



# Introduction to Behaviour Change

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# Objectives

- Why should you care about behavioural science?
- How do we change behaviour? Defining the behaviour and changing behaviour using the COM-B model
- Examples of behavioural science approaches applied to environmental issues

# WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCE?

[www.hertfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk)



# “We want people to do this”

If you need people to do something differently to achieve your outcomes, **then essentially you are relying on people changing their behaviour.**

- Project stakeholders
- County Council and Districts & Boroughs colleagues
- Partner organisations
- Residents

# Working with specialists

In your projects, you probably work with a variety of different specialists to achieve your outcomes.

We need to build a bridge → Urban Planner

We need to create an app → Software Engineer

We need to do it within this timeline → Project Manager

- We need to change this behaviour → Behavioural scientist

# HOW DO WE CHANGE BEHAVIOUR?

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# Define the behaviour

## WHO / WHAT / WHEN / HOW OFTEN

**Who needs to change their behaviour?**

Parents

**What do they need to change? What do they need to do differently?**

Stop idling when dropping off/picking up their kids from school

**When do they need to do it?**

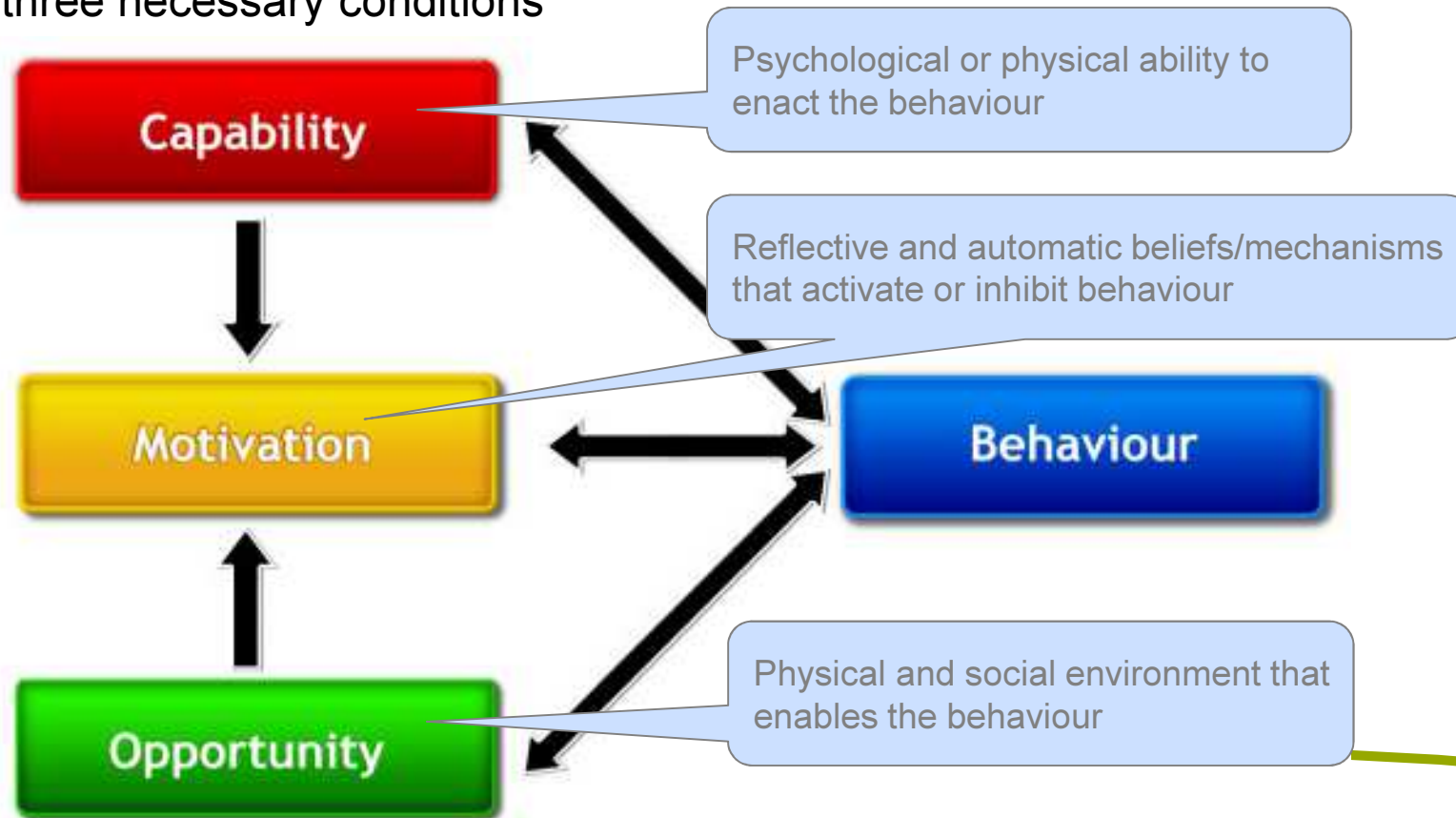
When they are parked inside or near the school

