposed to this, future research could try approaches that document the process of setting scope and agenda for local CCAs while it is ongoing.

### **5.4 Outlook and general reflection**

On a broader level, the use of the framework raises the question whether it is actually desirable to embed or institutionalise citizens’ assemblies. The trade-offs and dilemmas considered by commissioning policy-makers can be read as hinting towards a paradox, trying to amalgamate two rationales that might be inherently different. In that sense, both institutionalisation and embedding can be read as taming democratic innovations and incorporating them into the ‘democratic machinery’, potentially in order to inhibit more radical and ‘next-to-the-state’ power.

However, retaining this power might exactly be the strength of DMPs, especially with an ongoing move towards more anti-democratic politics. ‘Embedding’ DMPs in such a changing political context might imply a tokenistic use of this ‘democratic tool’ by pre-defining a narrow scope and

leaving little room to deliberation, thereby justifying vested interests and still being able to claim that “the people want it”. This research offers a helpful analysis for such a development still, as the results highlight the relevance of how much power lies in setting the scope and agenda setting and the ensuing knowledge input into the assembly then.

This raises the question how desirable a ‘weakly normative’ framework then is for sustainability transformation, if it might serve anti-sustainability/non-transformative purposes. Might it then not be more desirable to have non-embedded climate assemblies, resisting the ‘system-level-formalisation’? This, however, would change the way we view the impact and the role of assemblies tremendously. In essence, it comes back down to the potential paradox of system-supporting vs. system-disrupting rationale for CCAs: Do we expect a system-supporting element to have a transformative effect on the system?

For practitioners, especially for locally rooted ones, this might imply preparation for future deliberation in more informality. To a certain extent, Barnet is already laying the foundation for this by training council staff as facilitators. Overall, for the literature this might imply another turn away from the systemic turn, and a renewed focus on deliberative capacity-building within and around the assembly.

## **6. Conclusion**

This thesis intended to explore how the embedding of local CCAs shapes their scope and agenda. The operationalisation of embedding as four dimensions helped to uncover the influence of it onto the scope and agenda of the three examined CCAs. The research suggests that the most influential dimension is spatial embedding. However, the framework did not fully clarify all aspects of scope and agenda. Hence, I advanced the features of the existing framework with insights from the research. Furthermore, the research revealed substantial trade-offs practitioners face when setting the scope and agenda. Moderating these in an ever-changing political context and climate will be a challenge for future practice and research. Additionally, research will have to take the differing contexts that deliberative mini-publics face into account. The overwhelming majority of past research has been done on CCAs on national level, but it is hard to generalise insights since local contexts can be considerably different.

## 7. Declaration on the use of AI

The only online AI tool that was consciously used in the making of this thesis is the [DeepL](#) Translator and Write services. It was used for an initial translation of the interview guide and the research information and consent sheet. After using this tool/service, the author reviewed and edited the content as needed and takes full responsibility for the content of this publication.

Additionally, Whisper (speech recognition model) was employed locally for transcribing interviews (see Methods section). After using this tool/service, the author reviewed and edited the content as needed and takes full responsibility for the content of this publication.

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## 9. Appendices

### 9.1 Appendix 1: Interview guide English

#### Introduction

- Thanks for taking the time to talk to me today.
- Ask for time expectations and restraints, clarify that this will not be longer than an hour, but we can adapt it to their time expectations. **Respect time schedule**
- Anna Ravizza, master's student at Wageningen/in Governance of Sustainability Transformations.
- Aim of the research: Scrutinising how the agenda and scope of local climate assemblies are established, using a lens of how the assembly is embedded (within the local context) in three different dimensions.

#### Consent

Refer to written consent document sent before but ask for their explicit vocal consent again.

Remind that they can withdraw their consent at any time.

Ask for recording to be started.

Ask them to introduce themselves:

- What is your name?
- In which role are you here today?

#### Connecting to case - overview – entry points

What is your role in the case of PLACE?

How would you describe your connection to it?

What do you think are the three main factors/elements that shape the agenda of assemblies?

