



***Taking rapid actions on climate  
emergency declarations***

***ADEPT Workshop feedback  
November 2019***

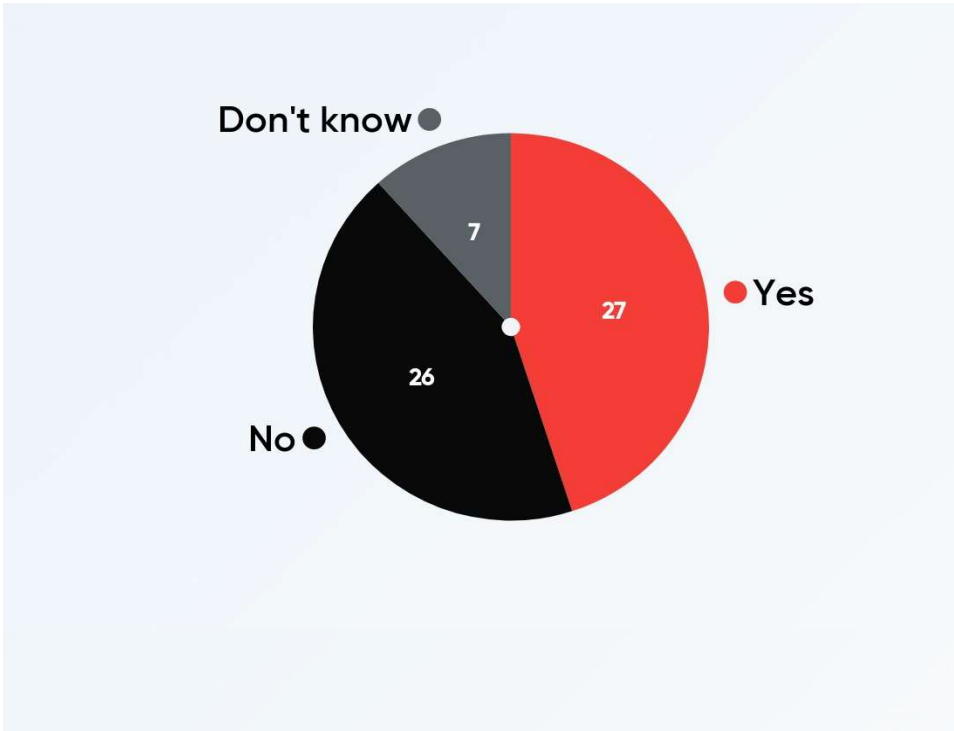
**David Symons  
WSP UK Director of sustainability**



**We asked the 80 delegates about their experience of taking action on climate emergencies at ADEPT's annual conference.**

**Here is their feedback, and the advice they would give to others.**

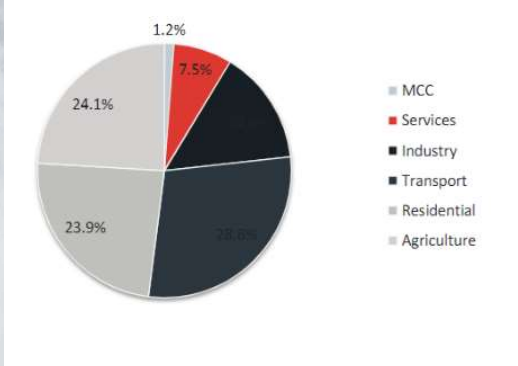
**My organisation has a strong strategy to address the climate emergency**



**Clean growth supports most councils' core priorities**

- “Promoting economic, social and environmental well-being”
- Growth
- Fairness for all
- Legal compliance

