



## Low Carbon Cities Conference Birmingham, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

The Low Carbon Cities Conference was held in May 2008 to celebrate the progress made to date within the Low Carbon Cities Programme (LCCP)<sup>1</sup> and to share good practice between all eight of the Core Cities.<sup>2</sup> The event was attended by a wide range of stakeholders across the eight Core Cities, including the Council, the Local Strategic Partnership, Universities, the Health Sector, Housing Associations, Businesses and Voluntary Sectors. The Conference also incorporated the UKBCSE Sustainable UK Cities Seminar Series in the afternoon<sup>3</sup>.

This report gives an overview of the Conference and highlights the main issues that were raised throughout the course of the day. An agenda for the Conference is included in Appendix 1. Copies of the presentations made at the Conference are available for download at [www.lowcarboncities.co.uk/events](http://www.lowcarboncities.co.uk/events).

### Plenary 1: Low Carbon Cities Programme Overview

#### Tom Delay, Carbon Trust

The aim of the Low Carbon Cities Programme is to achieve significant carbon reductions over time through strong public sector leadership leveraging private sector support, with the programme owned by the community concerned.

We need bold brave decisions and greater leverage with cities. We are committed to this and are excited about it. Cities are very important - not only do they offer economic development hubs and large populations but they have a relevance of scale. People have an affiliation to a city much more than to a region.

There is a need for cooperation and collaboration, and cities can offer this between the public and private sectors. It is tough to tackle climate change. Measures are often cost effective but are not taken up - why is this? Although the business case is compelling, the benefits of action are often shared by different organisations and groups. To achieve real action, we need to bring the benefits together into one collaborative business case.

#### Fraser Winterbottom - Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) is focused on householders and encouraging them to become low carbon citizens. 80% of people believe that something is going on with climate change but only 20-30% have taken action. 1 million people come to EST for advice every year and 900,000 people signed up to EST's Save Your 20% pledge. There is a need for ongoing reinforcement of

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Low Carbon Cities Programme, visit [www.lowcarboncities.co.uk](http://www.lowcarboncities.co.uk)

<sup>2</sup> For more information on Core Cities, visit [www.corecities.com](http://www.corecities.com)

<sup>3</sup> For more information on the UKBCSE Sustainable UK Cities Seminars, visit [www.bcse.org.uk](http://www.bcse.org.uk)

the message to provoke continuing action. Encouragingly, 99 local authorities have so far signed up to National Indicator 186 to reduce per capita carbon emissions.

The LCCP has identified three key elements to citywide carbon reduction:

1. The need for a joined up approach, greater cooperation and coordination. Residents need to see leadership and have opportunities to participate, so that they have faith that something is being done.
2. The need to reach people through multiple channels with consistent messages.
3. Consistency in funding decisions - looking at the low carbon aspects of investment.

The LCCP has been about taking a joined up approach, bringing people together and looking at the big prizes/quick wins, whilst also developing the longer term opportunities.

## Q&A

- *Do we have to get more draconian about carbon reduction, for example through carbon rationing, in order to really change behaviour?*

### Tom Delay

We probably do need to be more draconian, but through increased urgency rather than forcing people to do things. The challenge is to not lose people's support. We have to avoid presenting climate change as something that people can't relate to. We need to maintain the credibility of the overall movement and take people and organisations along. In terms of carbon rationing, it can be done through regulation. But if people start to think about how they live and work, and what they buy, you can achieve the same sorts of carbon reductions without losing people's support.

### Fraser Winterbottom

We can do a lot with behaviour if we inform people, make it easy and make it economic. There is a role for regulation but we need a few long term consistent regulations rather than regulation by announcement. Local Area Agreements, for instance, are a good piece of regulation. Rationing would be so complex to implement; it doesn't look like an easy win. Rising energy prices are effectively creating rationing anyway.

- *What is the difference in roles between cities and regions? How do we align these roles? And what should we say to Government as they consult on these issues?*

### Tom Delay

Public sector organisations are often geographically defined; businesses often are not. Geographical boundaries mean less to businesses. But businesses are all located within towns and cities and have a sense of locality. Regions focus on economic development at regional level, but are we creating unnecessary competition between regions? There is a lack of understanding of how cities and regions fit together.

