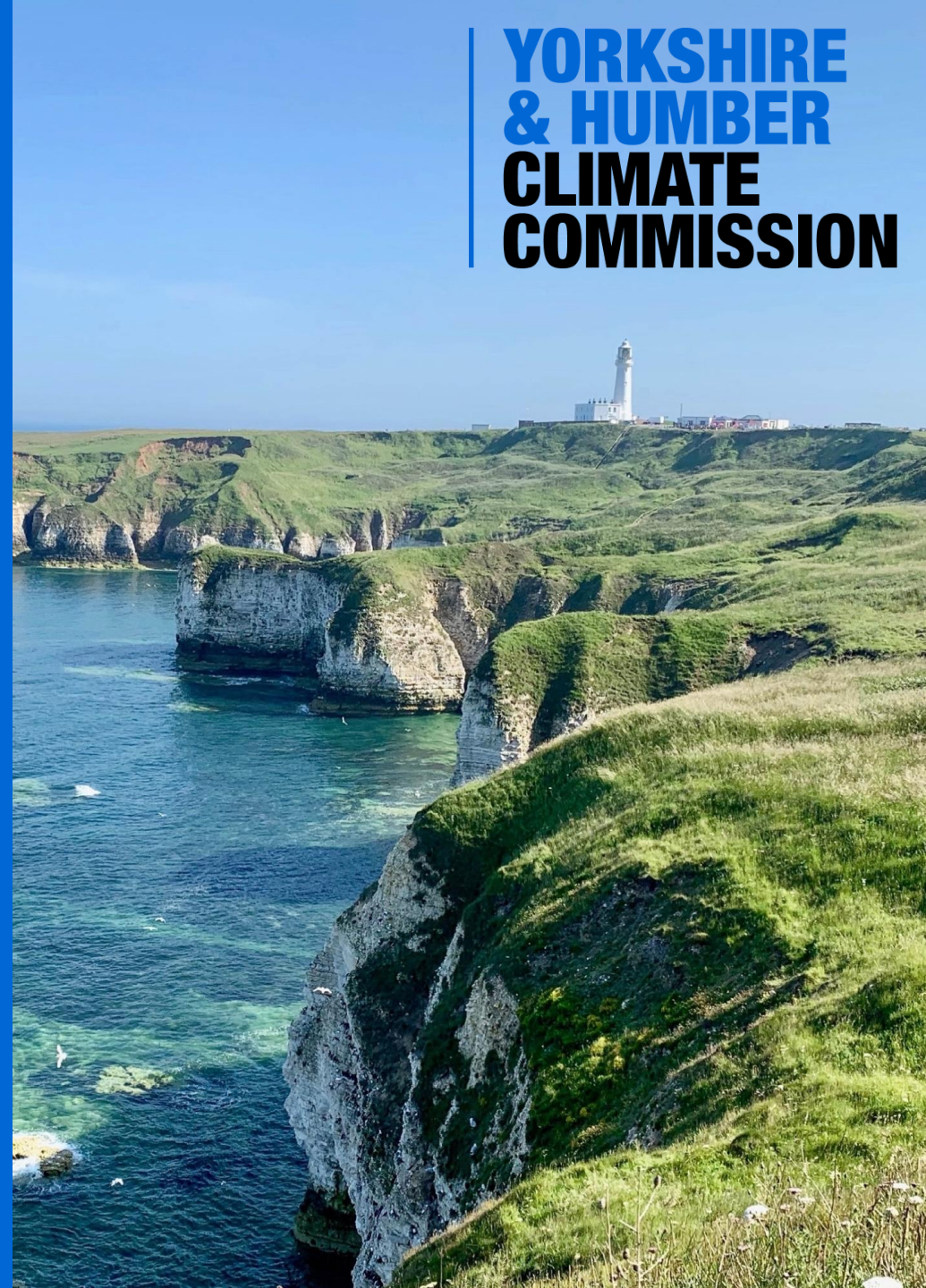


CONNECTING INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEMS AND PRACTITIONERS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE:

