



membership resources

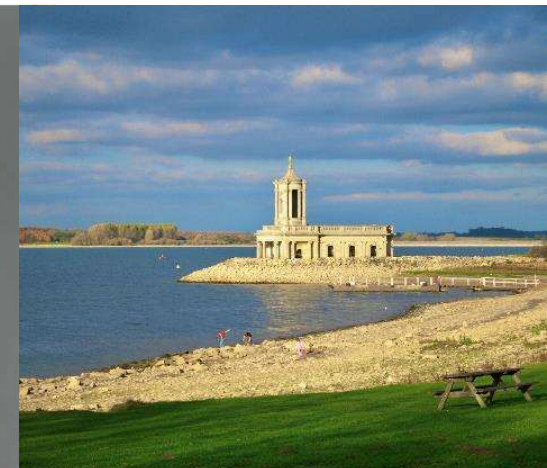
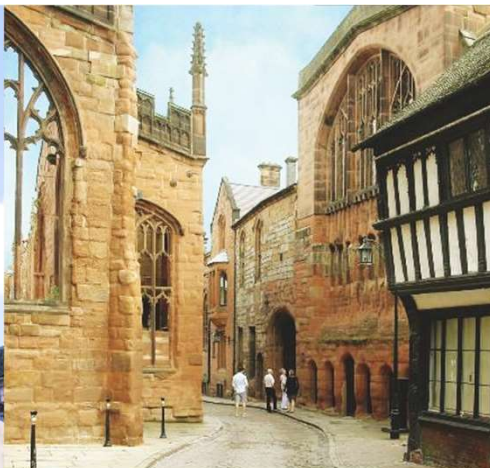
# What next for Net Zero?

Central Region Event and AGM 2025

## Moving forward in the current climate

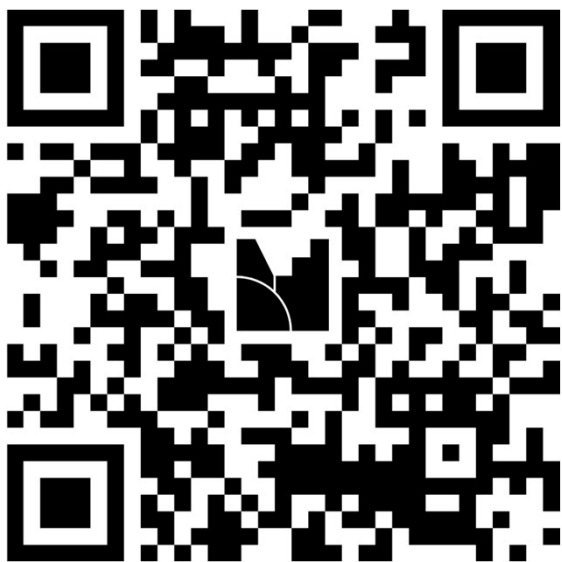
**Bonni Jee**

Principal Advisor – APSE



# How are you?

- Join at [menti.com](https://www.menti.com) **2992 0842**
- <https://www.menti.com/alamat25s5vx>



[www.apse.org.uk](http://www.apse.org.uk)



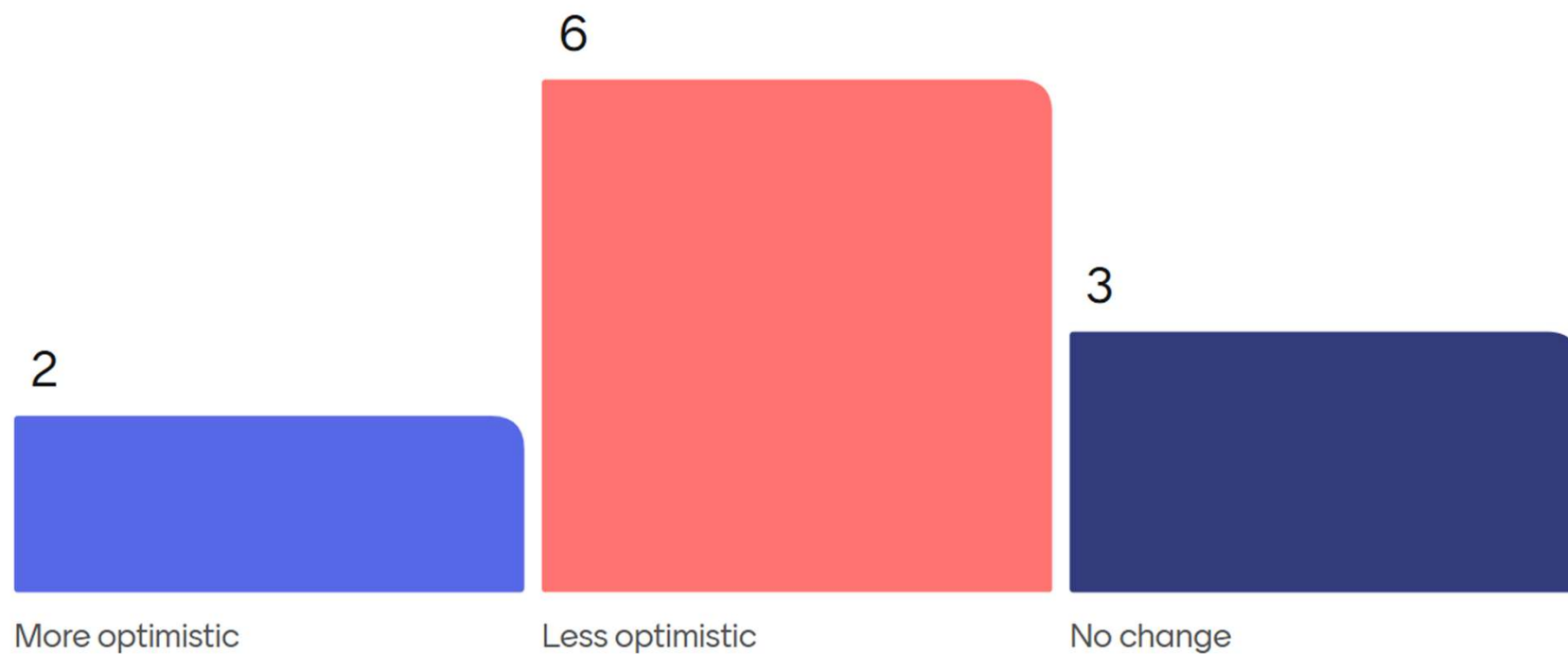


How are you feeling with regards to climate change and net zero right now?





