



# Transforming UK Food Systems Conference, 23-24 March 2026



#TUKFS26



# Identifying critical components for (food) system change at scale

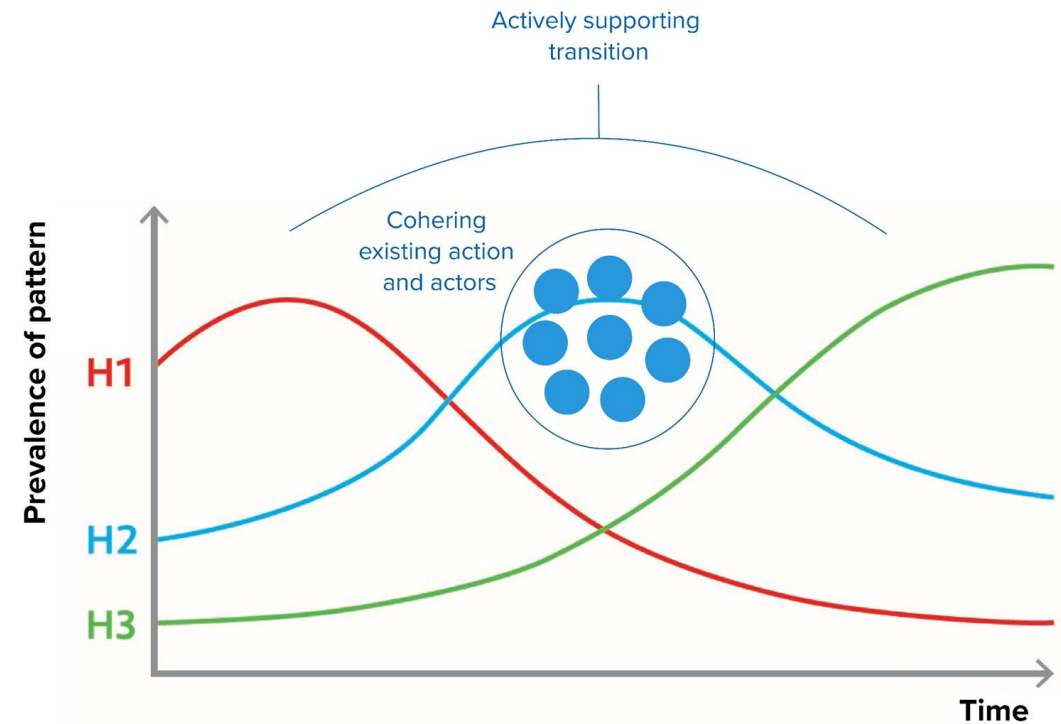
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# Background

- Transformations require approaches that actively support stages of transition and cohere existing action and actors
- Major challenge to achieve; good examples are rare



# Background

- FixOurFood supporting Food for the Future North Yorkshire initiative for c. 4 years
- Learning from this and other system change initiatives
- E.g. Engaged Futures (NCCPE), Moving North Yorkshire (North Yorkshire Council / North Yorkshire Sport)



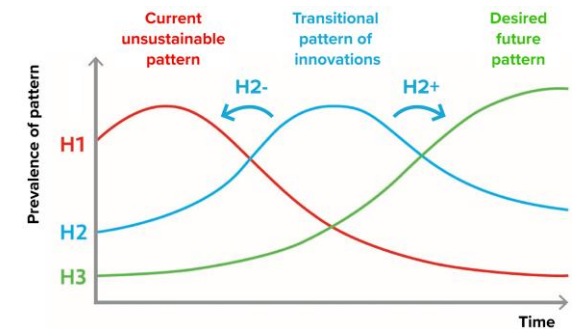
## Workshop aims

- Share some of our insights on key components for supporting transformation
- Draw on your expertise and experiences about supporting transformation
- Identify priority areas that need to be strengthened
- Identify key messages for policymakers/initiatives
- Brief presentation + two separate tasks and discussion

# Five critical components for system change

## 1. Developing transformation-focused strategies and frameworks for action

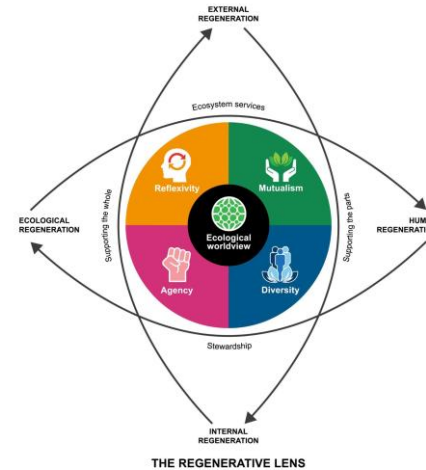
- E.g. strategy, action plan, framework for action...
- E.g. structured around Three Horizons framework
- More about cohering and strengthening existing actors/action than doing something entirely new