**Most emissions come from the region, not council's direct operations**



**The CCC's 14 decarbonisation pathways provide a good focus**

	2020s	2030s	2040s
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	Large-scale decarbonisation: renewable, nuclear, coal phase-out	Large-scale decarbonisation: renewable, nuclear, coal phase-out	Large-scale decarbonisation: renewable, nuclear, coal phase-out
<b>HYDROGEN</b>	Participate in hydrogen production hubs	Industrial deployment in industry, such as high-temperature processes, heating, mobility, etc. Some use imported hydrogen from the common grid	Industrial deployment in industry, such as high-temperature processes, heating, mobility, etc. Some use imported hydrogen from the common grid
<b>BUILDINGS</b>	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating
<b>ROAD TRANSPORT</b>	Range-extended electric vehicles, EVs	Full electric vehicles, electric vans, electric trucks	Full electric vehicles, electric vans, electric trucks
<b>INDUSTRY</b>	Industrial energy efficiency	Industrial energy efficiency, hydrogen, low-carbon heat	Industrial energy efficiency, hydrogen, low-carbon heat
<b>LAND USE</b>	Absorption, land use changes	Absorption, land use changes	Absorption, land use changes
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating	Efficient heat networks, heat pumps and electric heating
<b>AVIATION</b>	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft
<b>SHIPPING</b>	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft	Operational efficiency, fuel efficiency, sustainable aviation fuel, hybrid-electric aircraft
<b>WASTE</b>	Reduce waste, separate recycling, reuse, compost and the circular economy	Reduce waste, separate recycling, reuse, compost and the circular economy	Reduce waste, separate recycling, reuse, compost and the circular economy
<b>F-GASES</b>	Phase out and completely avoid F-gases	Phase out and completely avoid F-gases	Phase out and completely avoid F-gases
<b>GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS</b>	Domestic carbon budget framework	Domestic carbon budget framework	Domestic carbon budget framework
<b>INFRASTRUCTURE</b>	Enhanced CO2 capture, methane capture and H2 production, transport, storage & use	Enhanced CO2 capture, methane capture and H2 production, transport, storage & use	Enhanced CO2 capture, methane capture and H2 production, transport, storage & use
<b>CO2 BENEFITS</b>	Health benefits due to improved air quality, benefits to jobs and economic growth, and other benefits	Health benefits due to improved air quality, benefits to jobs and economic growth, and other benefits	Health benefits due to improved air quality, benefits to jobs and economic growth, and other benefits

**There is a strong business case for taking fast climate action**

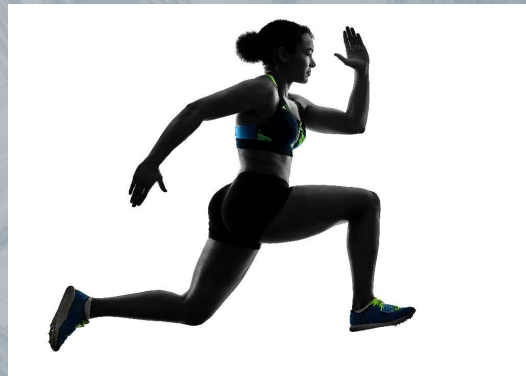
**While there's commonalities, each authority is unique**



**Tomorrow will be different from today**



**Practical action is key**



# Local authorities have 3 main influences



## LEAD

In our own operations



## ENABLE

a low carbon region with our programmes, policies and decisions



## INSPIRE

Business and residents to take climate action themselves

**UNDERPINNED BY A STRONG STRATEGY**

# 1. Leading in our own operations

**Council's own emissions are only around 2% of total emissions, but there is still much opportunity to take action and cut costs**



- Property strategies & standards
- Green memoranda with landlords
- Energy management & retrofit
- Renewables & Energy procurement



- Avoidance – by VC / skype
- Promoting low carbon travel choices for staff
- Fleet strategy



- Low energy streetlights
- Manging lighting levels

LEAD

ENABLE

INSPIRE

UNDERPINNED BY STRONG STRATEGY

**Buying decisions**

# What is the most effective action you're taking? - cutting emissions in your own authority



- Embedding climate change assessments in all decision making
- Upgrading street lighting with LEDs
- Influencing key members by demonstrating the future cost if we do not invest today
- Securing financing/funding for climate related projects
- District Heating System - water and sewage heat pumps
- Upgrading own fleet -electric/hybrid vehicles
- EV charging strategy/implementation
- Retrofitting renewables to our buildings/purchasing renewables
- Enabling smarter/flexible working to reduce travel requirements
- Intelligent management of our open spaces
- Set up Climate Emergency Response Group
- Carbon mapping individual construction projects to establish benchmark environmental "cost" - reducing carbon in design and build
- We harnessed ideas and energy of whole workforce - not a top down approach

# What is the largest barrier to overcome - In delivering a zero carbon authority?



## Funding!

Any infrastructure change requires financing - tends to gain traction if there is a clear financial return on investment

Implication for budgets - particularly when there may only be a long term return on climate investment

Politics – short-term thinking

Councillors not willing or able to lead on change

The scale of change necessary

Existing assets – difficult to upgrade

Culture within organisations - "we've always done it this way"

Words vs. action

Need to upskill our teams with best practice and a cultural shift in thinking

Difficult to get an accurate baseline - Understanding what is included in "our own operations"

# What is the most effective action you're taking? - Delivering a zero carbon region

Partnership and collaboration across public and private sector - developing a joined up plan with all partners