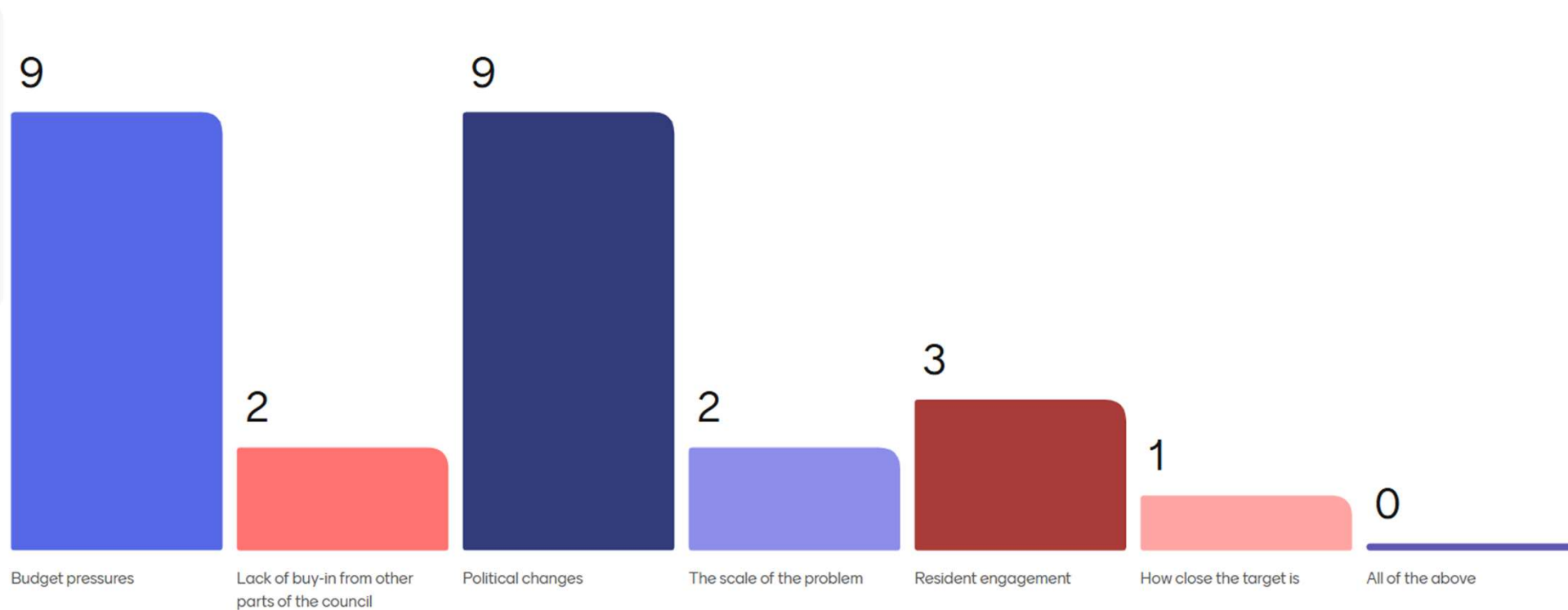
Compared to this time last year, how have your feelings changed with regards to climate change and net zero?





## membership resources

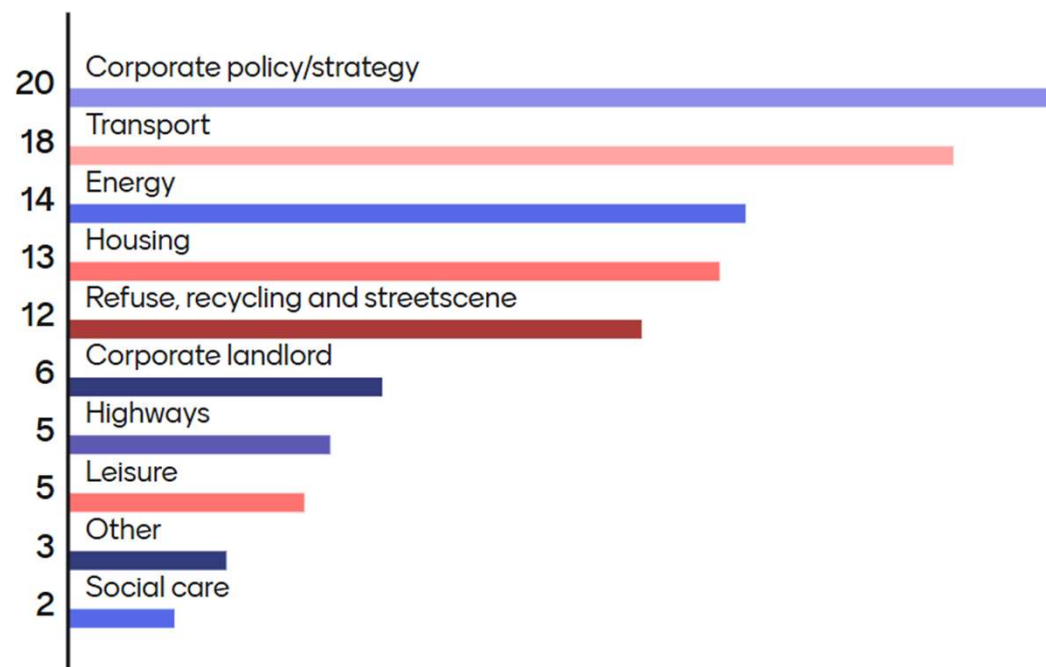
What do you feel are the current barriers you are facing with regards to your climate/net zero ambitions?





