

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed until 00.01, Tuesday 13 July 2020

More information: Alex Bigham, UK100, alex.bigham@uk100.org +44 (0)7830 195 812

For interview opportunities with Mayor Andy Street:

Jack.Averty@wmca.org.uk 07786 110555

****Register for the UK100 Net Zero Local Leadership Summit****: <https://www.uk100.org/media>

Pre-summit visit (on camera) to Walsall housing project by Andy Street / Polly Billington : 18.00, Mon 12 July -

register: alex.bigham@uk100.org / Neil.Elkes@wmca.org.uk

[Register for the pre-summit press conference](#): 10.00 - 10.30am, 13 July

[Register for the summit \(on camera session\)](#): 10.30am - 11am, 13 July

[Register for the International Net Zero Conference](#): 13.30 - 16.30, 13 July

Communique and Summit Brief (Embargoed) <https://bit.ly/NetZeroSummitBrief>

NB. Due to Covid-19 restrictions **any media who wish to attend in person** must register in advance via alex.bigham@uk100.org / Neil.Elkes@wmca.org.uk as well as online at <https://www.uk100.org/media>

Local Leaders and Mayors call for Power Shift to meet Net Zero

- A communiqué signed by a group of 32 cross-party Mayors and local leaders from across the UK will today (13 July) call for a 'Power Shift' from Whitehall so that local and regional authorities can deliver Net Zero
- The joint statement will call for powers and resources to shape local energy markets, decarbonise transport, and tackle emissions from homes and offices
- They will join forces at an international Net Zero summit featuring Government ministers, 40 mayors and leaders from across UK, alongside the Mayor of Los Angeles and participants from 22 cities around the world - equivalent to Paris City Hall Declaration convened in 2015
- Nearly 500,000 jobs in 'retrofit' alone could be created by shift to a green economy, including over 40,000 in the West Midlands and 50,000 in North West (**local authority figures [available](#)**)

At an international climate change summit today (Tues 13 July) in Birmingham , being co-convened by the Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street and UK100 (which represents over 100 authority leaders), local and regional leaders will make the case to Government for additional powers to tackle climate change.

The leaders will call for new powers and resources to be devolved from Whitehall to shape local energy markets, decarbonise transport and tackle emissions from homes and offices.

The **International Net Zero Local Leadership Summit** is being compared to the Paris City Hall Declaration in 2015, which paved the way for the Paris Climate Agreement at COP21¹.

Alongside the local and regional leaders, the conference will be addressed by Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP, the President-Elect of COP26, Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, Secretary of State for

¹ <https://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/paris-city-hall-declaration-decisive-contribution-cop21>

Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the **Mayor of Los Angeles**, Eric Garcetti (embargoed video of speech - <https://bit.ly/uk100Garcetti>).

A joint communiqué will be signed by 32 leaders at the summit which provides concrete examples of urgent policy changes that would help local and regional authorities deliver Net Zero. These include:

- A clear and long-term plan and resources for the **decarbonisation of new and existing buildings and homes**
- Setting up **strategic energy bodies or similar mechanisms to address market failure** in energy systems, with a duty to co-operate between public bodies and the companies that run our energy infrastructure.
- Reducing the high costs of connecting **electric vehicle charging networks** to the grid
- A clear target must be added to the Environment Bill to **reverse the decline in species and habitats** by 2030
- Ensuring the new **UK Infrastructure Bank has a Net Zero mandate** to deliver local investment in Net Zero projects
- The above measures would be facilitated by a new **Net Zero Local Powers Bill** to cement new powers for local and regional authorities alongside new reporting requirements on emissions.

The signatories included 32 Mayors and Leaders from major cities and urban areas like the West Midlands, Glasgow, Cardiff, London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol, Newcastle as well as rural areas like Cambridgeshire, South Gloucestershire, the West of England and Cornwall. (Full list in Editors' Notes)

The Climate Change Committee recently estimated that local authorities can influence around **one third of the emissions** in their local areas through place shaping and partnerships². Local and regional authorities are already delivering new approaches that demonstrate the value of locally based solutions: from transport infrastructure and decarbonisation to retrofitting homes and developing smart energy solutions.