Could you give a brief reconstruction from your perspective of how the climate assembly in PLACE came into being?

#### Actors and institutions

*Refer to specific information from document analysis, make it easy for them to not give information that I have acquired already – potentially connect to overview question above.*

Could you give a brief reconstruction from your perspective of how the scope and the agenda came into existence?

#### Further exploration:

Which actors were included in establishing the climate assembly?

- Which, if any, institutions are they connected to?

Which actors were included in establishing the scope of the climate assembly?

- Which, if any, institutions are they connected to?

Which actors were included in establishing the detailed agenda of the climate assembly?

- Which, if any, institutions are they connected to?

*Assuming they described themselves as an actor:*

### **Role of the assembly and perceptions**

How did you see the purpose of the assembly when determining the scope of the assembly?

- In the broader process of climate action? Or was it embedded into a more specific policy process?

How did you see the purpose of the assembly when specifying the agenda of the assembly?

### **Further exploration:**

What climate-related aspects did you deliberately include in the process? [*Think for example of aspects like climate mitigation, climate adaptation, climate justice, etc.*]

### **Temporal aspects**

Why now? Why did the assembly happen at that point in time?

How did the (ir)regular set-up of the assembly influence the agenda/scope?

- Give example, e.g. knowing that it might be a 'one-time thing' led to prioritisation of some elements, disregards of others? // Previous experiences with DMPs

### **Further exploration:**

Had there been attempts to create climate assemblies before?

- Attempts for different formats of deliberative mini-publics?

Is public deliberation happening with some regularity in the respective community?

- If yes, how are they regular? (reoccurring, established?)
- If no, would you describe the establishment of the assembly as ad-hoc or one-off?

Was the assembly set up as a one-off format?

- Were there ideas on continuation/follow-ups before?
- Were there ideas on continuation/follow-ups afterwards?

### **Spatial aspects**

How was the set-up of the assembly connected to decision-making spaces?

- Local parliaments, administration...

Who was invited and why?

- Were politicians invited?
- Who gave expert input? Why did you choose for them?

How was the set-up of the assembly connected/related to civil society?

- *E.g. anchored in community, civil society organisations?*

Which policy issues, and their respective executives/representatives, was the set-up of the assembly connected to? (*single issues vs. spanning several*)

### **Practical aspects**

Which formal regulations influenced the set-up of the assembly?

- *E.g. a local law to be climate-neutral at a certain point in time, etc.*

Are there any formal regulations present that influenced the scope/agenda of the assembly?

- *E.g. topics that are prohibited by law for participation processes?*

Which formal procedures influenced the scope/agenda of the assembly?

Which informal procedures and rules influenced the scope/agenda of the assembly?

- *e.g. what people expect at/from an assembly*
- *e.g. resources (limited money/time)*

Was there an informal atmosphere of acceptance for the assembly? How did that influence the scope? (*Was there an attitude of appreciation for the [idea of an] assembly?*)

- Within organisers? Within civil society?

Which actors were building bridges between the more formal and informal practices?

- *E.g. An administration staff member in touch with a civil-society organisation concerned with the climate crisis*
- Did this influence the scope/agenda of the assembly?

### **Other influential aspects?**

What else do you deem important for how the agenda/scope came into being?

Or: which one(s) do you deem most important?

### **Wrap-up**

Potential further inquiries on aspects that are not clear yet.

Is there anything from your side that we have not discussed yet that you would like to add/mention still?

Who would you recommend I still talk to?

May I contact you again in case further questions arise?

Results will now be transcribed and pseudonymised and then analysed. Very happy to send results at any point in between or the final report, if interested.

Many thanks!!

## 9.2 Appendix 2: Interview guide German

### Einführung:

- Danke, dass Sie sich heute die Zeit nehmen, mit mir zu sprechen.
- Nach Zeitvorstellungen und Einschränkungen fragen, verdeutlichen, dass es nicht länger als eine Stunde dauern wird, aber wir die Zeiterwartungen auf jeden Fall einhalten
- Anna Ravizza, Masterstudentin in Wageningen, Niederlande / Governance of...
- Ziel der Forschung: Untersuchen, wie der **Zuständigkeitsbereich** und die **Tagesordnung** von lokalen Klimabürgerräten zustande kommen, mithilfe einer ‚Einbettungsperspektive‘: wie ist der Bürgerrat in den lokalen Kontext eingebettet?

