



# Analysis of Climate Local actions

A report for the Local Government Association

March 2014

# Local Government Association Analysis of Climate Local Actions

A report by **CAG Consultants**

March 2014

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# Executive summary

Climate Local was launched in June 2012 to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change. Signing up to Climate Local requires councils to produce a Climate Local action plan outlining commitments and actions they will undertake on carbon reduction and/or climate resilience. This report summarises the findings of an analysis of Climate Local actions to date, undertaken by CAG Consultants on behalf of the Local Government Association (LGA).

## Key findings

84 councils (23 per cent) and one national park authority (Lake District National Park) have signed up to Climate Local. A total of 47 action plans covering 64 local authorities (80 per cent of signatories) had been submitted to the LGA at the time of the writing. This analysis examined 43 of these action plans.

The plans analysed include a total of 1413 individual actions across a wide range of topics. The average number of actions per action plan is 33, although there is large range in the number of actions per plan, stretching from four actions in one plan to 161 actions in another. This variation reflects a wider theme from the analysis: there is an enormous amount of variation in the approaches councils have taken to their Climate Local plans and in how they develop and describe their actions, measures and timescales. This is a strength of Climate Local: it supports a flexible, council-led approach to setting out local ambition and activity. But this analysis has been more challenging and less robust as a result.

## Themes

The analysis categorised each action according to three overarching themes: low carbon pathways, climate resilience and 'other'. Climate Local actions were predominantly focused on low carbon pathway activity. 77 per cent of all actions contributed to this theme, while 28 per cent of the actions fell under the climate resilience theme. Focusing solely on the number of actions on each theme is reductive and has its limitations. Nonetheless, this suggests that carbon reduction is a more of a priority for Climate Local councils than climate resilience activity. Without further research it is difficult to know why this might be. This balance is not the same across all council types. For county-level plans, there was a much more even split between low carbon pathway actions (55 per cent) and climate resilience actions (43 per cent) compared to districts and unitary councils. This was based on a small sample of county-wide plans (seven), so it is difficult to make conclusions about why this difference exists.

## Topics

The analysis also grouped the actions according to 16 different topics. The built environment, transport and mainstreaming climate change had the highest numbers of actions linked to them, whilst water use, health and local food had the fewest.

Under the low carbon pathway theme, the most popular topics in terms of numbers of actions per topic were the built environment and transport. Mainstreaming climate change, energy generation, communities and business were also prominent. Flooding, local food, health and natural environment were the topics with the fewest number of low carbon actions ascribed to them.

There are two areas that present opportunities for further activity. The first is district heating, which is a key opportunity area for council action, yet forms a relatively small proportion of activity in the Climate Local plans. The second topic concerns the local low carbon economy, which ranked ninth (out of 16) in terms of the number of low carbon actions. Actions under this topic are those that directly support low carbon workforce, skills and development. Actions falling under other topics (e.g. the built environment,

business and transport) may also have implicit benefits for the low carbon local economy. Nonetheless, this is another topic that could be an opportunity for further action.

The topics with highest number of climate resilience actions were mainstreaming climate change actions and flooding. The natural environment, planning and communities were the next most popular topics in terms of numbers of actions. Energy generation had the fewest number of climate resilience actions, with a cluster of other topics also having low numbers of climate resilience actions: local economic growth, transport, waste, local food, and schools.

Only a small number of climate resilience actions were focused explicitly on health, so this could be an area for further support under Climate Local.

### Actions by area of impact

The analysis also looked at actions by area of impact, exploring whether they had implications for corporate skills, commitment and capacity, the council's estate and operations, the council's services, and the wider community served by the council. Actions with implications for the wider community were the most common, with 799 actions falling into this category, almost as many as the other three categories combined (869 actions). The overall numbers for the other three categories were relatively similar, with council estate actions being the second most common, followed by council services and then corporate commitment, skills and capacity.

The differences were more marked when broken down by theme. Low carbon pathway actions broadly took the same pattern as above. But climate resilience actions formed a different pattern. Wider community actions were most common, but not by as much. Actions on corporate commitment, skills and capacity were the second most prominent impact area, whereas for low carbon pathways this was the least common impact area. Council services and council estate actions were the least common impact areas.

### Next steps

The analysis suggests there are a number of potential implications for the future Climate Local work programme. The LGA may wish to update its guidance and 'menu of actions' to (a) more accurately reflect the balance of activity across the current Climate Local action plans, and (b) provide examples of actual actions that Climate Local councils are taking on different topics to help inspire new signatories. There may also be ways in which the LGA could encourage a more consistent approach to completing Climate Local plans to enable a more effective analysis in the future, for example by adding in good practice examples in the guidance notes on completing the Climate Local action plan template.

In terms of specific support, the analysis has put forward three areas that are *potential* 'gaps' in council activity or where further action could be encouraged: district heating; local 'low carbon' economic growth; and health and climate resilience. These might be areas that the Climate Local programme focuses particular support on. More broadly, a more detailed review of the actions included in the Climate Local plans would enable the LGA to identify 'interesting' or good practice examples on each topic, which it could promote to other councils and encourage peer-to-peer learning on.

# 1 Introduction

This report provides an overview of the findings of an analysis of Climate Local actions, the research for which was undertaken during February and March 2014.

## 1.1 Background

Climate Local was launched in June 2012 to drive, inspire and support council action on climate change. Covering activity on both carbon reduction and climate resilience, the initiative provides a platform for signatory councils to promote council activity on climate change, share knowledge and good practice, use practical tools and advice and contribute to national profile of efforts on carbon reduction and adaptation. Signing up to Climate Local requires councils to produce a Climate Local action plan outlining commitments and actions they will undertake on carbon reduction and/or climate resilience. Councils can choose from a menu of commitments and actions provided by the LGA, or develop their own. More information about Climate Local can be accessed from <http://www.local.gov.uk/climate-local>.

## 1.2 Research requirements

The LGA commissioned CAG Consultants to undertake a rapid review of local authority Climate Local action plans. The work involved an analysis of 43 actions plans published to date. Key objectives for the analysis were to:

- Provide a themed overview and a breakdown of common activities within these themes;
- Identify any patterns in the selection of actions by different segmentations (e.g. by council type, by geography, etc.);
- Highlight any exemplars which differ from the norm, or fall outside the themes identified; and
- Provide suggestions for potential themes or topics for future Climate Local support tools, based on common actions, particularly opportunities for peer-to-peer support.

A detailed spreadsheet database of the actions and their categorisation for the analysis has also been provided to the LGA as part of the research.

### 1.2.1 Research limitations

This report should be read with the following limitations of the evidence in mind.

Table 1.1 Research limitations	
'Commitments' not analysed	In completing their action plans, councils are asked to set out both commitments and actions that they will undertake. The commitments are intended to outline overarching principles or ambitions, with the detail defined through the actions. Due to the limited scope of this research, however, an analysis of the commitments was not possible.
Subjectivity in the categorisation of actions	The analysis has involved categorisation of each Climate Local action by theme, topic and impact area. Some degree of subjectivity was involved in this categorisation process as some actions required a degree of interpretation in order to assign categories to them. Whilst it may be possible to argue that a small number of the individual actions could have been categorised differently, however, such revision would be unlikely to affect the overall findings of the research in terms of the balance of actions across different themes, topics and impact areas.
Climate Local	The analysis has taken the Climate Local plans at face value. The research did not

plans analysed at 'face value'	involve any auditing of the action plans, despite wide variations in the quality of the actions, measures and timescales provided. Therefore if a council has provided an action, measure or timescale in their action plan, in whatever form, we have included it as such for the purposes of the analysis.
'Rapid' nature of research means depth of analysis limited	This research was a rapid review of the Climate Local action plans. The review has generated a significant amount of data, but the short timescale and research budget has limited the depth of analysis that has been possible for this report.



## 2 Categories and definitions

This section provides a guide to the reader to the various categories referred to throughout the report. Examples of actions categorised under each theme and topic can be found in Appendix C.

### 2.1 Overarching themes

Each action was categorised according to which overarching theme it contributed to. An action could be categorised under more than one theme e.g. “Integrating climate change awareness into induction programmes for staff” (Bath & North East Somerset Council), which fell under both low carbon pathways and climate resilience categories.

Theme	Description
Low carbon pathways	Actions that support activity in relation to carbon reduction (i.e. climate change mitigation actions).
Climate resilience	Actions that support activity in relation to improving resilience to the impacts of the climate (i.e. climate change adaptation actions).
Other	Actions that do not fall under either of the above categories, but were included in the action plans (i.e. non-climate related actions to improve health and wellbeing)

### 2.2 Topics

Each action was categorised according to a suite of different topics. Actions could be categorised under more than one topic e.g. “The Islington Energy Advice Team will continue to expand and increase its offer to all residents, developing and extending behaviour change and resident engagement programmes designed to tackle fuel poverty and inefficient heating” (Islington Borough Council), which was deemed to fall under both the ‘built environment’ and ‘vulnerable residents’ categories.