Local and Regional Leaders to address energy market failure

The call for 'strategic energy bodies (or similar mechanisms) to address market failure' would³ ensure a duty of collaboration between public bodies with responsibilities around waste, transport and planning - like local councils - and the energy infrastructure companies known as 'distribution network operators' (DNOs).

The West Midlands has been pioneering a collaborative approach to energy systems, distribution and management which resulted in its 'Net Zero Pathfinder' proposals recently submitted to Government. These not only seek new responsibilities, powers and resources to secure wide scale building retrofit and new measures on energy levies but also form the basis of the governance model proposed in the communiqué.

In addition to work in the West Midlands there have been successful trials of Local Area Energy Planning

² Around a third of the UK's emissions are dependent on sectors that are directly shaped or influenced by local authority practice, policy or partnerships. <https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Local-Authorities-and-the-Sixth-Carbon-Budget.pdf>

³ One example of market failure is the large price differential between electricity and gas (which is now very out of step with the relative carbon content of these fuels, which is getting increasingly closer). The high cost of electricity relative to gas is making it hard to decarbonise domestic heat.

in three areas: Newcastle, Bridgend and Manchester which have highlighted the benefits of tailoring to local conditions⁴ (Energy Systems Catapult, 2018c). A report supported by Ofgem by Energy Systems Catapult found that local area planning “can provide sound foundations for effective and sustained local action to cut carbon emissions”⁵.

Andy Street, Mayor of West Midlands, said: “Climate change is a global emergency, and we know that every region and city across the world is going to have to play their part in tackling it. That’s why I’m really pleased that the West Midlands, in partnership with UK100, has been able to bring local leaders together today to discuss our role in this looming crisis. Here in the UK, the Government has set out ambitious targets to achieve net zero by 2050, and we want the West Midlands to play its part in that by meeting our net zero target by 2041.

“As part of our #WM2041 net zero plans we’re already delivering practical change – from decarbonised transport and energy system solutions, to state-of-the-art battery technology and zero-carbon building techniques. Now, alongside other UK leaders, we’re asking ministers to give us the powers and the funding to do more. We want to work hand-in-glove with Government to accelerate the drive to Net Zero.”

Polly Billington, CEO of UK100, said: “We need a power shift from central government to local communities to tackle climate change. Local leaders are more trusted, more accountable and in the case of the UK100 - more ambitious in accelerating the path to Net Zero.”

Alok Sharma, President-Designate of COP26, will tell the conference: “The Paris Agreement is a treaty between countries. To put it into effect, we need local government on board. That’s why cities are vital to COP26 - the most important climate conference for some years. We must halve global emissions by 2030 and that means taking action now.

“COP26 must be the moment that every country and every part of society embraces the responsibility to protect our precious planet. Local action is absolutely vital - generating over 70% of the world’s carbon emissions, cities will determine whether we can achieve Net Zero.

“We’re urging all cities and regions to join the Race to Zero - the United Nations campaign to reach Net Zero by 2050 at the latest. I’m proud that cities and councils from all over the United Kingdom have signed up from Newcastle to Nottingham from Cambridge to Cornwall and of course, the West Midlands.”

Eric Garcetti, the Mayor of Los Angeles and Chair of the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, will tell the conference: “The climate crisis isn’t limited by any municipal boundary or national border, so our solutions can’t be limited either. Our goal is to mobilise at least 1,000 cities ahead of COP26 to commit to achieve net zero by 2050. We’re also pushing our nation states to be more aggressive when it comes to targets and funding, and with the help of UK100 we already have over 700 cities on board.

“Cities can’t reach net zero alone, we need help from national and international leaders to turn climate plans into climate reality. Without the necessary support we’ll miss the opportunity to leverage the real power of cities, to drive the national and global climate action on which our planet’s future depends.”