## membership resources

Roughly assign the proportion (up to 100) of each council service area that have engaged with / will contribute most to your climate/net zero agenda







# How do you plan to get residents on board?

Education

Better communication

Sell the benefits

Public engagement/consultation

Link to their challenges

Know your customers and sell it to them

Sell sustainability using shared values as well as changing legislation to shift current polluting culture.

Consult debate discuss

Ah the co benefits of carbon reductions - financial savings, health benefits, lower pollution, jobs and economic benefits

Communicate in language that resonates. Sell co-benefits

Seeing as net zero and climate change have become somewhat 'taboo' terms in some areas, we intend to 'sell' the projects mostly in terms of their ability to make the council more efficient



# How do you plan to get 'sceptical' staff/members on board?

????

Better working across department boundaries

Highlight the benefits

Same - co benefits, financial savings to council and/or residents; reduction in air pollution and congestion; economic growth etc

Education

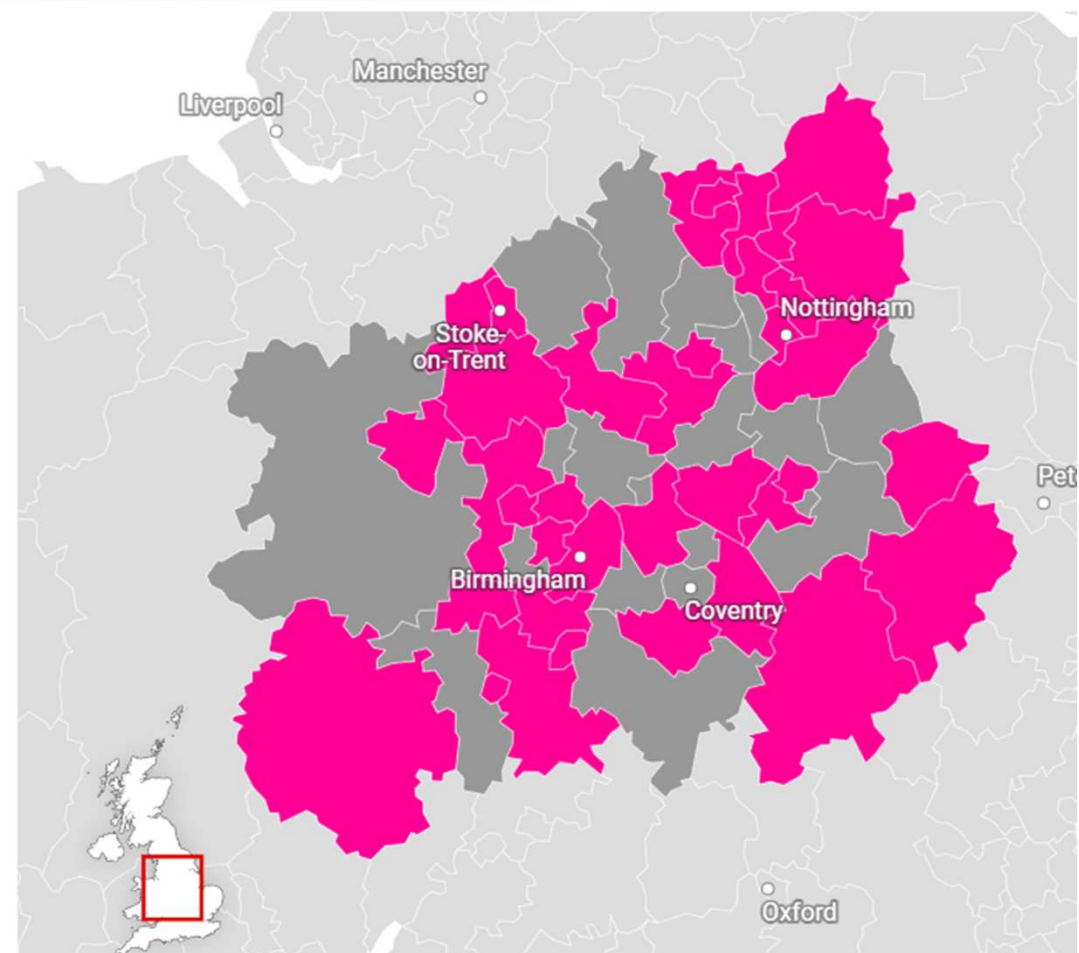
Use economic and social shared values, educate staff through training like carbon literacy and change policy to shift culture.

By not overwhelming them with climate change content/projects. Instead, "drip feed" them initiatives that are proven to work



