

## **The LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme**

### **Purpose**

For information.

### **Summary**

The aim of the LGA's Climate Change Sector Support Programme is to help councils and residents to reach their local carbon reduction and adaptation targets.

Since April 2021, 91 per cent of English councils have engaged with the LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme.

This report covers the achievements from April 2021 and the deliverables planned until the end of March 2022. It also covers the role which the LGA played in the run up to, and at the United Nations climate change conference COP26, held in November 2021.

### **Recommendations**

1. That the Improvement and Innovation Board notes the update on the actions taken under the LGA's Climate Change Sector Support Programme in 2021/22, including activity at COP26, and notes the forthcoming activity.
2. That the Improvement and Innovation board note the significant demand for the support by councils and the increasing demand for this work. This will need to be factored into future improvement offer planning.

### **Action**

3. That officers will deliver the programme as agreed by Members.

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## **Background**

1. In July 2019, the LGA General Assembly passed a motion calling upon the government to explore the domestic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through funded partnership roles with local authority areas, encouraging councils to continue to link local priorities with the overall ambitions of the SDGs and the declaration of a climate emergency.
2. Following the motion, the LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme has developed a comprehensive offer for councils which meets the needs of local authorities. This includes an array of support offered across the improvement division and beyond, in sharing good practice, leadership, productivity, research and information and Local Partnerships.
3. The LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme developed a set of priorities to work on in 2021/22. This was been done in collaboration with the Improvement and Innovation Climate Change Member working group, officer Climate Action Group and feedback from councils through our green webinars and innovation programmes. The report outlines the progress made against the focused areas.
4. The underlying principles of the programme are to:
  - Provide support and improvement to councils tackling the climate and ecological emergencies.
  - Help councils to achieve a green, just and inclusive economic recovery from the pandemic.
  - Work with local partners including education, businesses and citizens to achieve our aims.
  - Support (and learning from support where it is for an individual council) will be made available to every council through events, guides, case studies, podcasts, tools, blogs, e learning and so on.
  - Ensure all work is connected to the Sustainable Development Goals where appropriate.

## **Mid year update**

5. Table 1 (below) presents the work undertaken and results achieved by the LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme between April 2021 and November 2021.

Table 1: LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme: 2021/22

Output	When was it delivered?	Key Performance Indicators met: Apr-21 to Nov-21	To be delivered Dec-21 to Mar-22
<b>1. Communication and engagement</b>			
Stakeholder groups: Improvement and Innovation Climate Change Member Working Group and the officer Climate Action Group.	April-21 and ongoing	3 and 2 meetings respectively.	1 and 2 meetings respectively.
The LGA <a href="#">Climate Change web hub</a> .	Continuously updated	27,692 total webpage views.	Continuously promote.
LGA climate change <a href="#">e bulletin</a> .	Apr-21 to Nov-21 monthly	8 bulletins, 2,777 subscribers.	4 bulletins monthly.
LGA Pass the Planet campaign: <a href="#">Case studies</a> .	Apr-21 – Nov-21	A total of <a href="#">132 case studies</a> . 3,149 webpage views.	Collect case studies for the best practice map.
The <a href="#">Climate emergency knowledge hub</a> , where councils who have declared a climate emergency, or made any other type of commitment to reduce carbon and improve the environment, share information and experiences.	April-21 and ongoing	402 members.	Continuously promote.
LGA Green Webinar Series.	Apr-21 – Nov-21	8 webinars have been delivered so far, with 1,656 people attending in total.  96 per cent satisfaction rate.	Three webinars:  Adaptation toolkit (January 20 2022)

		Please see Appendix 1 for all of the blogs and slides.	Net Zero Innovation Programme – scaling the learning (February 10 2022).  Council and business partnerships (March 15 2022).
Launch of the LGA's new podcast: <a href="#">Local Action for our Environment</a> . Topic: community engagement.	Oct-21	1,204 listens.	Continue to promote the podcast.
<b>2. Green economy</b>			
Action learning sets: building housing retrofit skills	Nov-21	24 Climate Change officers being supported	Twelve further action learning sets, case studies and a final report.
<a href="#">Action learning sets for creating local green jobs.</a>	Jan-21 to May-21	25 officers and Members supported. Report to share learning published.  100 per cent were satisfied with the programme (84 per cent rating themselves very satisfied).  100 per cent of councils on the programme reported that the support added value to their council's response to climate change.	Continue to promote the final report with learnings.
<b>3. Data</b>			
Climate Change Survey 2021. This included evaluation of the programme, including	Open Nov-21	Over 100 councils have responded so far.	The survey will close Dec-21.