**How often do they need to do it? What is the frequency we are aiming for?**

Every school day

# Using Behavioural Science: The COM-B Model

The COM-B system – Behaviour occurs as an interaction between three necessary conditions



Michie et al (2011) Implementation Science



<b>CAPABILITY</b>	<b>OPPORTUNITY</b>	<b>MOTIVATION</b>
<p align="center"><b>PHYSICAL</b></p> <p>Physical skills Strength Stamina</p>	<p align="center"><b>PHYSICAL</b></p> <p>Time Space/environment Resources</p>	<p align="center"><b>REFLECTIVE</b></p> <p>Beliefs about risks Beliefs about consequences Beliefs about change</p>
<p align="center"><b>PSYCHOLOGICAL</b></p> <p>Knowledge Psychological skills</p>	<p align="center"><b>SOCIAL</b></p> <p>Interpersonal influences Social cues Cultural norms</p>	<p align="center"><b>AUTOMATIC</b></p> <p>Wants/needs Habits Emotions</p>

# CAPABILITY

## Physical

- The behaviour that we are asking people to do, does it match their current level of fitness?
- Can people actually ride a bike?

## Psychological

- Do they know what cycle paths are available nearby?
- Do they know what the quickest/safest way to/from work is?

# OPPORTUNITY

## Physical

- Are there any cycle paths close to their house?

## Social

- What do their friends say or believe about cycling?
- What do they see other people in their neighbourhood doing? Do they drive or do they cycle?
- What is the culture in the UK on cycling to work?  
(think about the culture in countries like the Netherlands).

# MOTIVATION

## Reflective

- I don't want to cycle, what if it rains?

## Automatic

- The people whose behaviour we are trying to change, what habits do they currently have? Are they mainly drivers?
- Do they get positive feelings from driving as opposed to cycling? (e.g. driving is reliable and comfortable, cycling is unpredictable and uncomfortable)

# The work from Hampshire County Council: the methodology

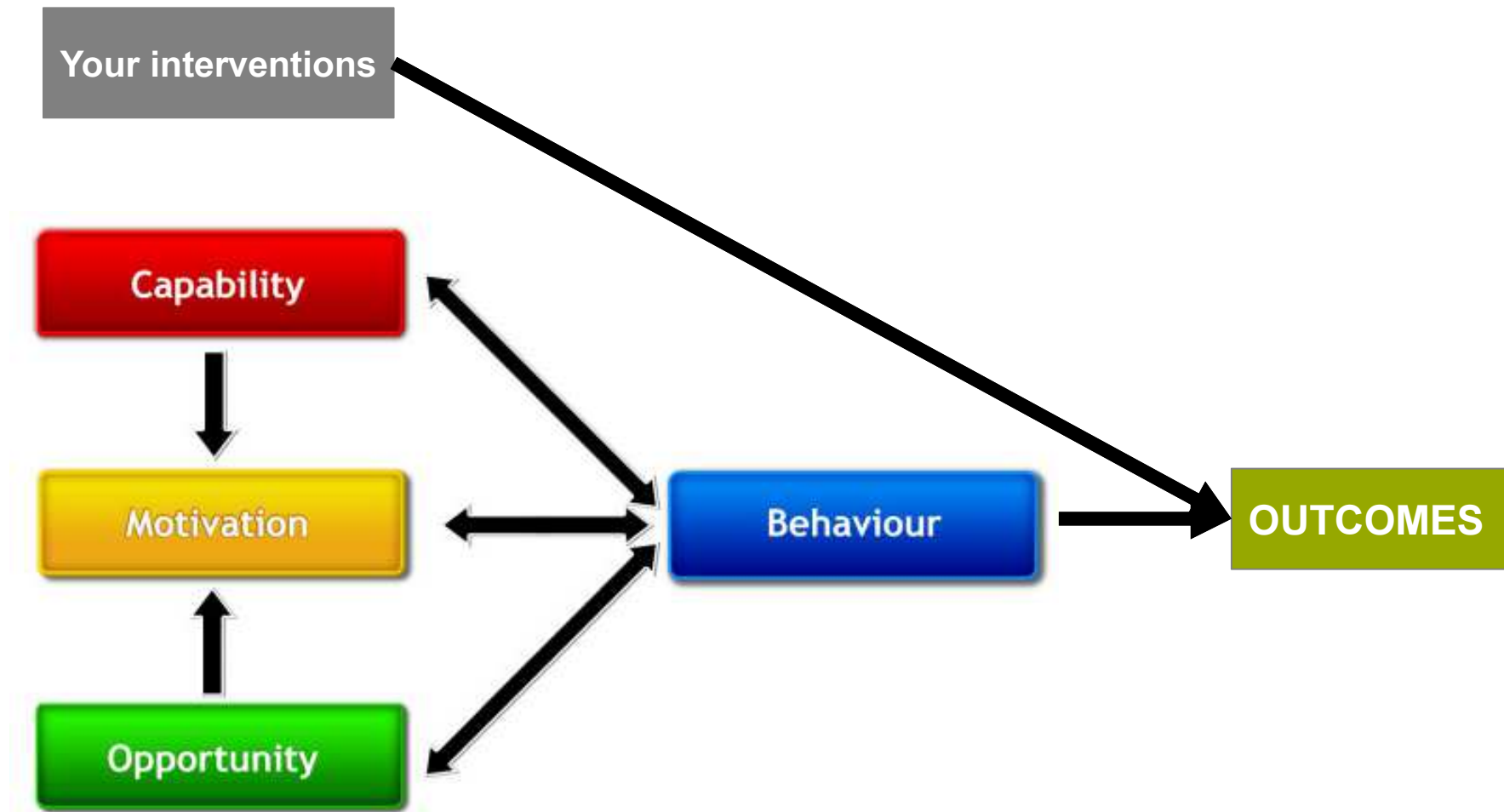
The project was a four way collaboration with Kent and Hertfordshire County Councils and the University of Southampton