### Einverständnis:

Erinnerung an die vorab versendete Einverständniserklärung, aber nochmal explizit mündliches Einverständnis einholen.

Daran erinnern, dass sie ihr Einverständnis jederzeit widerrufen können.

Fragen, ob ich die Aufnahme starten darf.

Bitten, dass sie sich selbst vorstellen:

- Wie heißen sie?
- In welcher Rolle sind sie heute hier?

### Verbindung zur Fallstudie – Übersicht – Ansatzpunkte

Was ist Ihre Rolle im Fall des Bürgerrats ORT?

Wie würden sie ihre Verbindung zum Bürgerrat beschreiben?

Was sind Ihrer Meinung nach die drei wichtigsten Punkte/Faktoren, die den Zuständigkeitsbereich und die Tagesordnung eines Bürgerrats beeinflussen?

Könnten Sie einen kurzen Abriss aus Ihrer Perspektive geben, wie der Klimabürgerrat in ORT zustande kam?

### Akteure und Institutionen

*Bezug nehmen auf Informationen von der Dokumentanalyse, mach es ihnen einfach, neue Informationen rauszugeben – vielleicht an Übersichtsfrage oben anknüpfen*

Könnten Sie eine kurze Rekonstruktion aus Ihrer Perspektive geben, wie der Zuständigkeitsbereich, die Fragestellung und die Agenda zustande kamen?

Nachfragen:

Welche Akteure waren generell an der Einrichtung des Klimabürgerrats beteiligt?

- Welchen Institutionen sind diese verbunden, falls überhaupt?

Welche Akteure waren an der Einrichtung des Zuständigkeitsbereichs und der Fragestellung beteiligt?

- Welchen Institutionen sind diese verbunden, falls überhaupt?

Welche Akteure waren an der Erstellung der detaillierten Tagesordnung/Agenda des Klimabürgerrats beteiligt?

- Welchen Institutionen sind diese verbunden, wenn überhaupt?

*Unter der Annahme, dass sich Teilnehmer:in als Akteur beschrieben hat:*

### **Rolle des Klimabürgerrats und Wahrnehmungen/Sichtweisen**

Wie sahen Sie die Rolle des Bürgerrats bei der Festlegung des Zuständigkeitsbereichs/der Fragestellung?

- Im breiteren Prozess von Klima(schutz)maßnahmen? Oder war es in einen spezifischeren Policy-Prozess eingebettet?

Wie sahen Sie die Rolle des Bürgerrats bei der Festlegung der spezifischeren Agenda?

Nachfragen:

Welche Aspekte mit Klimabezug haben Sie bewusst in den Prozess inkludiert? (*Denken Sie zum Beispiel an Aspekte wie Klimaschutz, Klima(folgen)anpassung, Klimagerechtigkeit, etc*)

### **Temporale Aspekte**

Warum jetzt? Warum ereignete sich der Bürgerrat zu diesem Zeitpunkt?

Wie hat die (Un)regelmäßigkeit des Bürgerrats die Erstellung von Zuständigkeitsbereich/Agenda beeinflusst?

- *Bspw. Das Wissen, dass es eine einmalige Veranstaltung ist, hat zu einer Prioritätensetzung bei manchen Elementen geführt, einer Vernachlässigung von anderen?*

Nachfragen:

Gab es schon früher Versuche, einen Klimabürgerrat einzurichten?

- Versuche für verschiedene Formate von deliberativen Minipublics?

Findet öffentliche Deliberation in der jeweiligen Gemeinde mit einer gewissen Regelmäßigkeit statt?

- Wenn ja, auf welche Weise sind sie regelmäßig? (wiederkehrend, etabliert?)
- Wenn nein, würden Sie die Einrichtung des Bürgerrats als ad-hoc oder einmalig beschreiben?

