

# Planning for the Climate Challenge

Hugh Ellis, Head of Policy  
Town and Country Planning Association

[www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk) @thetcpa



**tcpa**

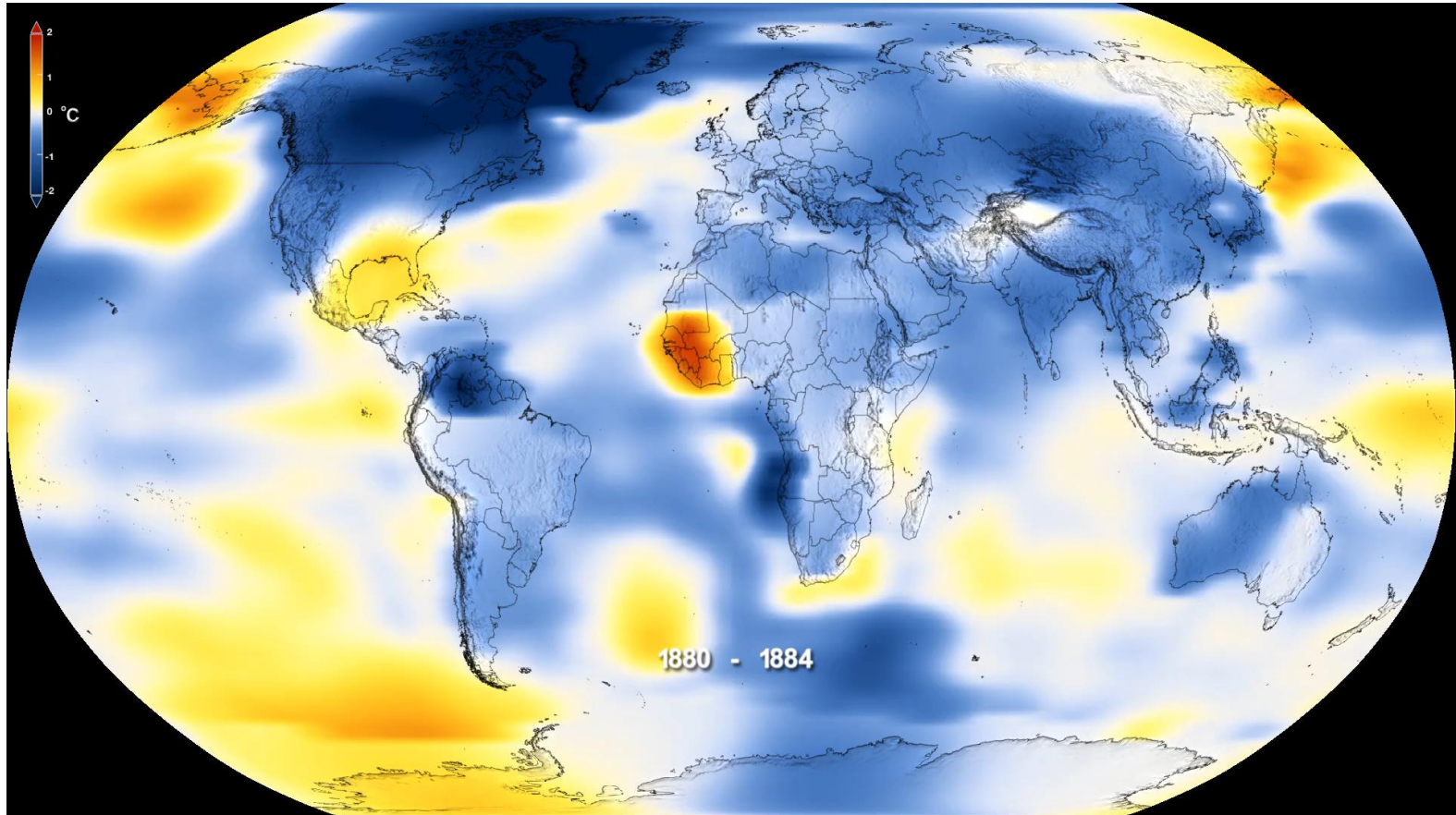
# De Storm

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZftdwB2v1nU&feature=youtu.be>