- *What I'm hoping to get from today is a sense of what steps we must take now. The issue is so large but what **must** we do?*

### Fraser Winterbottom

Any leadership is welcome. Communications is not about hectoring; you need to inspire and motivate and to bring creativity. As for "what must you do", start your plan from your community. Quick wins in one area may not be quick wins for another. People need to feel inspired to do more. Plan and tailor to your area.

## Plenary 2: Insights from the LCCP Pilots

### Alex Minshull, Bristol City Council

The main benefits of the Low Carbon Cities Programme for Bristol have been:

1. It has given us impetus by giving us a limited six month timescale
2. It has given us focus on key components.
3. It has built on existing stakeholder engagement and led to much more detailed discussions about what we can do together and how we can move towards action.
4. It has given us a common set of assumptions and a language. The Carbon Calculator will be valuable for giving us the basis for the conversation about carbon across the city.
5. It has helped us to see more clearly the services available from agencies and others, and to understand how we can best use the various tools, resources and support.

The challenges we see as we look ahead are to maintain momentum, to deliver on expectations and respond to stakeholder demands, and to extend the scope of our work, particularly towards the private sector.

### Thomas Knowland, Leeds City Council

Leeds has an existing Climate Change Strategy. An emerging theme is carbon reduction in our own estate, particularly in the light of rising energy bills and National Indicator 185. Our citywide priorities are extending our CHP/community heating network citywide and our climate change impacts assessment work.

Through the Low Carbon Cities Programme, we have:

1. Brought together energy managers from large public and private sector organisations.
2. Shared information and looked at opportunities on procurement.
3. Started towards a shared communications and media strategy around climate change in the city.

The challenges for us are having a standard tool for data collection and reporting, setting up a coordinating body - perhaps in the form of a Climate Change Centre, really knowing our emissions and trajectories for the future, and making sure that new buildings are a real statement of Leeds' commitment to tackling climate change.

### Sarah Davies, Manchester City Council

The Manchester approach has been to work with the other 9 local authorities in the city-region. Our expectations from the Low Carbon Cities Programme were that it would offer a vehicle to take us closer to our goals, bring together people who needed to be brought together, and provide us with a set of common tools and resources.

The benefits of the LCCP have been:

1. A useful brand, which has especially helped us with business engagement.
2. Improved relationships with the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust.
3. An excellent set of tools is coming along, offering consistency of information and approach.

However, the weaknesses of the LCCP are:

1. We're only just getting started and there is a need for continuing support.
2. The programme has helped Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust to understand cities more, but there is more that can be done to communicate the programme, for example, to Defra and CLG. The experiences of this programme so far can be used to influence future implementation activities. Are Defra aware of how useful this proven, successful partnership approach can be?

## Seminar A: Accelerating City-Wide Carbon Reduction

This seminar was an opportunity for the three core cities to showcase their approaches and learnings from the LCCP. Each of the three cities gave a short presentation, which was followed by a question and answer session. The key issues raised are summarised below.

In the discussions the cost of *rising cost of oil* was discussed and was seen as being a driver for action that could be built upon. There was also discussion about the potential of engaging on climate change through *faith groups* and this was highlighted through the multicultural work being developed in Birmingham, where they are talking more about the value behind taking action on climate change.

There was a need for a *step change in renewable industry*, in the skills and knowledge, and a need to secure long-term investment for such projects.

The UK's competition mentality is having a *detrimental effect* on the development and up take of some innovations in climate change. The Core Cities have shown that they can overcome the political divisions on climate change (for example Manchester work through AGMA). It was highlighted that this does not happen in Europe and as such there is a need to build on the partnerships which the Core Cities have forged through this partnership approach.

There was a discussion as to whether climate change needed to be *fully embedded* into all strategies instead of it competing for priority. It was felt by some that climate change needed to be integrated into the day to day consideration of every one, but some felt that this could dilute the effort or could result in inappropriate decisions being made. There is a need to ensure that *key decision makers* such as planners have the knowledge and technical resources available to make good decisions.

