

SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE | AGENDA

11 October 2022

10:00-12:00 (at 11:00 there will be a short break for 10 minutes)

Please find joining details below:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84609255487?pwd=bmJ2Q3MwV2ZrTThDdGFtMnVTejlGUT09>

Meeting ID: 846 0925 5487

Passcode: 825339

To submit an apology for this meeting please email
NALCcommittees@nalc.gov.uk or call 020 7637 1865.

1. Apologies and welcome

- 1.1. To note any apologies.

Verbally at
the meeting

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- 2.1. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2022 and to note any matters arising and other items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

Appendices
2.1 – 2.2

- 2.2. To note the actions completed since the meeting held on 19 July 2022, in the action log.

3. Urgent business of the emerging recommendations in respect to the Smaller Council's Committee/network

- 3.1. Cllr Burns to give a verbal report on the recommendations emerging from NALC's Governance Task and Finish Group to close down the Smaller Councils Committee and change it into a network.

Verbally at
the meeting

4. Letter to smaller councils

- 4.1. To receive updates from Cllr Lillian Burns and Cllr Graham Ford on the response to the survey of smaller councils and associated reports. Verbally at the meeting

5. NALC analysis of council tax levels of local precepting authorities

- 5.1. The policy officer to present NALC's analysis of local council tax levels of local precepting authorities 2022-3. Appendix 5.1

6. Climate change

- 6.1. The policy officer to provide a summary of responses received following the request for county associations to provide information on i) how many of their councils have declared a climate emergency ii) anything else they've done to tackle climate change and iii) about their partnership with principal authorities in pursuing this area. Appendix 6.1

7. Member services update

- 7.1. Corinne Curtis from Worknest to attend to receive feedback from committee members on if/how they have used the 'Being a Good Employer Guide' in the past and what sort of changes, topics or themes would help improve the guide as part of the update Worknest have been commissioned to do. Verbally at the meeting
- 7.2. To receive an update on the Civility and Respect Project from Linda Larter, chief executive for Sevenoaks Town Council and SLCC board member for the Civility and Respect Project and to give feedback on the Civility and Respect Pledge. Verbally at the meeting

8. Date and time of next meeting

- 8.1. To note that the next meeting of the Smaller Councils Committee will be held on 21 February 2023 starting at 10:00am, location to be confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

Appendix 2.1 – Draft minutes of meeting 19 July 2022

Meeting of the Smaller Councils Committee held by Zoom teleconference on 19 July at 10.00.

Present:

National Assembly members: Cllr Mick Baker, Cllr Bob Blezzard, Cllr Lillian Burns, Cllr Mike Drew (national vice chair, member services), Cllr Graham Ford (committee chair), Cllr Sue Lintern; directly elected members: Cllr Mervyn Head, Cllr Josephine Parish (committee vice-chair).

Staff present:

Anders Hanson (projects manager – for part), Chris Borg (policy manager), Jessica Lancod-Frost (policy officer), Justin Griggs (head of policy and communications).

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Introductions

New committee members introduced themselves, summarising their backgrounds and providing a surprising fact about themselves.

3. Minutes of previous meetings

The committee approved the minutes of the meeting on 24 May 2022.

The committee chair asked if there were any matters arising. Matters raised in response included:

- Should the first two resolutions from the last meeting go directly to the task and finish group?

- A discussion on the definition of a smaller council took place
-

Resolved (1): That the minutes of the meeting are approved.

4. NALC Online Events

Committee members were invited to suggest topics for future NALC online events, which they did as follows:

- Responding to climate change/the climate emergency
- Showcasing smaller councils that have achieved a great deal

The policy manager stressed that the topics committee members suggested would be considered for events held in the next financial year.

The head of policy and communications confirmed that NALC was looking to share the suggested topics for future events with county associations.

Committee members also discussed the relationship between their local council and principal authority.

The committee chairman proposed that the Smaller Councils Committee write to every county association to ask about the proportion of smaller councils using the NALC precept definition of a smaller council (a local council with a precept of less than £25,000), to find out how many of their councils have declared a climate emergency and anything else they've done to tackle climate change and about their partnership with principal authorities in pursuing this particular area. It was agreed that this be raised at the next county officer meeting.