Co-funded by  
European Union  
Civil Protection

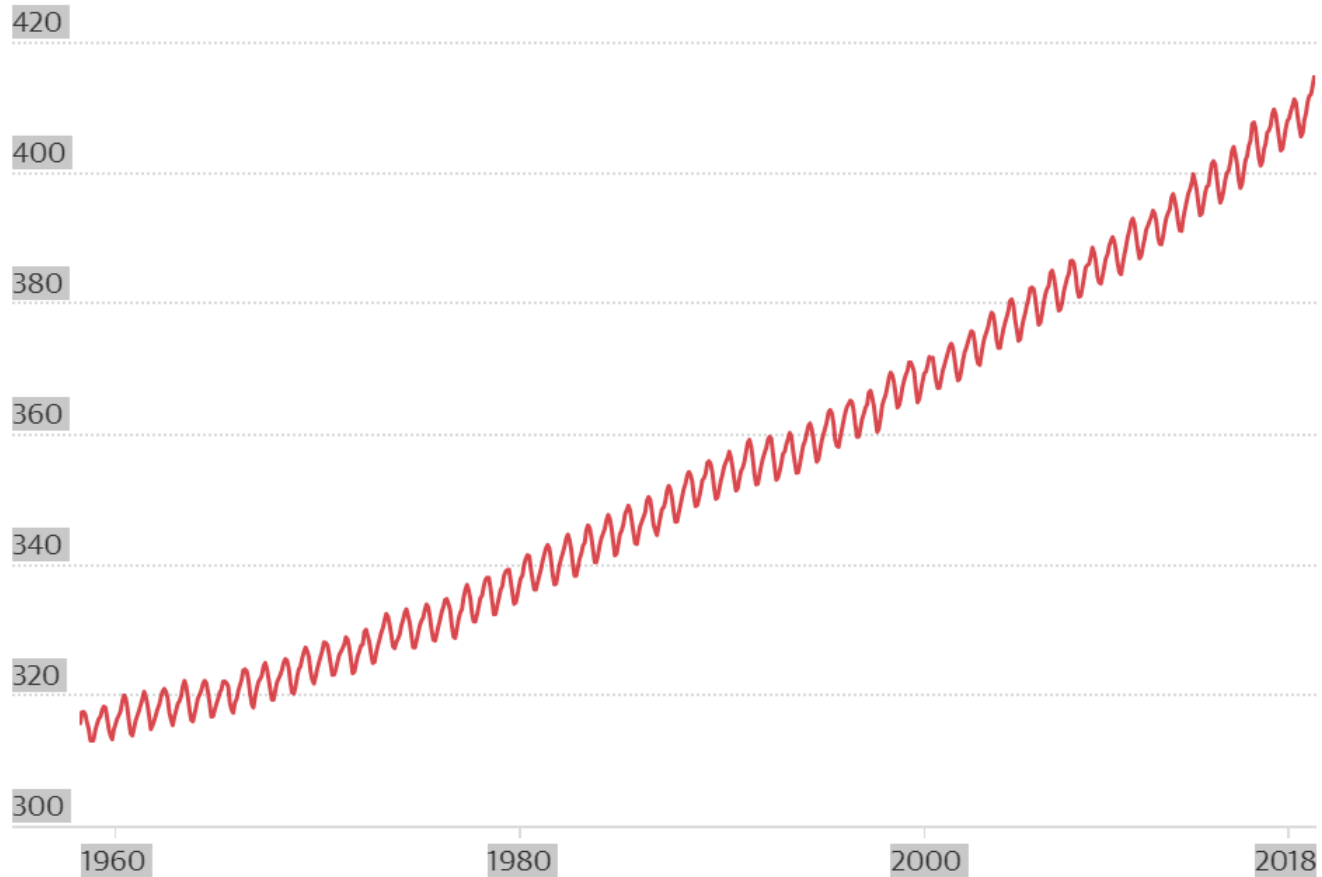
[www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk) @thetcpa