The business sector praised the approach of Manchester but felt there was *a great deal the public sector could still do*, for example the potential impact which could be had through a holistic engagement with sustainable procurement and through Public Private Partnerships.

## Seminar B: State of Play Audit & LCCP Toolkit - Insights across the Core Cities

Tim Curtis, AEA Energy & Environment, provided delegates with an overview of the LCCP State of Play Audit and Toolkit. The five themes which have emerged from the State of Play Audit were discussed, and the following key points raised:

### Political support

Corporate buy-in is often demonstrated by endorsing environmental and climate change strategies, but *less support is seen at the implementation stage*. There is a lack of political drive through to the completion of projects. Cross-party support is required for longer term continuity.

*Performance indicators and targets* can act as a driver and help gain political support. Indicators should be 'outcome' based rather than 'outputs'. *Dedicated resources and budgets* are also needed. Greater involvement with vocational universities and with schools should be sought, as should greater involvement of business in local authorities.

### Flexibility

*Don't necessarily go for obvious funding sources* - funding schemes don't need to be labelled climate change. Tap into other funds which are driven by other issues, for example air quality or community cohesion. You can meet funders' objectives but still be creative. Calls for funding can be issued at short notice, so be prepared and have bids ready to go and networks warmed up.

*Flexibility within partnerships important*. Be transparent and open to enable third parties to gain trust. Ensure all parties are fully informed and clear about their role to avoid barriers and ensure delivery bodies and recipients are bought in. There needs to be partnerships within local authorities as well as with external organisations.

### Technical

Local authorities need to invest in *technical expertise* but who do they ask / trust? Suppliers will be biased towards their products. Lots of local authorities struggle with this. There's a need for experts at a regional/higher level that can filter knowledge to local authorities to deliver. Good guidance is available from the Carbon Trust, the Energy Saving Trust on renewables.

The *costs and benefits* of an installation should be part of the project specification, as well as the technical aspects. The fact that renewables can be used to back-up grid connection for energy security should be included as an economic benefit in funding applications.

Financial resource is needed. *Sponsorship* of a project can provide continuity, but can also leave the project vulnerable to an individual's presence.

We should strive to build to a *high standard* to avoid the need for over complex technical solutions/fixes in the future.

Joined up planning between organisations is required if combined heat and power / district heating is to be a success. Green concierge services are a good idea, and should be promoted and funded. The incompatibility between combination boilers and solar thermal can be a barrier to projects.

## Planning

Planning should be used to address carbon, energy and sustainability issues but it was felt that many planners are not well informed about latest technologies. We must respect the local authority planning context and offer to assist and support them, rather than re-train them. *Proactive requirements* should be encouraged, such as ‘we would like to see more of the following’, rather than settling for a reactive planning process.

*Preparation* is needed to make a project work, with partners involved from an early stage. Partners can also help to support planners with knowledge and expertise.

In regard to transport planning, we need to shift the balance towards *sustainable travel*. Good practice we can learn from includes low carbon (emissions) transport (CENEX).

Sustainability should be considered in everything, the way that equality issues are. A national template could be developed for local authorities and developers to use to ensure sustainability is always included.

*Stability of funding support* influences planning context.

## Partnerships

When working in partnership, each organisations’ agendas / objectives should be *shared at the beginning* and project outcomes agreed. Complementary objectives will help, but partners have to make compromises to ensure carbon reduction remains a priority. Objectives should be revisited regularly to maintain clarity and focus. Build trust by starting with achievable goals and then doing more complicated things. It is important that partners feel valued.

Partnerships can often rely on *motivated individuals*. Where required, they are valuable, but they shouldn’t be set up just for the sake of it. And remember, ‘partnership’ does not mean ‘meetings’, although there can be other associated overhead costs.

Local Area Agreements are key drivers for action and should be the focus for partnerships.

In many areas, the voluntary sector is well engaged, but local authorities often don’t give them enough empowerment. Climate change offers an opportunity to work corporately but local authorities also find engaging with the private sector difficult.

Local authority city boundaries can be restrictive when building partnerships and a lack of senior-level buy-in can mean a leadership gap. Core Cities have a role in mentoring others.