Resolution (1): That NALC asks county associations about the proportion of smaller councils using the NALC precept definition, to find out how many of their councils have declared a climate emergency and anything else they've done to tackle climate change and about their partnership with principal authorities in pursuing this area at the next county officer meeting.

5. Letter to smaller councils

Cllr Lillian Burns provided an update following the presentation she gave at a formal meeting of Management Board. At least nine of the resolutions arising from

the last committee meeting were directly aimed at Management Board and still needed addressing by the committee.

The committee agreed to ask Management Board to include a specific item on the agenda of their next meeting to discuss in fuller detail the letter to smaller councils and associated report.

The head of policy communications wanted to place on record how the 100 responses to the letter to smaller councils compared with the response rate of NALC's other surveys, which were as follows:

Direct funding - 881
Dementia - 200
Climate Change - 200
Local Elections 2019 3,743
Local Elections 2021 1,004

The head of policy and communications confirmed that whilst Management Board didn't have a standing item for the Smaller and Larger Councils Committees, there was plenty of scope for issues to be raised through the relevant service area item. Committee chairs could also put forward ideas to the national chair and vice chairs.

Resolution (1): The committee requests that Management Board includes a specific item on the agenda of their next meeting to discuss in fuller detail the letter to smaller councils and associated report.

6. Update from the committee chairman

The projects manager, member services gave an update on E-Learning as follows:

- E-learning has now been confirmed as a permanent part of the NALC offer to members and is being provided using a platform called Nimble
- Delivery of it is currently dependent on county associations wanting to offer it to their members as they have to sign people up to courses within their area.
- Some parts of the country (mainly the East of England and the South West) also have their own license to offer e-learning and so they will be offering the same courses as well

- NALC are looking at a couple of potential options that may allow us to offer courses in counties where those county associations don't want to do the admin
- The civility and respect project has developed a range of additional courses which will see some shorter introductions available on particular topics via Nimble which will then lead into some additional longer courses
- A page providing more details of the available courses and how to sign up will be on the NALC website shortly

The committee asked if county officers could provide information on the training courses they offer so anyone could join in.

The head of policy and communications advised the committee they would need to ask county officers if they would share this information.

Resolution (1): The committee to ask county officers if they could provide information on the training they offer so that it could be opened up to all local councillors and clerks.

7. Date and time of next meeting

11 October 2022, time and location to be confirmed.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

Appendix 2.2 – Smaller Councils Committee Action Log

Smaller Councils Committee

19 July 2022	Minutes of previous meeting and action log ACTION: That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 July are approved.	3	Y
19 July 2022	NALC online events ACTION: That NALC asks county associations how many of their councils have declared a climate emergency and anything else they've done to tackle climate change and about their partnership with principal authorities in pursuing this area at the next county officer meeting.	4	Y
19 July 2022	Letter to smaller councils ACTION: The committee requests that Management Board includes a specific item on the agenda of their next meeting to discuss in fuller detail the letter to smaller councils and associated report.	5	Y
19 July 2022	Update from the committee chairman ACTION: The committee to ask county officers if they could provide information on the training they offer so that it could be opened up to all local councillors and clerks.	6	Y

AGENDA ITEM 5 – SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

Appendix 5.1 – Briefing analysis of council tax levels of local precepting authorities 2022/23

This briefing provides an analysis of council tax levels of local precepting Authorities 2022/3 published by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Figures shown are for 2022/2023, where relevant figures for previous years are in brackets.

Local precepting bodies

There are 10,239 (10,239) local bodies which have the power to raise a precept (a small share of council tax) in England. This includes parish and town councils, charter trustees and the Inner and Middle Temple.

Of these, 8,859 or 86.52% (8,861 or 86.54%) are precepting parish and town councils and parish meetings and are referred to in this paper as precepting local councils.

The number of local councils by precept range is as follows:

Precept	2022/2023	2021/2022	2020/2021
-£198*	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)
-£40**	1 (+1)	0 (0)	0 (0)
£0	1,362 (+2)	1,360 (+21)	1,339 (-17)
£1-24,999	5,511 (-95)	5,606 (-80)	5,686 (-113)
£25,000-£124,999	2,172(+30)	2,142 (+37)	2,105 (+84)
£125,000-£249,999	538 (+25)	513 (+13)	500 (+15)
£250,000-£999,999	553 (+24)	529 (+18)	511 (+26)
£1,000,000-£1,999,999	72 (+10)	62 (+4)	58 (+7)
£2,000,000-£2,999,999	8 (+3)	5 (0)	5 (0)

£3,000,000- £6,499,999	3 (0)	3 (0)	3 (+1)
£6,500,000 plus	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)

*Beesby with Saleby Parish Council (East Lindsey) is recorded as having a negative parish precept because the district council collects rental income from parish land on behalf of the parish and distributes this back to residents as a reduction on their council tax.