**INSIGHTS FROM THE YHCC CLIMATE ADAPTATION
PROGRAMME FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

DR MURIEL BONJEAN STANTON

9 OCTOBER 2025

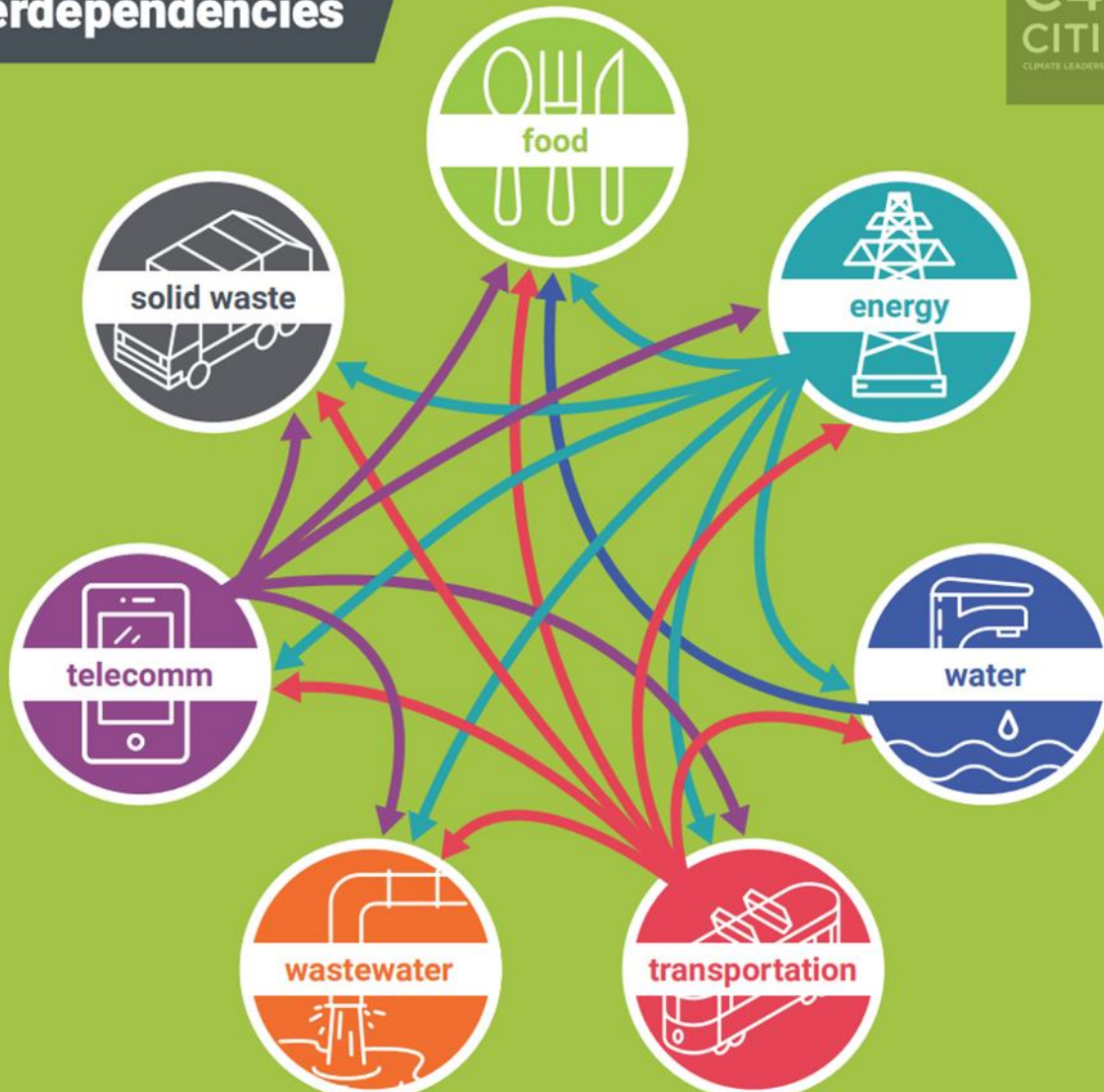




- CONNECTION
- Consider Highways as part of a wider infrastructure systems; identify pressure points across the entire system.
- Encourage multi-sector engagement to co-develop solutions that can be co-funded and disseminate good practices.