### *Other comments:*

Care needs to be taken to avoid double counting. If grant bodies and organisations are both reporting the same carbon savings, this could lead to double counting at a city level. We should also take into account embedded carbon costs, e.g. if a Chinese power station is built to provide energy for us, where is this energy counted?

The LCCP Toolkit will enable groups of local authorities to calculate their performance, separate to all organisations within the city, as this has been developed for the Manchester tool where 10 local authorities are working together in the city-region.

## Seminar C: City-Wide Project Exemplars - Opportunity Mapping

Michael King of the Combined Heat and Power Association explored how local authorities and others can adopt a strategic approach to citywide sustainable energy. The presentation was based on a recent CHPA/TCPA publication *Community Energy: Urban Planning for a Low Carbon Future*, which identifies a number of “character areas” within a city and the mix of sustainable energy technologies most appropriate for them.

Delegates were asked to discuss the barriers to adopting a citywide approach in their areas and to identify the *help needed* to take such an approach forward. Responses covered:

### 1. Accessing expertise

- Knowing who the experts are in community energy.
- Knowing how to find external expertise.
- Ensuring that internal staff and officers are sufficiently well-informed.
- Understanding technical issues such as heat losses.
- Learning from other cities as the citywide approach seems the best way to achieve significant results.

### 2. Identifying opportunities

- Particularly related to understanding the energy opportunities in areas of major growth or regeneration, and how the built form and energy mix can be influenced.
- Preventing heat networks or CHP from being removed - or preparing to reinstall them.

### 3. Funding and management issues

- Making the business case to the private sector for extensions to infrastructure.
- Understanding appropriate levels of risk and navigating different ownership models for energy services between the private and public sectors.
- Identifying opportunities for community based collaboration, such as green neighbourhoods.
- Issues surrounding billing, such as metering or flat rate tariffs.

### 4. Gaining senior level commitment

- The “sales job” to senior level management and Council Members.
- Encouraging and supporting champions for citywide approaches.

Copies of the Community Energy guide are available for download from [www.chpa.co.uk/news/reports\\_pubs.shtml](http://www.chpa.co.uk/news/reports_pubs.shtml).

## Seminar D: Support from the Carbon Trust

Kevin McDonald, Salix Finance, and Andrew MacDonald, Partnership for Renewables (PfR), each gave an overview of the support their organizations can offer cities. The following questions and issues were raised:

### Funding and finance

- *Can Salix work across public sector bodies?*

Yes - Salix encourages *innovative partnerships*, for example where a number of public sector bodies work together on joint initiatives.

- *Is funding available for schools?*

Schools should approach their local authorities for advice on funding.

### Renewables

- *In addition to the focus on wind, what is the systematic strategy for supporting other renewables?*

The response focused on wind as the key current approach. Consideration should be given to being clearer about the timetable and approach for others.

- *Consideration should be given to the historic tradition of civic investment in key infrastructure for growing conurbations - e.g. Birmingham's Victorian investment in clean water supply from outside the city. Similar *long term strategic approaches* could be adopted for renewable energy source whether they be wind, solar or waste re-use etc. This would allow economies of scale to be established and encourage sustainable supply and demand making what is currently uneconomic more viable. A new city focused renewable/sustainable energy infrastructure supply strategy can be the 21<sup>st</sup> equivalent to investment in sewers, water supply, canal, railways etc.*
- *CHP and solar thermal make more sense in cities than wind power. Storage of biomass is difficult enough in city centres, finding the space for turbines would be even harder!*
- *Legislation/Powers - consideration should be given to the *statutory powers to generate energy*. This has been an obstacle in some areas where there is a commitment to develop local small/medium scale investment which could be self funding if income could return to the investing organisation - e.g. Local Authority or other local body.*

### Other issues

- *What barriers are there to communications?*

Many of the bodies that PfR deals with maintain a high degree of autonomy in the decision making process. It would be helpful if central government could help steer people in the decision-making process. Also, for some organisations - e.g. community groups - there may be a need to think about forms of communication. Web based information is not always easy for some groups. There is a real interest from the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector.