questions on the impact of the LGA support and councils' future support needs.			Use the results to inform the 2022/23 LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme.
<a href="#">Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool   Local Government Association.</a>	Continuous promotion	233 unique councils have downloaded the Greenhouse Gas Accounting Tool so far.  The tool has been endorsed by the Climate Change Committee.	Continue to promote the tool and encourage councils to return the completed tool. The returns will be put on LGInform to enable peer benchmarking and identification of good practice.  Update the tool with further scope 3 guidance.
<a href="#">Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions for social care: Guidance for local authorities   Local Government Association</a>	May-21	1,654 total webpage views.	Continue to promote the guide.
<b>4. Procurement</b>			
<a href="#">Sustainable Procurement Toolkit</a>	Nov-21	700 total webpage views.	Continue to promote the toolkit.
<b>5. Biodiversity</b>			
<a href="#">Biodiversity e learning</a> for Councillors and officers	Oct-21	427 webpage views.	Continue to promote the training.
<b>6. Leadership</b>			
<a href="#">A Councillor's workbook on The Local Pathway to Net Zero</a>	Apr-21	6,262 total webpage views.	Continue to promote the guide.
Leadership Essentials: Climate Emergency (with carbon literacy training)	Course in Sep-21	1 course, 15 attendees.	1 course in Jan-22, 15 attendees.
<b>7. Local collaborations</b>			

<p><a href="#">The Net Zero Innovation Programme</a></p>	<p>Sep-21</p>	<p>Working with 14 partnerships including an accelerator programme. A podcast series (8 episodes) is available to all.</p> <p>Highly Commended programme at COP26.</p> <p>From the 2020/21 cohort, all participants (100%) think their NZIP project is helping the council address its Climate Emergency Action Plan.</p>	<p>Project delivery (tools, guides or training for all councils). Seminars available to all councils.</p>
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## 6. LGA at COP26

- The UK hosted, for the first time, the United Nations international climate change conference in Glasgow from 31 October – 13 November (COP26). The conference brought together international delegations to agree on a process to accelerate progress towards the goal of the Paris agreement (to keep the rise in global temperature to within at least 2 degrees, although 1.5 is the current ambition).
- The conference itself, and the lead up to it this year, had four broad themes: adaptation, mitigation, collaboration and finance.
- The LGA was pleased to lead local government's presence at COP26.
- The LGA was active at COP26 in both the public-facing 'Green Zone'; and in the 'Blue Zone', where the formal negotiations took place. Throughout the conference, we took every opportunity to deliver our key message – that councils have a unique and powerful role in tackling climate change, and are best placed to turn national climate ambitions into joint action on the ground.
- We are delighted that our [Net Zero Innovation Programme](#) received a 'Highly Commended' award in the final of the Climate Challenge Cup – a new international competition celebrating innovative local solutions to global climate issues.
- Together with our partners, the LGA hosted the following activities and events on the following themed days at the conference:

### 10 November | Transport

This day was dedicated to driving the global transition to zero emission transport.

- [Frontline – climate action on the ground](#) | United Nations Global Climate Action Hub (Blue Zone)
- Local path to net zero – moving further and faster | Multilevel Action Pavilion (Blue Zone)

### 11 November | Cities, regions and built environment

This day was dedicated to advancing climate action in the places we live, from communities, through to cities and regions.

- Local government and municipal authorities COP26 multilevel partnership | Multilevel Action Pavilion (Blue Zone)
- A local path to net zero | Exhibition stand (Green Zone)

Our exhibition stand in the Green Zone (hosted in partnership with [Northern Ireland LGA](#)) showcased the vital work that councils are doing to address the climate emergency. This involved a photo gallery and videos promoting the work of councils, virtual reality headsets and an interactive quiz.

We are also proud to say that, through our work with our global partner organisations, the LGA contributed to getting recognition of the importance of "local and regional governments" and of "the urgent need for multilevel and cooperative action...in addressing and responding to climate change" written into the final Glasgow Climate Pact.