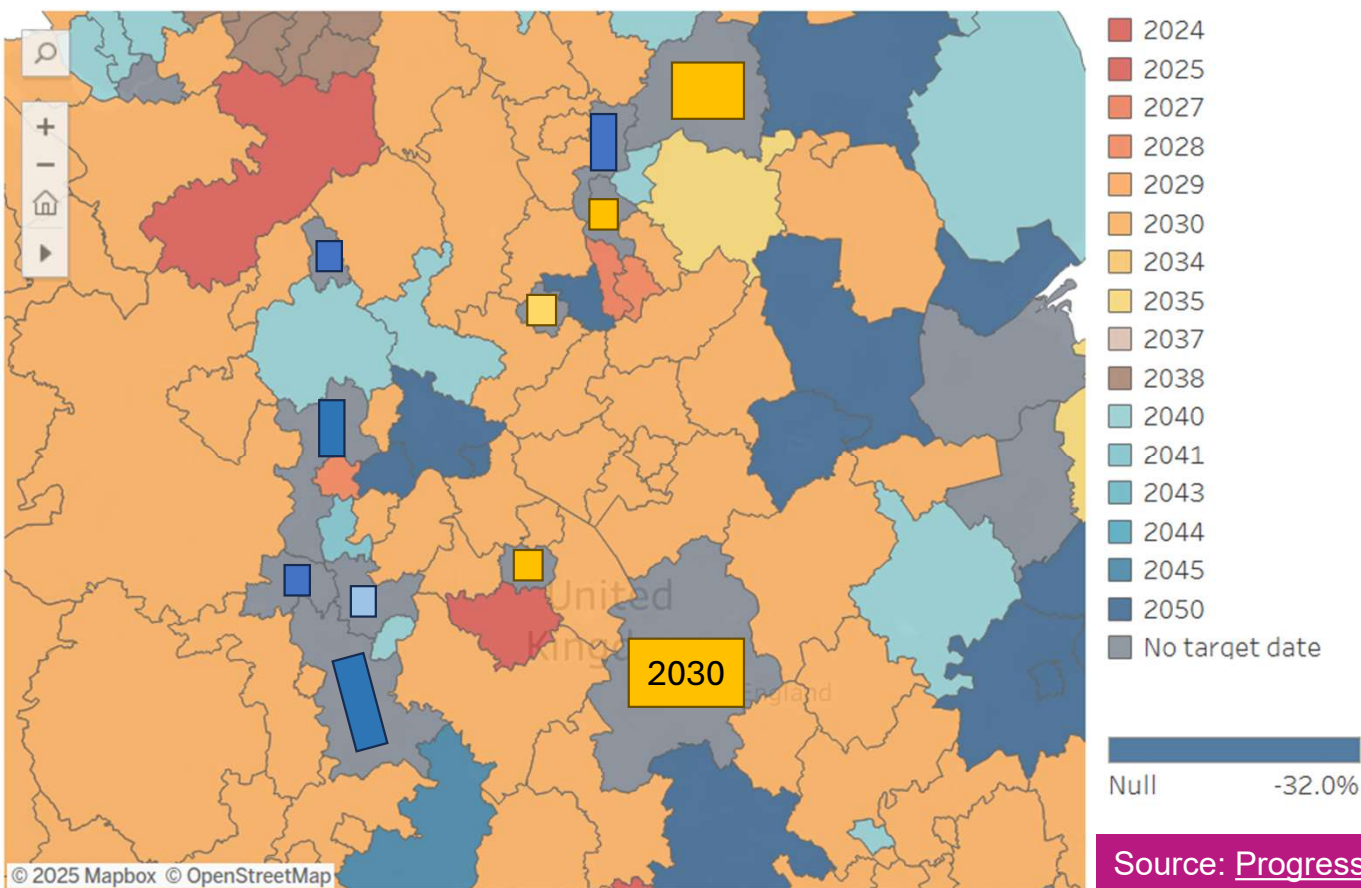
# Central Region

- 39 members
- Some of the earliest net zero targets!
- Some of the lowest and highest recycling rates
- Rural and urban
- Reorganisation – done and underway (more on that later)





# NZ targets: The state of play in our region



## 2019

First Climate  
Emergency  
declarations



## 2025-2050

Net Zero targets (council /  
district-wide)



Source: [Progress towards local net zero targets](#), Aether, 2023



## Reorganisation – the big (un)knowns

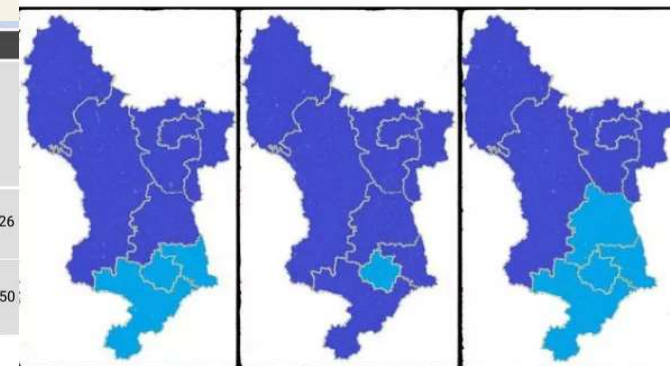
- Every combination under the sun
- But climate change does not wait for reorganisation... start having those conversations now...

- **We're here to help!**

- Net zero target dates
- Council's corporate emissions
- Frontline service harmonisation
  - Simpler recycling: regional consistency opportunities?
  - Food waste: economy of scale?
  - Bin and cleansing routes



Geography	Population
	603,676
	North: 287,826
	South: 315,850



### Key

Stoke-on-Trent City Council  
Administrative Boundary

Staffordshire County Council  
Administrative Boundary

### 1a Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Rushcliffe



1. Nottingham City boundary is expanded to include **Broxtowe and Rushcliffe**.
2. The **rest of Nottinghamshire** becomes a new unitary authority.

### 1b Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City + Broxtowe + Gedling



1. Nottingham City boundary is expanded to include **Broxtowe and Gedling**.
2. The **rest of Nottinghamshire** becomes a new unitary authority.

### 2 Nottinghamshire and Nottingham City

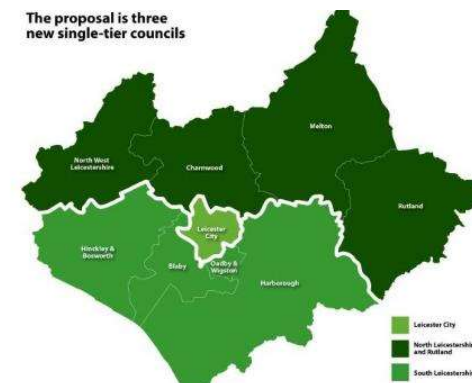


1. **Nottingham City boundary remains the same**.
2. The **rest of Nottinghamshire** becomes a new unitary authority.