- *Has thought been given to recycling and waste reduction as well?*

Salix purely focuses on building and estate energy use. PfR focuses on electricity supply. [Comment:] Defra targets don't currently include imported items and waste. For meaningful reductions in carbon emissions to be made, the multitude of sources of emissions needs to be recognised.

## Seminar E: Support from the Energy Saving Trust

Catherine Monaghan from the Energy Saving Trust, provided delegates with an overview of services they offer of interest to cities. A discussion then took place regarding the opportunities and associated constraints open to cities, as well as what relationships need to be in place to make it work. The key points raised are summarized below:

Many of the easy actions have already been taken (e.g. insulating cavity walls), so now work needs to be done on the *harder to reach groups*, such as the able to pay sector. Communications strategies and other vehicles are needed to unlock this. Cross-selling (e.g. telling people who ask about insulation about water and waste too) is the most successful method. Information and advice to consumers needs to be made available in a *range of formats* - the internet isn't the best for everyone.

There's a *lack of consistency* from government departments and other bodies (e.g. Defra, EST) on the advice they're giving on how people should change their behaviour.

*Multi-sector involvement* is difficult, e.g. when trying to coordinate anaerobic digestion schemes. We need to develop arrangements for joint working across sectors with a contribution to make to specific areas, e.g. waste, transport and energy sector need to work together on bio fuels sector to realise the full benefit.

Government must ensure that national targets are not creating unintended consequences of increasing carbon or not fully rewarding carbon reducing behaviour. The current review of national/regional bodies should *support carbon reducing collaboration*, investment and action, for example, economic growth targets which support rather than ignore carbon reduction objectives.

EST strategy must help develop *communities*, rather than simply an individual action approach. This will build sustainable developments. EST must also support local authorities in their community leadership approach: carbon emissions from directly controlled local authority activity may be less than 20% for any city, so advice for local authorities as community leaders should be developed. If Green Neighbourhood Funds are developed over the next few months, please ensure that information on joint community action is supported by EST.

There is still a need for more education for domestic users on efficiency and using your home and appliances in the best way. The EST Advice Centres will need strong connections with local authorities to ensure that information is of a high quality and reflecting real local knowledge. This is particularly important regarding travel and transport - there's a lot of variation within a region, and it is crucial that advisors are able to give good local information. The Advice Centres shouldn't just give people a list of other phone numbers to call - all of the information should be centralised and seamless. *Data sharing is essential*.

## Plenary 3: UKBCSE Sustainable UK Cities Seminar

### Chris Murray, Core Cities Programme (Chair)

The Core Cities group is self-selected, self-funding group of eight cities facing similar issues and challenges. They are places that are economically vital, with large diverse populations but some vulnerable communities. One of our 8 workstreams is climate change. Cities are large CO<sub>2</sub> emitters with the potential to change: the Core Cities account for 27% of England's carbon emissions. Local authorities are moving from their traditional service delivery role to increasingly becoming leaders of places, bringing together a range of agencies to tackle issues.

### Councillor Neville Summerfield, Birmingham City Council

Birmingham is leading by example as a low carbon city. Our venue today, the ICC, gets its power from a CHP linked through an energy network to the National Indoor Arena, the Hyatt Hotel, the Repertory Theatre, Library and Town Hall. This one CHP engine has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2800 tonnes. We're developing and extending our network and looking to connect the Children's Hospital and the Council Offices, as well as developing energy networks and CHP plants in other parts of the city. The city also has a PV installation at the Alexandra Sports Training Facility, and PV and solar thermal at a number of schools.

In terms of housing, we have worked with Family Housing Association on an Eco-Neighbourhoods project, putting energy efficiency measures and solar water heating into 200 properties. We have also established a partnership with Cisco to develop low carbon solutions through IT and digital technologies based around a Smart Living Smart Homes concept.

Birmingham is also hosting the Climate Change Festival, from 31 May 2008 for nine days.