Topic	Description
Mainstreaming climate change	Actions that contribute to embedding climate change activity in the council, its local partners and/or the wider community
Energy generation	Actions in relation to the development of local low carbon energy generation
Local economic growth	Actions that directly support low carbon growth in the local area or provide skills and training for the local workforce. This does not include activity which indirectly supports growth, such as domestic retrofit projects, infrastructure improvements or new development.
Natural environment	Actions that help to maintain and enhance the natural environment
Planning	Actions in relation to land use planning activity
Built environment	Actions in relation to homes and non-residential buildings in the local area
Transport	Actions in relation to transport, including those that support the use of different modes of transport, as well as those that support improvements to local transport infrastructure such as street lighting or cycle lanes
Waste	Actions in relation to waste reduction, re-use, collection, recycling and disposal

Topic	Description
Health	Actions that support local health improvements
Business	Actions that support local businesses to reduce their environmental footprints and/or adapt to climate change
Schools	Actions that support improvements to the fabric of school premises or that are aimed to educational opportunities in relation to climate change
Vulnerable residents	Actions designed to support vulnerable residents and communities
Communities	Actions aimed at support community groups and activity, or that help raise awareness about climate-related activity in the wider community
Flooding	Actions that support activity in relation to flooding
Water use	Actions in relation to the more efficient use of water
Local food	Actions that support local food growing activity

## 2.3 Areas of impact

Each action was also categorised according to which ‘area of impact’ it affected. Actions could be categorised under more than one area of impact e.g. “We will cut our carbon emissions as a local authority across all our estates by 25%” (Haringey Borough Council), which fell under both the ‘council estate’ and ‘corporate commitment’ categories.

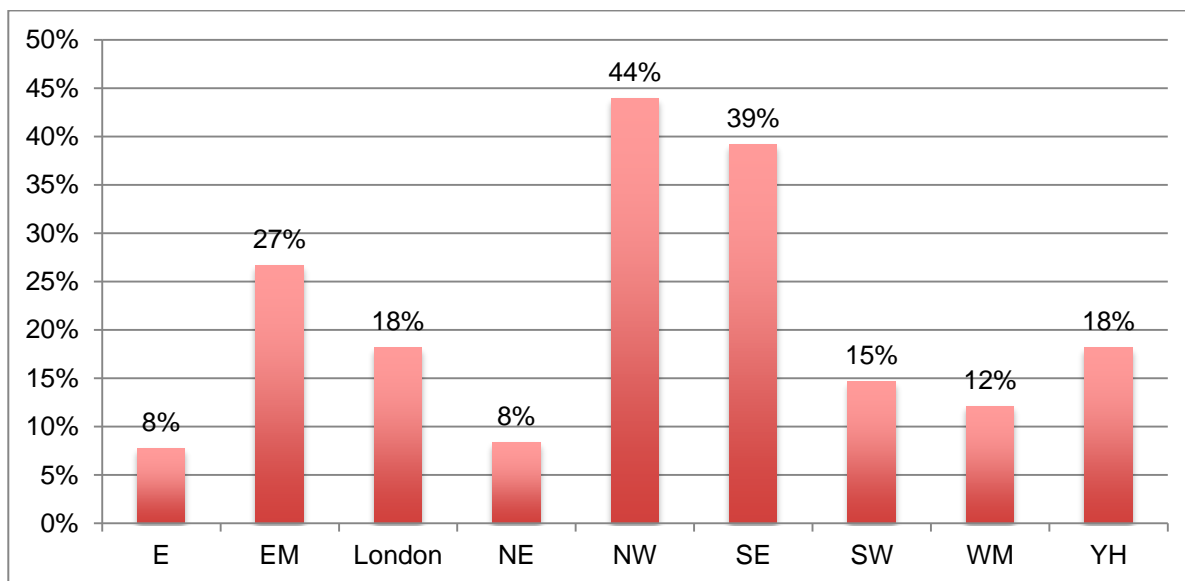
Impact area	Description
Council estate	Actions that impact on the council’s estate and staff
Council services	Actions that impact on the council’s services
Wider community	Actions that impact on the wider community that the council serves
Corporate commitment, skills and capacity	Actions that support the development of corporate commitment, skills and capacity for the council and/or its partner

# 3 Key findings

## 3.1 Signatories

At the time of this research, 84 councils and one national park authority (Lake District National Park) have signed the Climate Local commitment. This means that just over 23 per cent of councils are Climate Local signatories. Figure 3.1 shows that there is considerable variation in the percentage of councils from each region who have joined the initiative. Almost half of councils in the North-West have signed up to Climate Local, compared to 8 per cent of councils in the East of England and London.

**Figure 3.1 Percentage of councils from each region who have signed the Climate Local commitment**



Appendix A sets out the Climate Local signatories in full.

## 3.2 Action plans

### 3.2.1 Number of plans

A total of 47 action plans covering 64 local authorities (80 per cent of signatories) had been submitted to the LGA at the time of the writing (see Appendix A for a full list of signatories and action plans). The analysis presented in this report has examined 43 of these action plans. Of the other four:

- Two did not include any identifiable actions and therefore could not be included; and
- Two were not published until after the analysis had been undertaken.

The 43 plans analysed encompass 60 councils in total. Nearly all the plans cover one council area only (a few in collaboration with local partners). Two plans, however, have been developed by cross-county partnerships of councils:

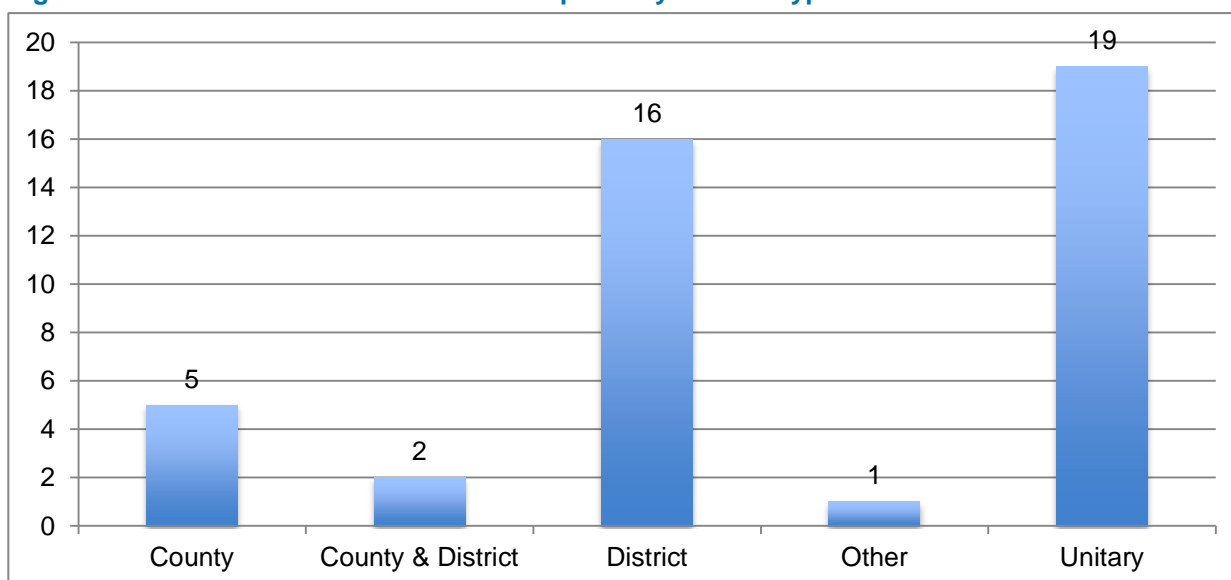
- The Kent Climate Local action plan includes the county council and twelve district councils; and
- The Oxfordshire Climate Local action plan incorporates the county council and five district councils.

The average time between a council signing up to Climate Local and publishing its action plan has been five months, with the time gap declining over time.

### 3.2.2 Number of action plans by council type

Figure 3.2 shows the number of actions plans by council type. Unitary authorities (unitary authorities, metropolitan districts and London boroughs) have produced 19 action plans, whilst districts have produced 16. The 'County & District' category includes the two county-wide plans which encompass both county and district councils. This category therefore includes two county councils and 17 district councils, meaning that district councils are in the most represented council type amongst those who have produced Climate Local plans. The 'Other' category represents the Lake District National Park Authority.

Figure 3.2 Number of Climate Local action plans by council type



### 3.3 Actions: overall numbers

The 43 Climate Local plans analysed include a total of 1413 individual actions across a wide range of topics. The average number of actions per action plan is 33. However, this figure masks a large range in the number of actions per plan, which stretches from four actions in one plan (East Sussex County Council) to 161 actions in another (Erewash Borough Council).

The Climate Local action template suggests that councils produce actions which are both measurable and timebound. Most actions have followed this suggestion:

- 84 per cent of actions had at least one form of measure attached to them, although the consistency and quality of the measures provided varied significantly from plan to plan. Some measures were very specific, providing a clear marker against which to assess the progress of the action (e.g. "92 Green Deal assessments carried out", Craven District Council). Others were more vague, however, and are unlikely to be useful for measuring progress.
- 92 per cent of actions were given some kind of timescale for implementation. Again, there was a variance in the quality of the timescales provided.

#### 3.3.1 Variations in council approaches

The variation in the number of actions in each plan, described above, seems to be reflective of differences in how councils are using their Climate Local action plans.

Some councils have used their plan to highlight a small number key ambitions or projects. This is the case for East Sussex County Council for example. Similarly, some plans' actions describe high-level

interventions only. Gedling Borough Council's plan, for example, includes actions like 'Reduce energy use within the council estate', and then provides more detail on specific activity it will undertake to achieve this in the 'measures' column of its plan (e.g. 'roll out a voltage optimisation project to all appropriate buildings').