WW

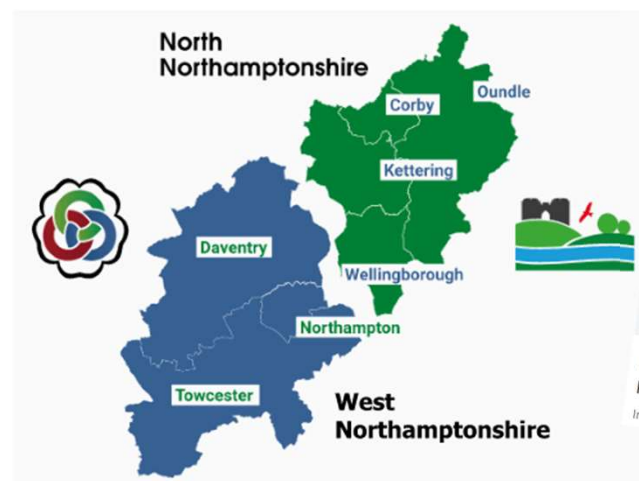
### The proposal is three new single-tier councils



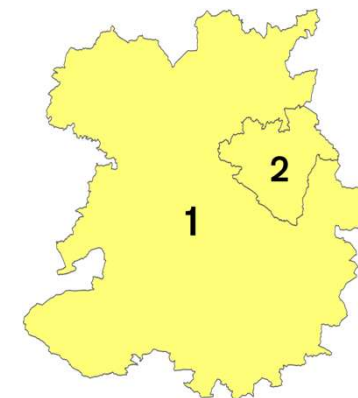


# Reorganisation – look at where it's been done

- What's worked and what hasn't?
- What rationalisation has occurred, what savings have been achieved...
  - or still in a period of multiple councils under one new logo?
- We can set up those conversations and round-tables



www.apse.org



## Case study: Westmorland and Furness

- Community Conversation underway for the future of waste and recycling services
- Over 3,000 responses to first survey
- Harmonisation across three former districts
- Diverse area and legacy collections
- Mixture of free and charged for garden waste
- Circular Economy hub
- It will also with Simpler Recycling at the same time as harmonisation





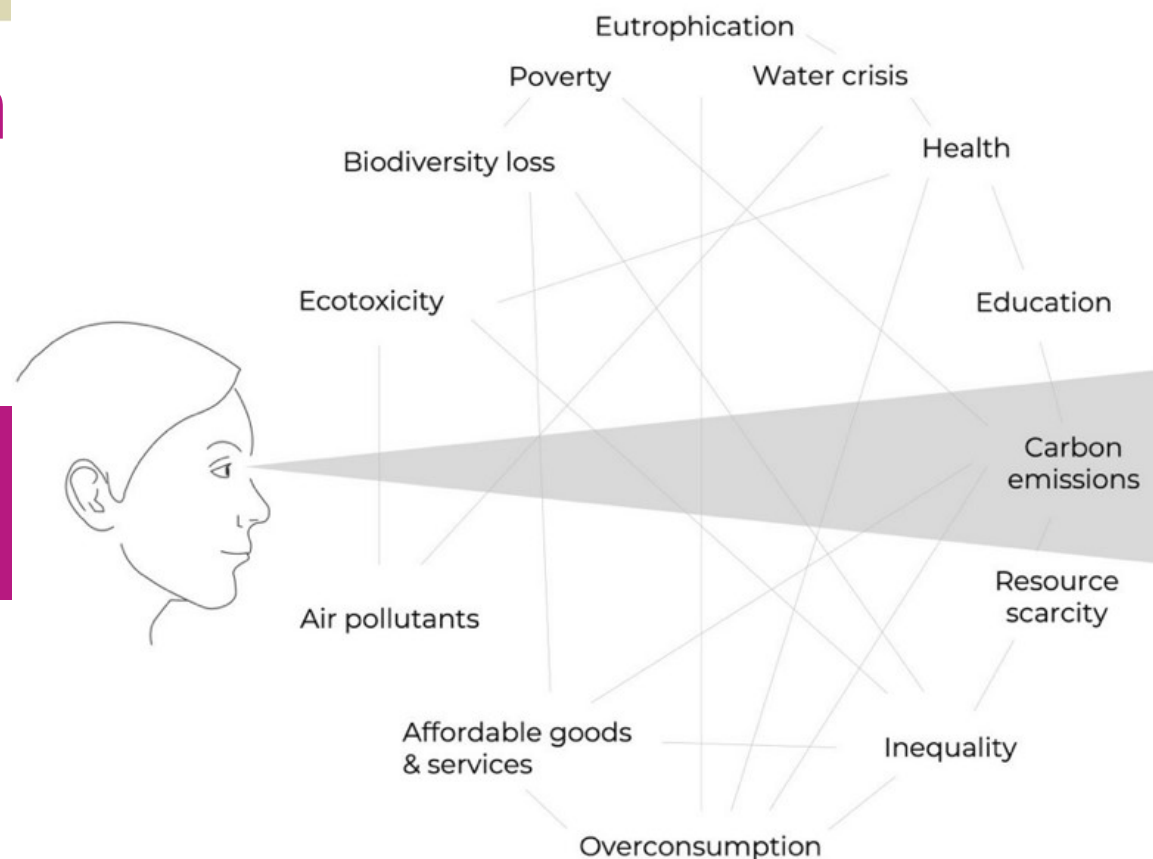
membership resource

# Carbon tunnel vision

## What is it?

- Let's broaden our vision to bring people with us...