Sectoral Interdependencies

C40
CITIES
CLIMATE LEADERSHIP GROUP



- An interdependency is defined as an organisational interface where a climate induced risk is shared by multiple sectors, leading to increased vulnerability.

**WATER/WASTEWATER
MANAGEMENT (INC.
DRAINAGE)**

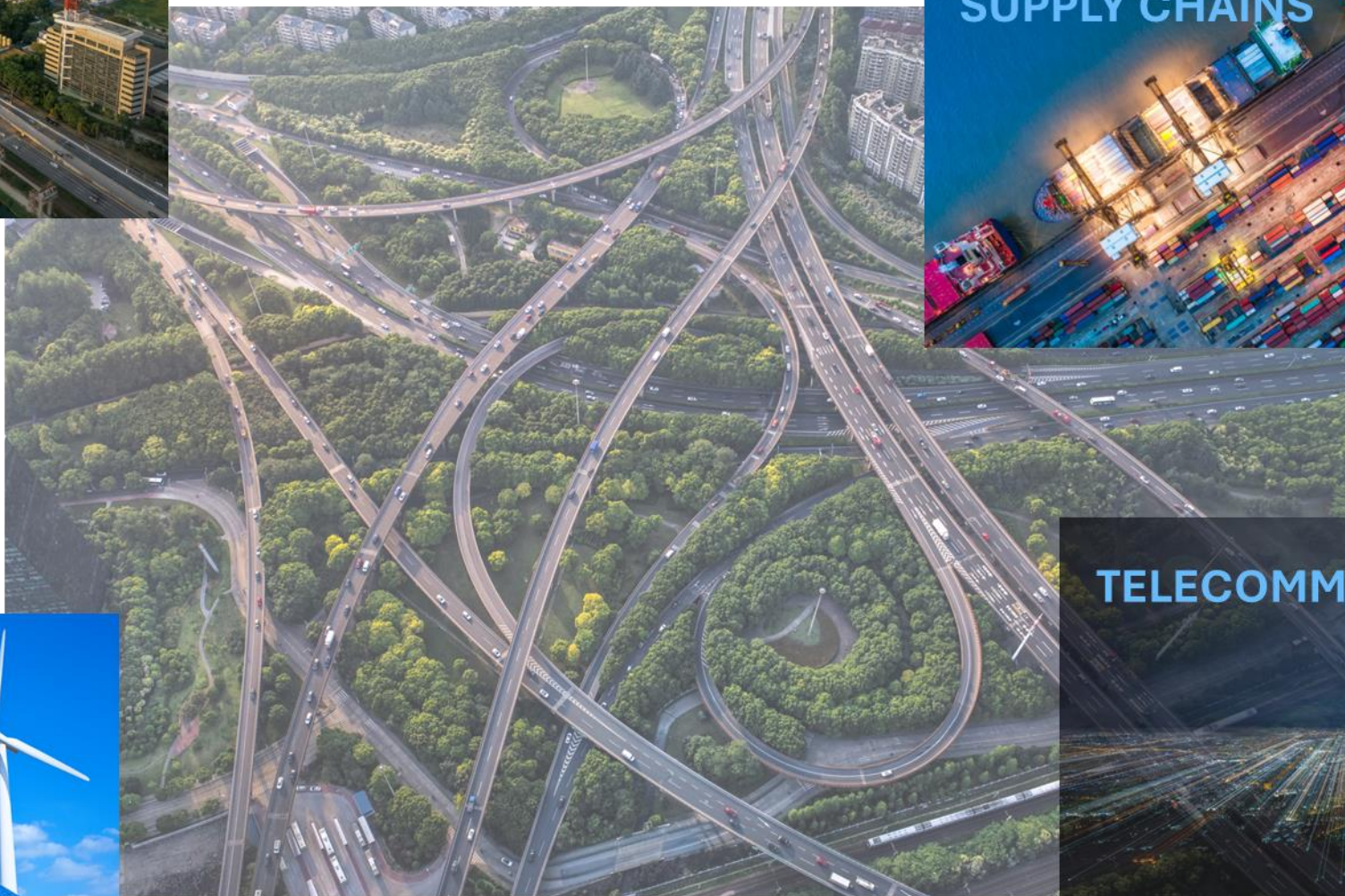


**Highways services continuity & upstream
climate interdependencies**

**YORKSHIRE
& HUMBER
