

14 THEMES OF THE FRAMEWORK

These 14 priority barriers form the themes for development of the Framework. They represent a distillation of the barriers initially identified by the Framework report following analysis of the feedback to that report from 38 respondents.

1 Accessibility of existing provisions: Many of the solutions in terms of advice, methodologies, route maps, are out there, but need to be made more accessible.

2 User-mediated web-based information resource: This would allow users to review materials and crowd-source solutions.

3 Merging climate change with other aspects of community agenda: Climate action should form part of the work of existing community support infrastructure.

4 Partnership attitudes - enabling rather than enlisting: Local Authorities and others should develop relationships with communities based on parity of esteem.

5 Mutual support – learning from each other: Community groups learn the best lessons from the direct experience of other community groups, and find these exchanges most motivating.

6 Local authorities - hold the lock and key: They can block the way and open it. Passivity immobilises all initiative. Local Authorities have new duties to be positive.

7 Legislation and policy reform – to create a fertile context: This topped the scores. Many groups feel the policy context is not conducive to local action.

8 A new national vision and purpose – galvanising efforts: There isn't a sufficiently clear sense of united national drive towards clear goals.

9 Simplified funding – improved structure and co-ordination: Navigating the range of available funding sources, and understanding their rules and criteria, is unnecessarily complex. They should get together and simplify their offerings.

10 Mutuality – a levy on income generating schemes to help others: Those finding success with the help of public funds should contribute to a revolving fund for others, especially those with no access to energy resources.

11 Communities of interest – a powerful role in culture change: Measures are needed to encourage social groupings – church, sport, special interest – to encourage participation in climate action, helping to shift cultural norms.

12 Measures of success – clarifying what's needed: This scored very high. Groups are frustrated in their attempts to define their goals appropriately to meet the needs of their funders and to achieve meaningful carbon savings.

13 A community voice – currently under-represented at national level: Communities are treated as part of the third sector, but their voice tends to get lost behind strident charities.

14 Awards for high standards – recognising achievement: A well targeted award for community action could help to motivate groups and their leaders.