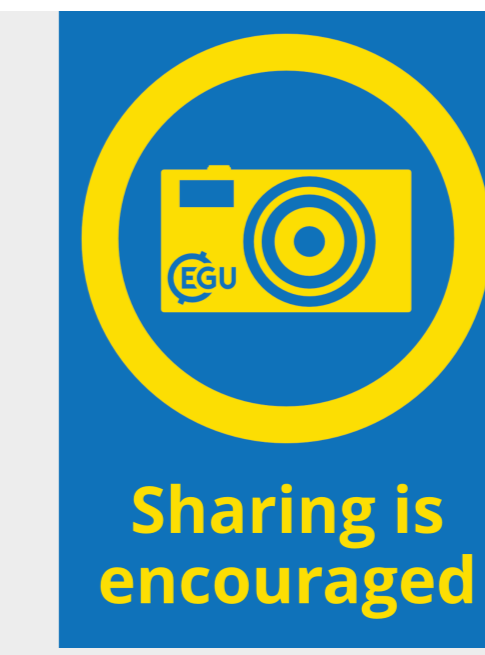


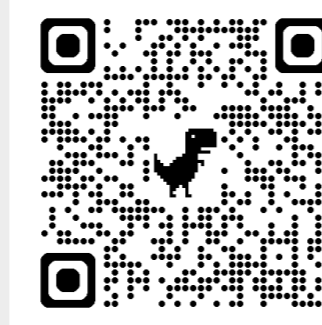
Bridging the gap:

# TRANSFORMING SCIENCE ADVICE for air pollution policy



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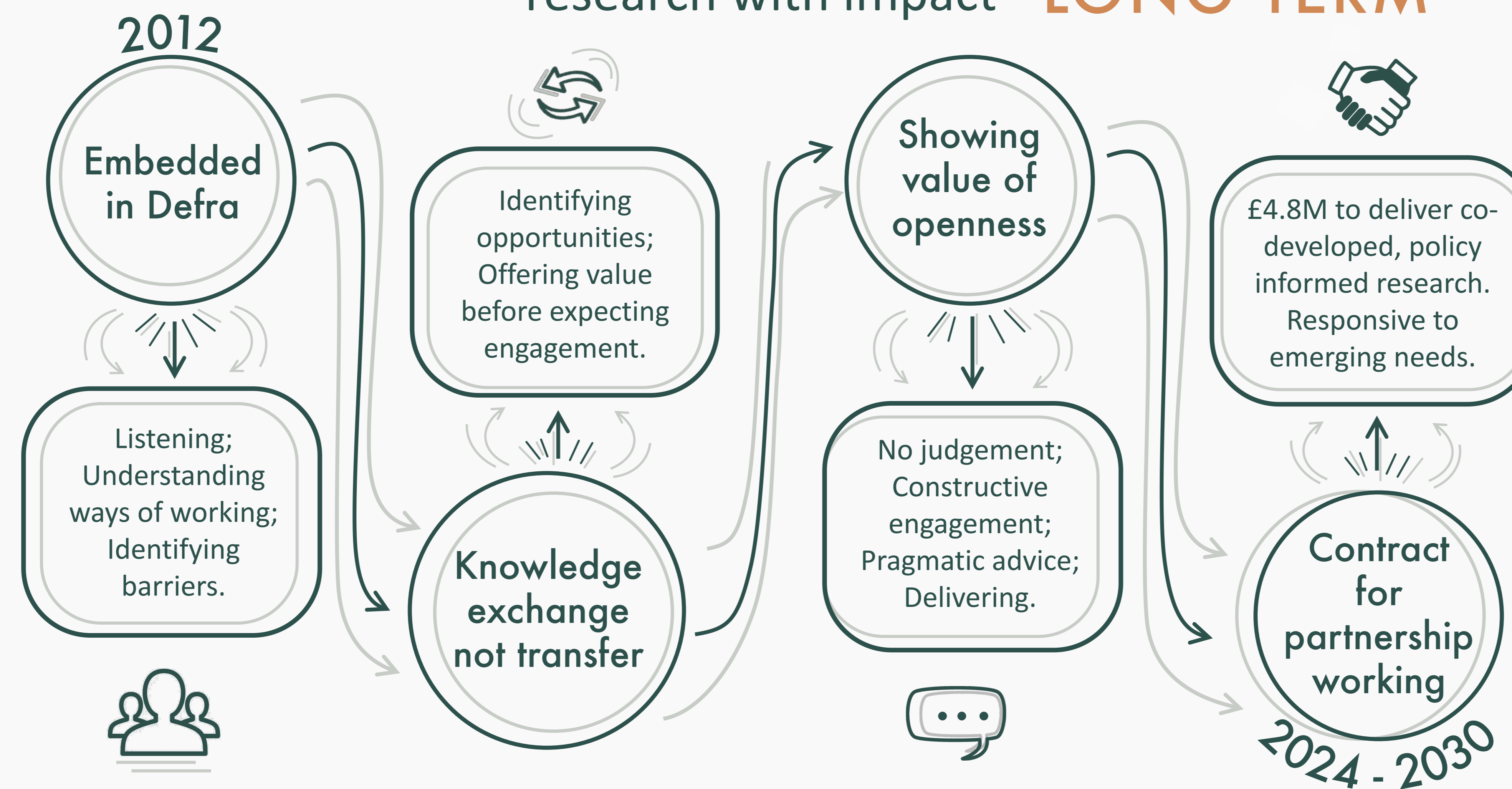
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## 1. The problem