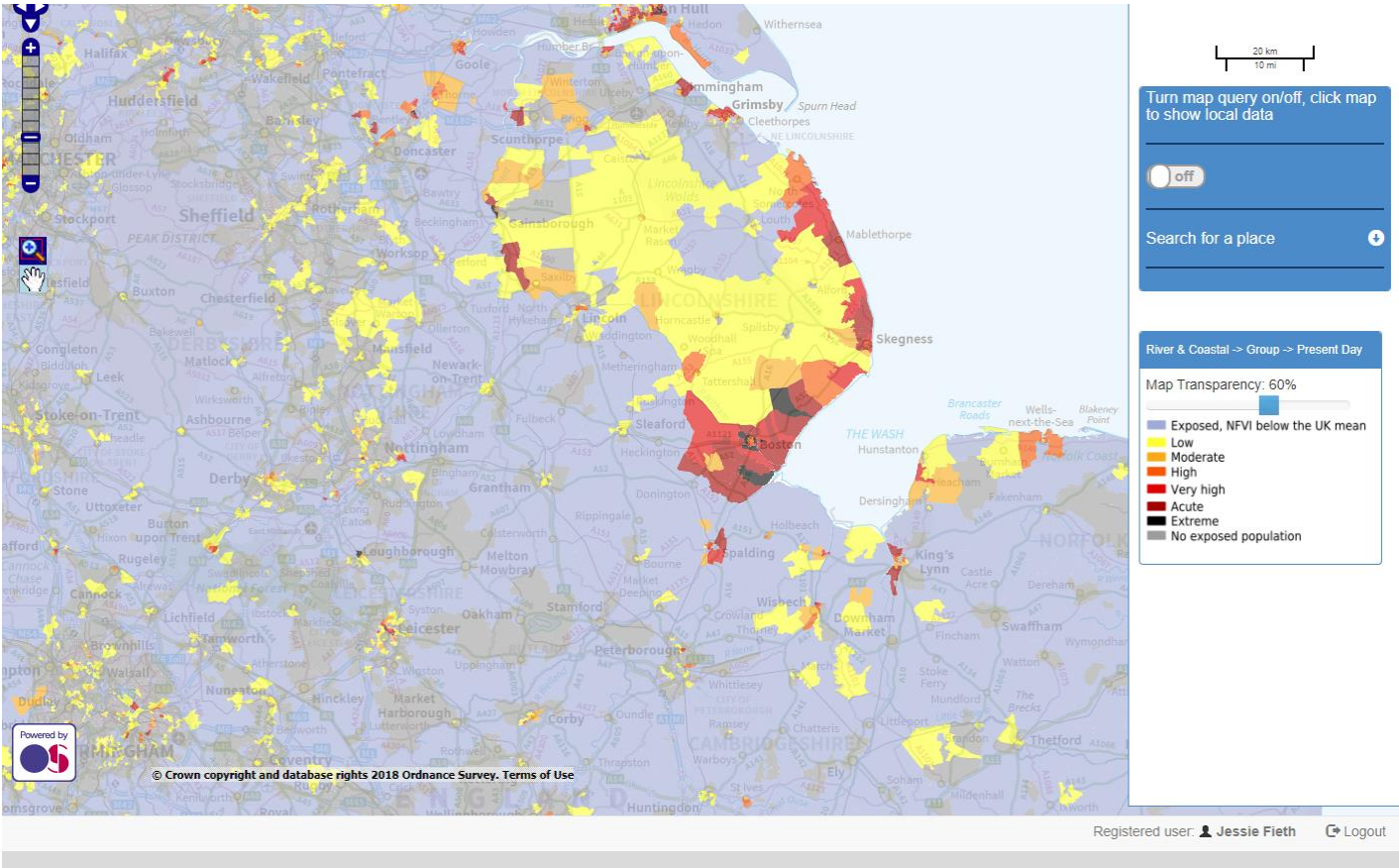
# 414 ppm. Game Over?

## Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> rose to a record level in May

CO<sub>2</sub> levels (ppm) are being driven up by human activities but vary with the season



Guardian graphic | Source: US Earth System Research Laboratory, measurements from Mauna Loa, Hawaii

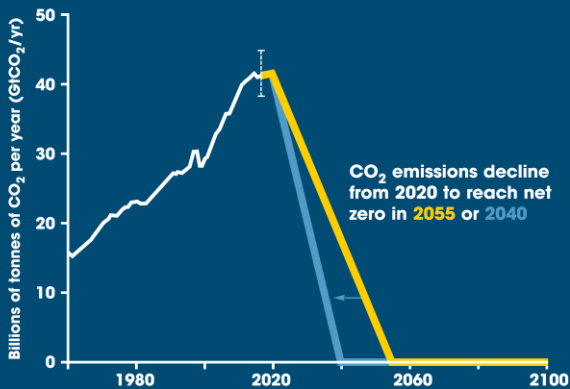


## Social Flood Risk Index – present day



## Rising to the Climate Crisis

A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change



Supported by



### Supported by:

BRE, Floodline Consulting, the EPICURO project, Third Revolution Projects



### Endorsed by:

CAG Consultants, CATiD (Critical Artistic Thinking in Design) at Birmingham City University, Centre for Sustainable Energy, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, CIWEM, Climate Just, Emerald Publishing, Friends of the Earth, GreenBlue Urban, Iceni Projects, Institute of Chartered Foresters, Landscape Institute, Leeds City Council, Oxford Brookes University, Royal Horticultural Society, RSPB, UK Green Building Council, Wei Yang & Partners



Inspiring everyone to grow

DELIVERING INTEGRATED MASTER PLANS



# The ingredients of success

- Political leadership
- Corporate prioritisation
- Strong community engagement
- Clear evidence base
- Strong policy with deliverable targets
- Innovation around viability
- Effective monitoring and review

