Synthesizing the Outputs of Deliberative Forum

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Linking deliberation objectives to outputs

• What is the expected deliverable of the deliberation?
  - To elicit values to inform a decision-making process?
  - To provide recommendations?
  - To evaluate policy options?
How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (1)

Two strategies:

1. Internally-driven synthesis: an explicit product of deliberation
   - synthesis is incorporated into the deliberation (e.g., following small group discussions)
   - requires adequate time and skilled facilitation
   - increases the legitimacy of the outputs
How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (2)

2. *Externally-driven synthesis: an inferred product which follows deliberation*
   - allows for specialist skills to be employed to produce a comprehensive synthesis
   - removes synthesis activities and control over outputs from participants
   - ratification of outputs with participants can improve the legitimacy of this approach