The approach of other councils, however, has been to include a much larger number actions. These plans provide a detailed 'step-by-step' guide to activity on climate change. Erewash Borough Council's plan, for example, sets out detailed actions on topics such as reducing carbon reduction on the council estate (e.g. "Investigate the impact of performance rewards for carbon savings at building level", "Incorporate CO<sup>2</sup> reduction responsibilities into facilities managers job descriptions, and appraisal targets"), transport (e.g. "Develop a web portal to signpost people on to relevant information sources", "Set targets for numbers of employers engaged / outputs to be achieved over this financial year") and so on.

Some councils are unlikely to have included all of their activity on climate change in their Climate Local plan. One of the actions in the Hastings Borough Council plan, for example, is to implement its town wide climate change strategy and action plan. This separate plan includes a suite of mitigation and adaptation actions not included in the council's Climate Local plan. On the other hand, a few councils have submitted their sustainability plans as their Climate Local plans, and therefore some of the actions are not directly or explicitly climate-related. Wolverhampton City Council submitted its *Sustainability Strategy and Implementation Plan* as its Climate Local plan, for example, and a small number of the actions do not explicitly address the climate agenda (e.g. "The council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy to address the following priorities: 1. Alcohol 2. Dementia 3. Mental health 4. Urgent (emergency) care").

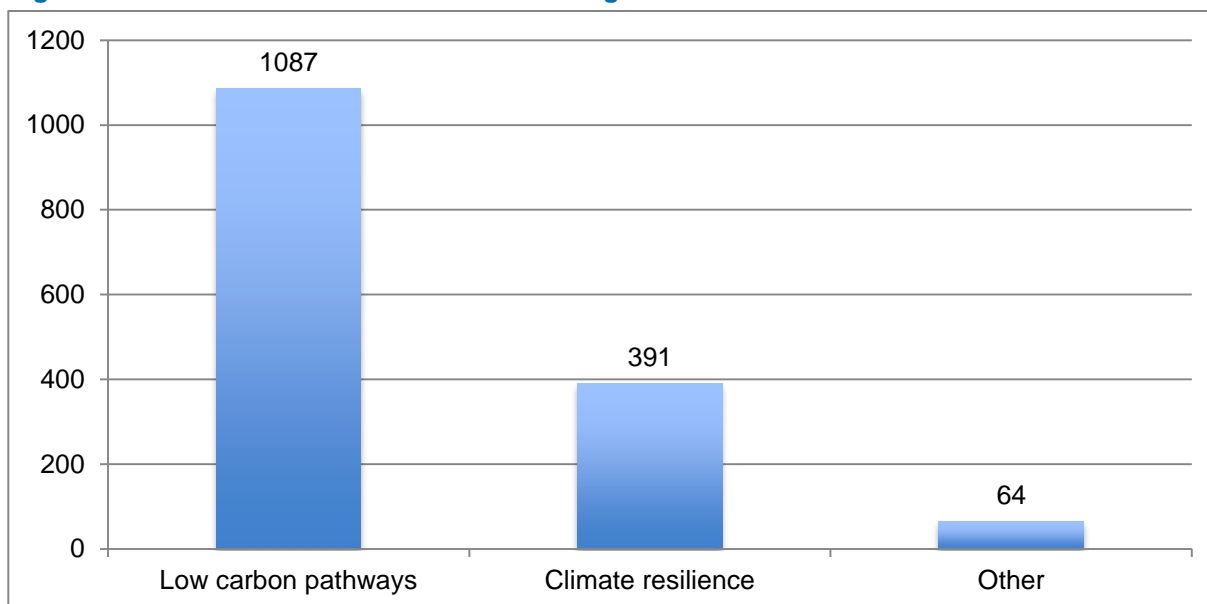
Overall, this variation reflects a wider theme from the analysis: there is an enormous amount of variation in the approaches councils have taken to their Climate Local plans and in how they have interpreted how they should develop and describe their actions, measures and timescales. This variation is arguably one of the strengths of Climate Local: it supports a flexible, council-led approach to setting out local ambition and activity. But it also makes comparison and analysis more challenging and less robust.

### 3.4 Actions by theme

As set out in section 2, the analysis categorised each action according to three overarching themes: low carbon pathways, climate resilience and 'other'. Some actions were categorised under both the low carbon pathways and climate resilience themes, such as an action taking forward staff training on climate change mitigation and adaptation. A small number of actions were categorised as 'other' because they were not directly or explicitly contributing to either low carbon pathways or climate resilience.

As figure 3.3 shows, Climate Local actions were predominantly focused on low carbon pathway activity. 1087 (77 per cent) of all actions contributed to this theme, while 391 (28 per cent) of the actions fell under the climate resilience theme.

**Figure 3.3 Total number of actions contributing to each theme**



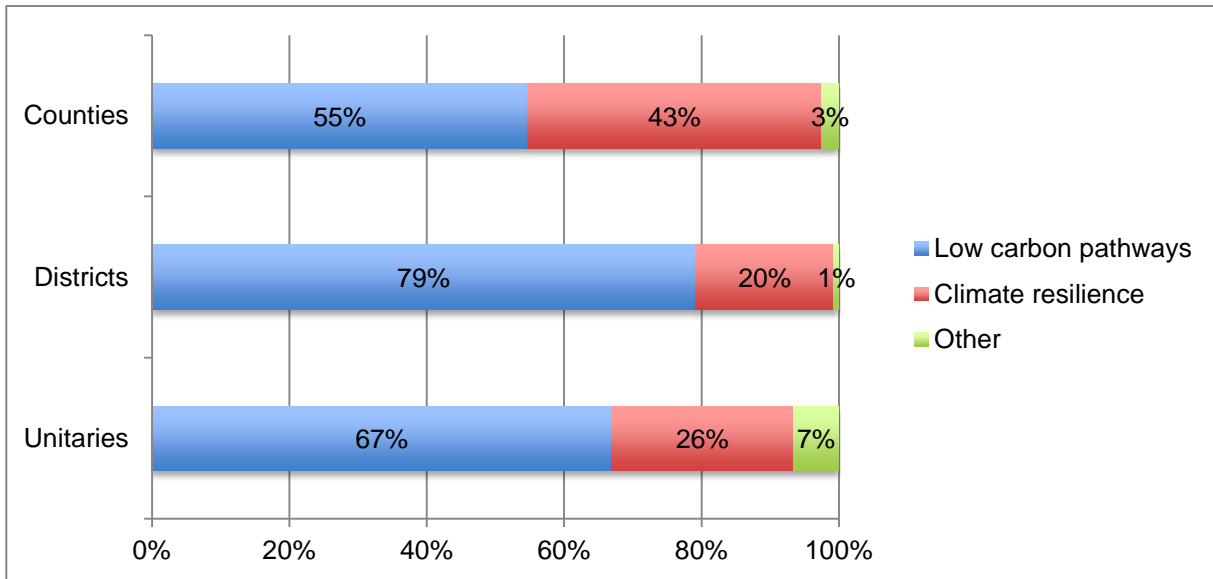
The type of activity carried out under each theme is described in the section 3.5.

Figure 3.4 breaks down the number of actions per theme across three main council types: unitary councils (unitary authorities, metropolitan districts, London boroughs and national park authorities), districts and counties (including the Kent and Oxfordshire partnership plans).

This shows that for counties there is a much more even split between low carbon pathway actions (55 per cent) and climate resilience actions (43 per cent), albeit from a relatively small sample of county-level plans. This split is broadly similar if the Kent and Oxfordshire plans (which also include district councils) are removed: 56 per cent low carbon pathways and 44 per cent climate resilience. They are not any outliers skewing this balance; all the county-level plans seem to have a relatively even split of actions across the low carbon pathway and climate resilience themes.

Districts and unitaries, on the other hand, have a more pronounced bias towards low carbon pathway actions. Districts have the biggest contrast in the focus of their actions: 79 per cent of their actions support low carbon pathway activity, compared with 20 per cent for climate resilience. It is not clear from the analysis what is behind these differences between the county-level plans and the plans produced by districts and unitary councils.