### James Smith, Shell UK

When we think about climate change and carbon emissions, there are three sets of forces at work:

1. Economic growth and population growth - can we deliver enough energy?
2. Energy efficiency and decarbonisation of supply. Tantalisingly, the technologies and tools are already here. Fossil fuels will still be a significant part of our future but we need to take the carbon out of fossil fuels and we also need a huge growth in renewables. If we start to exclude technologies (such as coal or nuclear), we run out of options. We need to look at the imperfections of the technologies and work with them, create an energy system which is fit for our purpose and the purpose of the planet
3. Economic incentives and behavioural science. The market is the most effective way of getting us to where we need to be. Things like the EU ETS - let's fix them and get the carbon price into the global system. Regulation is also needed where price signals are muted - for instance, in product efficiency standards and building regulations. And we need help getting new technologies out there. In behavioural terms, we have propensities about status and consumption, and we have to change our thinking and our behaviour.

Is it affordable? The Stern Review cited a cost of 1% of GDP - that is some \$350 billion - but it is economic and we do need to do it.

Shell has developed scenarios based on a global model covering 70 countries, with the aim of making sure our approach is coherent. We have identified two scenarios, driven by continuing growth in energy demand and significant environmental stresses:

1. Scramble: this scenario has insufficient cooperation and is based around Governments acting individually, prioritising energy security. It tends towards the use of coal and “bad” biofuels, with price fights in the 2020s and knee jerk reactions when climatic impacts happen.
2. Blueprints: a scenario based on concerted action and cooperation.

### Q&A for James Smith

#### ➤ *What is the role of universities?*

You may be aware of the Energy Technologies Institute, being set up by Government and business, with the idea of accelerating implementation as we’re already good at fundamental research. The energy industry is probably the highest-tech sector that you can think of. We need to address challenges of improving product efficiencies, addressing bio-productivity, carbon capture and storage etc. The challenge is to find a way of knitting it together.

We don’t produce enough scientists so the more we can get people interested, the better. Getting people interested and into university and joining the industry - that’s crucially important. The technologies are in place, the money is there, but the people to make the shifts also have to be there.

#### ➤ *Is peak oil coming? And what will the impacts of climate change be on the fossil fuel supply, e.g., extreme weather conditions in oil-producing areas?*

Peak oil - it depends how you look at it. You can integrate global supply curves and get long term supply. The issue isn’t the lack of oil, it’s the lack of access to oil and the costs that go along with this. In terms of climate change impacts, typically our cities and our refineries are built close to the sea. We should look at where we live.

#### ➤ *How might Shell’s business change in response to the climate change challenge?*

We still think that fossil fuels will be 60% of the market by 2050 so they will still be a major part of our business. We have been developing clean coal technologies and we think their time has come. We’re also looking at gas and oil sands, but we are looking at how to decarbonise them. And we’re looking at the development of alternative transport fuels and thin film solar technologies. You might have seen that we have pulled out of the London Array, a large offshore wind project. We are not happy to have found ourselves in that position but the capital costs went up hugely. It has to be economic and it’s not - but other organisations may find it attractive. We’re also looking at the energy efficiency of our buildings and refineries. The Shell Centre was built in 1961 and uses Thames water for heat exchanging.

#### ➤ *You mentioned market forces responding to climate change. How far do you think the market will respond and does the private sector have a role in changing behaviour?*

Stern talks about climate change as market failure and it’s a choice for us about when we incur the costs of action. We need to do it here and now, get the cost of carbon into the system. We need to use all the instruments available in a market economy. There is a job for both public and private sector organisations to spread the word about the risks of climate change. Shell supplies 2% of the world’s energy - if we get it right, we attract customers; if we get it wrong, people go somewhere else.

### **Tony Hawkhead, Groundwork**

We now tend to couple local authorities and climate change, and this raises some assumptions: that local action on climate change is important, and that local authorities have a responsibility to address climate change issues across their whole community.

This is an historic one-off opportunity for local authorities to show leadership. The whole thrust of local authority policy is about local leadership, engaging communities and a sense of place. Place is the policy framework in which everything else sits. Both the causes and impacts of climate change are about place. Will we only be galvanised into action when it is our place that is impacted?

Tackling climate change is about engaging people and communities. Efforts to address climate change can help build concerned, knowledgeable citizenship. Active citizenship and addressing local environmental issues can build social capital. Looking at global environmental issues through the prism of local place can be powerful.

