

ADEPT

Carbon Leadership Programme

Angela Jones, ADEPT President 2025/26
Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland & Furness Council

APSE Highways Network meeting
17 July 2025

ADEPT

Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Decision Equipped.

proving

Future Highways
Research Group



Department
for Transport

LOCAL AUTHORITY/ COMBINED AUTHORITY/ STB MEMBERS

(November 2024)

ADEPT

Introducing ADEPT

ADEPT

Carbon Leadership Programme

Represents Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport – otherwise called Place Directors - from county, combined & unitary councils across England.

Place directors are responsible for:

- Providing universal services including roads, waste & recycling, economic regeneration & planning, green space
- Developing long-term strategies to deliver thriving places

In terms of what ADEPT does – it's a proactive network that:

- supports its members
- develops future place leaders
- delivers research
- seeks to influence policy
- publishes challenge papers and guidance

The challenge



97% of UK road asset



Est. £4bn per annum spend (public & private)

Est. 1.5 million tonnes CO₂e / annum (UK)



150+ Local Highway Authorities (England)



80% of LAs & Combined Authorities have declared a Climate Emergency

Paris Agreement target of 1.5 degrees exceeded in 2024

What is it?

The Carbon Leadership Programme is a 3-year programme that will fund local highway authorities in England to measure and identify how to reduce their carbon emissions using a simple, standardised methodology.



Who's behind it?

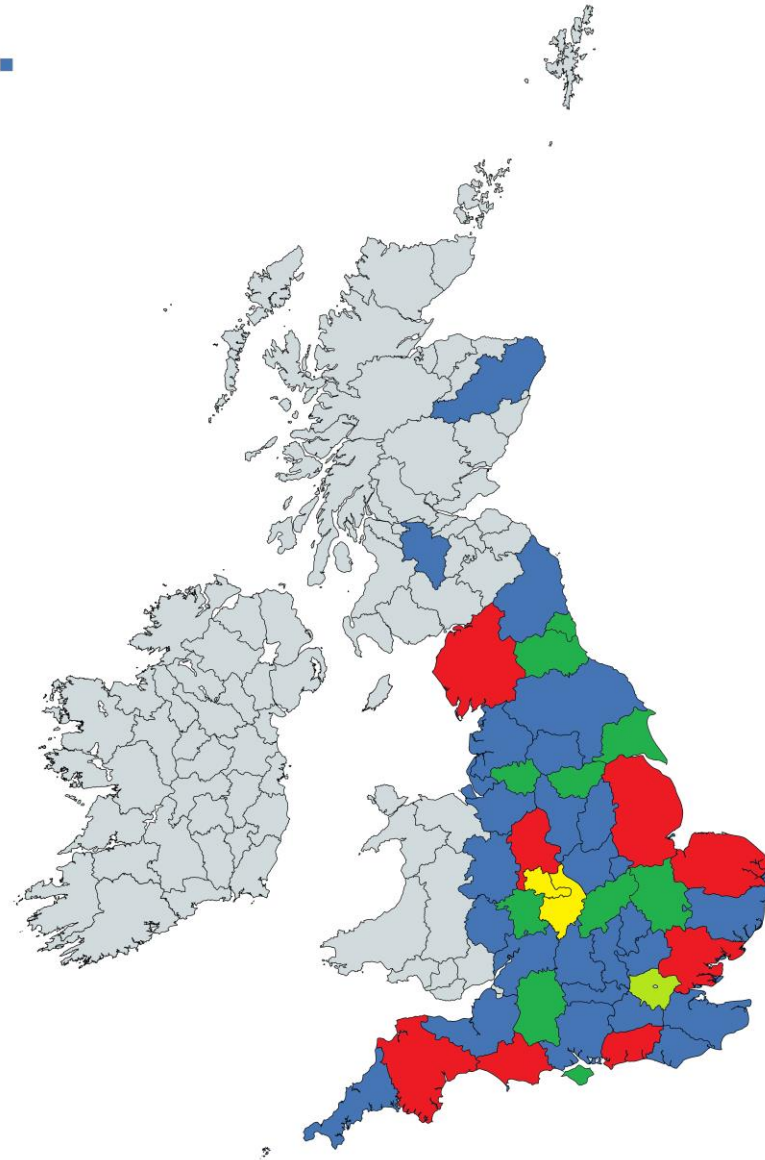
- **ADEPT:** Strategic leadership & programme management
- **Department for Transport:** Programme funding & oversight
 - With ministerial approval and support
- **Proving Services:** Programme delivery
- **Future Highways Research Group:** Peer reviewers & knowledge sharing
- **Colas:** Carbon assessment assistance partners