**Figure 3.4. Number of actions by theme across main council types**



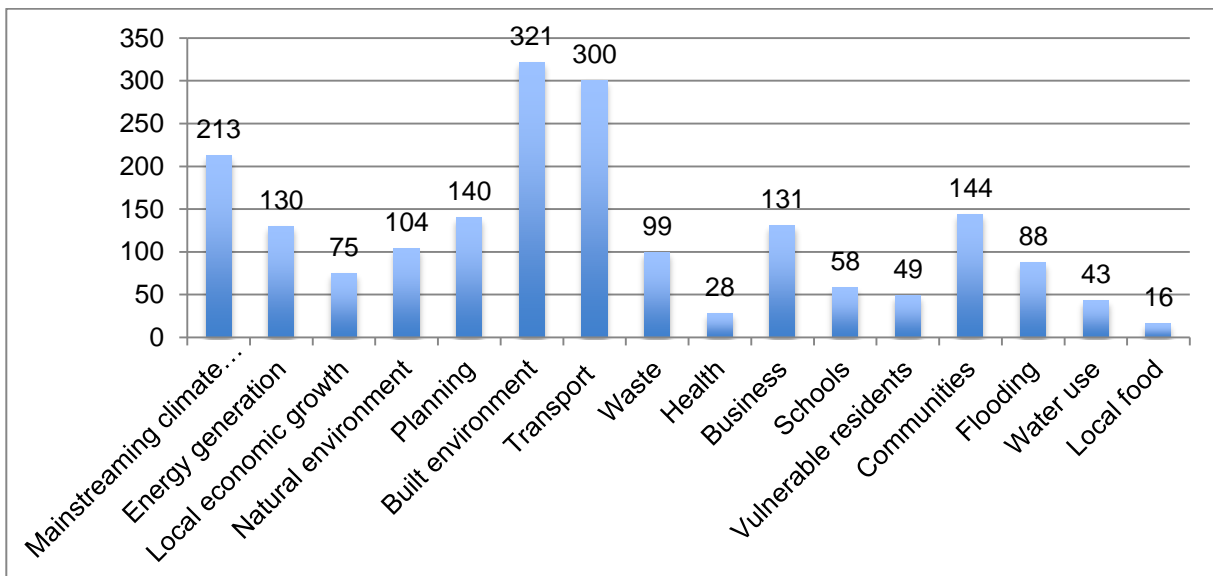
### 3.5 Actions by topic

The analysis also grouped the actions according to different topics. We used the ten themes used in the *Climate Local menu of commitments and actions* as the starting point for categorising the topics, adding to and revising the themes once an initial review of the actions had taken place (see Appendix B).

#### 3.5.1 Overall number actions by the topic

Figure 3.5 shows the total number of actions that contribute to each of the 16 topics. The built environment, transport and mainstreaming climate change have the highest numbers of actions linked to them, whilst water use, health and local food have the fewest.

**Figure 3.5 Total number of actions contributing to each topic**



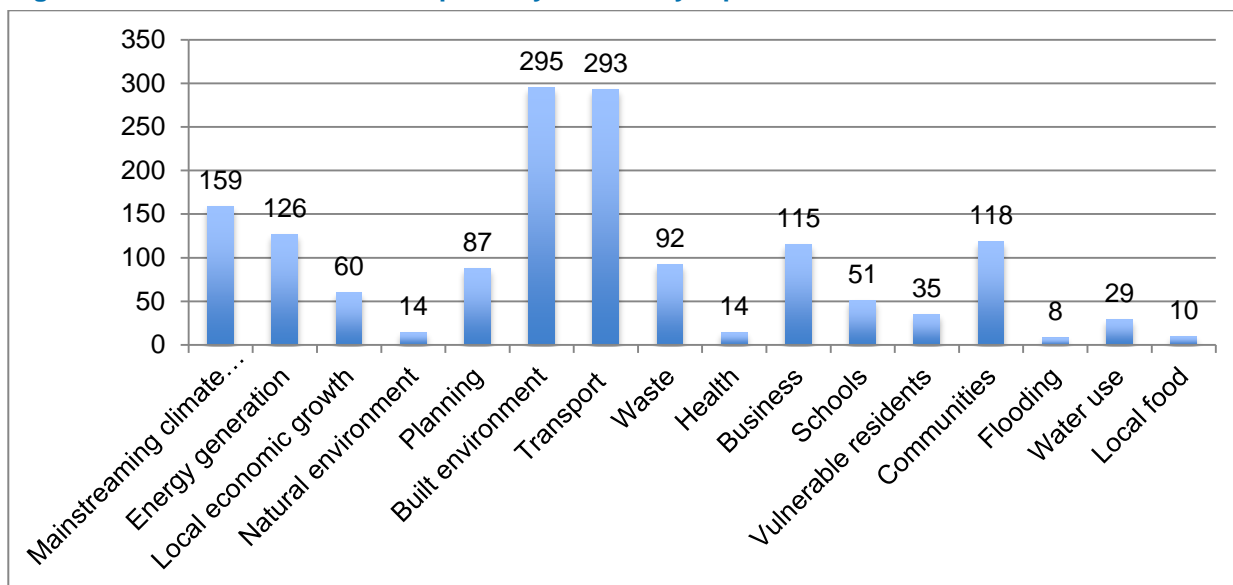
This breakdown by topic becomes more meaningful when looking at how they compare across the two main themes of low carbon pathways and climate resilience.

### 3.5.2 Low carbon pathway actions by topic

The topics of the built environment and transport are the most popular low carbon pathway topics in terms of numbers of actions per topic, both with nearly 300 actions each. Mainstreaming climate change, energy generation, communities and business were also prominent, all with over 100 actions relating to them. The high numbers of low carbon actions on these topics explains why they are also dominant in the overall figures shown in figure 3.6 above.

Flooding, local food, health and natural environment were the topics with the fewest number of low carbon actions ascribed to them. This is perhaps not surprising given local food was not a popular topic overall in the Climate Local action plans, and the other three topics are ones which are more closely associated with action on climate resilience rather than carbon reduction (climate resilience actions are examined in the following section).

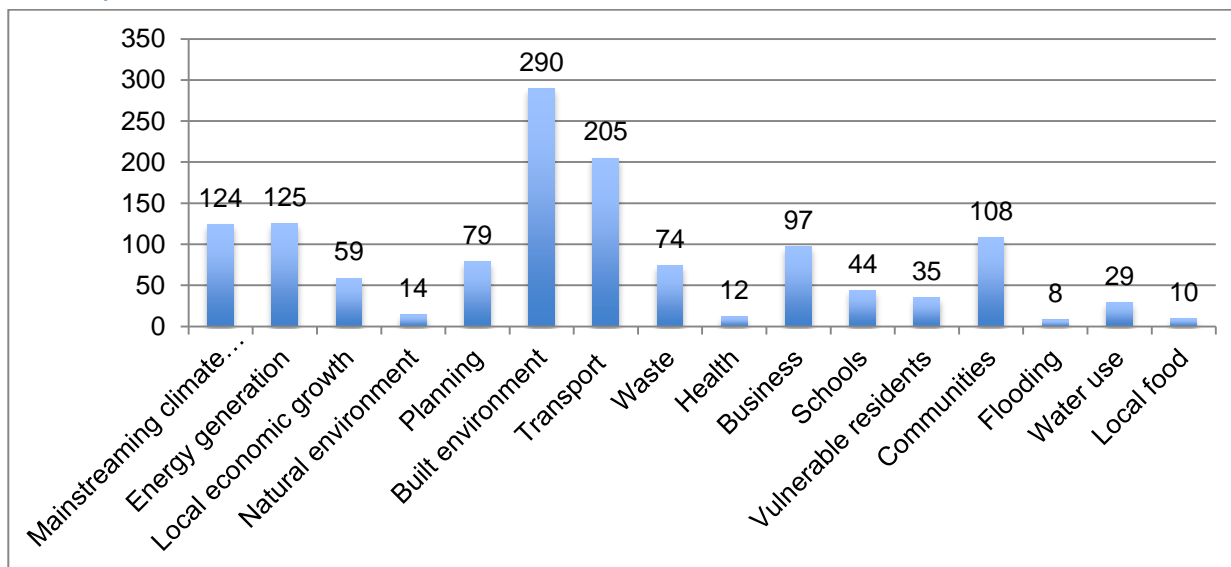
Figure 3.6 Number of low carbon pathway actions by topic



Note that the high number of actions under the transport theme in particular are the result of one action plan alone: Erewash Borough Council's action plan includes 88 low carbon transport actions and a total of 161 actions altogether. As Figure 3.7 shows, removing this outlier reduces the number of transport actions from 293 to 205. It also reduces the numbers of actions across a number of other topics. However, even by removing Erewash's actions, the overall narrative remains the same in terms of the most and least popular low carbon actions.



**Figure 3.7 Number of low carbon pathway actions by topic (without Erewash Borough Council actions)**



Below we examine the four most popular topics in more detail. Section 4 explores the potential drivers for this activity and also considers topics on which there are potential gaps or further activity might be expected.

### 3.5.2.1 Built environment

More actions supported activity on the built environment than any other topic. This topic covers action on both residential and non-residential buildings. A more detailed analysis of the actions in this theme would have enabled us break down the actions in each topic into a number of sub-topics, although there was not scope to do so in this research.

A brief review of the actions in this topic, however, suggests that the largest proportion of activity is in relation to improve the energy efficiency of the domestic housing stock. These actions include action in relation to:

- Attracting investment through **Green Deal and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO)** (e.g. “We will investigate the opportunities to work as a Partner to a Green Deal Provider to introduce retro-fit schemes, to increase the energy efficiency of the Borough’s homes and encourage take-up of renewable energy”, Bedford Borough Council);
- Providing **advice and communications to residents on energy efficiency** in the home (e.g. “Provide a single point of contact for help and advice on energy efficiency and heating improvements”, Bath and North East Somerset Council);
- Tackling **fuel poverty** (e.g. “Promote community awareness, knowledge and action on climate change and act to reduce fuel poverty: develop programmes to target vulnerable groups (e.g. through Age UK target winter deaths”, Nottingham City Council); and
- Supporting **the local supply chain** (e.g. “Creating opportunities for local businesses to play their part in the low carbon economy: We are working to help local businesses be part of the supply chain for energy efficiency work, ensuring more of the benefits of the work stay within Lewisham”, Lewisham London Borough Council).