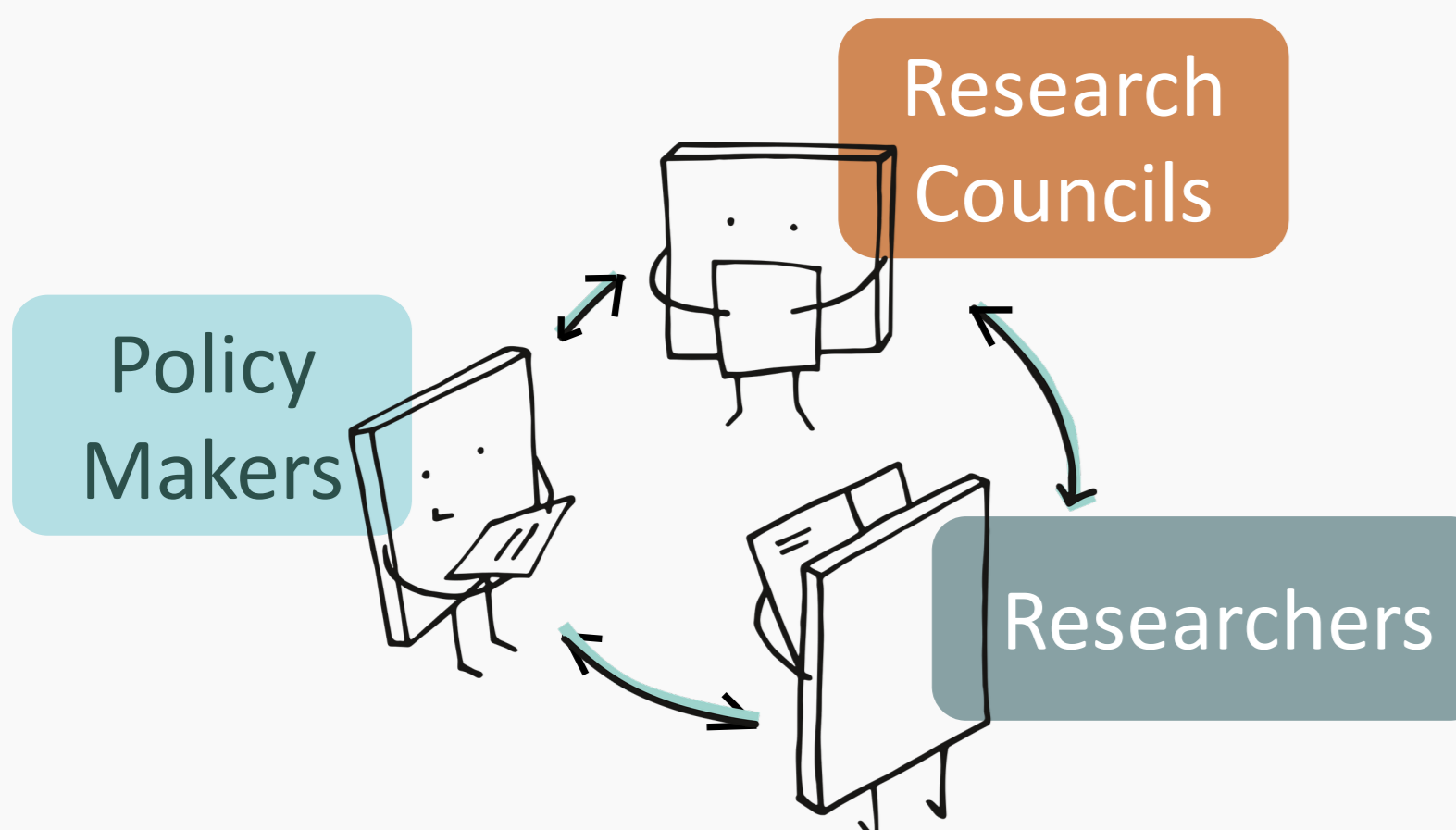
Tighter budgets and fewer staff at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) led to strained relationships between officials and university researchers that were increasingly transactional; neither side felt interactions held much value.

## 2. A different way

Developing trusted relationships to enable research with impact - **LONG TERM**



## 4. Leveraging funds



Regular interactions scoping overlapping interest, emerging opportunities and research capability enabled development of a co-developed statement of research need which led to the £42.5M UKRI Clean Air Programme.