Wurde die Versammlung als einmaliges Format ins Leben gerufen?

- Gab es vorher Ideen für eine Fortsetzung/Folgeveranstaltung?
- Gab es im Nachhinein Ideen für eine Fortsetzung/Folgeveranstaltung?

## **Entscheidungsräume – Entscheidungsteilhabe**

Wie war die Einrichtung des Bürgerrats mit den Entscheidungsräumen verbunden?

- Lokale Parlamente, Verwaltung...

Wer wurde eingeladen und warum?

- Wurden Politiker eingeladen?
- Wer hat Expertenbeiträge geliefert? Warum haben Sie sich für diese entschieden?

Wie war der Aufbau des Bürgerrats mit der Zivilgesellschaft verbunden/verknüpft?

- *War er z. B. in der Gemeinde oder in Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft verankert?*

Mit welchen politischen Themen und ihren jeweiligen Führungskräften/Vertretern war die Versammlung verbunden? (einzelne Themen vs. mehrere)

## **Practical aspects – Praxis-Aspekte**

Welche formalen Vorschriften haben die Einrichtung des Bürgerrats beeinflusst?

- *Z.B. ein lokales Gesetz zur Klimaneutralität zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt, etc.*

Gibt es formale Vorschriften, die den Zuständigkeitsbereich/die Tagesordnung des Bürgerrats beeinflusst haben?

- *Z.B. Themen, die für Beteiligungsprozesse gesetzlich verboten sind?*

Welche formellen Verfahren haben den Zuständigkeitsbereich/die Tagesordnung des Bürgerrats beeinflusst?

Welche informellen Verfahren und Regeln beeinflussten den Umfang/die Tagesordnung des Bürgerrats?

- *z.B. welche Erwartungen die Menschen an/während eines Bürgerrats haben*
- *z.B. Ressourcen (begrenzt Geld/Zeit)*

Gab es eine informelle Atmosphäre der Akzeptanz für die Versammlung? Wie hat sich das auf den Zuständigkeitsbereich ausgewirkt? (*Gab es eine Haltung der Wertschätzung für die [Idee eines] Bürgerrats?*)

- Innerhalb der Organisatoren? Innerhalb der Zivilgesellschaft?

Welche Akteure schlugen Brücken zwischen den eher formellen und informellen Praktiken?

- *Z. B. ein Verwaltungsmitarbeiter, der mit einer zivilgesellschaftlichen Organisation in Kontakt steht, die sich mit der Klimakrise befasst.*
- Hat dies den Zuständigkeitsbereich/die Tagesordnung der Versammlung beeinflusst?

## **Weitere einflussreiche Aspekte?**

Was halten Sie noch für wichtig für den Erstellungsprozess von Fragestellung/Tagesordnung?

Oder: welche halten Sie für am wichtigsten?

## **Wrap-up**

Nachfragen zu Punkten, die noch nicht ganz klar sind.

Gibt es von Ihrer Seite aus noch etwas, das wir noch nicht besprochen haben, das Sie gerne noch hinzufügen/erwähnen würden?

Mit wem sollte ich unbedingt noch sprechen?

Darf ich Sie nochmal kontaktieren, falls noch weitere Fragen aufkommen?

Die Ergebnisse werden transkribiert, pseudonymisiert und dann analysiert. Sehr gern schicke ich Ihnen jederzeit Ergebnisse oder die finale Thesis zu, falls Interesse besteht.

Herzlichen Dank!!

## 9.3 Appendix 3: Interview consent sheet English

### RESEARCH INFORMATION SHEET – PRIOR INFORMED CONSENT

**Project Title:** *MSc thesis: The scope and agenda of climate assemblies - What can their embedding tell us about the formulation process? (working title)*

**Researcher:** *Anna Ravizza (supervised by Dore Engbersen Msc and Prof Dr Robbert Biesbroek)*

This consent form describes the research study to help you decide if you want to participate. This form provides important information about what you will be asked to do during the study, about the risks and benefits of the study, and about your rights as a research participant.