## Carbon Tunnel Vision



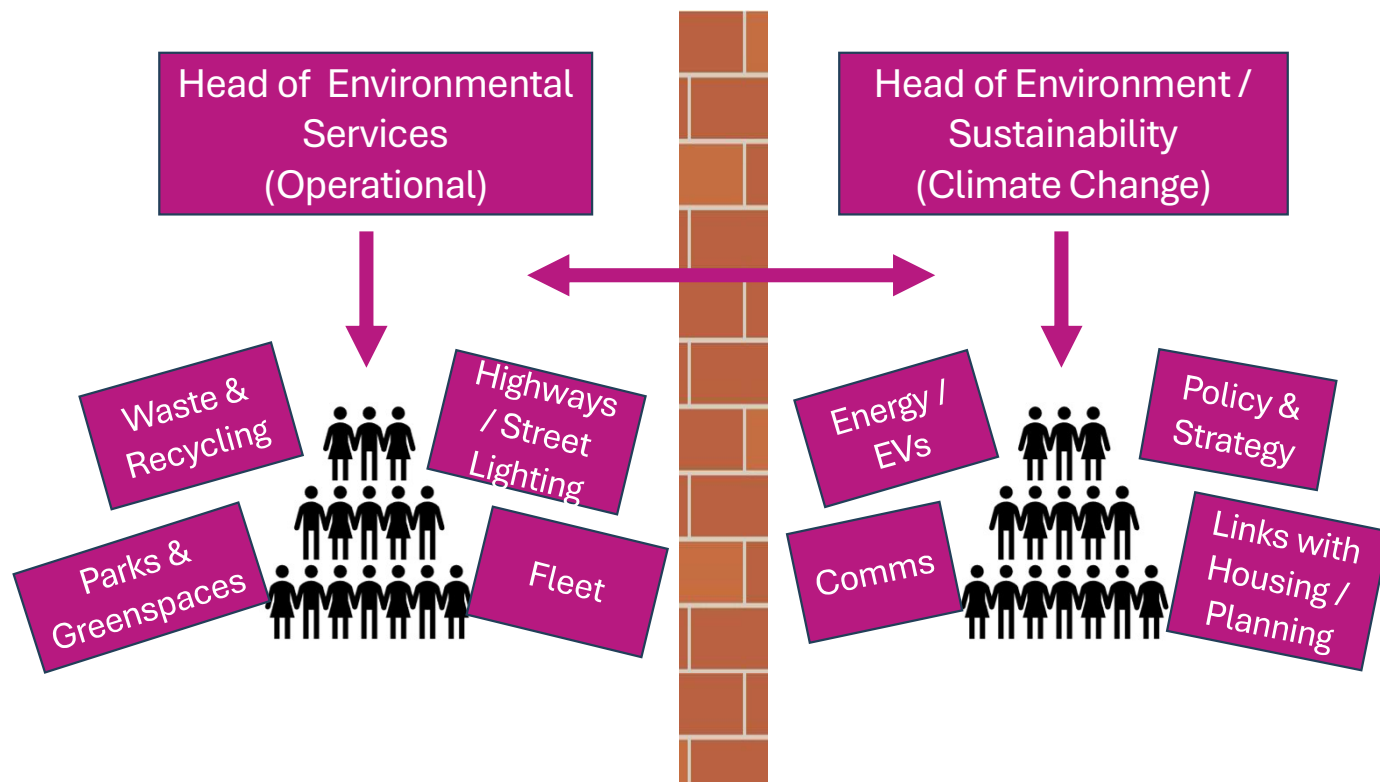
Sustainability transition

Graphic by Jan Konietzko



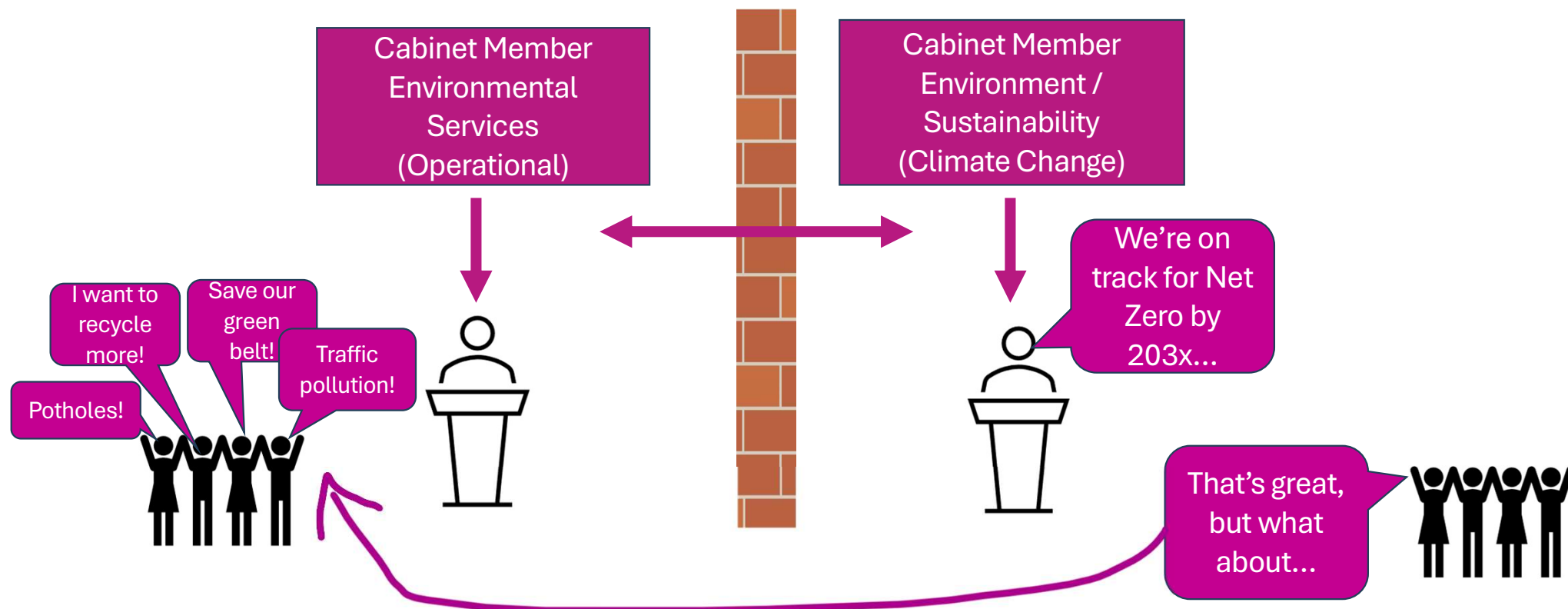


# Some council structures...





# Some council structures





# Residents Climate Change survey - example

- Kirklees Council, 2022

## Top responses:

*“Reintroduce glass collections, brown bins free of charge, food waste collections and free compost bins and water butts”*

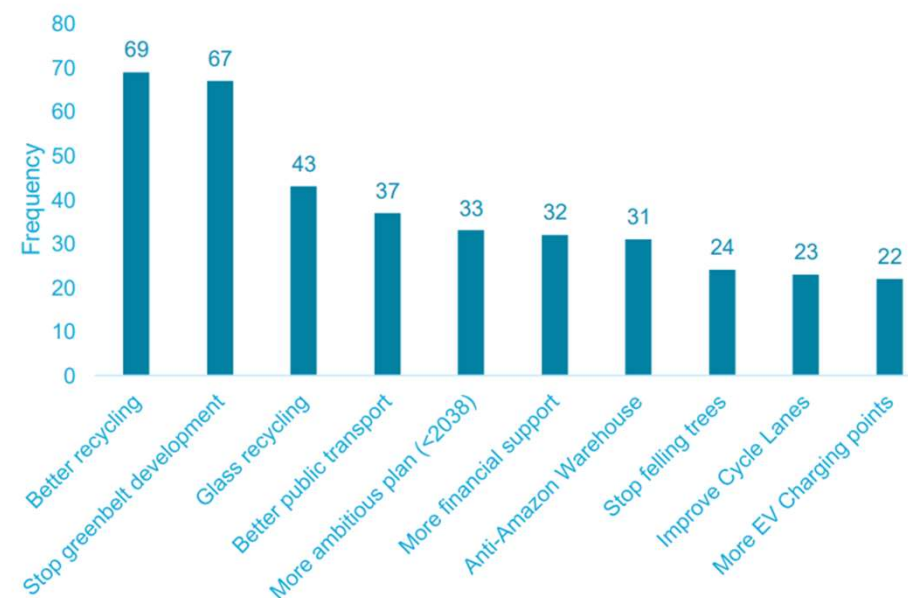
*“Can we improve the amount of things we can recycle e.g soft plastics etc to reduce landfill, tetrapaks; food waste”*

*“It would be nice to see a better recycling scheme. Other councils have food waste and glass recycling as standard.”*