⁴ <https://es.catapult.org.uk/case-studies/local-area-energy-planning/>

⁵ <https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/file/LAEP-method-final-review-draft-30-July-2020.pdf>

Mayor Garcetti's speech is available to download here (under embargo to 00.01, Tuesday 13 July)
<https://bit.ly/uk100Garcetti>

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, said: This year the UK will be centre stage in hosting COP26 and, like everyone else who cares about our planet's future, I'm hoping it will be a major success. In London, I already have a bold programme of climate action underway, underpinning my ambition to make our city net zero by 2030. That includes the extension of the Ultra Low Emission zone, supporting the development of new net-zero communities, and accelerating a retrofit revolution in London to better insulate homes and reduce energy usage.

"London has the third highest level of fuel poverty in the country which is why I want to work with Government and London boroughs to ensure funding programmes meet the scale of the challenge. We must treat energy efficiency as an infrastructure priority and rapidly increase investment in retrofitting buildings, which will create jobs, help tackle fuel poverty, and support a green and fair recovery from this pandemic."

Cllr Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council, said: "It is cities and local leaders that are pushing to not only address the climate emergency; but reshape our economy to put people and the sustainability of their jobs, homes and communities first.

"We're happy to play that role but, to succeed, we need the right tools – powers and resources that, right now, are held too far away from where they can be effective."

Tracy Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire, said: "Local leaders need the powers to tackle the climate emergency. Working with other UK100 members, we have a bold ambition to make West Yorkshire a net-zero carbon economy by 2038, with significant progress by 2030. We're up for the challenge, but we need a new devolution settlement before the climate change summit in Glasgow in November. With the world watching, the Government has a huge opportunity to unlock the potential of local and regional authorities to deliver Net Zero."

Steve Rotheram, Mayor of Liverpool City Region, said: "The pandemic might have dominated our attention over the past year, but the climate emergency remains the biggest long-term challenge our region - and our planet - faces. Since I was elected, I've made tackling climate change a priority. But to make the biggest impact possible, we need the government to give local leaders the powers to really tackle the climate emergency.

"We were the first combined authority in the country to declare a climate emergency, have ambitious plans to double the number of green jobs in our region and be Net Zero by at least a decade ahead of national targets. We are also working on a world-leading scheme to harness the power of the River Mersey to provide enough clean, predictable energy to power 1 million homes."

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol, said "We need to urgently tackle the climate crisis and drive a just transition. As the first city in the UK to declare a climate emergency and an ecological emergency, and as a city committed to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, we know that there are opportunities to create greener, decent jobs, that deliver climate action. As we rebuild, recover and reconceptualise cities after the pandemic world Local leaders need powers and resources from government to make these opportunities a reality."

Cllr Lucy Nethsingha, Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "The communiqué we've signed calls for giving local authorities the power and resources to decarbonise new and existing buildings and homes. We've achieved a lot in Cambridgeshire already and our Swaffham Prior project will move an entire village from gas to renewable power, but we need more support in order to scale up our investment in decarbonisation to ensure all our villages, towns and cities can do the same."

Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff City Council, said: "Cities are critical in the race to Net Zero. We are prepared to do our bit by accelerating our ambition to meet the climate change challenge head on. One Planet Cardiff is the Council's vision for a carbon neutral city and organisation by 2030, and is our strategic response to our declared Climate Emergency.

"Work is progressing on the One Planet Cardiff Strategy which proposes a wide range of ambitious actions to form the basis of a delivery plan to achieve Carbon Neutrality. It aims to do this in a way that supports new green economies and greater social wellbeing in the city. We have already started by reducing our citywide per capita emissions by 47% and absolute emissions by 39% since 2005. But we need new powers and resources from central government to go further so that every community and every member of society can play our part in protecting our planet."

Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty, Leader, Brighton & Hove City Council, said: "It's clear that in the UK it is local councils, cities and regions which are leading the way on climate action. We will be able to go so much further, and so much faster when this is recognised and properly resourced. And this is precisely what this important report argues from UK100."