If you have any questions about it or do not understand something in this form, you should ask Anna Ravizza ([anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl)) for more information.

#### **Study Background**

I am investigating how climate citizen assemblies obtain their scope (and more precisely) agenda, as this is usually not part of the democratic (deliberative) decision-making within the assembly itself but tends to hold some power over the topics and themes discussed. I am using a framework of embedding (How is the assembly embedded within the local context?) and how that helps explaining how the scope and agenda are being decided on.

For that I am looking into four case studies of local climate assemblies, two in the UK and two in Germany. I am using document analysis to trace the process of decision-making and complementary interviews to understand the occurrence more in-depth.

#### **What is being asked of you as a participant?**

**I invite you to participate in the research in an (online) interview. The interview will take approximately 30 to 60 minutes. Your participation is fully voluntary, there will be no disadvantages for you if you decide to not participate.**

**You can decide not to answer to questions. You can stop participating without having to provide any reasons and without negative consequences.**

#### **Are there any benefits for participating?**

**There is no financial (or other form of) compensation. However, you will help us understand decision-making processes better, which might help making them more democratic, robust and just.**

#### **Are there any risks in participating?**

**The researcher has not identified any risk associated with this research. However, if there are any circumstances coming up which influence the willingness to participate, e.g. discomfort, unease about disclosing information, there will be the possibility to pause, postpone or terminate the interview.**

## How will your information be handled?

### A. Use of data

The researcher will collect and use participant's personal data where necessary. This refers to, for example, names, age, gender, profession, location, associated organisation details, location/time of interview.

### B. Protection and storage of data

The researcher will keep the collected personal data confidential. It will be pseudonymised by assigning a unique identifier to each participant's identifying information. This identification sheet will be stored as a separate file. Only the researcher herself will have access to the identifying information. It will not be disclosed to other researchers or the supervisors of the thesis research.

The supervisors and examiners of this thesis research will only be granted access to the pseudonymised personal data and other research data.

The information will be stored in accordance with the rules for research data management at Wageningen University for a period of 10 years. Only Anna Ravizza will have access to the non-pseudonymised personal data of the participants (name, profession, gender, location/time of interview, organisation details). This data will be stored on a secure folder at Wageningen University and kept separate from interview data files. All data will be archived after the study is finished in a locked password folder and will only be accessible for purposes of inspection of research integrity.

### C. Recordings

If agreed to, audio- or video recordings will be made to access the information from the interview again. Recordings will be kept until the end of the thesis process (at the latest until April 2025). Recordings will not be used in publications or shared with other researchers, only the pseudonymised transcripts will be used.

### D. Disclosure

Participant's name or non-pseudonymised data will not be used in the thesis report or any further publication from the research, but the researcher cannot guarantee that they will not be recognised due to potential description of processes and information that only they have access to.

Quotes will only be used where they do not make participants recognisable. Where quotes will be used that might make participants recognisable due to unique information, separate and explicit consent will be asked for by the researcher. In case the data is made available for future research, separate and explicit consent will be sought.

The final thesis report might be published in the public online Wageningen University MSc theses collection.

### E. Other

Participants can already agree to quotes being used in the research (indicate below). If they want to make the decision later in the process, potentially after reviewing the respective quotes, they can leave the box empty for now.

## What if I have questions about the study, or change my mind?

For questions with regards to the research, the use of the data or this form you can contact Anna Ravizza at any time.

Mail: [anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl)

Phone: +4917638497300

Participants may also withdraw their consent to the use and storage of their data at any time after the interview, without giving any reason and without any negative consequences, in which case the information they have provided will be deleted. However, this shall not affect the lawfulness of any processing that has already taken place up to the time of withdrawal. Participants can withdraw by sending their refusal to [anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl).