Beyond the residential sector, two other areas of activity seem to be popular in the built environment topic:

- Reducing emissions from **councils’ own buildings** (e.g. “Improve energy efficiency of relevant Council buildings”, Bracknell Forest Council); and

- Supporting **emissions reduction from business premises** (e.g. “Visit at least five Craven businesses and produce a basic Carbon Reduction Report to illustrate areas to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>”, Craven District Council).

### 3.5.2.2 Transport

Transport was also a popular theme for low carbon activity. Activity in this topic appears to have focused on two main areas:

- Implementing **sustainable travel initiatives** to encourage more sustainable forms of transport (walking, cycling and public transport). Actions focused on both influencing travel in the wider community (e.g. “Promote the use of sustainable travel choices by residents and visitors and encourage the use of more sustainable travel choices”, Mansfield District Council), as well council staff and services (e.g. “Encourage the use of more sustainable travel choices by Council staff”, Hull City Council);
- Using planning policy to encourage **land use development to promote sustainable travel** (e.g. “Implement policies in the Core Strategy that locate new homes, work and community facilities close together and provide for low carbon transport infrastructure”, South Gloucestershire Council);
- Promoting **low carbon vehicles** (e.g. “We will install and promote electric vehicle charging points”, Bedford Borough Council);
- Improvements to **transport-specific infrastructure**, such as improvements to cycle lane infrastructure (e.g. “Using S106 and the CIL to promote sustainable transport infrastructure such as cycle lanes and footpaths as part of development consents. For example, Odd Down Redevelopment: Creating an off-road cycling track for disabled, children and adult cycle training and club races. Will also include a café, astro turf pitch and after school facilities. It has obtained funding from S106 and British Cycling”, Bath and North East Somerset Council”) or street lighting (e.g. “Accelerate on-going programmes for energy efficient street lighting systems to: 1. Replace remaining streetlights with low energy lighting 2. Phase in LED lighting city-wide 3. Reduce lighting of street signs”, Wolverhampton City Council).

### 3.5.2.3 Mainstreaming climate change

Actions on mainstreaming climate change covered a wide range of activity. Generally speaking, these actions focused on:

- The development of **strategies and plans** tackling either carbon reduction alone or both carbon reduction and climate resilience (e.g. “Complete a delivery plan for the Carbon Reduction Strategy specifically identifying action for Leicestershire County Council”, Leicestershire County Council);
- Activity to **mainstream carbon reduction activity into wider council activity and services** (e.g. “Climate change commitments are embedded in the Council’s top- level policy documents, namely the Sustainable Community Strategy, Corporate Plan and Vision and Values statement. This commitment has cascaded into a wide array of other policies such as the emerging Health & Wellbeing Strategy, draft Core Strategy, Economic Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy”, Bath and North East Somerset Council; “Include energy efficiency in annual appraisal with social housing providers”, South Gloucestershire Council);
- Activity to **mainstream carbon reduction activity into the wider community** (e.g. “Developing a shared Partnership understanding of the carbon budget, sources of carbon emissions and identify priority actions to reduce emissions”, Lake District National Park Authority);
- Activity to **build corporate commitment, capacity and skills** on carbon reduction, whether within the council, or within local partners and the wider community (e.g. “Providing briefing and training to Members and other key decision- makers on the benefits and opportunities of tackling climate change, highlighting the contribution their action can make to other council priorities (social, economic, employment, environmental)”, Bath and North East Somerset Council).

### 3.5.2.4 Energy generation

Energy generation was the fourth most populated topic in terms of numbers of low carbon actions. Action on this topic broadly covered four areas:

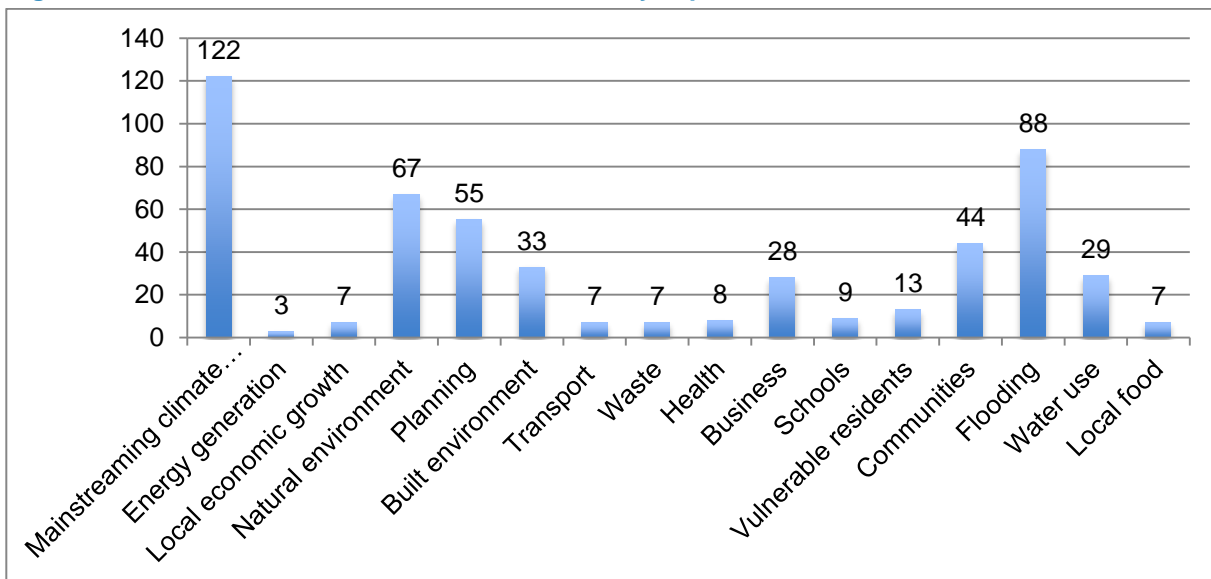
- The development of **energy generation projects on council buildings** (e.g. “Apply for funding to install Solar PV on Skipton Town Hall Roof”, Craven District Council; “Investigate the practicalities of installing a biomass boiler at Grundy Park Leisure Centre (£37,000 pa est saving)”, Broxbourne Borough Council);
- **Feasibility work** on energy generation schemes in the local area (e.g. “Assess the potential for CHP and District Heating scheme developments across the community”, Hull City Council);
- The use of **planning policy** to promote the development of renewable and low carbon energy (e.g. “Use the planning system to promote renewable energy development and a low carbon economy. Policies included within Core Strategy and LDF on low carbon energy, sustainable construction, district heating, resilience and waste. Energy mapping methodology to be written”, Nottingham City Council);
- Support for **community energy generation** schemes (e.g. “Work at a strategic level with local community enterprise Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE) to enable delivery of 25% of the draft Core Strategy’s renewable energy target through community projects. BWCE have already installed PV on 6 schools and are looking for further sites for solar, wind and hydro projects”, Bath and North East Somerset Council).

### 3.5.3 Climate resilience actions by topic

Figure 3.8 shows that the topics with highest number of climate resilience actions are mainstreaming climate change (122 actions) and flooding (88 actions). The natural environment, planning and communities were the next most popular topics in terms of numbers of actions.

Energy generation has the fewest number of climate resilience actions. This is not surprising given that the main driver for energy generation projects is to reduce carbon emissions and improve local energy resilience. A cluster of other topics also have less than 10 actions: local economic growth, transport, waste, local food, health and schools.

Figure 3.8 Number of climate resilience actions by topic



We examine the four most popular topics in more detail in the section below. Section 4 explores the potential drivers for this activity and also considers topics on which there are potential gaps or further activity might be expected.

### 3.5.3.1 Mainstreaming climate change

The mainstreaming climate change topic attracted the highest number of climate resilience actions. As emphasised in section 3.5.2.1 a more detailed analysis of the actions in this theme would have enabled us break down the actions in each topic into a number of sub-topics, although there was not scope to do so in this research. However, a brief review of this topic suggests that the most common climate resilience actions on this topic were in relation to:

- The development of **climate resilience plans, strategies and frameworks** (e.g. “Develop a Climate Resilience and Adaptation Framework”, Warrington Borough Council);
- **Embedding climate resilience within the council’s** corporate plans (e.g. “Ensure that all policy documents/strategies developed by the Council consider adapting to climate change”, Test Valley Borough Council). and its services (e.g. “We will ensure adapting to climate change is specifically included in contracts with commissioned and shared services”, Cheltenham Borough Council);
- **Building awareness and capacity** within the council (e.g. “We will continue to give presentations on climate change risks to Council staff, for example at Risk Management Workshops to raise awareness of adaptation actions to improve staff preparedness for providing business continuity during severe weather events”, Bedford Borough Council);
- **Risk and impact assessment activity** (e.g. “We will assess future vulnerability to climate change impacts, using the evidence base established in the Council’s Local Climate Impacts Profile, and by using information from local and national assessments such as the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2012)”, Bedford Borough Council; “Assess the impact of coastal change resulting from Climate Change over the next 100 years on its assets and services, and develop an action plan to respond to those impacts Undertake a risk assessment to identify which Hampshire County Council assets are at risk from coastal change. Once the assessment is completed and assets critical to service delivery have been identified develop an Adaptation Action Plan. This will identify a range of options for action depending on the nature of the asset and the risk”, Hampshire County Council);
- Supporting and **coordinating action with local partners and communities** (e.g. “Four Craven Parish Council Resilience plans created”, Craven District Council).