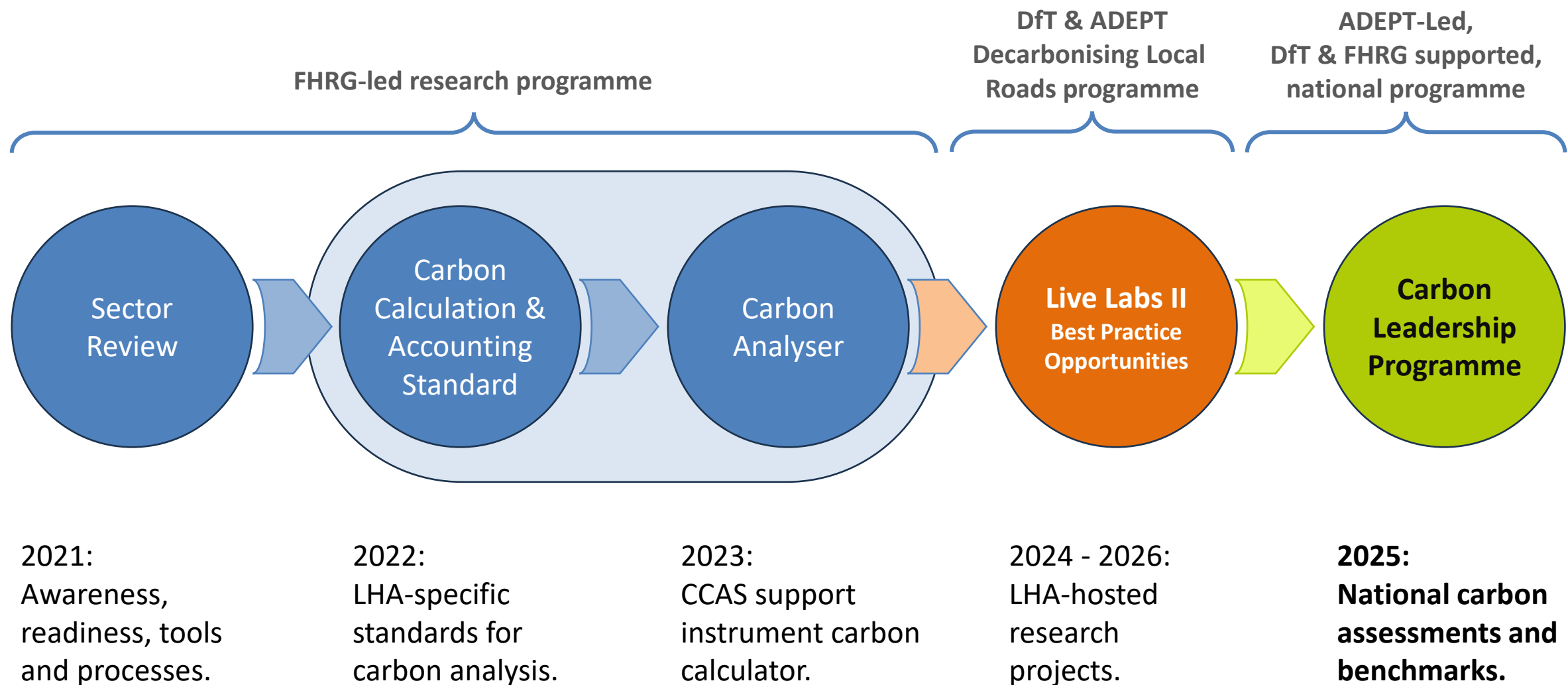
"Smoother roads are our priority, but it's important we also take steps to reduce carbon emissions. We're supporting ADEPT's Carbon Leadership Programme to equip local highway authorities with the tools they need to accelerate the sector's transition to net zero."
Future of Roads Minister Lilian Greenwood

Who's it for?