*“do something more about fly tipping, littering etc which is damaging the environment. I often think it would be cheaper to allow more stuff to be tipped at council tips, than to clear fly tips!”*

Source: [Appendix D: Resident Survey Output](#)

**FIGURE 27: TOP 10 ACTIONS SUGGESTED AND NUMBER OF TIMES SUGGESTED.**





# Residents Climate Change survey - example

- Kirklees Council, 2022

Top responses:

*"I would also like to see less grass verge cutting and areas of parks where native wildflowers can grow to support the native wildlife."*

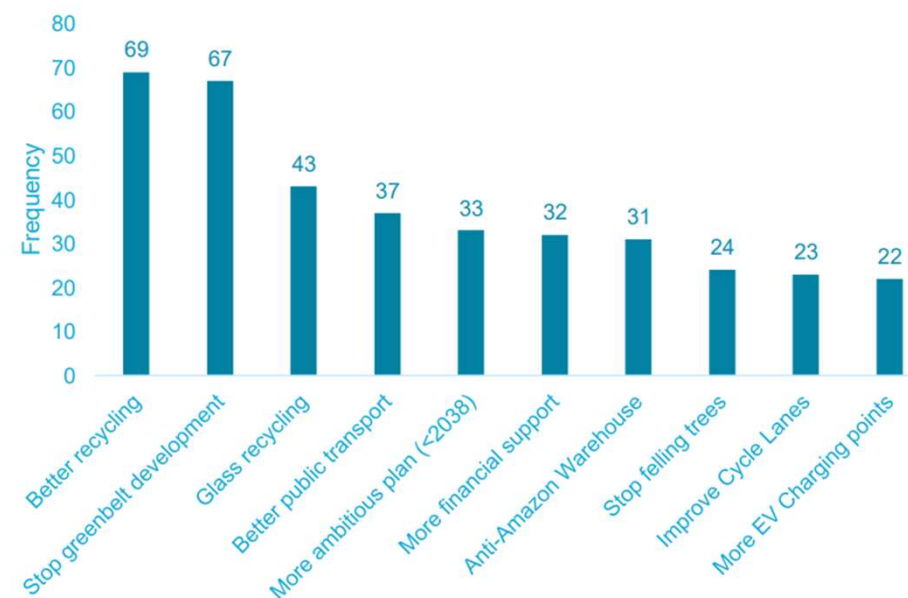
*"Cutting down on the number of planning approvals which re-zone green belt land as brown field"*

*"Stop felling mature trees - there is no point in planting hundreds/thousands of sapling trees and then felling mature trees on a planning whim"*

And then...