"In Brighton & Hove we've been laying the foundations to decarbonise our city. Our carbon neutral plan sets out the bold steps we will take to achieve net zero across all sectors, including energy, housing, transport and the circular economy, working with local communities and organisations. Projects already underway include rewilding of open spaces; carbon sequestration through tree planting and restoring the kelp farm; trailblazing new work on hydrogen energy for transport and insulating all of the council's housing stock – over 11,500 homes. It's time to give the decision-making powers to local areas so that communities can deliver meaningful change and develop the creative and innovative work already underway in the nine years we have to make a difference."

Lezley Picton, Shropshire Council's Leader, said: "Climate change represents a significant strategic risk to Shropshire and to the delivery of the full range of council services. Addressing the impact of climate change has been adopted as one of the Council's key operational principles and is being embedded as a normal part of the Council's corporate governance systems.

"Although the Council's own operations account for only around 1% of Shropshire's carbon footprint, we're working in partnership with many local businesses and communities to develop a wide range of carbon management projects and initiatives which will help them to reduce their contribution to the carbon footprint of the wider county, as well as 'leading by example' by improving our own performance."

Decarbonising Homes and Buildings essential to Net Zero

The joint communiqué also calls for Government to work in partnership with local and regional leaders to develop a **consistent, long term plan for decarbonising homes and buildings**, which should at least meet the manifesto commitment of £9bn public investment to deliver Net Zero in our homes and buildings and should seek to leverage further private investment to meet this goal.

The UK100 network is developing policy recommendations to support the decarbonisation in particular of

our social housing stock.⁶ The UK's homes are still some of the most inefficient in Europe⁷. The UKGBC have estimated that to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, we will need to improve almost all of the UK's 29 million homes, meaning we need to retrofit more than 1.8 homes every minute between now and 2050.⁸

Half a million jobs in Retrofit

The transition to net zero will also generate significant economic growth and new jobs. Building retrofit, for example, offers a significant opportunity – a triple win of significant emissions reductions, significant reductions in fuel poverty and hundreds of thousands of new jobs across the country. Research from UK100 indicates that a “retrofit army” of nearly half a million (455,000) workers will be needed to help meet the government's objective of becoming Net Zero by 2050⁹, including over 40,000 jobs in the West Midlands region, and over 50,000 in the North West. ¹⁰ Local authority figures available here:

<https://bit.ly/uk100jobsretrofit>

The international conference that follows the summit will include a keynote address from the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, along with participants from 22 cities across the world: Abidjan, Athens, Buenos Aires, Cape Town, Copenhagen, Denver, Durban, Freetown, Houston, Kampala, Lisbon, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Seattle, Tokyo, Tshwane, Warsaw, Washington DC, Wellington and City of Yarra (Australia).

Along with leaders from local authorities across the UK, speakers at the summit and conference include:

- Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands
- Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles
- Alok Sharma, COP President
- Kwasi Kwarteng, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
- Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London
- Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester
- Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
- Tracey Brabin, Mayor of West Yorkshire
- Steve Rotheram, Mayor of Liverpool City Region
- Susan Aitken, Leader of Glasgow City Council
- John Gummer (Lord Deben), Chair of the Committee on Climate Change
- Duncan Burt, Director of COP26 and Responsible Business, National Grid
- Carl Ennis, CEO of GB&I, Siemens
- Polly Billington, Chief Executive of UK100

Ends

⁶ This includes prioritizing the retrofit of social housing, building new zero carbon homes and **scrapping VAT on retrofit and heat pump installation**. In a report entitled Power Shift, UK100 argues that for **new buildings**, local authorities need the power to prioritise the Climate Change Act in planning policy over developer viability, allowing more zero carbon social homes to be built, funded by retaining 100% of receipts from Right to Buy. For **existing buildings**, local authorities should be able to enforce Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES), and introduce these standards for all buildings sold, along the same standards and time-lines as for rented properties.