**7. Other LGA work relating to climate change includes:**

- Work undertaken for the LGA Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board.
- On 11 March 2021, the Leadership Board established of an open-ended Climate Change Task Group to steer the strategic engagement with Government on climate change matters in this COP26 year and beyond.
- Local Partnerships provides services in key climate response areas including energy efficiency, waste, housing, regeneration and growth, air quality, energy, finance, infrastructure, digital transformation and health and social care. Further information can be found [Climate Response - Local Partnerships](#).

**8. Equality, diversity and inclusion considerations**

An initial analysis of potential EDI considerations affecting the environment area has been carried out. People with the following protected characteristics have been identified as disproportionately impacted.

- **Age** – both the very young, the very old and people with underlying health issues are more vulnerable to the ill-effects of extreme heat or cold caused by climate change; older people are more susceptible to the social isolation which can result from poor local environment quality.
- **Disability** – those with restricted mobility may find multi stream recycling inhibitive; accessible ground floor dwellings are more susceptible to flooding; lack of access to green space can exacerbate mental ill health.
- **Pregnancy and Maternity** – pregnant people are more susceptible to the ill-effects of extreme heat caused by climate change; parents of young children may be negatively impacted by a lack of access to green space.
- **Race** – Gypsies and Travellers can struggle to access public services, including waste and recycling and running water.
- **Economic disadvantage** – those on lower incomes are more likely to live in poorly insulated housing, with more expensive metered heating tariffs, which can lead to fuel poverty; they are more likely to experience a lack of access to green infrastructure which can contribute to health inequalities; social housing of high-rise construction and/or with poorly engineered communal heating systems can be more severely impacted by extreme weather events.

**9. Environmental considerations**

- All procurement activity will be sustainable.
- Meetings and events will be held virtually, where possible, to avoid greenhouse gas emissions from travel.

**10. Implications for Wales**

- We are engaging with our Wales Local Government Association colleagues, are sharing learning and work collaboratively on common issues. For example, they are



looking in to using our [Behaviour Change and Environment toolkit](#) and they participated in the Pass the Planet campaign.

#### **11. Financial Implications**

- The support offer is funded through our Improvement Grant Determination letter from the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities.

#### **12. Next steps**

- Officers will continue delivering the LGA Climate Change Sector Support Programme and will ensure programme is properly supported to meet the growing needs of councils.

Appendix 1

Green webinar series

Webinar	Slides and blogs	Date
Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting guidance for social care	Slides: <a href="#">Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting guidance for social care, 13 May 2021   Local Government Association</a> Blog: <a href="#">Scope 3 greenhouse gas accounting guidance for social care   Local Government Association</a>	May 13 2021
Place-based leadership for biodiversity	Slides: <a href="#">Place-based leadership for biodiversity, Friday 28 May 2021   Local Government Association</a> Blog: <a href="#">LGA webinar: Place-based leadership for biodiversity   Local Government Association</a>	May 28 2021
Innovative approaches to low energy housing	Slides: <a href="#">Design in the public sector: Innovative approaches to low energy housing, 15 June 2021   Local Government Association</a> Blog: <a href="#">Design in the Public Sector: Innovative approaches to low energy housing   Local Government Association</a>	June 15 2021
LGA conference: Green light services to address our planetary emergency	<a href="#">LGA Annual Conference 2021: Green light services to address our planetary emergency   Local Government Association</a>	July 7 2021
Green procurement	Slides and blog: <a href="#">Design in the public sector: Green procurement, 16 July 2021   Local Government Association</a>	July 16 2021
Building housing retrofit skills	Slides: <a href="#">Building housing retrofit skills, 15 September 2021   Local Government Association</a>  Blog: <a href="#">Blog: Building housing retrofit skills webinar, 15 September 2021   Local Government Association</a>	September 15 2021

Local climate action planning	Slides and blog: <a href="#">Local climate action planning, 6 October 2021   Local Government Association</a>	October 6 2021
COP26: Pass the Planet	Blog: <a href="#">Pass the planet: Showcasing local climate action on the COP26 goals, 9 November 2021   Local Government Association</a> Slides: <a href="#">Pass the planet: Showcasing local climate action on the COP26 goals, 9 November 2021 - presentations   Local Government Association</a>	November 9 2021