



#LGAConf24

#StatutoryDuties

#ClimateChange #Biodiversity

#PublicBodies #Environment

Do we need a duty on Climate Change

Professor, Lord John Krebs, **Isaac Beever**, **Cllr**
Wisdom Da Costa & **Cllr. Diana Moore**

For more information and to collaborate on developing scope and solutions email;

Cllr. Wisdom Da Costa cllr.dacosta@rbwm.gov.uk

Abigail Gallop abigail.gallop@local.gov.uk

Rodrigo Sanchez rodrigo.sanchez@local.gov.uk



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Agenda & Introduction

Cllr Diana Moore



A. Introduction

- a. LGA Activities
- b. The need for Statutory Duties on Climate Change
- c. The context of Statutory Duties
- d. House of Lords Bill
- e. Power of Local Authorities

B. Break Out Sessions

- a. What should a climate stat duty include OR what does your LA want to do locally but doesn't have the powers to do?
 - b. Barriers might be presented (and arguments to overcome)?
 - c. How can we build support for a climate stat duty?
- ➔ Feedback by Break Out Session facilitators

C. Close including

- a. Action point
- b. Next steps



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Isaac Beevor - Climate Emergency UK CIC





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History of climate statutory duties

“Action by local authorities is likely to be critical to the achievement of Government’s climate change objectives”



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There are statutory duties outside of England...

- Scotland have a statutory duty for councils
- Wales through Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and 2030 public sector net zero target



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Council/sector have started to call for a climate statutory duty

- **Council bodies:** ADEPT, London Councils and District Council Network
- **Sector bodies:** Climate Emergency UK, CDP, UK100, Mission Zero Coalition
- **Government:** Skidmore's Net Zero Review and previously ask of CCC



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Environmental Targets (Public Authorities) Bill

*A Bill to make provision for a statutory objective **requiring public bodies to contribute** to delivery of targets set under the Environment Act 2021 and Climate Change Act 2008; to **place a duty on public bodies to meet this objective** in the exercise of their functions; and for connected purposes.*



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Professor, Lord Krebs, Oxon





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Professor, Lord Krebs of Wytham

- Thank you for this opportunity to set out for you the purpose of a Private Members Bill that I have introduced in the House of Lords. It is called the “Environmental Targets (Public Authorities) Bill”.
- The Bill creates a duty on relevant public authorities, including councils, to contribute to the Government’s targets for climate and nature.
- These are legally binding commitments in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the Environment Act 2021. They include the requirement to reach net zero by 2050, to have reduced greenhouse gas emissions to 68% below 1990 levels by 2030, and to halt the decline of biodiversity by 2030.
- Both statutory watchdogs, the Climate Change Committee and the Office for Environmental Protection, have reported that the Government is not on track to meet its own targets for climate and nature.
- This is where my Bill comes in. Local Authorities and many other public bodies have a key role to play in meeting the targets, but do not have a legal duty to do so. Councils make decisions every day, on planning, transport, habitats and so on, that will determine whether the targets are met. So, I am delighted that eight Councillors from across the political spectrum and from different parts of the country signed a briefing in support of a statutory duty. According to the LGA about 2/3 of councils are not confident that they will achieve their net zero target. A statutory duty would raise everyone’s game.
- At second reading of my Bill, the Minister hinted that the central idea of my Bill might be reflected in the Government’s revision of the Environmental Improvement Plan, and she committed to continuing to discuss this with me.
- I am most grateful to Councillor Wisdom DaCosta for his personal support and encouragement. We all need to work together on dealing with the climate and nature crisis, the biggest challenge we face for the future of our children and grandchildren.



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Power, influence and finance

Cllr Wisdom Da Costa





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Power, influence and finance

Local Authorities influence

- Every part of the UK, **every business, every person**
- Services (contract terms) & Investments (carbon neutral)
- Regulations (Planning; what? Where? How? Footprint?)
- Programmes (behaviours and action e.g. recycling, EV charging points, medical ...)
- Housing, Transport, Land Use, (90% carbon emissions) plus Ecosystems (GHG absorption)
- £2Tn UK GDP & activity



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Power, influence and finance

Local Authorities influence → X 175 Budget

- Residents 150,000
- Revenue Budget £100m → £17bn
- Capital Budget £50m X 0.5
- Local Plan Building £1Bn X 10
- LGPS £5Bn X 50
- LGPS local investment £250m
- Residents Purchase Power £3Bn X 30
- Business Purchase Power £8Bn X 80



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Power, influence and finance

Capital Finance & solutions available NOW

- Revenue budget £100m
- LGPS £5Bn
- Upto 5% LGPS local investment £250m **X2.5**
- Residents 150,000
- Residents Local Bonds £150m **X1.5**
- **Green bonds, joint & several** £150m **X1.5**
- **➔ £1/2+ Bn Capital**



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Power, influence and finance

Perspective

- Influence and impact clear
- Finance available
- Solutions increasingly available
- Missing **Ambition & intensity**
- **Opportunity for You**



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Breakout sessions

1. Explore the opportunities for of possible local authority Statutory Duties on Climate Change and the Environment
2. Identify the pinch points that Council's experience which block local climate action
3. To consider how government action can effectively devolve Statutory Duties on Climate Change and the Environment



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Breakout session 1

- 10 Minutes
 - 5 minutes to discuss
 - 5 minutes for facilitator to summarise group's ideas
- Explore the opportunities for of possible local authority Statutory Duties on Climate Change and the Environment
- **What do you want to include in a Statutory Duty?**



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Breakout session 2

- 10 Minutes
 - 5 minutes to discuss
 - 5 minutes for facilitator to summarise group's ideas
- Identify the pinch points that Council's experience which block local climate action
- **What are the obstacles that you need to overcome?**



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Breakout session 3

- 10 Minutes
 - 5 minutes to discuss
 - 5 minutes for facilitator to summarise group's ideas
- To consider how government action can effectively devolve Statutory Duties on Climate Change and the Environment
- **How would you like duties and powers cascaded down?**



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What councillors can do?

Isaac Beevor

- **Individual:**

- Email to LGA leadership (chair and LINZ board)
- Keep in touch with working group to also write to other LGA Boards to build consensus and momentum

- **Council:** Pass a motion at council or add it into a motion

- **National:** Support for Lord Krebs bill



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Next steps & Close

Cllr Wisdom Da Costa

- Accelerate action and achievement
 - LGA Independent call for Statutory Duties Jan 2025
 - Activation of all LGA Boards Nov 2024 – July 2025
 - LGA call for Statutory Duties July 2025
 - Further collaboration and working groups to take forward the issues and your experience and desires
 - ????
- **THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS MORNING**
- Use your agency & power. Sign up and collaborate
- Time is short, “***Failure is NOT an option***”



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