<https://www.uk100.org/publications/power-shift>

⁷ <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmbeis/1730/1730.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.ukgbc.org/news/towns-and-cities-to-work-together-on-home-retrofit-as-calls-for-green-recovery-mount/>

⁹

<https://ace.media/press-releases/-6/white-vans-go-green-army-of-half-a-million-builders-and-plumbers-needed-to-reach-net-zero-as-local-leaders-urge-100bn-green-investment-to-kickstart-green-recovery> and <https://bit.ly/uk100retrofitjobs>

¹⁰ https://www.uk100.org/projects/resilient_recovery_taskforce

For more information / bids, please contact:
Alex Bigham, alex.bigham@uk100.org +44 (0)7830 195 812

Editor's Notes

'Delivering a Net Zero UK' communique: <https://bit.ly/NetZeroSummitBrief> (download pdf)

Communique:
Delivering a Net Zero UK

A joint statement by the metropolitan mayors and UK100 and its constituent members

July 2021

The UK government has set the target that the country will be Net Zero by 2050 and will have achieved 78% reduction in emissions by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. Metropolitan combined authorities, cities and local authorities are playing an essential role in ensuring the UK meets its Net Zero target and many have committed to ambitious targets. They are already at the vanguard of delivering climate change action on the ground, unlocking good jobs across our communities in the process.

Regional, city and local authorities must be the partners of choice for government in the development of, and delivering on, Net Zero commitments. As convenors of place, communities, and economies, we are combining the influence of the public, private and third sectors, education and research, and local residents, to better understand Net Zero challenges and opportunities, and ensure its practical implementation at a local level.

This statement proposes a new, enhanced partnership between the UK government, devolved governments and regional, city and local authorities to accelerate the transition to Net Zero. Our commitment is to drive economic recovery through growth in green jobs and skills and support the UK's international position as a Net Zero pioneer in ways that do not penalise the poorest in our communities. This enhanced partnership is built upon six priorities for immediate action.

Financing the transition

Regional, city and local authorities are already at the forefront of driving innovation through their respective economies and supply chains, in everything from battery technology to behaviour change. Sustainable funding and financing is essential to create a new green marketplace and deliver action towards Net Zero. **Ensuring that the UK Infrastructure Bank (UKIB) has a Net Zero mandate that delivers local investment must be a priority, to support and enable local and regional projects and programmes.** The UKIB will have capacity to work with local, city and regional authorities to develop investable proposals for place-based Net Zero projects and programmes, and it should provide development capital and leverage additional private investment to kickstart local energy schemes that are at too early a stage for private finance.

Decarbonising transport

Local transport authorities are at the forefront of the future mobility revolution pioneering cycling schemes, zero emission bus fleets and unlocking active travel. In addition to sustained national investment in walking, cycling and public transport, the transition to low and zero emission travel requires electric vehicles to be affordable to all who need them. **Reducing the high costs of connecting EV charging networks to the grid should be prioritised to enable a seamless vehicle charging network across the UK.** Not only should costs of connecting EV charging networks be reduced, every local, city and regional authority should be included in designing and shaping the charging infrastructure across its area for public, freight, and bus networks.

Decarbonising homes and buildings

Authorities have already demonstrated that they are well-placed to deliver government's domestic Net Zero initiatives, successfully delivering their part of the Green Homes Grant, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme,

the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and other schemes of devolved governments. Many are working to ensure that all new and existing buildings and homes meet the highest efficiency standards, in particular the phasing out of gas boilers which is essential if our buildings are to contribute to rather than detract from Net Zero commitments. But to build capacity and supply chains, **a UK government-led, long-term plan must be put in place that supports all local authorities to decarbonise new and existing buildings and homes in their areas.** The plan should at least meet the manifesto commitment of £9bn public investment to deliver Net Zero in our homes and buildings and should seek to leverage further private investment to meet this goal.

Energy

Regional and other authorities are already pioneering new approaches to energy systems and generation and present the opportunity for smart decentralised energy systems at a place-based level to integrate supply and demand more effectively. But these 'energy innovation zones' are few and far between. **Strategic energy bodies, or similar mechanisms, should be established with the responsibilities and resources to address market failure in energy systems, with the mandate to satisfy Net Zero targets.** These should ensure a duty of collaboration between public bodies holding place responsibilities around waste, transport and spatial planning, and distribution network operators, and consistent approaches to modelling and data usage. They should be resourced and responsible for local area energy planning which delivers whole system infrastructure, and informs Net Zero-led capital investment, at the most effective geographic level.