# The role of the planning system

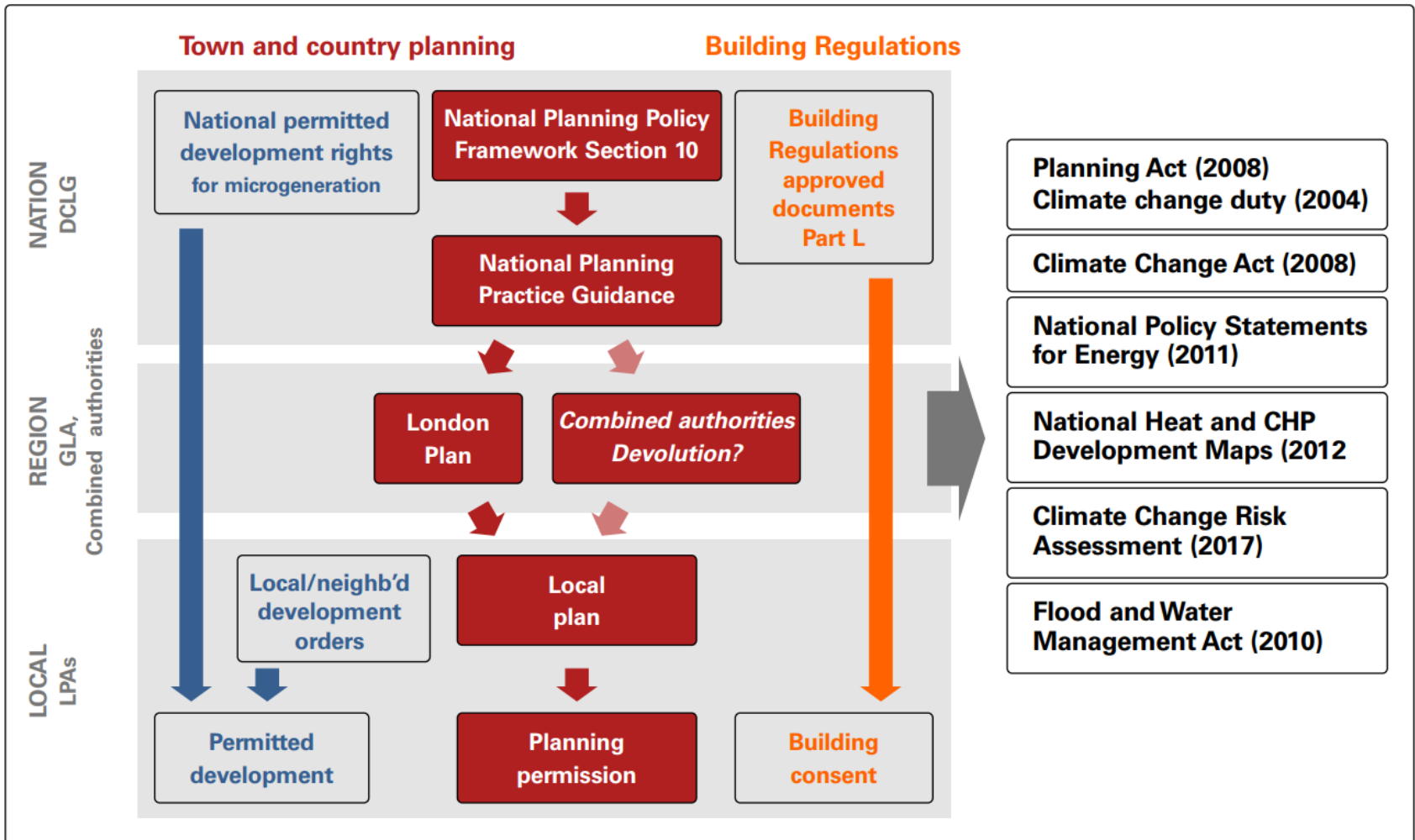


Figure 1 The relationship between planning and climate change considerations in the English planning system





# Legislative underpinning

- Town & Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by 5 later primary planning acts!
- Plus multiple regulations
- But other legislation also touches on planning

## **Planning outcome-based duties**

1. Sustainable development
2. Good design
3. Climate change



# The National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

## ***NPPF core planning principles***

Paragraph 8 of the NPPF makes clear that ‘mitigating and adapting to climate change’ is a core planning objective. To be in conformity with the NPPF, local plans should reflect this principle, ensuring that planning policy clearly and comprehensively deals with climate change mitigation and adaptation. The NPPF also highlights climate change as key part of Strategic planning policy which local authorities are legally obliged to set out in their local plans (see paragraph 20 of the NPPF).



# The National Planning Policy Framework (2018)

Paragraph 148 of the NPPF underlines that tackling climate change is central to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The NPPF (in paragraph 149 and accompanying footnote 48) expects LPAs to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, in line with the Climate Change Act 2008 and section 19 of the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act .

This has the effect of making the objective of an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 clearly relevant to the discharge of the duty on planning authorities to shape policy which reduces carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, planning authorities will need a clear grasp of their carbon profile, and their policy should support ‘radical’ reductions in carbon dioxide emissions. The NPPG supports this approach.



# Planning Reform

- The 2011 Localism Act
- The 2016 Housing and Planning Act
- The abolition of the Code and Zero Carbon
- Permitted development/prior approval
- The 2008 Energy Act
- 2018 National Planning Policy Framework!
- The end of the local plan?





# Is local planning delivering?

Findings of the JRF/TCPA research on local plans:

