

# Turning climate change ambition into reality

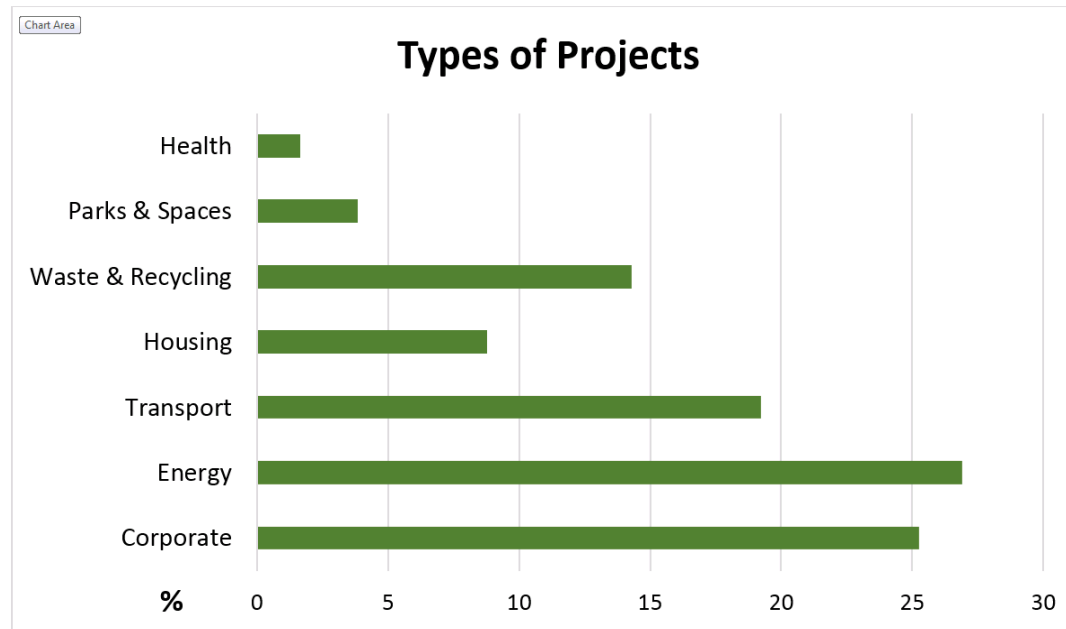
A work in progress – presentation to  
ADEPT regional workshops

# Climate change at the LGA

- LGA climate change commission in 2010, joint partner in "climate local" programme. More recently environment work wrapped into subject areas such as housing, flooding, air quality
- 2019 declaration of climate emergency
  - Strong cross party political support for action
  - Review of LGA activity and support to councils
  - There is no single solution to climate change, but we have been looking at trends in council activity and potential impact on carbon emissions

# Trends in tackling climate change

We analysed 182 projects from 100 different councils



**Corporate: developing strategic plans, baselines, consultation approaches, establishing political champions**

# Potential for impact

- Proactive work by councils to reduce carbon emissions
- 53% of projects are complete or will be finished in the next 5 years
- Potential for significant carbon savings from energy projects (trade off of longer term carbon savings vs high cost of upfront investment)
- Examples of shorter term projects - quick wins?
  - greening of council fleet
  - ensuring council procurement strategy contains climate change action
  - tree planting
  - more efficient street lighting

# Partnership work with ADEPT

- Advisory panel
- Joint lobbying
- The shared policy asks work...

# LGA calls to government on climate change

- Set up a joint local and national government taskforce to co-ordinate and drive climate change action
- Switch from siloed national growth funding pots to joined-up local funding pots

# Existing policy asks to enable councils to play their full part

- Properly fund the concessionary bus fares scheme – to boost public transport and tackle air quality
- Allow councils to set planning fees locally and scrap permitted development rights
- Establish a properly resourced national air quality support scheme for councils with appropriate legislative and policy changes

# Current LGA improvement offer



**Online hub** with published guidance, support and information



**Leadership programmes**, including Leadership Essentials and a councillor workbook on climate change



**Existing programmes**, including Behavioural insights, Design in the Public Sector and Productivity experts

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# Current LGA improvement offer



**Case studies and examples of best practice,** including opportunity to showcase at Innovation Zone



**Re:fit programme to improve energy efficiency** and bespoke support through **Local Partnerships**



**a forward-looking climate focused ‘peer challenge’-style support** to help councils with their action planning on climate change

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## Next stage of activity

- Incorporate climate change issues into our **wider leadership programmes** for Councillors and officers.
- Explore the potential for the development of a **self-assessment tool or maturity index** to help councils with long term action-planning and setting strategic objectives.
- Publish further information i.e. '**Don't be left in the dark**' **guidance** and more detailed toolkits
- Publish a '**10 Questions to ask when scrutinising services to tackle climate change**' guide produced by CfPS (Centre for Public Scrutiny)

# Next stage of activity

- Produce bespoke guidance on **communicating around climate change** including with residents, activist groups and central government
- Share our review of **100 council actions** and good practice
- Work on **renewable energy and decarbonising transport**
- Climate change **baseline survey** of councils
- **Policy workshops** on key areas: planning and housing, waste and recycling, transport
- Events

# We would welcome your input on...

- After declaring a climate emergency, which challenges are you grappling with most? How can the LGA support you in reaching your climate change ambitions?
- As a region, what opportunities do you see to work together on the climate emergency response?
- How can the LGA use our unique position to co-ordinate activity across government and influence the national debate?
- Are our broader policy asks consistent with our position on climate change?