**Fawley Parish Council (West Berkshire) is recorded as having a negative parish precept because the local council is distributing money back from a previous precept which had been increased for specific additional expenditure.

Total precepts

The overall amount raised by all precepting bodies (local councils, charter trustees, temples and principal authorities) is £36.3 billion (£34.4 billion) an increase of £1.9 billion (£1.3 billion).

The overall amount raised by major precepting bodies (principal authorities) is £35.6 billion (£33.8 billion) an increase of £1.8 billion (£1.3 billion).

The overall amount raised by local precepting bodies (parish and town councils, charter trustees and temples) in England this year is £655,138,120 (£618,060,410) an increase of £37,077,710 or 5.99% (£21,697,937.50 or 3.51%). This is 1.8% (1.79%) of the total amount raised by all precepting bodies.

Of this £653,661,821 (£616,591,654) is raised by precepting local councils, an increase of £37,070,167 or 6.01% (£21,765,848 or 3.66%).

2,180 (2,191) or 24.61% (31.81%) of precepting local councils kept the 2022/23 precept the same as 2021/2.

568 (587) or 6.41% (6.62%) of precepting local councils reduced their precept.

Of the 6,109 (4,653) or 68.96% (52.51%) precepting local councils that increased their precept, 2,770 (2,446) or 45.42% (27.60%) increased it by less than £1,000.

The largest precept increase was made by Aylesbury Town Council (Buckinghamshire) which raised its precept from £1,315,266 to £1,874,951, taking its Band D tax rate from £69.45 to £100.00.

In 2021/2022 the largest precept increase was made by Daventry Town Council, (West Northamptonshire), which raised its precept from £598,823 to £1,291,879, taking its Band D tax rate from £69.21 to £150.70.

The twenty largest precepting local councils raised £46,565,517 (£44,209,927). This is 7.12% (7.15%) of the overall precept raised by all precepting local councils.

The following local councils raised a precept of between £2,000,000 and £2,999,999: Falmouth Town Council (Cornwall); Weston Super Mare (North Somerset); Central Swindon South (Swindon); Dunstable (Central Bedfordshire); Leighton Linlade Town Council (Central Bedfordshire).

In 2021/2022 the following local councils raised a precept of between £2,000,000 and £2,999,999: Falmouth Town Council (Cornwall); Weston Super Mare (North Somerset); Central Swindon South (Swindon); Dunstable (Central Bedfordshire); Leighton Linlade Town Council (Central Bedfordshire).

The following local councils raised a precept of between £3,000,000 and £6,499,999: Chippenham Town Council (Wiltshire) Weymouth Town Council (Dorset); Salisbury City Council (Wiltshire).

In 2021/2022 the following local councils raised a precept of between £3,000,000 and £6,499,999: Chippenham Town Council (Wiltshire) Weymouth Town Council (Dorset); Salisbury City Council (Wiltshire).

There are 83 local councils which currently (in 2022/2023) raise a precept of over £1,000,000.

New and disbanded parishes

In 2022/2023, 2 (12) new local councils were created, including: Wickford Town Council (Basildon) and Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool). Collectively they raise a precept of £315,987 (£3,120,151.60).

Of these, 2 (7) were in previously unparished areas including: Wickford Town Council (Basildon) and Wynyard Parish Council (Hartlepool). Collectively they raise a precept of £315,987 (£3,010,961.80).

In 2022/2023, 2 (8) local councils were disbanded: Bardon Parish Council (North West Leicestershire) and Fawcett Forest Parish Meeting (South Lakeland). Collectively this resulted in a reduction of £0 (£71,351) in the precept collected by local councils as both local councils were non precepting.

Band D

The average Band D council tax for all precepting local councils is £77.21 (£74.35) an increase of £2.86 or 3.85% (£1.65 or 2.98%).

