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APSE Direct News

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## Editorial

With only six years of landfill left in the UK we are facing, within our own lifetime, the global warming scenarios that just a few years ago many thought were simply the irrational rants of eco warriors.

Our city centres are heating up. Flood risk has increased not in some far off exotic destination but within our towns and cities. Traffic congestion is clogging up our city and regional economies. Pollution is clogging up our children's lungs. That is why I welcome the decision of the Government to be the first country in the world to make statutory its commitment to reducing green house gases. The time for talking is over. It is action that is needed.

It would be impossible for any Government to dictate to the public or to business that they must reduce their carbon emissions without providing an example within public services. We spend Government and tax payers' money and with that comes a responsibility for our own actions within local government.

I am proud that within local government many of our councils have already made stringent commitments to greening their services. North Lincolnshire Council is an excellent example of public sector innovation and political commitment to real change. We must all go that bit further.

In this edition of *direct news* Stephen Cirell of Eversheds provides an excellent analysis of what the new carbon reduction commitment means to you. In the next edition of *direct news* Stephen will outline a plan for local implementation. I would welcome your own views, comments and examples of current initiatives to meet this new challenge. There is a lot of work to be done to meet the statutory requirements. I am confident that sharing best practice and innovation through the APSE network will help us all meet this new challenge.

We also have some excellent contributions on social care, apprenticeships, our recent debate on housing at the House of Commons and much more.

I hope you enjoy the read.

Best wishes

Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive APSE