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**



POWER



SUPPLY CHAINS



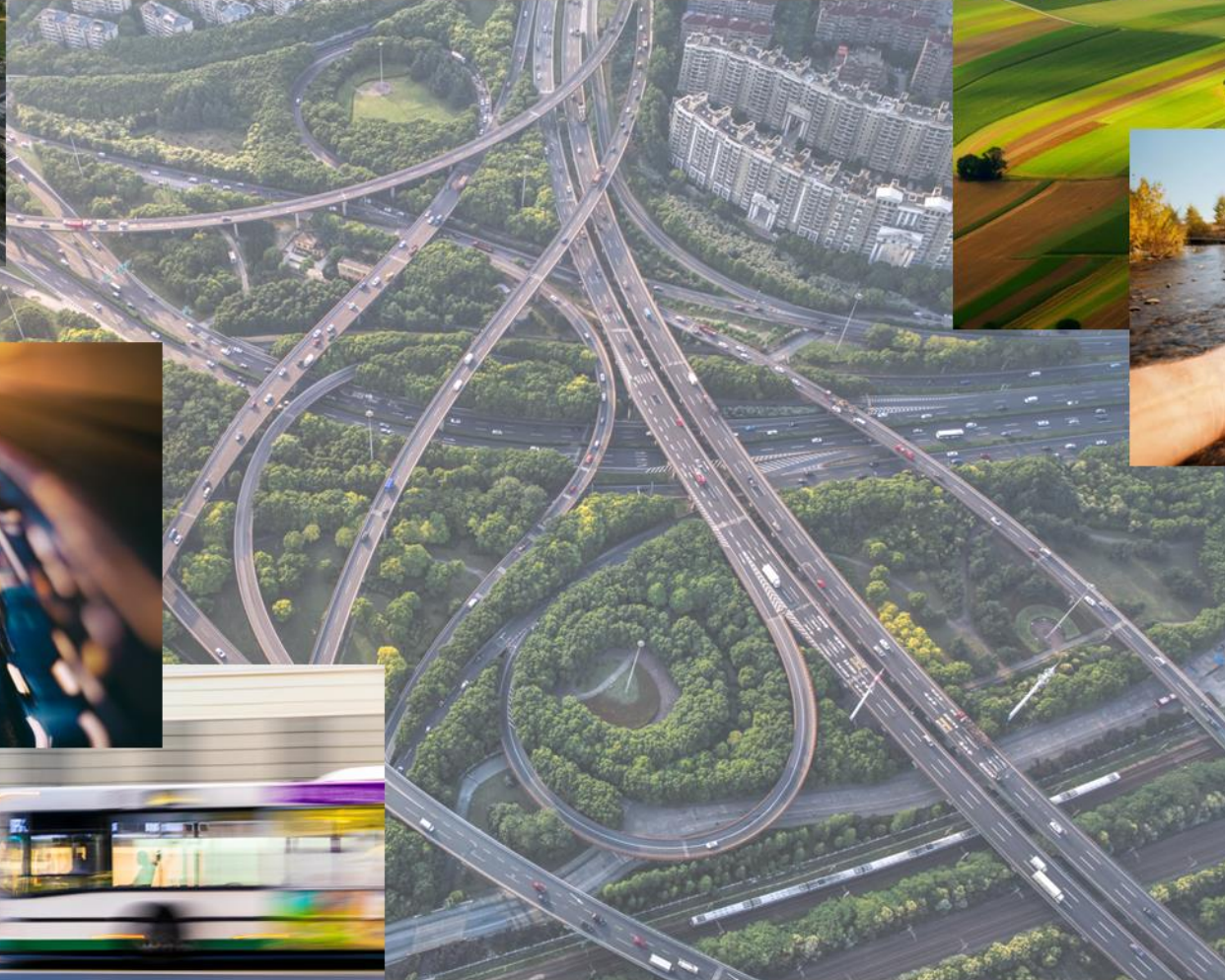
TELECOMMUNICATION



**WATER/WASTEWATER
MANAGEMENT (INC.
DRAINAGE)**



**HIGHWAYS SERVICE CONTINUITY &
DOWNSTREAM CLIMATE
INTERDEPENDENCIES**



**YORKSHIRE
& HUMBER
CLIMATE
COMMISSION**

LAND USE / BIODIVERSITY



HIGHWAYS USERS





The climate resilience of highways is as strong as its weakest link.