The average Band D council tax for all local councils, including those that don't levy a precept, is £76.26 (£73.55), an increase of £2.71 or 3.68% (£1.93 or 2.69%).

The average Band D council tax for all local bodies (local councils, charter trustees and temples) that raise a precept is £74.81 (£71.86) an increase of £2.95 or 4.1% (£1.97 or 2.8%).

The average Band D council tax for all local bodies (local councils, charter trustees and temples) that have the power to raise a precept (including non precepting local councils) is £73.25 (£70.68), an increase of £2.57 or 3.63% (£1.87 or 2.72%).

The largest Band D increase was made by Kingsbrook Parish Council, Buckinghamshire (Thurlaston Parish Council, Rugby) which raised its Band D council tax rate by £195.80 (£101.07) or 468.20% (269.38%) from £41.82 to £237.62 (£37.52 to £138.59). This was due to the council taking over management of parks and green spaces, costs associated with management of a sports pavilion and capital costs for equipment.

The overall profile of Band D changes is set out below:

Band D Change	Number of councils 2022/2023	Number of councils 2021/2022	Number of councils 2020/2021
< 0%*	2,632 (+406)	2,226 (+158)	2,108
0%	509 (-365)	874 (+368)	506
<1%	797 (-253)	1,050 (+307)	743
1.0 – 1.9%	676 (-278)	954 (+158)	796
2.0 – 2.9%	680 (-106)	786 (-9)	795
3.0 – 3.9%	574 (+29)	545 (-29)	574
4.0 – 9.9%	1,632 (+279)	1,353 (-312)	1,665
10% - 19.9%	681 (+100)	581 (-341)	922
20% - 49.9%	483 (+124)	359 (-182)	541
50% plus	176 (+67)	109 (-78)	187

Of the 2,632 (2,226) precepting local councils that reduced their Band D, 2,499 or 94.95% (1,812 or 81.40%) saw their tax base increase.

*The tax base is the number of Band D equivalent dwellings in a local authority area.

Looking at the 2,972 (2,402) precepting local councils that increased their Band D tax rate by more than 3%, the Band D tax rate varied from £0.73 to £316.02 (£0.57 to £371.17).

Band D Tax Rate Increase (£)	Number of councils 2022/2023	Number of councils 2021/2022	Number of councils 2020/2021
£0.01 - £4.99	4,273 (-426)	4,699 (-7)	4,706 (-24)
£5.00 - £9.99	788 (+155)	633 (-245)	878 (+31)
£10.00 - £14.99	294 (+101)	193 (-131)	324 (+0)
£15.00 - £24.99	194 (+52)	142 (-79)	221 (+47)
£25.00+	106 (+13)	93 (-41)	134 (+25)

Of the 3,493 (2,412) precepting local councils that increased their Band D tax rate by more than 3%, 92 (90) increased the Band D tax rate by more than £25.

The top five financial increases are as below:

Local council	Band D Tax Rate 2022/23 (£)	Band D Tax Rate Increase (£)	Band D Tax Rate Increase (%)
Kingsbrook Parish Council (Buckinghamshire)	£237.62	£195.80	468.20%
Bulwick Parish Council (North Northamptonshire)	£182.93	£155.69	571.54%
Cotcliffe Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%

Crosby Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%
Thornton le Beans Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%

The table below shows those local councils with a Band D of £150 or more which had a double-digit Band D percentage increase in 2022/23: (from highest to lowest band D +10+%)

Local council	Band D Tax Rate 2022/23	£ Increase	% Increase
Bodmin Town Council (Cornwall)	£316.02	£41.64	15.18%
Bishops Castle Town Council (Shropshire)	£249.58	£28.11	12.69%
Penzance Town Council (Cornwall)	£246.31	£34.63	16.36%
Kingsbrook Parish Council (Buckinghamshire)	£237.62	£195.80	468.20%
Redruth Town Council (Cornwall)	£233.00	£33.77	16.95%
Salisbury City Council (Wiltshire)	£232.96	£24.96	12.00%
Westbury Town Council (Wiltshire)	£226.45	£48.26	27.08%
West Haddon Parish Council (West Northamptonshire)	£221.50	£26.38	13.52%
Wells City Council (Mendip)	£212.29	£60.70	40.04%
Blackwell Parish Council (Bolsover)	£202.04	£80.06	65.64%
Trowbridge Town Council (Wiltshire)	£200.10	£32.65	19.50%

