



A 'green recovery' and the role of local authorities in getting to 'net zero'



Sean Morris

NFLA Secretary

NFLA English Forum webinar, March 2021



NFLA – at the heart of climate policy

- **NFLA has advocated low carbon local energy since the early 1990s**
- **Look at national / international LA low carbon best practice**
- **A large suite of reports on decentralized energy**
- **Calls for more powers and central resource to Councils**
- **Also advocates Councils to look and follow best practice**
- **Renewables, battery storage, smart energy, local energy and energy efficiency – our energy policy**
- **Green recovery, 100% renewables and White Paper reports**





Green recovery – build back better

- **Around the world \$12tn committed to recover from the pandemic - Bloomberg 0.2% of it for low carbon work**
- **Strong green stimulus could help net zero plans**
- **A ‘green recovery’ could deliver new jobs, empower citizens, improve public health & drive innovation**
- **Local & Combined Authorities are critical to provide a local lead to such positive policies**
- **LA’s need to develop partnerships with energy networks**





Build Back Better – UK policies



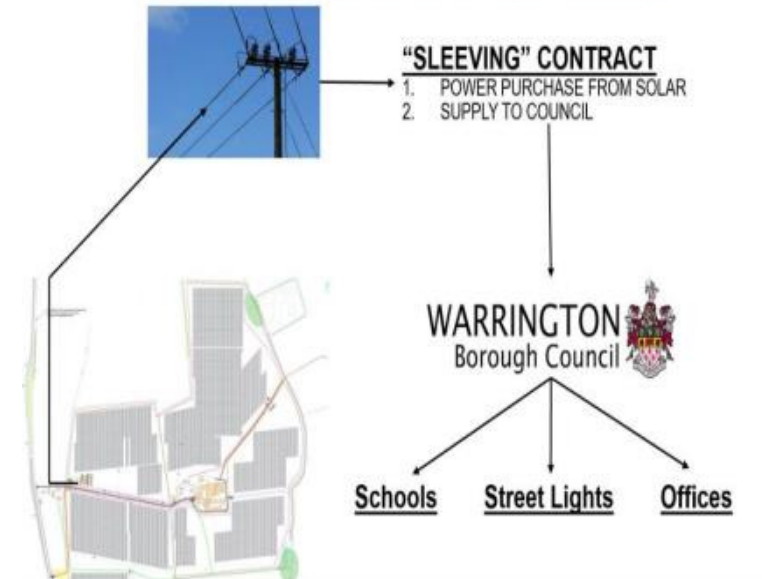
- **Some early commitments to green recovery**
- **Green Homes Grant – not worked well!**
- **Local Area decarbonisation - £1bn+ via Salix**
- **£40m green recovery challenge fund – tree planting and habitat restoration**
- **PM's 10 Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution and Energy White Paper – will look at later**
- **Lots of detail remaining**



Why Councils are good for green recovery

- More than 10,000 Councils have committed to climate action
- 60% of over 1,000 European cities are on track to meet climate targets
- Over 280 UK Councils have climate emergency resolution plans
- All target net zero between 2035 - 2050

FROM YORK AND HULL >> WARRINGTON





So what can / are Councils doing?

- **Energy efficiency – Council, social housing and grants to community**
- **Install renewable energy – solar, wind, heat pumps**
- **Low carbon transport – green fleets, car sharing etc**
- **Licensing and control – low emission zones, green taxis, car parking to restrict high polluting vehicles**
- **Personal mobility – homeworking, prioritise public transport, walking & cycling, support staff**
- **Procurement – priorities sustainability & low emissions**
- **Trees and re-wilding**
- **Waste management – no single use plastic, minimise waste**





Garner public support



- **Talk to the public and act on what they say**
- **During pandemic Councils created hundreds of low traffic neighbourhoods**
- **Evidence shows they work and can be popular**
- **Citizen juries work and give democratic support**
- **Education, information, fairness, freedom & choice, economic benefits, protect nature – all findings of climate assemblies**
- **Above all they want strong leadership – get on with it!**



Good Local Examples (over 65 in report)



Birmingham hydrogen buses



Bristol Energy Coop solar roofs



Swaffham renewable heating



Exeter solar farm



GM Energy Innovation Agency



Build rooftop solar



Plans for 7 heating networks



S Somerset battery storage



UK Energy White Paper



- ‘A Green Industrial Revolution’
- Strong support for offshore wind (good), new nuclear (bad), hydrogen (green good, blue not so good), electric vehicles (ok but need to reduce car usage), promote innovation and green finance (good)
- Support for new nuclear ignores its large costs, waste issues and real technical challenges
- Where is the support for onshore wind, solar and marine / tidal?
- Green Homes Grant fiasco has dented energy efficiency plans
- Many plans are to be announced in the future

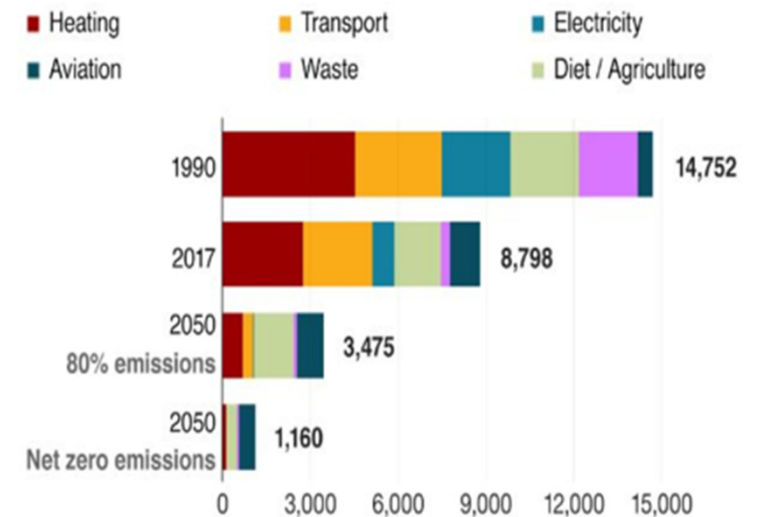


Decentralised energy in the future

- The White Paper says some good things about decentralised energy
- CCC 6th Carbon Budget will have local aspect
- NFLA is putting a new report to consider such matters
- Will continue to showcase best practice examples in all aspects of local energy
- 100% renewables backed with storage and demand management – a local energy solution that should be replicated nationally

Household emissions in 1990, 2017 and 2050

Annual emissions, kilogrammes of CO₂



Source: Climate Change Committee/BEIS (2019)