

APPENDIX D

An overview of the LGA's Climate Local initiative (from the draft LGA information pack)

What is Climate Local?

Climate Local is an LGA initiative to drive, inspire and support council action on a changing climate. The initiative supports councils' efforts both to reduce carbon emissions and also to improve their resilience to the affects of our changing climate and extreme weather.

Climate Local will help councils across the country to capture the opportunities and benefits of action on climate change, through saving on their energy bills, generating income from renewable energy, attracting new jobs and investment in 'green' industries, reducing flood risks and managing the impacts of extreme weather, such as drought, tackling fuel poverty and protecting our natural environment.

It consists of:

- A Climate Local Commitment – for councils to sign to demonstrate their commitment to addressing climate change and to challenge themselves to build on their existing achievements
- A set of topic-based guides and templates to help guide councils in setting local commitments and milestones and reaching their ambitions
- Additional resources and support – new web-based resources, a new online community and opportunities for peer learning
- A Climate Local Steering Group - bringing together nominated members of the LGA's Environment and Housing Board, council representatives and national partners

Becoming a Climate Local council provides a way to show council leadership on climate change. It will enable councils to demonstrate leadership individually – to their communities, stakeholders and peers – and collectively – to Government and other national stakeholders.

The Climate Local initiative aims to:

- Drive and inspire councils to act on the causes and effects of climate change
- Enable councils to demonstrate their commitment, ambition and achievements
- Enable councils to show collective leadership on climate change
- Provide a framework through which councils can organise and plan their journey in addressing climate change
- Provide a forum for peer-to-peer learning and support for councils.

How can my council get involved?

The first step to becoming a Climate Local council is signing up to the Climate Local commitment. By signing the commitment, your council will be asked to:

- Set out what actions you intend to undertake locally to reduce carbon emissions and respond to changes in the climate within your own operations, your services and with your local community.
- Set out your level of ambition and how you are going to monitor and demonstrate your achievements.
- Share with other councils and with national partners:
 - what actions you are undertaking and your ambitions
 - your progress; and
 - the learning from your experiences and achievements.

Support for councils to help them meet their commitments and actions is available through the LGA website (www.local.gov.uk/climate-change). Further resources will be available through the LGA's Knowledge Hub (<https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/>).