## 5. To consider

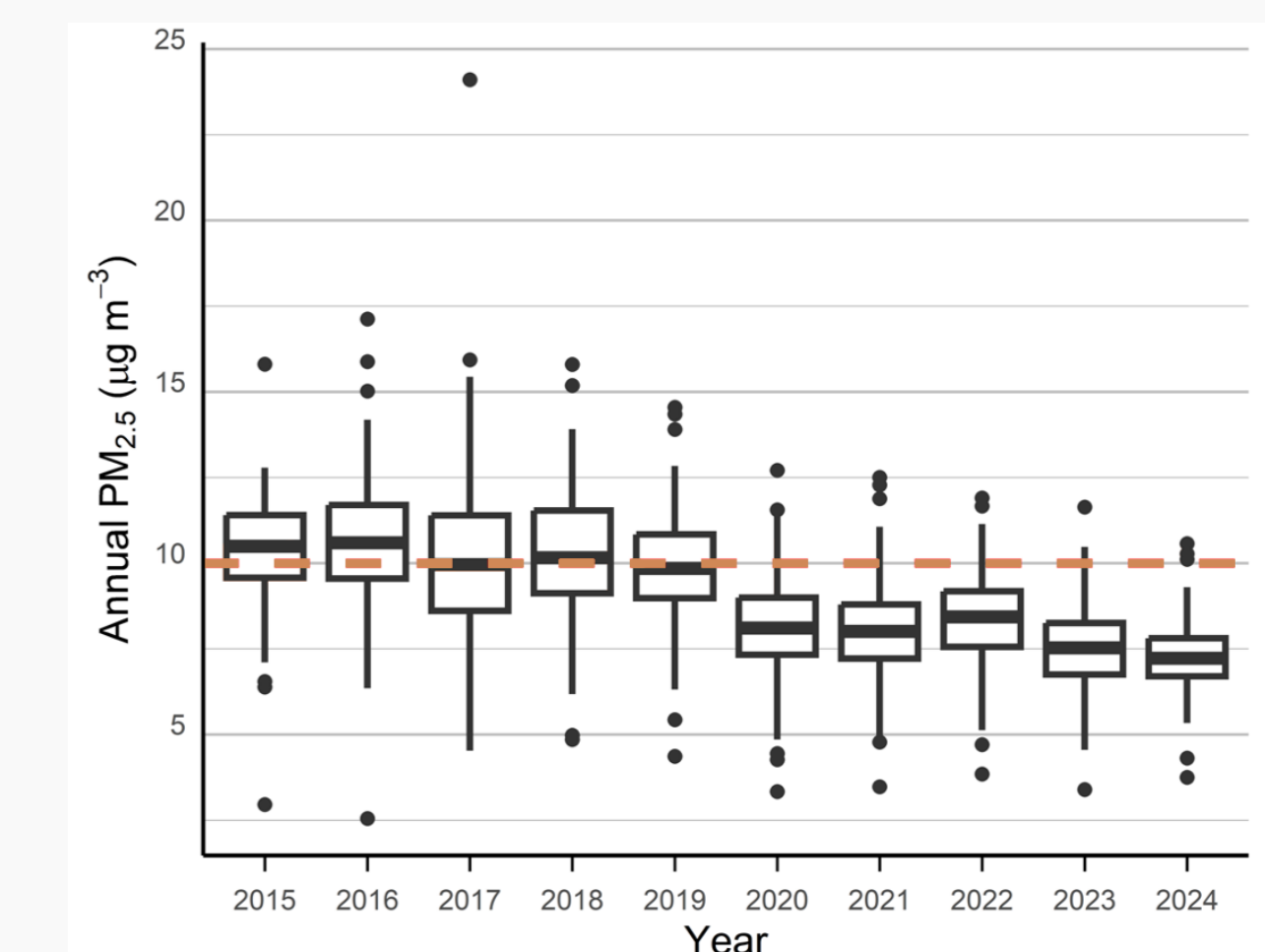
Maintaining relationships takes time, and so is often the first casualty of resource cuts. However, partnership working with academics delivers access to world leading expertise and analysis, with significant funding leverage (e.g. section 4). This work has already underpinned 2 top-rated Research Excellence Framework Impact Case Studies, worth up to £1M each to universities. Building and maintaining research partnerships across academia and policy should be valued and incentivized.

## 3. A new approach

I designed an academic consultation plan for the 2019 Clean Air Strategy, with early input and engagement throughout. This led to positive advocacy on publication, supporting government strategy.

For target setting under the 2021 Environment Act engagement with academics was seen as an essential part of the process, with consultation built in throughout.

Defra pose time-sensitive questions relevant to policy-in-development. This requires a more agile, responsive mode of working but enables genuine impact.



Particulate pollution has reduced much faster than expected. Our analysis gave confidence that this reduction will persist. The date for attaining targets has been brought forward.

Access this poster online:



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Academics & policy makers

Understanding ways of working

Appreciating priorities

building **TRUST**

More open communication

Knowledge exchange not just translation

Research with impact