**I consent to participate in this research and to the use of my personal data as described.**

---

**Participant name and Date**

**Signature**

**I consent to the use of direct, pseudonymised quotes in the research report (optional).**

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**Participant name and Date**

**Signature**

## 9.4 Appendix 4: Interview consent sheet German

### FORSCHUNGSINFORMATIONSBLATT - EINVERSTÄNDNISERKLÄRUNG

**Titel des Projekts: *Master-Arbeit: Der Zuständigkeitsbereich und die Tagesordnung von Klimabürgerräten - Was kann uns ihre Einbettung über ihren Entstehungsprozess sagen? (Arbeitstitel)***

**Studentin: *Anna Ravizza (betreut von Dore Engbersen Msc und Prof. Dr. Robbert Biesbroek)***

Diese Einverständniserklärung beschreibt die Forschungsstudie, um Ihnen die Entscheidung zu erleichtern, ob Sie an der Studie teilnehmen möchten. Sie enthält wichtige Informationen darüber, was von Ihnen während der Studie verlangt wird, über die Risiken und Vorteile der Studie und über Ihre Rechte als Studienteilnehmer/Studienteilnehmerin.

Wenn Sie weitere Fragen haben oder etwas in diesem Formular nicht verstehen, können Sie Anna Ravizza ([anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl)) um weitere Informationen bitten.

#### **Hintergrund der Studie**

Ich untersuche, wie der Zuständigkeitsbereich und die Agenda von Klimabürgerräten festgelegt werden, da dies normalerweise nicht Teil der demokratischen (deliberativen) Entscheidungsfindung innerhalb des Bürgerrates selbst ist, aber trotzdem eine gewisse Macht über die diskutierten Themen und Fragestellungen hat. Ich verwende ein theoretisches Framework zur *Einbettung* (Wie ist der Bürgerrat in den lokalen Kontext eingebettet?), um zu erklären, wie der Zuständigkeitsbereich und die Tagesordnungen festgelegt werden.

Zu diesem Zweck untersuche ich vier Fallstudien lokaler Klimabürgerräte, zwei in Großbritannien und zwei in Deutschland. Ich verwende Dokumentanalysen, um den Prozess der Entscheidungsfindung nachzuvollziehen, und ergänzende Interviews, um das Geschehen tiefergehend zu verstehen.

#### **Was wird von Ihnen als Teilnehmer/Teilnehmerin verlangt?**

Ich lade Sie ein, an der Untersuchung in einem (Online-)Interview teilzunehmen. Das Interview wird etwa 30 bis 60 Minuten dauern. Ihre Teilnahme ist völlig freiwillig, es entstehen Ihnen keine Nachteile, wenn Sie sich entscheiden, nicht teilzunehmen.

Sie können sich entscheiden, auf Fragen nicht zu antworten. Sie können die Teilnahme ohne Angabe von Gründen und ohne negative Folgen beenden.

#### **Gibt es irgendwelche Vorteile durch die Teilnahme?**

Es gibt keine finanzielle (oder andere Form der) Entschädigung. Sie werden uns jedoch helfen, Entscheidungsprozesse besser zu verstehen, was dazu beitragen kann, sie demokratischer, solider und gerechter zu gestalten.

#### **Bestehen bei der Teilnahme irgendwelche Risiken?**

Die Studentin hat keine Risiken im Zusammenhang mit dieser Untersuchung festgestellt. Sollten jedoch Umstände eintreten, die die Bereitschaft zur Teilnahme beeinflussen, wie z. B. allgemeines Unbehagen oder Unbehagen über die Preisgabe von Informationen, besteht jederzeit die Möglichkeit, das Interview zu unterbrechen, zu verschieben oder abzubrechen.

## **Wie werden Ihre Informationen gehandhabt?**

### A. Verwendung der Daten

Die Studentin wird persönliche Daten der Teilnehmer/Teilnehmerinnen sammeln und verwenden, wenn dies erforderlich ist. Dies betrifft z. B. Namen, Alter, Geschlecht, Beruf, Wohnort, Angaben zur zugehörigen Organisation, Ort/Zeit des Interviews.