# Five critical components for system change

## 2. Envisioning radically different futures

- Orienting towards a desired future with fundamentally different dynamics to today's world
- Encourage more transformative action
- Framing of regenerative dynamics can be helpful



# Five critical components for system change

## 3. Cohering and aligning diverse partners

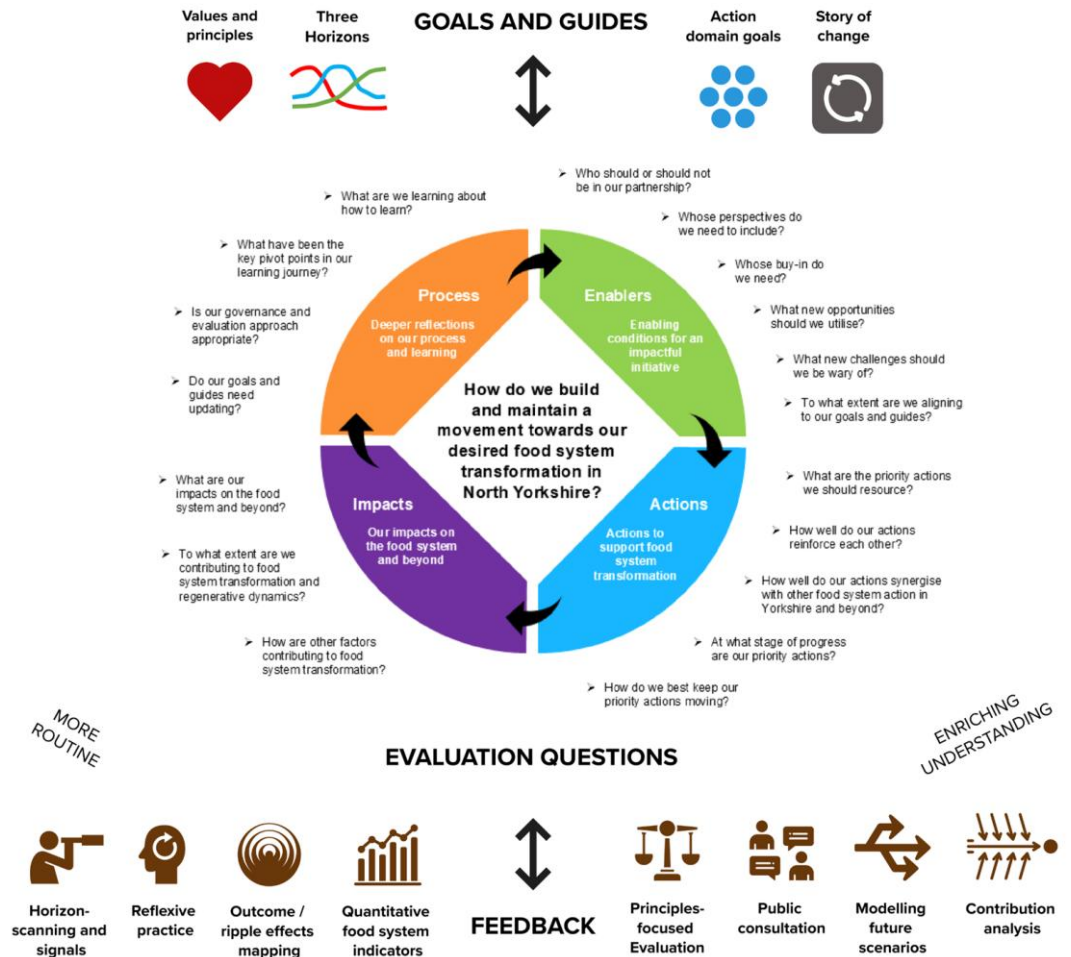
- Bringing diverse actors on board
- Strategic positioning to align with existing work
- Securing authorisation and legitimacy
- 'Middle-out' approach in Food for the Future