It is important to understand how upstream climate interdependencies will impact the delivery of highways services in the short and longer-terms.

It is also key to involve stakeholders in finding solutions to mediate downstream interdependencies with other sectors.

Building a shared understanding of climate risks across the whole system is key to...

- In the shorter-term (<1 year)

... better coordinated responses following extreme weather events; quicker recovery.

... creating a culture of multi-sector collaboration that can avoid unintended consequences from adapting to one climate risk in one organisation whilst creating a risk to another organisation's asset. (e.g. diversion of flood water from temporary works within the transport sector led to the collapse of a National Grid-owned tower along a riverbank).

These responses build on sufficient existing skills and capacities across the sectors and align with current regulatory and investment planning cycles.

Building a shared understanding of climate risks across the whole system is key to...

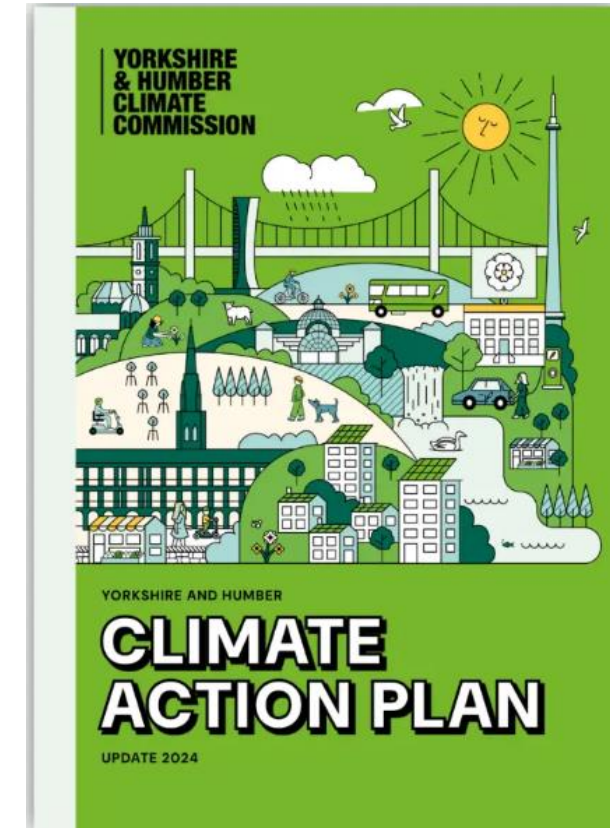
- In the longer-term (>5years)
 - ... building cross-sectoral collaborations and help organisations to recognise the challenges that climate impacts can have across multiple sectors at any one time.
 - ... identifying opportunities to respond to and mitigate risks that lead to co-creating and co-funding solutions.
 - ... supporting the delivery of more co-ordinated investments in climate adaptation and resilience, leading to greater efficiency / Reduce redundancy across organisations from duplicated investments in adaptation.
 - ...increasing alignment of regulatory planning and investment cycles across sectors.

“We know that the climate problems that we're facing is not divided into silos, right? The problems that are coming at us, they're not dividing up in in different departments. It's just happening and it's all connected. So, we shouldn't think about our responses to try to solve them in silos either.”

New York City Climate Week 2025 Jasper Hornberg, CEO of Global Resilience Partnership

The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission (YHCC)

- The [Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission](#) is an **independent advisory body** that **brings together a wide range of people** from the public, private and third sectors to support, facilitate and enable the delivery of **ambitious climate actions** across Yorkshire and the Humber.
- The 2024 YHCC [Climate Action Plan](#) sets out how Yorkshire and the Humber can respond to the climate and nature crises. Through 60 actions organised under seven themes, the plan is for everyone in our region.
 - Actions cut across the 4 themes: 1) Rapid emission reduction, 2) Climate adaptation and resilience 3) Nature restoration 4) Just transition.