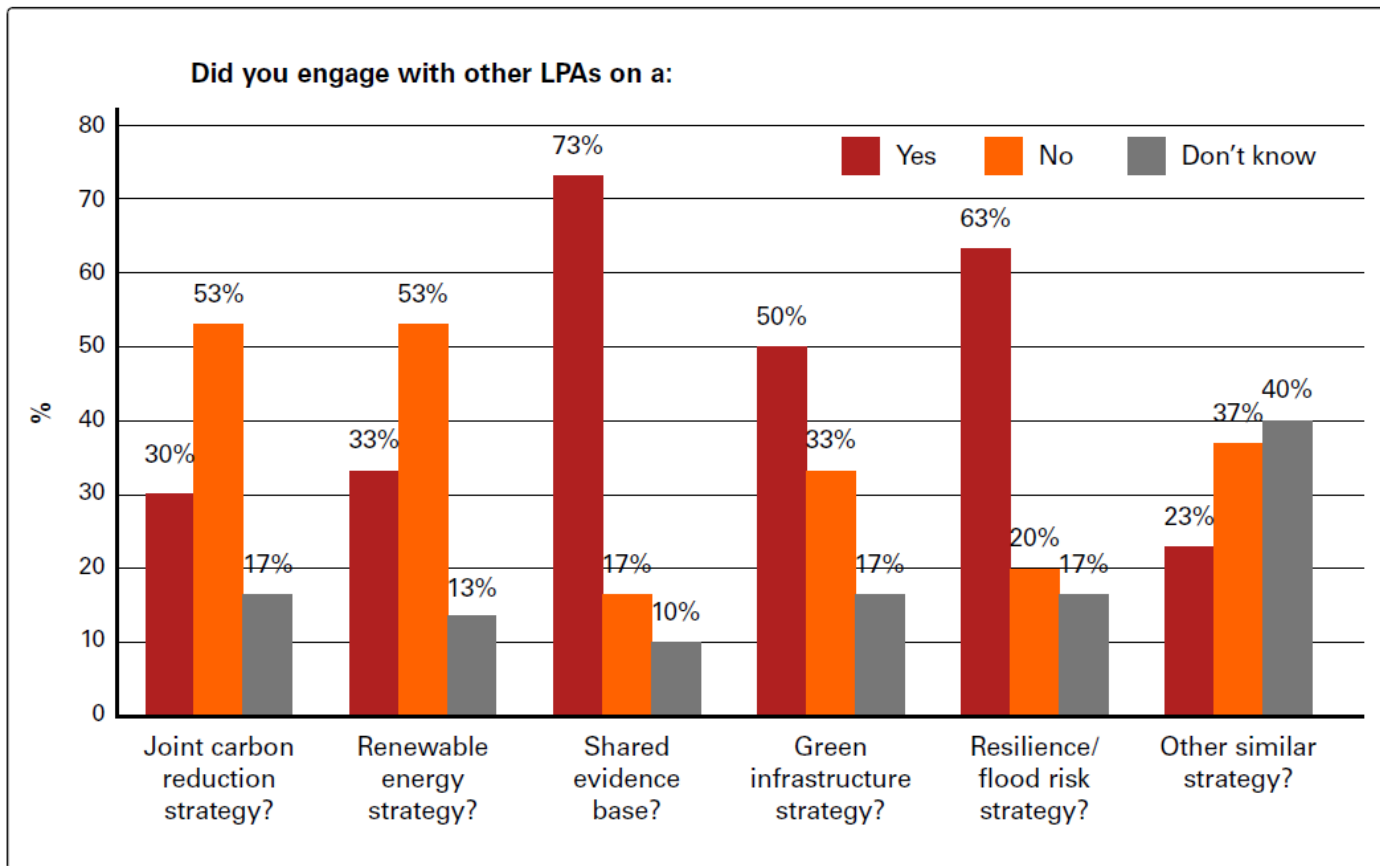
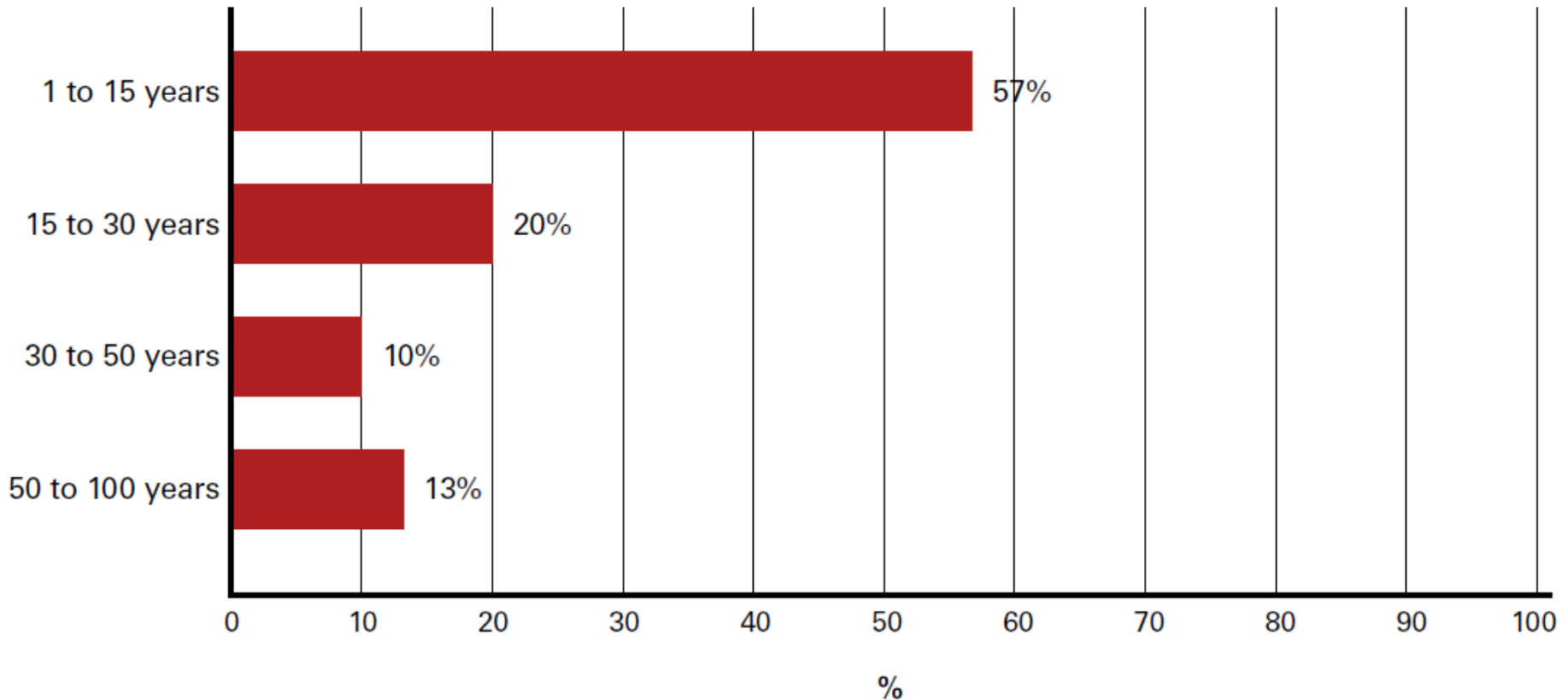