# Five critical components for system change

## 4. Embedding transformation-focused evaluation and learning

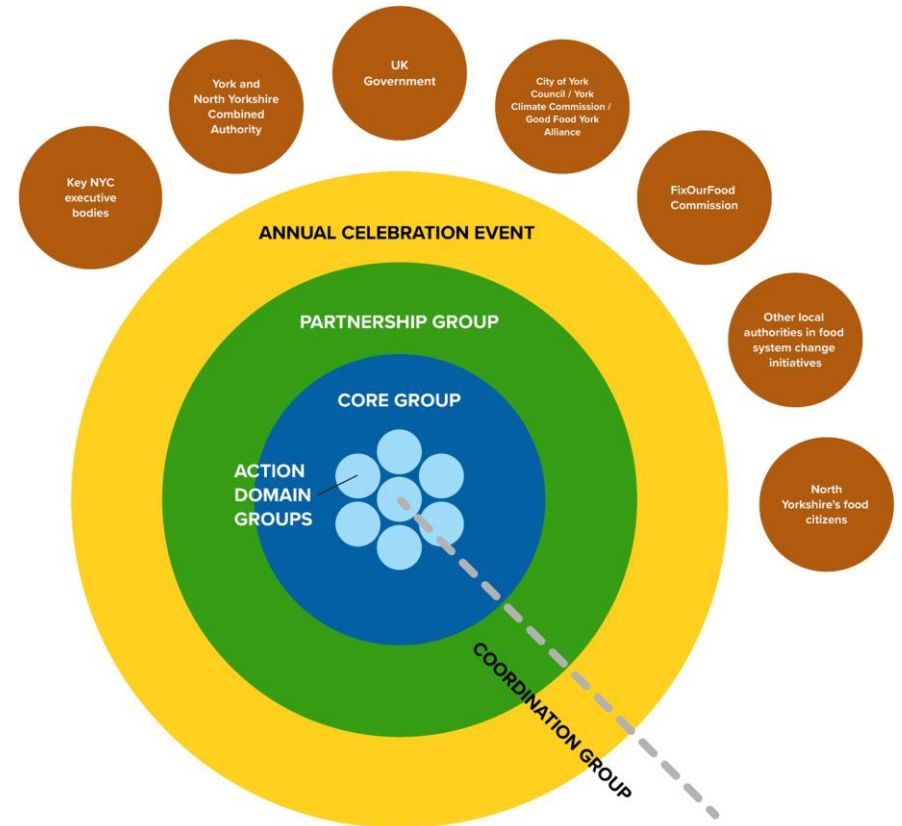
- Evaluation as *part of* system change efforts rather than removed from them
- Help initiatives:
  - stay adaptive and responsive
  - understand their impacts and contributions to system change
  - maintain transformational intent
  - enable deeper forms of reflexivity and learning



# Five critical components for system change

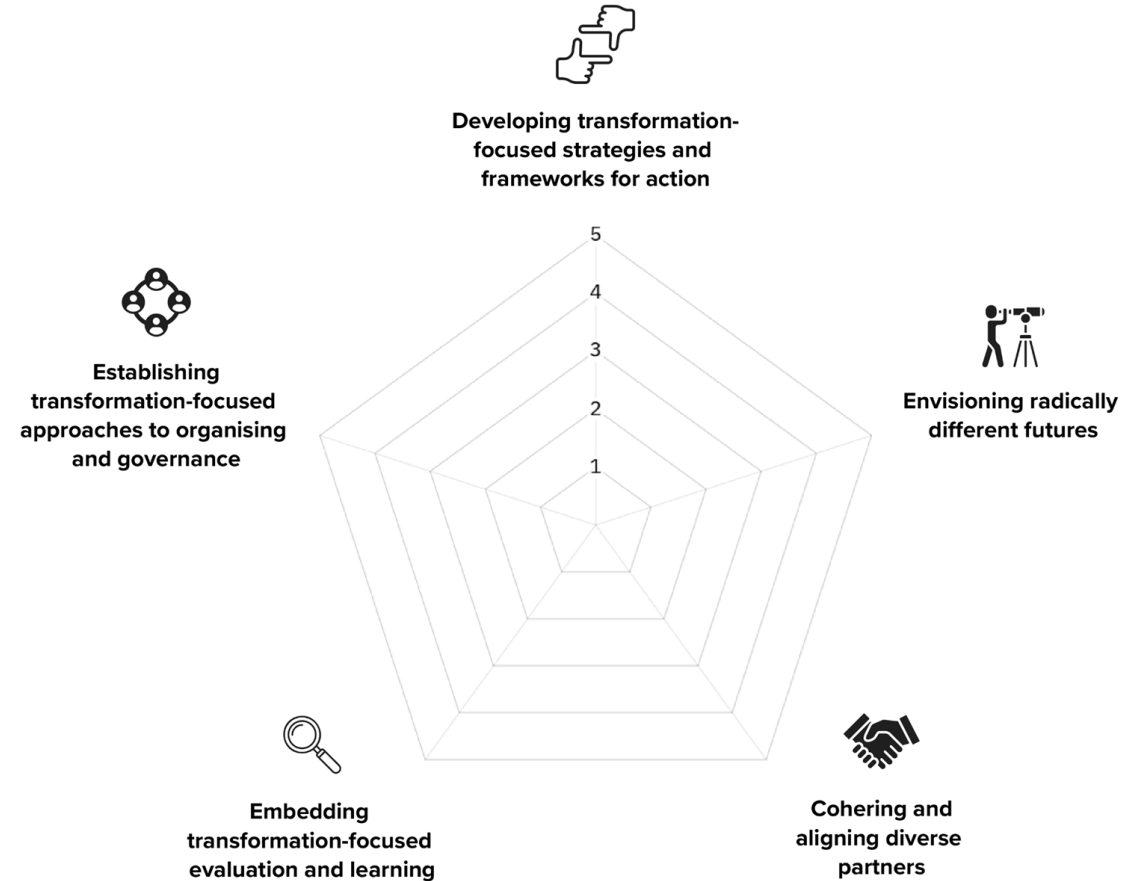
## 5. Establishing transformation-focused approaches to organising and governance