### 3.5.3.2 Flooding

Flooding was the second most popular topic for climate resilience actions. A brief review suggests that actions on this topic focused on:

- The development of **plans and strategies** (e.g. “Develop a flood risk management strategy for Oxfordshire”, Climate Local Oxfordshire; “Produce a Surface Water Management Plan for Loughborough”, Leicestershire County Council);
- **Planning policies** (e.g. “In support of the policy develop a Sustainable Urban Drainage Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)”, Wolverhampton City Council; “Require developers to provide a site specific flood risk assessment where there is a known vulnerability”, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council);
- **Working with partners and communities** to address flood resilience issues (e.g. “Identify areas at risk from future surface water flooding and work with these communities to build resilience to these events”, Mansfield District Council);
- **Communications and awareness-raising** activity for the wider community (e.g. “Develop advisory and awareness raising material and publish on website”, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council; “Provide the public with advice about severe weather forecasts, and recommendations for appropriate action. Promote the Derbyshire Prepared website to include information on severe weather forecasts, and to provide advice to the public on resilience measures. Develop flood risk information available on the Borough’s website”, Erewash Borough Council).

### 3.5.3.3 Natural environment

Climate resilience activity on the natural environment focused broadly on:

- **Tree planting** (e.g. “We will explore ways in which we can protect our trees and plant new trees to help Cheltenham adapt to the impacts of climate change”, Cheltenham Borough Council)
- Action on **biodiversity** aimed at enhancing climate resilience (e.g. “We will consider the impact of climate change on native wildlife and develop plans to manage this”, Cambridge City Council);
- Activity on **parks and open spaces** to support climate adaptation (e.g. “Review the Camden’s Parks and Open Space Strategy and opportunities to further enhance green spaces on Housing estates”, Camden Council);
- Strategic work to **promote green and blue infrastructure** (e.g. “Agree Green Infrastructure mapping and incorporate into Local Plan delivery”, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council).

### 3.5.3.4 Planning

Planning was the fourth most common topic for climate resilience actions. As mentioned above, action in relation to planning is being used by councils to address **local flooding resilience**. Other climate resilience activity being taken forward through planning includes:

- The **promotion of biodiversity and green and blue infrastructure** (e.g. “Promote biodiversity, green space and green infrastructure that helps the area adapt to climate change, e.g. green roofs, SUDS etc., by working with local communities: develop green corridor links to upgrade green infrastructure to support the use of green corridors”, Nottingham City Council). See also the previous the section;
- Planning guidance to promote **climate resilience in the built environment** (e.g. “Sustainable Design and Construction Guide”, Haringey Council; “Work to increase resilience of new developments. To liaise with Derbyshire County Council to produce an adaptation checklist for Planners, Surveyors and Designers. e.g. Adopt SUDs”, Erewash Borough Council).

## 3.6 Actions by area of impact

The final area of analysis looked at actions by area of impact, exploring whether they had implications for:

- Corporate skills, commitment and capacity within the council;
- The council’s estate and operations;
- The council’s services; and/or
- The wider community served by the council.

Please note that this section is about *where* impact is intended; a review of the first year progress reports would be required to assess the actual impacts of Climate Local action plans.

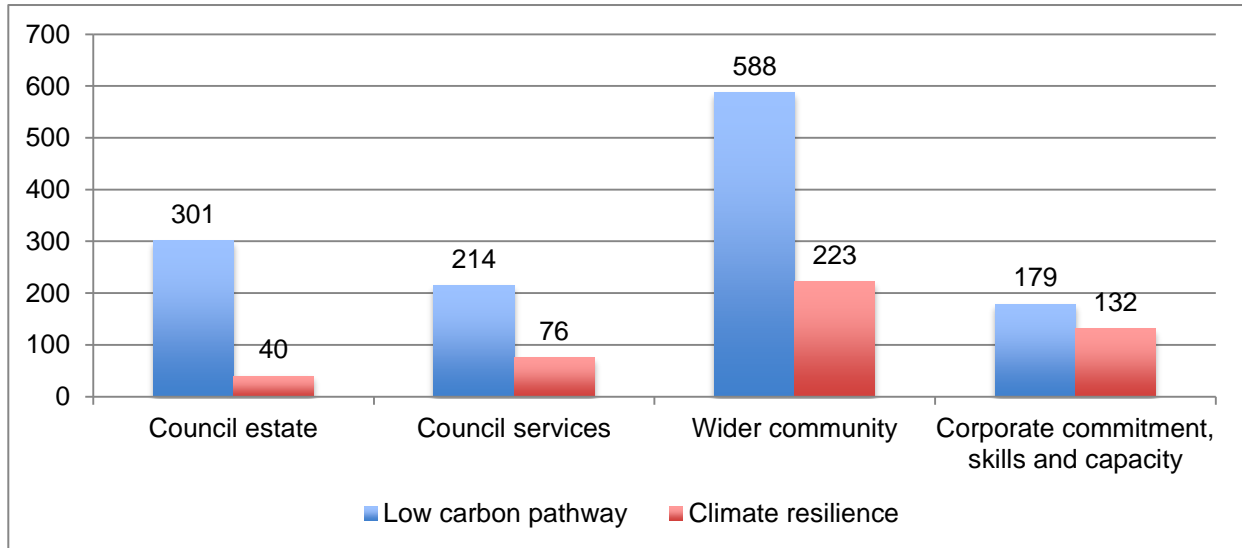
Actions with implications for the wider community were the most common, with 799 actions falling into this category. This was almost as many as the other three categories combined (869 actions). The overall numbers for the other three categories were relatively similar: 326 council estate actions, 287 council services actions, and 256 actions on corporate commitment, skills and capacity.

The difference between area of impact becomes more marked when actions are broken down by theme (see figure 3.9). Low carbon pathway actions broadly take the same pattern as above. Wider community actions are by far the most prominent, with almost double the number of actions as the next most common area of impact, council estate. Council services and corporate commitment were the least common areas of impact.

Climate resilience actions form a different pattern, however. Wider community actions are again the most common but not by as much as for low carbon pathways. Wider community actions have 69 per cent more actions than the next most common impact area. Actions on corporate commitment, skills

and capacity are the second most prominent impact area, whereas for low carbon pathways this is the least common impact area. This is likely to be because many of the actions undertaken by councils on climate resilience are 'process-oriented', for example involving the development of plans, systems and partnerships. Many of the actions falling into the mainstreaming climate change topic (see section 3.5.3.1) will also have been categorised under this area of impact. Council services and council estate actions were the least common impact areas.

**Figure 3.9 Number of actions by area of impact and theme**



## 4 Discussion

The analysis shows that overall, councils have committed to a great deal of action on climate change under Climate Local, signing up to a total of 1413 actions. The key task for these councils now is to implement these actions. At the time of writing, the first progress reports are beginning to be completed by the signatories. As more are published, the next task will be to see if progress matches the scale of the ambition set out in councils' action plans.

### 4.1 The balance of activity in Climate Local plans

This section discusses the balance of activity across the different themes, topics and areas in impact highlighted in the section 3. It is important to note that discussing council priorities and gaps in activity by looking at numbers of actions only is somewhat reductive. It doesn't take into account the impact of each action or the breadth of their coverage, so doesn't give an idea of the relative 'weight' of action. This caveat should be borne in mind when considering the following sections.

#### 4.1.1 Activity by theme

As highlighted in section 3.4, activity on low carbon pathways far outweighed that on climate resilience in terms of numbers of actions. There were over two and half times the amount of actions contributing to low carbon pathways than to climate resilience. Even taking into the account the caveat above, this suggests that there is more of a priority on carbon reduction amongst Climate Local councils than on climate resilience.

Without further research it is difficult to know why this might be. Is it because, for example, there are more direct financial drivers for action on carbon reduction, for example through reducing council energy bills or securing investment for energy efficiency retrofit projects through ECO? Could councils' roles and responsibilities align more closely with carbon reduction activity?

Interestingly, this balance is not the same across all council types. For counties, the split between actions on the two themes is not so pronounced (55 per cent for low carbon, 43 per cent for climate resilience). The sample of county-wide plans is small with just seven published under Climate Local. So it might be that these councils have a particularly strong track record on climate resilience anyway, and may not be representative of county-scale action as a whole. Or it might be connected with the different responsibilities that county councils have. Again, further investigation would be needed to explore why this is the case.

#### 4.1.2 Activity by topic and area of impact

##### 4.1.2.1 Low carbon pathways

Broadly speaking, the low carbon pathway actions set out in Climate Local plans suggest that activity is being undertaken across a broad spectrum of topics and that a significant amount of action is being directed at key opportunity areas for carbon reduction. For example, the most popular topics for low carbon action align well with the opportunities for action highlighted by the Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) report on *How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate risk*<sup>1</sup>, such as planning, transport, waste, low carbon plans and carbon reduction on the council estate.

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<sup>1</sup> Committee on Climate Change (2012), *How local authorities can reduce emissions and manage climate risk*, May 2012. Available at: <http://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/how-local-authorities-can-reduce-emissions-and-manage-climate-risks/> [accessed 18 May 2014]



Whilst this is the case, it is worth considering whether there are any topics on which further activity could be taken forward. The findings set out in section 3 suggest there are at least two topics which fall into this category.