Desk Research	Carbon Calculator	Qualitative focus groups	Online survey
<p><b>REVIEW</b> of existing national and local evidence on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• behavioural factors</li> <li>• effective practice in behavioural interventions to reduce carbon.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> of the carbon impact of a range of specific behavioural changes</p> <p>Conducted by the University of Southampton</p>	<p><b>UNDERSTANDING</b> of how best to target behaviour change, barriers and motivations in a qualitative setting</p>	<p><b>QUANTIFY</b> who is willing to take different climate actions, barriers and motivations and understand who it is best to target to change behaviour.</p> <p><b>Representative</b> sample of the South East as a whole.</p> <p>Statistical analysis conducted by the University of Southampton</p>
<p><b>CONDUCTED</b> in March 2020</p>	<p><b>CREATED</b> in April 2020</p>	<p><b>CONDUCTED</b> in February and March 2020</p>	<p><b>CONDUCTED</b> in April 2020</p>
<p><b>What does this tell us?</b></p> <p>What behaviour change evidence already exists</p>	<p><b>What does this tell us?</b></p> <p>How much carbon (CO<sup>2</sup> equivalent) can each climate change action save</p>	<p><b>What does this tell us?</b></p> <p>What is the best way to communicate to people about climate behaviours</p>	<p><b>What does this tell us?</b></p> <p>How many people are willing to take each climate action</p>

# The work from Hampshire County Council: the impact

Action	Number of people needed to take the action for the same carbon reduction
Install renewable energy devices in your home (e.g. heat pump, solar etc.)	1
Change to a (fully) green energy tariff for your gas and electric	1
Avoid flights by working from home/conference/video calls	2
Install insulation (e.g. loft, cavity wall insulation etc.)	3
Buy/lease an electric car	5
Avoid short haul flights by taking the train instead	9
Avoid long haul flights by choosing not to travel internationally	10
Reduce food waste	12
Reduce meat consumption	16
Reduce dairy consumption	17
Avoid local travel by working from home/conference/video calls	27
Use water saving devices (e.g. shower timer, rainwater barrel, toilet water tank limiter (hippo, brick))	31
Choose energy efficient appliances when purchasing or replacing (e.g. with an A-rated energy label)	34
Reduce car/taxi use by using public transport	68
Reduce car/taxi use by using active forms of transport (e.g. walking, cycling instead of a vehicle)	96
Buy locally produced food	122
Correctly recycle materials	174
Use less water (e.g. turn the tap off when brushing your teeth)	229

Key takeout – Changing behaviours should be measured against relative carbon impact e.g. if an initiative gets 229 times more people to use less water than a similar initiative gets people to install renewable energy- then that is the same value



# Questions?





# Thank you

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