### B. Schutz und Speicherung der Daten

Die Studentin wird die erhobenen personenbezogenen Daten vertraulich behandeln. Sie werden pseudonymisiert, indem den identifizierbaren Informationen jedes Teilnehmers/jeder Teilnehmerin ein eindeutiger Identifikator zugewiesen wird. Dieser Identifikationsbogen wird in einer separaten Datei gespeichert. Nur die Forscherin selbst hat Zugang zu den Identifizierungsdaten. Sie werden weder an andere Forschende noch an die Betreuer der Dissertation weitergegeben. Die Betreuer und Prüferin der Dissertation erhalten ausschließlich Zugang zu den pseudonymisierten personenbezogenen Daten und anderen Forschungsdaten.

Die Informationen werden in Übereinstimmung mit den Regeln für die Verwaltung von Forschungsdaten an der Universität Wageningen für einen Zeitraum von 10 Jahren gespeichert. Nur Anna Ravizza hat Zugang zu den nicht pseudonymisierten personenbezogenen Daten der Teilnehmenden (Name, Beruf, Geschlecht, Ort/Zeit des Interviews, Angaben zur Organisation). Diese Daten werden in einem sicheren Ordner an der Universität Wageningen gespeichert und getrennt von den Interviewdateien aufbewahrt. Alle Daten werden nach Abschluss der Studie in einem verschlossenen Passwort-Ordner archiviert und sind nur zu Zwecken der Überprüfung der Forschungsintegrität zugänglich.

### C. Aufzeichnungen

Wenn Sie damit einverstanden sind, werden Audio- oder Videoaufnahmen gemacht, um die Informationen aus dem Interview auch später nutzen zu können. Die Aufzeichnungen werden bis zum Abschluss der Arbeit (spätestens bis April 2025) aufbewahrt. Die Aufzeichnungen werden nicht in Veröffentlichungen verwendet oder an andere Forschende weitergegeben; nur die pseudonymisierten Transkripte werden verwendet.

### D. Offenlegung

Der Name des Teilnehmers/der Teilnehmerin oder nicht pseudonymisierte Daten werden in der finalen Thesis oder in weiteren Veröffentlichungen im Rahmen der Forschung nicht verwendet. Die Studentin kann jedoch nicht garantieren, dass der Teilnehmer/die Teilnehmerin aufgrund der möglichen Beschreibung von singulären Prozessen und Informationen, zu denen nur er/sie Zugang hat, nicht erkannt wird.

Zitate werden nur dann verwendet, wenn sie den Teilnehmer/die Teilnehmerin nicht erkennbar machen. Wenn Zitate verwendet werden, die die Teilnehmer/Teilnehmerinnen aufgrund eindeutiger Informationen erkennbar machen könnten, wird die Studentin eine separate und ausdrückliche Zustimmung einholen. Für den Fall, dass die Daten für zukünftige Forschungen zur Verfügung gestellt werden, wird eine gesonderte und ausdrückliche Zustimmung eingeholt.

Die finale Thesis kann in der öffentlichen Online-Sammlung für MSc-Arbeiten der Universität Wageningen veröffentlicht werden.

### E. Sonstiges

Sie können bereits jetzt der Verwendung von Zitaten für die Forschung zustimmen (bitte unten angeben). Wenn Sie die Entscheidung erst zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt treffen möchten, möglicherweise nach Durchsicht der jeweiligen Zitate, können Sie das Feld vorerst leer lassen.

**Was ist, wenn ich Fragen zur Studie habe oder meine Meinung ändere?**

Bei Fragen zur Studie, zur Verwendung der Daten oder zu diesem Formular können Sie sich jederzeit an Anna Ravizza wenden.

E-Mail: [anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl)

Telefon: +4917638497300

Die Teilnehmer/Teilnehmerinnen können ihre Zustimmung zur Verwendung und Speicherung ihrer Daten auch nach dem Interview jederzeit ohne Angabe von Gründen und ohne nachteilige Folgen zurückziehen; in diesem Fall werden die von ihnen gemachten Angaben gelöscht. Dies berührt jedoch nicht die Rechtmäßigkeit der bis zum Widerruf bereits erfolgten Verarbeitung. Die Teilnehmer/Teilnehmerinnen können ihre Teilnahme zurückziehen, indem sie ihren Widerspruch an [anna.ravizza@wur.nl](mailto:anna.ravizza@wur.nl) senden.