The first is district heating, which currently forms a relatively small proportion of activity in the Climate Local plans. It should however be noted that district heating schemes are generally only viable in more urban conurbations. This suggests that this could be an area for further development at the local level. There are many good practice case studies to learn from (see for example the CHPA's good practice guide<sup>2</sup>). Other recent work has helped to develop the commercial business case for district heating schemes, for example Haringey's work *Lite Licences*<sup>3</sup>.

The second topic concerns the local low carbon economy. This ranked ninth in terms of the number of low carbon actions. Actions under this topic are those that directly support low carbon growth and workforce skills and development. Actions falling under other topics (e.g. the built environment, business and transport) are likely to have implicit benefits for the local low carbon economy. There are many opportunities for councils to support local workforce skills and development in the low carbon sector, for example through council procurement policy or through encouraging energy efficiency activity to be delivered through the local supply chain. A key word search of the Climate Local actions suggests that six of the 43 plans have explicit actions to work with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). There may also be actions implicitly involve working with LEPs, but this figure suggests that more could be done to engage LEPs on the low carbon agenda.

#### 4.1.2.2 Climate resilience

As with the low carbon pathway theme, there is a broad alignment between the actions set out in Climate Local plans and the opportunities for action highlighted by the CCC on climate resilience. This suggests that the balance of action across topics is allied to the key opportunity for action by councils on climate resilience.

There is one notable exception however: health. Only a small number of climate resilience actions were focused on this topic. Many more actions may have implicit or indirect health benefits, but nonetheless, it is surprising not to see more actions directly addressing this issue given the health consequences of extreme weather events.

There are some impressive actions on health and climate resilience in the Climate Local plans, sometimes integrated with action on fuel poverty. Islington Borough Council, for example, runs a Seasonal Health Interventions Network (SHINE) to help vulnerable residents at risk from excessive cold in the winter and heat during the summer. And Nottingham City Council has an action to ensure health and social care services are resilient to climate impacts. This type of action is not common however. It would be interesting to investigate whether this lack of action in Climate Local plans is representative of council activity more widely. One explanation for this apparent gap could be that action is being taken forward but not explicitly referenced in the plans. Nevertheless, it appears there is potential for more activity in Climate Local on health and climate resilience, and to support councils to work more closely with local health providers on the issue.

## 4.2 The approach to Climate Local plans

As highlighted in section 3.3.1, there is a wide variation in terms of the way councils have approached and executed the development of their Climate Local plans. This is both a strength (it reflects and

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<sup>2</sup> See the Combined Heat and Power Association's (CHPA) publication *District Heating - Good Practice Guide for Local Authorities*: [http://www.chpa.co.uk/district-heating---good-practice-guide--for-local-authorities\\_657.html](http://www.chpa.co.uk/district-heating---good-practice-guide--for-local-authorities_657.html)

<sup>3</sup> See *Selling electricity from CHP schemes*: [http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/useful-information/lcf\\_studies/licence\\_lite.htm](http://www.haringey4020.org.uk/index/useful-information/lcf_studies/licence_lite.htm)



supports local flexibility) and a weakness (it makes comparison and analysis more challenging) of Climate Local.

Inconsistencies in action design (some are not 'SMART'), has hampered the effectiveness of the analysis in this research. A more consistent treatment of 'actions', 'measures' and 'timescales' would have provided a more robust basis for comparison and analysis. It will be interesting to see whether the inconsistent application of measures and timescales impacts on the Climate Local progress reports at all.

### 4.3 Future Climate Local work programme

The analysis suggests there are a number of potential implications for the future Climate Local work programme.

At a programme level, the LGA may wish to update its guidance and 'menu of actions' to (a) more accurately reflect the balance of activity across the current Climate Local action plans, and (b) provide examples of actual actions that Climate Local councils are taking on different topics to help inspire new signatories.

There may also be ways in which the LGA could encourage a more consistent approach to completing Climate Local plans to enable a more effective analysis in the future, for example by adding in good practice examples in the guidance notes on completing the Climate Local action plan template. Asking councils to submit their plans in spreadsheet form (or through an automated online format) would also save significant time for the LGA in analysing Climate Local data in the future.

In terms of specific support, we have suggested three areas where further action could be encouraged:

- District heating;
- Local 'low carbon' economic growth; and
- Health and climate resilience.

These might therefore be areas which the LGA considers developing further support, promoting what existing councils are already doing on these topics, helping to overcome any barriers and encouraging the sharing of learning between councils.

More broadly, a more detailed review of the actions included in the Climate Local plans would enable the LGA to identify 'interesting' or good practice examples on each topic, which it could promote to other councils and encourage peer-to-peer learning on.

### 4.4 Areas for further research

This research has involved a rapid review of the Climate Local actions to date and a significant proportion of the research focused on simply collating and categorising the data. As such, further research could yield benefits for the on-going Climate Local programme. For example:

- A further round of analysis would enable additional layers to be added, for example by analysing the balance of actions across each of the 43 plans, or by focusing on drawing out exemplar actions on individual topics;
- Qualitative and/or quantitative work with Climate Local councils could bring further insight into why some topics were prioritised over others and what the drivers and motivations for including actions were.

As part of this research, we have submitted a database of the actions, categorised by theme, topic and impact area. This should act as an invaluable resource for undertaking any further analysis.

# Appendix A. Climate Local signatories and plans

Climate Local signatories as at 18 March 2014:

Region	Local Authority
SE	Ashford Borough Council
SW	Bath & North East Somerset Council
E	Bedford Borough Council
EM	Blaby District Council
NW	Bolton Council
SE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council
E	Broxbourne Borough Council
NW	Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
E	Cambridge City Council
London	Camden Council
SE	Canterbury City Council
EM	Charnwood Borough Council
SW	Cheltenham Borough Council
SE	Cherwell District Council
NW	Cheshire West and Chester Council
YH	Craven District Council
SE	Dartford Borough Council
EM	Daventry District Council
SE	Dover District Council
NE	Durham County Council
SE	East Sussex County Council
SE	Eastbourne Borough Council
SE	Eastleigh Borough Council
EM	Erewash Borough Council
EM	Gedling Borough Council
SW	Gloucestershire County Council
SE	Gravesham Borough Council
SE	Hampshire County Council
London	Haringey Council
SE	Hastings Borough Council
EM	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
YH	Hull City Council
London	Islington Council
SE	Kent County Council
YH	Kirklees Metropolitan Council
NW	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
EM	Leicestershire County Council
London	Lewisham London Borough Council
EM	Lincoln City Council

EM	Lincolnshire County Council
NW	Liverpool City Council
SE	Maidstone Borough Council
NW	Manchester City Council
EM	Mansfield District Council
WM	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
SW	North Dorset District Council
EM	North Kesteven District Council
SW	North Somerset Council
EM	Nottingham City Council
NW	Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Oxford City Council
SE	Oxfordshire County Council
NW	Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
YH	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
NW	Salford City Council
NW	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Sevenoaks District Council
SE	Shepway District Council
SW	South Gloucestershire Council
SE	South Oxfordshire District Council
WM	Staffordshire County Council
NW	Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
London	Sutton London Borough Council
SE	Swale Borough Council
NW	Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Test Valley Borough Council
SE	Thanet District Council
E	Thurrock Council
SE	Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
NW	Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
SE	Vale of White Horse District Council
London	Waltham Forest London Borough Council
NW	Warrington Council
NW	West Lancashire Borough Council
SE	West Oxfordshire District Council
SE	West Sussex County Council
NW	Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
NW	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
SE	Woking Borough Council
WM	Wolverhampton City Council
WM	Wychavon District Council
SE	Portsmouth City Council
NW	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
NW	Lake District National Park

Climate Local plans analysed for this research:

Region	Local Authority	Type	Climate Local Signatory since	Plan published
SW	Bath & North East Somerset Council	Unitary	Mar-13	Mar-13
E	Bedford Borough Council	Unitary	Oct-12	May-13
NW	Bolton Council	Unitary	Mar-13	Nov-13
SE	Bracknell Forest Borough Council	Unitary	Mar-13	Jun-13
E	Broxbourne Borough Council	District	Oct-13	Oct-13
E	Cambridge City Council	District	Aug-12	Dec-12
London	Camden Council	Unitary	Aug-12	Dec-12
SW	Cheltenham Borough Council	District	Mar-13	Mar-13
YH	Craven District Council	District	Oct-13	Oct-13
EM	Daventry District Council	District	Dec-12	Feb-13
SE	East Sussex County Council	County	Apr-13	Oct-13
SE	Eastleigh Borough Council	District	Jul-12	Dec-12
EM	Erewash Borough Council	District	Mar-13	Sep-13
EM	Gedling Borough Council	District	Feb-13	Apr-13
SE	Hampshire County Council	County	Jul-12	Nov-12
London	Haringey Council	Unitary	Jan-13	Feb-13
SE	Hastings Borough Council	District	Nov-12	Mar-13
YH	Hull City Council	Unitary	Jan-13	Jul-13
London	Islington Council	Unitary	Jul-12	Jun-13
SE	Climate Local Kent	County & District	Sep-12	Nov-12
YH	Kirklees Metropolitan Council	Unitary	Dec-12	Dec-13
NW	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Unitary	Dec-12	Jun-13
NW	Lake District National Park	Other	Jul-12	Dec-13
EM	Leicestershire County Council	County	Jul-12	Mar-13

London	Lewisham London Borough Council	Unitary	Nov-12	Dec-13
EM	Lincoln City Council	District	Jan-13	Jan-14
EM	Mansfield District Council	District	Jun-13	Dec-13
WM	Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	District	Sep-13	Oct-13
SW	North Dorset District Council	District	Jan-14	Jan-14
EM	North Kesteven District Council	District	Oct-12	Jan-14
SW	North Somerset Council	Unitary	Jun-13	Dec-13
EM	Nottingham City Council	Unitary	Jun-12	Dec-12
SE	Climate Local Oxfordshire	County & District	Jan-13	Aug-13
YH	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	Unitary	Oct-13	Oct-13
NW	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council	Unitary	Jun-13	Jul-13
SW	South Gloucestershire Council	Unitary	Feb-13	Aug-13
WM	Staffordshire County Council	County	Mar-13	Mar-13
SE	Test Valley Borough Council	District	Dec-12	Jun-13
London	Waltham Forest London Borough Council	Unitary	Oct-12	Jul-13
NW	Warrington Council	Unitary	Jun-13	Jun-13
NW	West Lancashire Borough Council	District	Aug-13	Oct-13
SE	West Sussex County Council	County	Oct-12	Nov-13
WM	Wolverhampton City Council	Unitary	Apr-13	Sep-13

# Appendix B. Climate Local themes

Climate Local themes, taken from the *Menu of commitments and actions for Climate Local authorities*.