Nature

We need to ensure that we are managing our natural environments to both adapt to, and mitigate, the impact of carbon emissions and climate change and to help nature thrive. As the focal point for extensive land-use engagement and relationships with farmers and nature-focused NGOs, local and combined authorities are already trailblazing the Net Zero benefits of natural capital recovery and Net Zero agriculture. **A clear target must be added to the Environment Bill to reverse the decline in species and habitats by 2030, supported by the appropriate resourcing of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.** Legislation and supporting action should be underpinned by progressive incentives and investment models; all aligned with enhanced policy and regulatory frameworks.

Local powers

Local and combined authorities are already leading in many aspects of the Net Zero agenda, but they could go so much further and faster if given the scope to do so. National policy and regulatory frameworks must be revised and co-ordinated to enable local, regional, national and devolved governments to work more effectively in partnership towards Net Zero and adapting to climate change. **The UK government should put in place a Net Zero Local Powers Bill which both permits, obliges and resources relevant levels of authority to undertake climate change action to satisfy the Climate Change Act, meet carbon budgets and deliver an effective pathway to Net Zero.** The bill should be accompanied by appropriate policy and guidance which identifies public funding and potential private sector investment levers, and better cross-departmental alignment within government to support local areas that satisfy these obligations.

Signed by:

1. Bath & NE Somerset - Cllr Kevin Guy
2. Birmingham City Council - Cllr Ian Ward
3. Brighton & Hove - Cllr Phelim Mac Cafferty
4. Bristol City - Mayor Marvin Rees
5. Cambridgeshire - Cllr Lucy Nethsingha
6. Camden - Cllr Georgia Gould
7. Cardiff City Council - Cllr Huw Thomas
8. Cornwall - Cllr Linda Taylor
9. Glasgow City - Cllr Susan Aitken
10. Greater Manchester - Mayor Andy Burnham
11. Herefordshire - Cllr David Hitchiner
12. Leeds City - Cllr James Lewis

13. Leicestershire - Cllr Nicholas Rushton
14. Lewisham - Mayor Damien Egan
15. Liverpool City Region - Mayor Steve Rotheram
16. London - Mayor Sadiq Khan
17. Manchester- Cllr Richard Leese
18. Newcastle City - Cllr Nick Forbes
19. North of Tyne - Mayor Jamie Driscoll
20. North Somerset - Cllr Donald Davies
21. Nottingham - Cllr David Mellen
22. Oxford City Council - Cllr Susan Brown
23. Saint Albans City and District - Cllr Chris White
24. Shropshire - Cllr Lezley Picton
25. Solihull Council - Cllr Ian Courts
26. South Gloucestershire - Cllr Toby Savage
27. Staffordshire Moorlands District - Cllr Sybil Ralphs
28. Stroud - Cllr Doina Cornell
29. West Midlands Combined Authority - Mayor Andy Street
30. West of England - Mayor Dan Norris
31. West Yorkshire - Mayor Tracey Brabin
32. Wiltshire Council - Cllr Richard Clewer

Retrofit Jobs Figures - Regional Breakdown:

Local authority breakdowns available here: <https://bit.ly/uk100jobsretrofit> (LA Data tab)

Regions	Construction and Property Jobs - in demand or new in a Green Economy
South East	67,467
London	64,551
North West	50,380
East of England	48,427
Scotland	42,978
South West	42,624
West Midlands	40,072
Yorkshire & Humber	31,395
East Midlands	29,215
Wales	20,447
North East	17,521

About UK100

About UK100 UK100 is the only network for UK locally elected leaders who have pledged to play their part in the global effort to avoid the worst impacts of climate change by switching to 100% clean energy by 2050. The most ambitious - our Net Zero Local Leadership Club - are doing everything within their power to get their communities to Net Zero as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest. To accelerate the transition to this Net Zero society, UK100

brings together local authorities, from cities to the countryside, to share knowledge, collaborate, and petition the UK government with their collective power. www.uk100.org