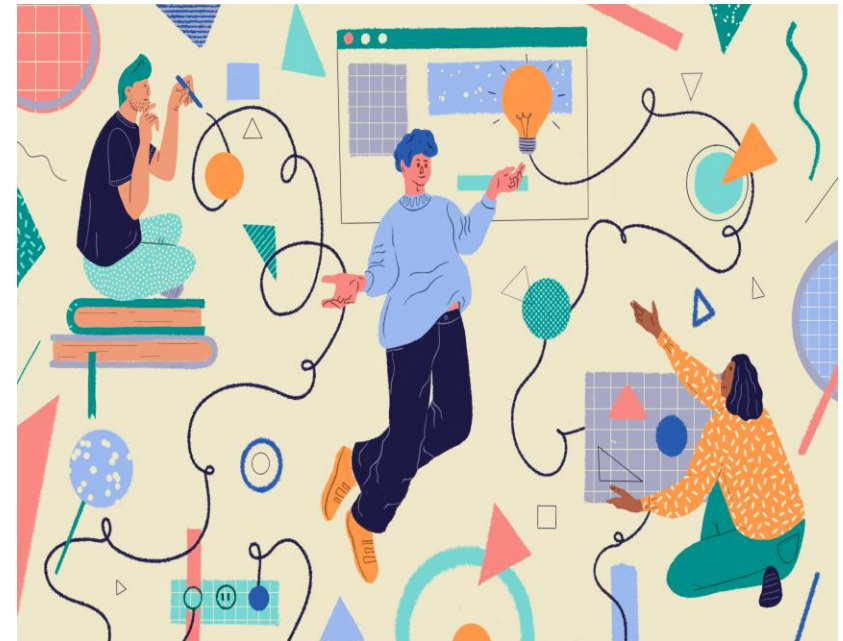


Climate Adaptation Programme for Local Authorities (CAPLA) approach

- **Local Authorities are on the frontline** when it comes to climate impacts. Extreme weather events affect everyday services, and the costs of dealing with them impact on budgets.
- Discussions at the YHCC Regional Policy Forum in 2022 revealed that many local authorities were **unsure about the best way to develop and structure their climate adaptation plans**.
- This raises the risk of maladaptation, but this can be mitigated through **learning from others and by drawing on experiences and expertise from across the region**.
- This **peer-to-peer regional learning** is at the heart of the YHCC Climate Adaptation Programme for Local Authorities (CAPLA). CAPLA, endorsed by the Yorkshire Leaders Board in 2022, is a **programme of thematic sessions where local authorities can learn from each other** (sessions themes inspired by the [Local Partnership toolkit](#)). These sessions help participants to pace their work.

CAPLA outcomes

- By breaking the adaptation journeys into manageable steps, local authorities are building their adaptation efforts between sessions and **make real progress towards becoming more climate resilient.**
- CAPLA is also a **supportive space** for LAs to discuss freely their climate adaptation challenges and ways to effectively overcome them.
- Since its first year (2023), **CAPLA has demonstrated that building connected capacity, expertise and leadership across local authority boundaries could accelerate climate resilience at both local and but also at regional levels.**
- This programme is groundbreaking in England and offers a model that can be easily **duplicated** by other regions.



CAPLA testimonials

“The ask around developing an adaptation plan for the public health service in our local authority initially felt very daunting. Especially as much of the focus in this space seems to be around mitigation, when neither mitigation nor adaptation can be done in isolation.

The Climate Commission and their programme has been invaluable in breaking down the adaptation journey into manageable chunks, meaning that our journey became smoother than I suspect it might have otherwise been.

We have learnt a lot from other places along the way and the support from others (...) and this has meant that we have not felt alone in our efforts.” *Officer, West Yorkshire Local Authority A*

The opportunity to learn from others across the region has been critical to our journey. Everyone within the programme has been open and honest about the challenges they've faced, which has enabled us to feel more reassured about the progress we've been making ourselves. *Officer, North Yorkshire Local Authority*

I'd like to thank YHCC for exceptional efforts in the development and delivery of the Climate Adaptation Programme. It has been a vital step on the region's journey towards creating a more resilient future for local authorities and the communities they serve. *Officer, West Yorkshire Local Authority B*