*"Stop virtue signalling... and get on with what you are supposed to be doing- emptying bins and fixing potholes"*

FIGURE 27: TOP 10 ACTIONS SUGGESTED AND NUMBER OF TIMES SUGGESTED.



# Waste, recycling and circular economy

## Recycling

- It's not exported...
- Saves on resources
- Simpler recycling: separate paper/card = less contamination, more recycling.

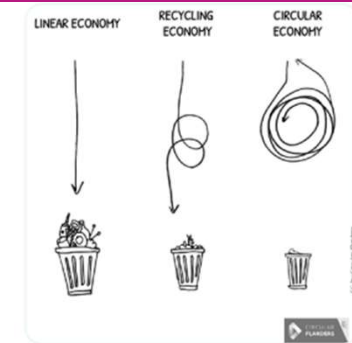
## Food waste

- Green energy
- Fertiliser = full cycle
- Reduces methane emissions when sent to landfill / dioxins at EfW

## Reuse and repair

- Reducing consumption
- Repair cafes
- Most effective way to reduce embodied carbon
- Second-hand first!

Council given award for its bin collection services





## It's about communication...

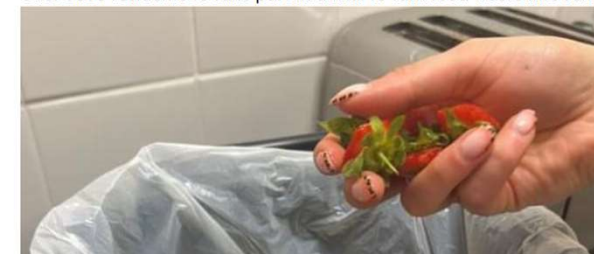
### Example: Newcastle-upon-Tyne

- “This effort has generated an impressive **750,000 kWh of renewable energy**, enough to power **281 homes** or heat **67 homes** for an entire year.”
- “It’s fantastic to see our residents embracing this initiative. Not only are we generating clean energy with a **net zero** carbon impact, but we’re also producing high-quality fertiliser that enhances soil health across the region”
- “**198 tonnes** of nutrient-rich liquid fertiliser, which is distributed to **local farms**”
- “The initiative anticipates the requirements of the Environment Act 2021, which mandates all councils in England to implement food waste collections by March 2026.”

5 September 2024

### New trial to turn food waste into renewable energy

Over 5000 residents to take part in a trial to turn food waste into renewable energy



20 May 2025

### Food waste trial hits 300-tonne milestone

New trial has collected and recycled over 300 tonnes of food waste from local households.







# It's about communication...

## Example: Renew Hub, Greater Manchester

**5,000 m2**

Largest in the country

**Former disused IVC**

Even the building itself is upcycled!

**90,000 items / 500+ tonnes**

Saved from disposal (in first year)

**£320,000**

Will be raised for local charities every year

- Circular Economy on an industrial scale
- Focus on **social value**
- Affordable second-hand items sold at HWRCs / online
- “Re-use plays a central role in the journey towards decarbonisation, and the launch of the Renew Hub will support the city region in meeting its target of becoming carbon neutral by 2038, while also benefiting the community.”



## Example: Zero Waste Scotland

- “Around **80%** of Scotland’s carbon footprint and contribution to climate change is down to consumption: the things we make, buy, use and throw away”
- “the obvious carbon benefits of increased reuse in the local authority allows for improved reporting with respect to Net Zero targets”
- **Reuse First approach**
- Many examples of best practice small-scale and larger scale reuse centres at HWRCs

### Making reuse happen at Household Waste Recycling Centres

Guidance for local authorities

Zero Waste Scotland  
June 2024



Figure 10: The reuse container at Friarton HWRC in Perth and Remake Scotland.





# Transport, highways, grounds, street lighting

## Transport

- Depot decarbonisation
  - Perry Barr, B'ham
- EV transition
  - Fleet and households
- Public transport
- **Think Air Quality**

Region leading the way on green transport - mayor



## Highways

Sustainable highways:

- Universities of Derby and Nottingham
- Recycled asphalt (plastic)
- HVOs / electric fleet
- LED lighting / energy saving measures

## Parks

- Biodiversity net gain
- No-mow May
- Rewilding
- Tree planting



# Council buildings and housing

- It just makes sense
- Funding available
  - Changes: Salix Low carbon Skills fund → contact local Net Zero hubs
  - Funding for visible delivery
  - Heat Networks



The Star

## Council secures £265k for green upgrades to four public buildings

Four council-owned buildings across Rotherham are set to undergo major green upgrades next year, thanks to a £265000 government grant aimed at cutting...

5 days ago

Wandsworth Borough Council

## Council secures £4.5m external funding boost for greener buildings

Published: Thursday, May 15, 2025. We have successfully bid for money from the Government and City Hall to make council buildings greener and reduce energy...

3 weeks ago

Daily Record

## South Lanarkshire Council launches survey on future of its buildings

Do you have an opinion on how South Lanarkshire Council runs schools, community halls, offices, and other buildings? You can now share your thoughts with...

1 month ago

Wrexham County Borough Council

## Wrexham Council's 1st Modern Method of Construction Project is another step closer to Completion

The project, which aims to deliver high-quality, energy-efficient housing, will feature a two-storey apartment block consisting of six one-bedroom apartments.

1 month ago

Oxford Mail

## Council approve £10m scheme to decarbonise Oxfordshire buildings

Council approve £10m scheme to decarbonise Oxfordshire buildings ... Your round-up of the day's top stories. Sign Up. By signing up, you agree to our privacy...

1 month ago

My Nottingham News

## Over £10 million invested to make homes more energy efficient in Nottingham city

More than 1,200 cold and inefficient private homes across the city of Nottingham have benefitted from a range of energy saving measures...

6 days ago





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## Contact details

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