Figure 9 Engagement with other LPAs during plan-making - online survey results

# The timescales for adaptation policy included in local plans

Given the long-term impacts of climate change, what time horizon does the local plan have for climate change adaptation policy?







# Local planning approaches

- Overarching climate change objectives in local planning
- The evidence base for plan-making
  - Joint working across local planning authority boundaries can be the most robust and cost efficient way to prepare the evidence base for planmaking
- The value of using established assessment frameworks
- Plan-making for adaptation



# Zero Carbon Commitments

- **London:** The Mayor's London Environment Strategy (May 2018) commits London to being a zero carbon city by 2050.
- **Manchester:** The Draft Manchester Zero Carbon Framework 2020-38 was published in February 2019, and sets out how the city will be zero carbon by 2038.
- **Bristol:** In November 2018, Bristol City Council committed to making the city carbon neutral by 2030.
- **Nottingham:** In January 2019, Nottingham City Council announced ambitions to be carbon neutral by 2028.



*“Many adaptation and mitigation options can help address climate change, but no single option is sufficient by itself. Effective implementation depends on policies and cooperation at all scales, and can be enhanced through integrated responses that link adaptation and mitigation with other societal objectives.”*

*IPCC, 2014*

*‘Rising to the Climate Crisis – A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change’, available at:*

[www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/planning-for-climate-change)



**Town & Country Planning Association**

17 Carlton House Terrace,  
London, SW1Y 5AS

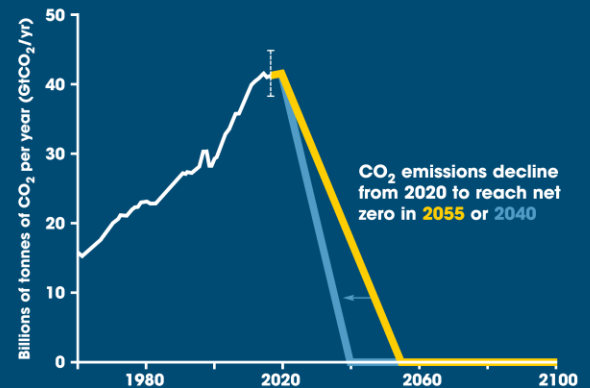
Tel: +44 (0)20 7930 8903

[www.tcpa.org.uk](http://www.tcpa.org.uk) @theTCPA @socialtownplan @CulturePlanning @GIPartnership



## Rising to the Climate Crisis

A Guide for Local Authorities on  
Planning for Climate Change



Supported by



# **Apollo 13 – Square Peg in a Round Hole**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry55--  
J4\\_VQ&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ry55--J4_VQ&feature=youtu.be)