Shepton Mallet Town Council (Mendip)	£198.76	£18.29	10.13%
Wotton-under-Edge Town Council (Stroud)	£198.71	£41.52	26.41%
Maiden Bradley with Yarnfield Parish Council (Wiltshire)	£197.95	£20.01	11.25%
Spaldington Parish Council (East Riding of Yorkshire)	£195.37	£52.10	36.37%
Wigton Town Council (Allerdale)	£193.31	£23.10	13.57%
Wincanton Town Council (South Somerset)	£183.06	£32.12	21.28%
Bulwick Parish Council (North Northamptonshire)	£182.93	£155.69	571.54%
Stotfold Town Council (Central Bedfordshire)	£178.93	£22.31	14.25%
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council (Milton Keynes)	£176.69	£31.69	21.85%
Edenbridge Town Council (Sevenoaks)	£171.84	£15.62	10.00%
St Ives Town Council (Cornwall)	£169.74	£22.07	14.94%
Cirencester Town Council (Cotswold)	£169.70	£25.81	17.94%
Daventry Town Council (West Northamptonshire)	£169.28	£18.58	12.33%
Cinderford Town Council (Forest of Dean)	£168.15	£16.22	10.68%
Barnstaple Town Council (North Devon)	£158.04	£22.99	17.02%
Croft Parish Council (Blaby)	£155.05	£39.79	34.52%

Old Bosolver Town Council (Bosolver)	£154.39	£23.37	17.84%
Belvoir Parish Council (Melton)	£153.29	£45.65	42.41%
Street Parish Council (Mendip)	£152.86	£29.06	23.47%
Botesdale Parish Council (Mid Suffolk)	£152.33	£21.01	16.00%
Cotcliffe Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%
Crosby Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%
Thornton le Beans Parish Council (Hambleton)	£151.43	£137.07	954.53%
St. Stephen in Brannel Parish Council (Cornwall)	£151.05	£25.92	20.71%
Keswick Town Council (Allerdale)	£150.99	£17.01	12.70%

Of the 36 local councils included in the table above, 17 are in areas with a unitary authority and 19 in areas with a two-tier principal authority.

Increase by the county association

The table below shows the average percentage precept increase and average percentage Band D increase by county association area:

County	Average precept increase from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 (%)	Average Band D increase from 2021/2022 to 2022/2023(%)	Average precept increase from 2020/2021 to 2021/2022(%)	Average Band D increase from 2020/2021 to 2021/22(%)
Avon	+6.64%	+4.88%	+4.24%	+3.60%
Bedfordshire	+4.45%	+1.85%	+3.72%	+3.42%
Berkshire	+4.29%	+3.32%	+4.63%	+4.06%

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes	+8.93%	+6.26%	+3.12%	+3.68%
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	+7.20%	+5.50%	+10.21%	+10.02%
Cheshire	+4.80%	+2.81%	+3.61%	+3.41%
Cleveland	+9.19%	+9.47%	+0.98%	-0.85%
Cornwall	+4.86%	+1.39%	+3.38%	+4.54%
County Durham	+2.76%	+1.18%	+2.09%	+1.76%
Cumbria	+6.36%	+5.99%	+2.65%	+2.84%
Derbyshire	+7.80%	+6.21%	+8.80%	+8.16%
Devon	+7.08%	+5.34%	+4.90%	+5.29%
Dorset	+3.69%	+2.79%	+2.48%	+2.97%
East Sussex	+6.66%	+5.92%	+3.71%	+3.67%
ERNLLCA	+4.81%	+2.60%	+2.53%	+3.43%
Essex	+7.05%	+5.22%	+2.77%	+2.68%
Gloucestershire	+6.66%	+5.52%	+4.60%	+3.95%
Hampshire	+5.49%	+4.03%	+3.82%	+3.41%
Herefordshire	+2.13%	+1.22%	+3.17%	+3.44%
Hertfordshire	+5.57%	+4.20%	+4.26%	+4.35%
Isle of Wight	+5.27%	+3.93%	+1.58%	+2.35%
Kent	+6.44%	+3.72%	+2.86%	+3.74%
Lancashire and Merseyside	+5.20%	+3.50%	+3.50%	+3.28%
Leicestershire and Rutland	4.61%	+3.51%	+6.97%	+8.01%
Lincolnshire	+5.11%	+3.81%	+7.17%	+7.24%
Norfolk	+7.61%	+6.63%	+3.58%	+3.08%