- Mainstream climate change
- Energy
- Finance
- Local economic growth
- Natural environment
- Planning and the built environment
- Transport
- Waste
- Health and communities
- Climate change adaptation.

# Appendix C. Themes and topics

## Themes

Theme	Description	Examples
Low carbon pathways	Actions that support activity in relation to carbon reduction (i.e. climate change mitigation actions).	Investigate the opportunities for district heating and incorporation into future developments (West Lancashire Borough Council)  Development of a 'Low Carbon Framework' for Kent where the public sector leads by example by cutting emissions from its buildings, activities and services (Climate Local Kent)
Climate resilience	Actions that support activity in relation to improving resilience to the impacts of the climate (i.e. climate change adaptation actions).	Climate Change Adaptation working group to be established (Haringey Borough Council)  Working with partners to develop "indicators of climate change resilience" that can be used in future to assess overall progress (Leicestershire County Council)
Other	Actions that do not fall under either of the above categories.	The council's Health & Wellbeing Strategy to address the following priorities: 1. Alcohol 2. Dementia 3. Mental health 4. Urgent (emergency) care (Wolverhampton City Council)  Implementation of Rights of way improvement plan (Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council)

## Topics

Topic	Description	Examples
Mainstreaming climate change	Actions that contribute to embedding climate change activity in the council, its local partners and/or the wider community	Maintain political commitment and responsibility for taking action on climate change - 1 workshop or event held per year for members (Nottingham City Council)  Ensure that all policy documents/strategies developed by the Council consider adapting to climate change (Test Valley Borough Council)
Energy generation	Actions in relation to the development of local low carbon energy generation	Complete installing Phase 1 of Bunhill Heat and Power, generating heat to supply over 720 homes and two leisure centres in the south of the borough (Islington Borough Council)  Develop and deliver a Kent Renewable Energy Action Plan to address the main resources and opportunities for Kent, including wind and biomass, community energy, skills and jobs and public sector deployment (range of sub-actions) (Climate Local Kent)
Local economic growth	Actions that support economic growth in the local area or provide skills and training for the local workforce	The Council should show leadership to drive development of the local sustainable supply chain and retain value in the local economy through its procurement strategy, business support services and influence over local business rates (Haringey Borough Council)  Work with Training Providers such as Skill Funding Agency and local colleges to ensure training and funding are matched to meet local needs for delivering the Green Deal and the move to a low carbon economy (Eastleigh Borough Council)
Natural	Actions that help to maintain	Walthamstow Wetlands: We will create a 400 hectare urban

Topic	Description	Examples
environment	and enhance the natural environment	wetlands nature reserve (Waltham Forest London Borough Council)  Review the Camden's Parks and Open Space Strategy and opportunities to further enhance green spaces on Housing estates (Camden Council)
Planning	Actions in relation to land use planning activity	Set sustainability guidance within the Local Plan (including defined Allowable Solutions) (Mansfield District Council)  Establish how local carbon reduction funds, established under the Camden Planning Guidance, interact with CIL and zero carbon allowable solutions (Camden Council)
Built environment	Actions in relation to homes and non-residential buildings in the local area	Work in partnership across services in Islington to lever in Energy Company Obligation funding to retrofit Islington's housing stock and achieve carbon savings (Islington Borough Council)  Deliver an Invest to Save programme for 2013/14 for Islington Council office buildings (Islington Borough Council)
Transport	Actions in relation to transport, including those that support the use of different modes of transport, as well as those that support improvements to local transport infrastructure such as street lighting or cycle lanes	Develop and deliver the street lighting energy efficiency investment programme (Kirklees Metropolitan Council)  Project to reduce traffic congestion and increase cycle, pedestrian and public transport usage in the LN6 area in Lincoln. (Action: LCC, CoLC, Highways, Stagecoach, Sustrans) (Lincoln City Council)
Waste	Actions in relation to waste reduction, re-use, collection, recycling and disposal	Ensuring contingency arrangements exist for waste disposal and treatment facilities which may not be available during severe weather events (Bath & North East Somerset Council)  Support community/town and parish council zero waste and re-use initiatives: e.g. Freecycle, N Som Reuse Project; Community RePain (North Somerset Council)
Health	Actions that support local health improvements	Ensure health and social care services are resilient to climate impacts, particularly related to fuel poverty in winter: follow up work with Nottingham City Hospital by Climate East Midlands - agree next steps (Nottingham City Council)  Range of promotional programmes to support walking and cycling under the auspices of Public Health (Bath & North East Somerset Council)
Business	Actions that support local businesses to reduce their environmental footprints and/or adapt to climate change	Support membership of Green Business Network and event attendance (Bedford Borough Council)  Champion and promote energy efficiency, water efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and sustainable transport measures with local businesses through the Chamber of Commerce and Broxbourne Business Charter (Broxbourne Borough Council)
Schools	Actions that support improvements to the fabric of school premises or that are aimed to educational opportunities in relation to climate change	Deliver a support programme for carbon emission reduction with schools: Work directly with schools with a combined energy bill of at least £600,000 each year; Providing information and practical resources to the rest of the schools estate (Leicestershire County Council)  Educate current and future generations on sustainability (Bracknell Forest Borough Council)



Topic	Description	Examples
Vulnerable residents	Actions designed to support vulnerable residents and communities	We will work with vulnerable communities in the county to make them more resilient to extremes of weather. We will liaise with our district partners, as well as the Civil Contingencies Unit and Environment Agency in developing associated projects (Staffordshire County Council)  Produce a Fuel Poverty Strategy for Test Valley (Test Valley Borough Council)
Communities	Actions aimed at support community groups and activity, or that help raise awareness about climate-related activity in the wider community	Work with a local community group(s) to promote community resilience/ carbon saving related activity (North Somerset Council)  Training community groups, tenants and other local residents to provide affordable warmth advice (Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council)
Flooding	Actions that support activity in relation to flooding	Produce a multi-agency flood plan for Wolverhampton covering surface water flooding & other associated flood risks due to climate change (Wolverhampton City Council)  To assist the continuation of the flooding research already being carried out by Derbyshire County Council, with input from a range of partners (Erewash Borough Council)
Water use	Actions in relation to the more efficient use of water	Establish policies to reduce water use in new and existing buildings (Bedford Borough Council)  Explore the use of natural planting as a way to reduce the need for watering of public areas (Eastleigh Borough Council)
Local food	Actions that support local food growing activity	Promote a sustainable and resilient food supply chain: Nottingham City Council Parks and Open Spaces Service will coordinate the delivery of the Food Growing Framework through an approach that includes direct delivery and provision as well as an enabling role to support a variety of food growing opportunities (Nottingham City Council)  Maintain a sufficient level of allotment sites for residents of the Borough to grow their own food and reduce the carbon footprint of their consumption (Broxbourne Borough Council)

## Areas of impact

Impact area	Description	Examples
Council estate	Actions that impact on the council's estate and staff	Begin the first phase of an energy performance programme which will see energy reduction measures installed on 26 Hampshire County Council corporate buildings (Hampshire County Council)  Generate renewable energy for use in Council's buildings (Gedling Borough Council)
Council services	Actions that impact on the council's services	Undertaken climate risk assessment of Adult Social care services (Hull City Council)  Replace existing wheeled bins with smaller bins in order to encourage both waste prevention and recycling (Erewash Borough Council)
Wider community	Actions that impact on the wider community that the council serves	The Islington Energy Advice Team will continue to expand and increase its offer to all residents, developing and extending behaviour change and resident engagement programmes designed to tackle fuel poverty and inefficient heating (Islington Borough Council)  Establish a low carbon enterprise district in the Upper Lee Valley, safeguarding land for the purpose of pro-actively recruiting enterprises

		to co-locate in the area. Provide incentives and broker partnerships to support closed loop production systems with the support (Haringey Borough Council)
Corporate commitment, skills and capacity	Actions that support the development of corporate commitment, skills and capacity for the council and/or its partner	We will map UKCP09 projections onto GIS (West Sussex County Council) Factor the changing climate into the Council's risk registers, identifying service related risks and mitigation (Broxbourne Borough Council)