- All local highway authorities across England are eligible to participate – and it's free.
- It will provide DfT with critical information regarding the carbon profile of local roads.



Where's it come from?



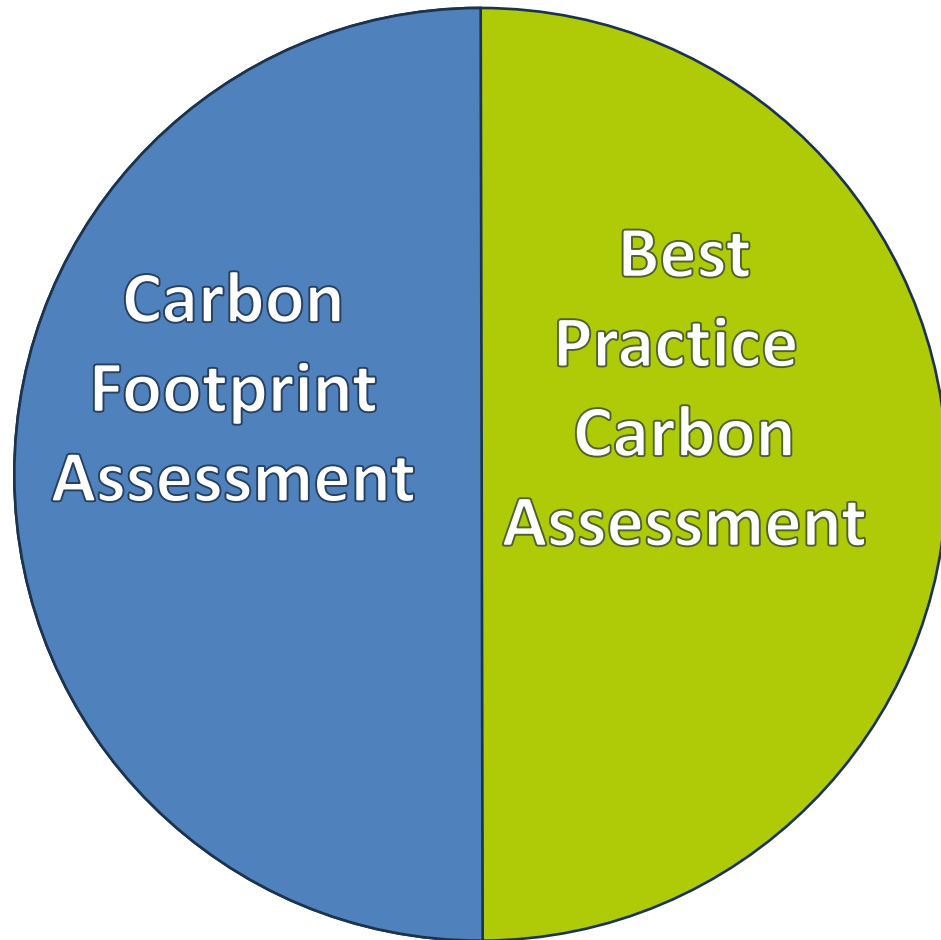
Key features

The Carbon Leadership Programme will allow local highway authorities to:

- Measure and evidence carbon emissions accurately
- Develop practical strategies for emission reductions
- Improve operational efficiency
- Demonstrate environmental leadership
- Make progress towards net zero targets



One Programme, Two Assessments



Combined, these two assessments can be used to define practical steps towards reducing the carbon footprint of local highway services (construction & maintenance).

The programme's process has been designed to answer two key questions:

- What is our current carbon footprint?
- What are we doing to reduce future carbon emissions and what can we learn from others to help us do more?

How does it work?

- Self-assessment proforma training (0.5 days, online)
- Proformas completed in-house (90 days allocated, 4/5 days required)
 - *Using readily available data, inc. meter readings & standard KPIs*
 - *Support available where required*
- Proforma submissions and independent reviews (1.5 days)
 - *Includes error resolutions and gap closing*
- Follow-up workshops (0.5 days, senior staff)
 - *Assessment reviews and certification*



Want to be involved?



There's still time!

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