Northamptonshire	+8.40%	+7.78%	+6.21%	+7.15%
Northumberland	+10.34%	+9.42%	+1.66%	+1.87%
Nottinghamshire	+6.06%	+4.31%	+3.43%	+2.60%
Oxfordshire	+8.03%	+5.31%	+3.83%	+2.57%
Shropshire	+4.05%	+2.73%	+3.56%	+3.16%
Somerset	+7.33%	+6.75%	+3.65%	+3.82%
Staffordshire	+5.59%	+4.02%	+2.61%	+2.33%
Suffolk	+6.76%	+4.81%	+3.93%	+4.23%
Surrey	+5.59%	+3.00%	+5.14%	+4.86%
Warwickshire and West Midlands	+4.34%	+2.17%	+6.07%	+5.89%
West Sussex	+3.15%	+1.62%	+3.14%	+3.04%
Wiltshire	+9.27%	+8.32%	+3.32%	+4.03%
Worcestershire	+3.84%	+2.53%	+3.16%	+3.27%
Yorkshire	+10.11%	+8.31%	+4.17%	+3.70%

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Jessica Lancod-Frost, policy officer, on 020 7290 0319 or via email at jessica.lancod-frost@nalc.gov.uk.

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AGENDA ITEM 6 – SMALLER COUNCILS COMMITTEE – TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2022

Appendix 6.1 – Climate Change

Overview

At its meeting on 18 July, NALC's Smaller Councils Committee requested information from county associations regarding i) how many of their councils had declared a climate emergency ii) anything else they'd done to tackle climate change locally and iii) information about their partnership with principal authorities in pursuing climate change initiatives.

This request was put to county associations at the fortnightly county officer call on 7 September and followed up by email the same day.

Summary of responses received

Responses came from two county areas, with the county associations taking a different approach to gathering the requested information.

Cheshire Association of Local Councils

Cheshire Association of Local Councils undertook a survey of member councils which found that eleven had declared a climate emergency.

Actions carried out by those councils to tackle climate change included: undertaking carbon literacy training; planting wildflowers, trees and hedgerows; forming working groups to raise awareness of climate change both within the council and in the wider community; joining existing groups such as Surfers Against Sewage and Lymm Environment Action Forum; making council buildings more energy efficient; organising an exhibition to showcase local businesses that could counter the climate emergency; switching to a no plastic policy; replacing vehicle fleets with electric vehicles and switching to carbon neutral utility providers.

Six councils had partnered with their principal authority to carry out some of this work. In most cases (four) the joint action had been around tree planting. Other instances included working with Warrington Borough Council on updating road signage to encourage drivers not to idle in the parish, applying to Cheshire West

and Chester's climate funding streams and the principal authority using their resources to plan an exhibition held by a local council.

A further ten local councils said they hadn't declared a climate emergency but had done work locally to tackle climate change, including: planting trees and wildflowers, issuing a carbon footprint survey to residents, including biodiversity projects in the parish plan, reflecting the village commitment to become carbon neutral in the neighbourhood plan, contributing £2,000 towards a cycle feasibility study, investing in planters to attract bees and other insects, setting up an active travel sub committee and developing a model environmental policy which is mindful of purchasing sustainable goods and services.

Four councils had partnered with their principal authority to carry out some of this work, mostly around planting trees and wildflower meadows.

Yorkshire Local Councils Associations

Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) asked local councils to let YLCA and NALC know if they'd declared a climate emergency and to highlight anything they'd done to tackle climate change locally.

Eight councils responded. Of those, four stated that they had declared a climate emergency. Actions taken to tackle climate change included: adopting a climate action plan, developing a circular walk around the town to encourage active travel, enforcement of 20mph speed limits in residential areas, having the climate emergency as a standing item on the council agenda, holding an eco fair, introducing measures to recycle paper and reduce printing, planting trees and shrubs, providing electric vehicle charging points and switching to LED lighting in the village hall.

One council had worked in partnership with Leeds City Council on installation of the electric vehicle charging points.