- Rarely exists already – new structures required
- Transformation-aligned processes for organising, decision-making and accountability
- E.g. structured around regular engagement of action domain groups, + periodic celebration events



# Wider considerations

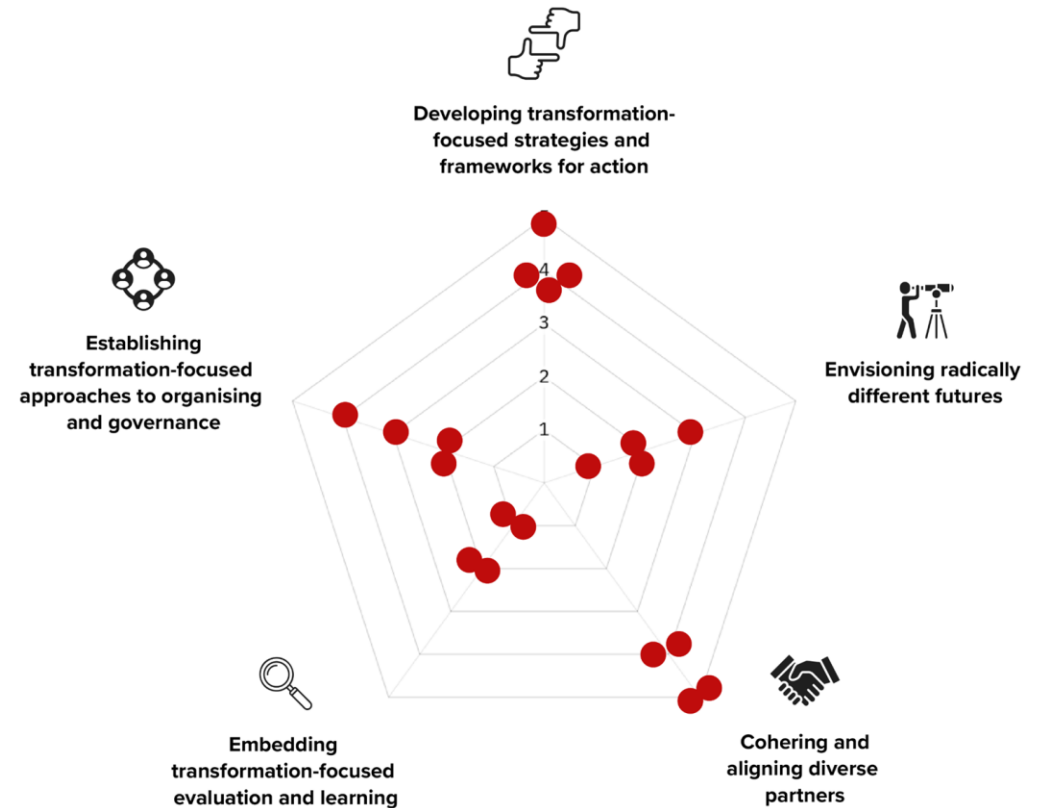
- Other considerations that cut across all five components
- Maintaining transformational intent
- Explicit attention to power and shifts in power



# First task!

In your experience, to what extent are you seeing attention to these five components?

- Discussion in your table groups
- Could be in relation to a particular project/initiative or more generally
- Each person add a mark (e.g. dot or cross) on the numbered scale for each component (0-5) on your group's radar chart
- If short on time, focus on strongest and weakest components
- We will then compare groups' results



## Second task!

**Where does capacity need to be strengthened, and how could we achieve that at scale?**

- Discussion in your table groups
- Each group choose one of the five components (e.g. where much more capacity and effort is needed), and discuss how it could be strengthened
- Identify 2 key pieces of advice for policymakers or initiatives to strengthen that component



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