There are three other arguments for action where people are not convinced by the need to act on climate change:

1. Social justice: the people who suffer most from climate change are those that have the least.
2. Regeneration: improving housing quality for communities; trusted local organisations working with local people.
3. Economic development: Regional Economic Strategies and competitiveness have helped rebalance the economy away from the South East of England, but development is patchy and many people are still stuck outside the economic mainstream. Addressing climate change offers opportunities here: for local energy schemes, local biofuels, encouraging local money flows.

The key is embedding climate change mitigation and adaptation in the core priorities of local authorities and the public sector. We can already see private sector procurement taking steps here, and the public sector can also realise huge benefits. Only by working together can we go forward.

### **Matt Bell, CABE**

We are at the point where dealing with climate change feels incredibly difficult. People know they have to do something but don't know what to do, and they are looking for role models and civic leadership. There is a real need for conviction politics.

The Climate Change Festival to be held in Birmingham in May/June looks to provoke stronger civic leadership and create that public mandate. Many organisations - businesses and the public sector - think that people do not want information, that there is no public mandate around climate change. Research shows that the public wants and expects Government to deal with climate change and that they will accept choice editing on products like domestic appliances.

The Festival creates the platform for the public mandate to be expressed. We want to show that it's all right to be bold and that people can dare to dream about their city. We want to turn the debate on its head, get away from scolding people and make climate change action young, aspirational, fair, healthy, beautiful and competitive. We need to stop framing the issue in terms of threat, cost and risk, and move towards action that is collective, sociable and fun.

Our aim is for people to engage with climate change on their own terms and in an aspirational framework. The CABE and Core Cities work fits with the Low Carbon Cities Programme through learning activities, toolkits and resources.

## Panel discussion

The speakers were joined on the panel by Fraser Winterbottom (Energy Saving Trust), James Wilde (Carbon Trust), Geoff Rayner (Modec), and Tim Capper (Interserve).

- *What advice do you have for local authorities thinking of setting up CHP schemes?*

**Councillor Neville Summerfield:** Contact the Birmingham Council team and we can provide information about our partners. We are delighted with it. Core Cities have a vital role to play.

- *How can we create a more sustainable economy, to move towards one planet living?*
- *I was impressed by Matt's statement about conviction politics in both the public and private sectors. People want to see change but politicians don't.*
- *Can achieve more by changing our language and engage more people that way?*

**Tony Hawkhead:** The way we think and judge our status is going to have to change. We will always need a combination of a convinced market and strong government pressure. In terms of conviction politics, people are happy to be regulated. But we've had a generation of politicians who have gone for the lowest common denominator rather than leading us out on a limb. Regarding language, the cold technical language means nothing to people. We need to talk about how life is going to be better. We need a campaign to change the language.

**Geoff Reyner:** We have over 100 vehicles out on the road, of which only one has gone to a local authority. People are in a comfort zone, and we need to get them to look at new technologies. We should not try to put sticking plasters on. We should also recognise that the private sector has been doing a lot.

**Tim Capper:** Some questions are tough to answer but we need to do what we can now. Behaviour change needs to happen and culture change will happen over time.

**Councillor Neville Summerfield:** I am slightly concerned that people think we're not bothered. We are committed and passionate. This is not window dressing, it's an ongoing challenge.

**Matt Bell:** The Climate Change Festival is a deliberate attempt to turn language in a different direction, to turn it into something aspirational. On conviction politics, the Code for Sustainable Homes is a good recent example, a policy unencumbered by detail or experience that has really motivated the housebuilders.

- *Our electricity distribution system wastes 60% of its energy. We could make significant change if we had a policy shift on this.*
- *What about large scale renewable farms rather than the cities-based systems?*
- *The media constantly refers to people as "consumers". Can we achieve change if the media continually reinforces messages?*

**Fraser Winterbottom:** We need a mix of centralised renewable and distributed energy. Government is hopefully moving away from stop start grant programmes to long term incentives. In terms of language, all of the Core Cities today talked about inspiring people.

