

# Leicester carbon neutral roadmap

## The context for the report

Economic Development, Transport & Climate  
Emergency Scrutiny Commission – 31<sup>st</sup> August  
2022



# Climate change is happening and represents a critical threat across the globe

- Up to 3.6 billion people already living in a position of vulnerability to climate change
- 50-75% of global population exposed to 'life-threatening' heat or humidity by 2100 if we don't act
- 10% of species at risk of extinction under a 2°C temperature rise
- Climate change impacting on food production and contributing to global tensions over land and resources
- Wildfires, floods and other impacts affecting much of the world – including the UK

*Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.*

(IPCC, 2021)

# .... with risks and consequences for every one of us in Leicester

- Heatwaves
- Drought
- Flooding
- Storm damage
- Pressure on wildlife and risk of invasive species
- Threats to green spaces, trees and waterways
- Rising cost of food
- Increasing global insecurity

**Health impacts and premature deaths**

**More pressure on NHS**

**Rising costs of damage to property**

**Rising costs of insurance**

**More families unable to afford the basics**

**Loss of biodiversity**

**Rising costs to keep buildings cool**

**.... and more**



# Climate change impacts in Leicester



**2012 & 2019  
Flooding**



**2022  
Heatwave**



# The global response so far is not enough

- Global carbon dioxide emissions have rebounded after the pandemic
- UK greenhouse gas emissions have nearly halved since 1990, but also showed a rebound of nearly 5% in 2021
- So, we can't rely on lifestyle changes post-pandemic – more needs to be done
- Current action and commitments by national governments are not yet enough

# Cities must act

- Cities are estimated to be responsible for about 70% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from human activity
- No single organisation can solve the problem, but...
- Councils have control or influence over about a third of emissions in their areas and, as community leaders, are well placed to support and inspire action across society
- Our climate emergency declaration and our 2030 net zero ambition provides a rallying call, but what will it mean in practice?
- The roadmap starts to give us the detail