**Ich stimme der Teilnahme an dieser Studie und der Verwendung meiner persönlichen Daten wie oben beschrieben zu.**

---

Name

Datum und Unterschrift

**Ich bin mit der Verwendung von direkten, pseudonymisierten Zitaten im Forschungsbericht einverstanden (optional).**

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Name

Datum und Unterschrift

## **9.5 Appendix 5: Codebook**

[Code book and operationalisation embedding.xlsx](#)

## **9.6 Appendix 6: Explanation Results table**

[Code book and operationalisation embedding.xlsx](#)

*Remark: Go to workbook 'Results'*

## 9.7 Appendix 7: Overview of analysed documents

Remark: The title numbers refer to the assigned number in the analysis in Atlas.ti.

Document title	Issuer/Origin	Place
D24: Presentation on establishment of assembly ('BN_Einrichtung_Klimaforum_Powerpoint')	Climate protection manager (presented to local council)	Backnang
D23: Presentation Results climate assembly ('Vorstellung Ergebnisse KF')	Climate protection manager (presented to local council)	Backnang
D25: Draft resolution establishment climate assembly ('Beschlussvorlage 139/23/GR')	Administrative department climate management, for local council	Backnang
D3: Communications Planning 1 - Barnet	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D4: Design Session 1 – Barnet	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D5: Design Session 2&3 – Barnet	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D6: Discovery Session	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D7: Question for Climate Citizens Assembly	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D8: Question Setting Workshop - Barnet	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D9: Question Setting Slides	Facilitation provider	Barnet
D10: DRAFT Governance	Facilitation provider	Barnet

D11: Printed minutes 26062023 1930 Cabinet	Barnet Council Cabinet	Barnet
D12: Supplement Minutes 25 01 2023 1900 Environment and Climate Change Committee	Barnet Council Environment and Climate Change Committee	Barnet
D14: Sustainability Strategy - Recommendations from the Citizens Assembly and Young Peoples Assembly	Barnet Council Portfolio Lead for Environment and Climate Change	Barnet
D15: Citizens Assembly mapper	Former engagement officer	NTCA
D16: Final evaluation report	Martin King and Rob Wilson, Northumbria University	NTCA
D17: NTCA_OSCAgenda_08Dec20	NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NTCA
D18: NTCA_OSCApprovedMinutes_08Dec20	NTCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NTCA
D19: NTCA-Final-Report-Delivering-Devolution-Together	North of Tyne Combined Authority	NTCA
D20: NTCA_CabinetAgenda_24Nov20	North of Tyne Combined Authority Cabinet	NTCA
D21:NTCA_DelegatedDecisionbyOfficerCitizens'AssemblyonclimatechangeAppoitnment_2020	NTCA Head of Paid Service	NTCA
D22: NTCA_DelegatedDecisionReportCitizens'Assemblyonclimatechange_12Nov20	NTCA Head of Communications, Engagement and Organisation Development	NTCA
D36: Citizen-assembly-on-climate-North-of-Tyne-2021	Facilitation provider	NTCA

## 9.8 Appendix 8: Overview of interview partners

Reference	Role	Reason for selection
Interviewee 1	Former Engagement Officer	First contact person, leading role in preparing the assembly
Interviewee 2	Climate Protection Manager	First contact person, leading role in preparing and delivering the assembly
Interviewee 3	Current Engagement Officer	Leading role in delivering the assembly (Recommended)
Interviewee 4	First Mayor	Leading role in preparing the assembly (Recommended)
Interviewee 5	Council member	Preparing the political opportunity for the assembly (Recommended)
Interviewee 6	Facilitation lead	Leading role in designing and facilitating the assembly (Recommended)
Interviewee 7	Administrative staff lead	First contact person, leading role in preparing and delivering the assembly
Interviewee 8	Chair Oversight Panel	Leading role in preparing the assembly (Recommended)
Interviewee 9	Facilitation lead	Leading role in designing and facilitating the assembly (Recommended)