**Tim Capper:** In terms of large renewables, the economics need to be right and we may need fiscal interventions to level the playing field.

**James Wilde:** In terms of supply, we need a renewable energy strategy covering heat, transport and electricity. Our scenarios show the need for lots of renewable electricity, and you will need large scale wind farms which will need strong political commitment and leadership.

**Councillor Neville Summerfield:** The secret to the longer term is education and how young people are being taught.

## Appendix 1: Conference Agenda

<b>9:30</b>	Registration	
<b>10:00</b>	Welcome	The morning plenary will be chaired by <b>Paul Black</b> of Carbon Considerations
	LCCP Overview	<b>Tom Delay</b> , Chief Executive, Carbon Trust <b>Fraser Winterbottom</b> , Director of Delivery, Energy Saving Trust
	Insights from the LCCP Pilots	<b>Bristol, Leeds and Manchester</b> will each give an overview of their experiences of the Low Carbon Cities Programme:  <b>Alex Minshull</b> , Environment and Sustainability Unit Manager, Bristol City Council  <b>Tom Knowland</b> , Head of Sustainable Development Leeds City Council  <b>Sarah Davies</b> , Green City Programme Director Manchester City Council
<b>11:30</b>	Refreshments	
<b>12:00</b>	Seminar Session 1  A choice of four themed seminar sessions	<p>a) <b>Accelerating City-Wide Carbon Reduction</b> Lorraine Hudson, Bristol City Council George Munson, Leeds City Council Steve Turner, Manchester Enterprise Darren Pegram, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p>b) <b>State of Play Audit &amp; LCCP Toolkit - Insights across the Core Cities</b> Tim Curtis, LCCP Team</p> <p>c) <b>City-Wide Project Exemplars - Opportunity Mapping</b> Michael King, LCCP Team</p> <p>d) <b>Support from the Carbon Trust</b> Andrew MacDonald, Partnership for Renewables and Kevin McDonald, Salix Finance</p>
	Lunch	

<b>14:00</b>	<p>Seminar Session 2</p> <p>A choice of four themed seminar sessions</p>	<p><b>a) Accelerating City-Wide Carbon Reduction</b> Lorraine Hudson, Bristol City Council George Munson, Leeds City Council Steve Turner, Manchester Enterprise Darren Pegram, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council</p> <p><b>b) State of Play Audit &amp; LCCP Toolkit - Insights across the Core Cities</b> Tim Curtis, LCCP Team</p> <p><b>c) City-Wide Project Exemplars - Opportunity Mapping</b> Michael King, LCCP Team</p> <p><b>e) Support from the Energy Saving Trust</b> Catherine Monaghan and Lewis Morrison, Energy Saving Trust</p>
<b>15:00</b>	Refreshments	
<b>15:30</b>	<p>UKBCSE Sustainable UK Cities Seminar Series</p>	<p>The afternoon plenary will be chaired by <b>Chris Murray</b> of Core Cities</p> <p><b>Cllr Neville Summerfield</b>, Birmingham City Council</p> <p><b>James Smith</b>, Chairman, Shell UK</p> <p><b>Tony Hawkhead</b>, Chief Executive, Groundwork</p> <p><b>Matt Bell</b>, Director of Campaigns and Education, CAFE</p>
<b>16:45</b>	<p>Panel Discussion</p>	<p><b>Cllr Neville Summerfield</b>, Birmingham City Council</p> <p><b>Tony Hawkhead</b>, Chief Executive, Groundwork</p> <p><b>Matt Bell</b>, Director of Campaigns and Education, CAFE</p> <p><b>James Wilde</b>, Insights Director, Carbon Trust</p> <p><b>Fraser Winterbottom</b>, Director of Delivery, Energy Saving Trust</p> <p><b>Geoff Reyner</b>, Sales &amp; Marketing Director, Modec Ltd</p> <p><b>Bill Farmer</b>, Director, Interserve Project Services</p>
<b>17:20</b>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>	<p><b>Paul Black</b>, Carbon Considerations</p>
<b>17:30</b>	<p>Drinks reception</p>	
<b>19:00</b>	<p>Close</p>	