Joint area based climate plan/strategy

Creating a clean growth investment strategy

Area wide energy infrastructure strategy

Developing a Place Leadership agenda

Supporting high sustainability code developments by reducing land value returns

Aligning our funding to deliver clean growth projects

Using our land to support passive house developments

Carbon mapping key construction materials

Collaboration with our top ten emitters

Travel behaviour - influencing driving styles and vehicle choice

Travel planning - supporting smart working

Public transport network and region wide active travel network

Reducing energy consumption through lower energy technology

Supporting housing retrofit

Developing strength in sustainable materials for highway assets



# What is the largest barrier to overcome - Delivering a zero carbon region



- Attitudes - convincing people to change behaviours/habits/lifestyles
- Commitment to delivery
- Existing mindsets and governance
- Political will/timeline
- Strong leadership - short-termism
- Funding
- Demonstrating return on investment
- Overcoming short term financial cost against long term benefit
- Apathy when cost is made clear
- Freight movement
- Lack of investment for clean innovation implementation at scale
- Lack of understanding from residents on the scale of the challenge
- NIMBY renewables/planning restrictions
- Range anxiety regarding electric vehicles
- Residential housing
- Rural connectivity and transport solutions

# Buying low carbon is an important way to deliver low carbon regions

What you buy

How it's made

Whole life footprint

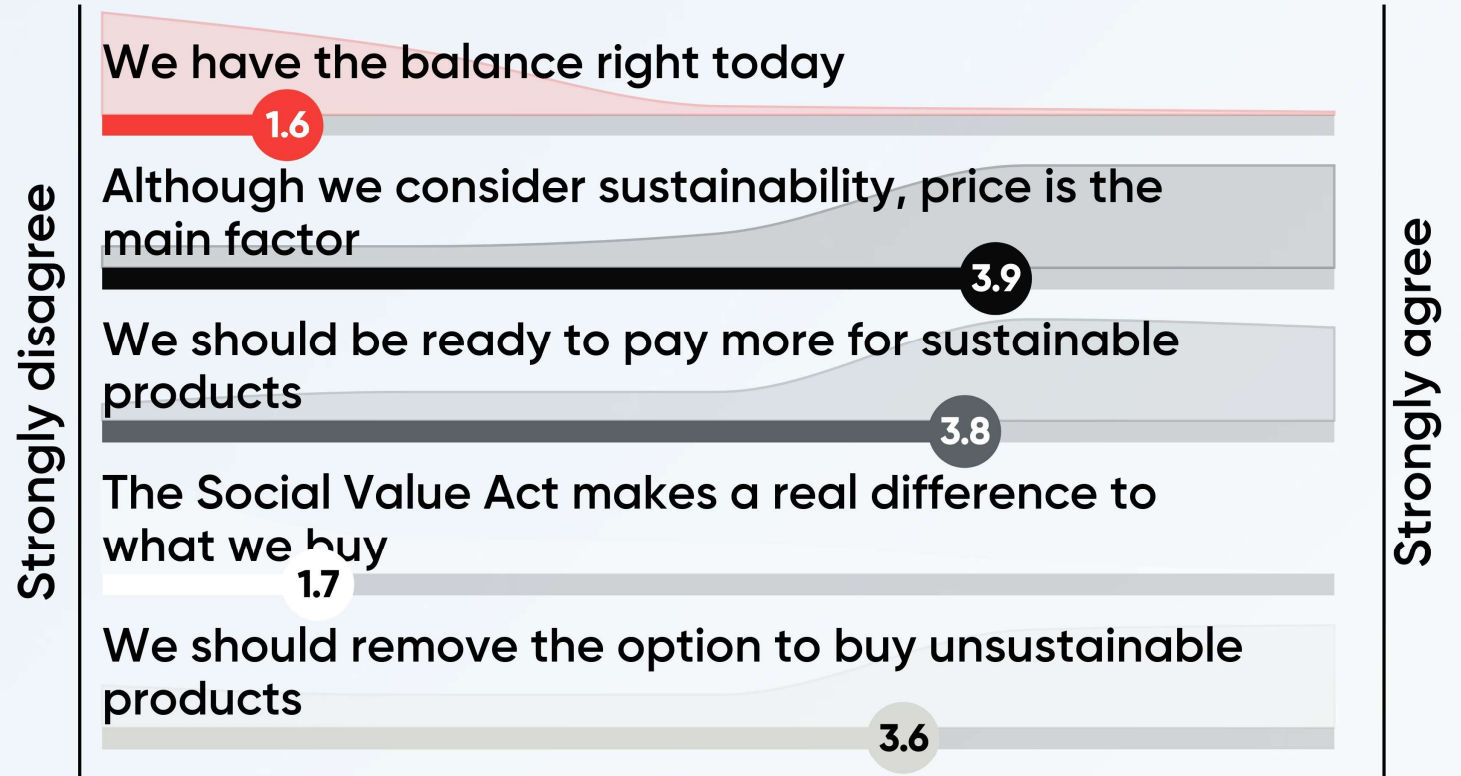
Specifications

Incentivising low carbon innovation

Allowing effective differentiation between tenderers

Following up on bidders' commitments

## Balancing price with sustainability / low carbon





**David Symons**  
David.symons@wsp.com

December  
2019  
wsp