

# Planning for the Climate Challenge?

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# planning for the climate challenge?

understanding the performance of english local plans



full report

# Findings

**1:** Climate change has been **de-prioritised** as a significant local planning policy issue.

**2:** Policy and legislation on climate change are **poorly understood**.

**3:** National policy as set out in the NPPF and in NPPG does provide for a clear approach to climate change. However, it also contains policy on **viability** which prevents some key actions from being delivered.

**4:** The **evidence-gathering**, methodologies and policy-making used to address flood risk were far more sophisticated than the equivalent for climate mitigation or any other aspect of adaptation. Local plans deal with carbon dioxide emissions reduction vaguely, often without an explicit methodology for measuring reductions.

**5:** LPAs are **failing to plan** for future climate change and therefore are not planning for the adaptation measures necessary to secure long-term social and economic resilience.

# Findings

**6:** The **governance** of climate change issues at the local level is complex and sometimes contradictory. LPAs are not supported by a national agency to secure national carbon dioxide emissions reduction objectives, while the specific challenge of flood risk is reliant upon the support of the Environment Agency.

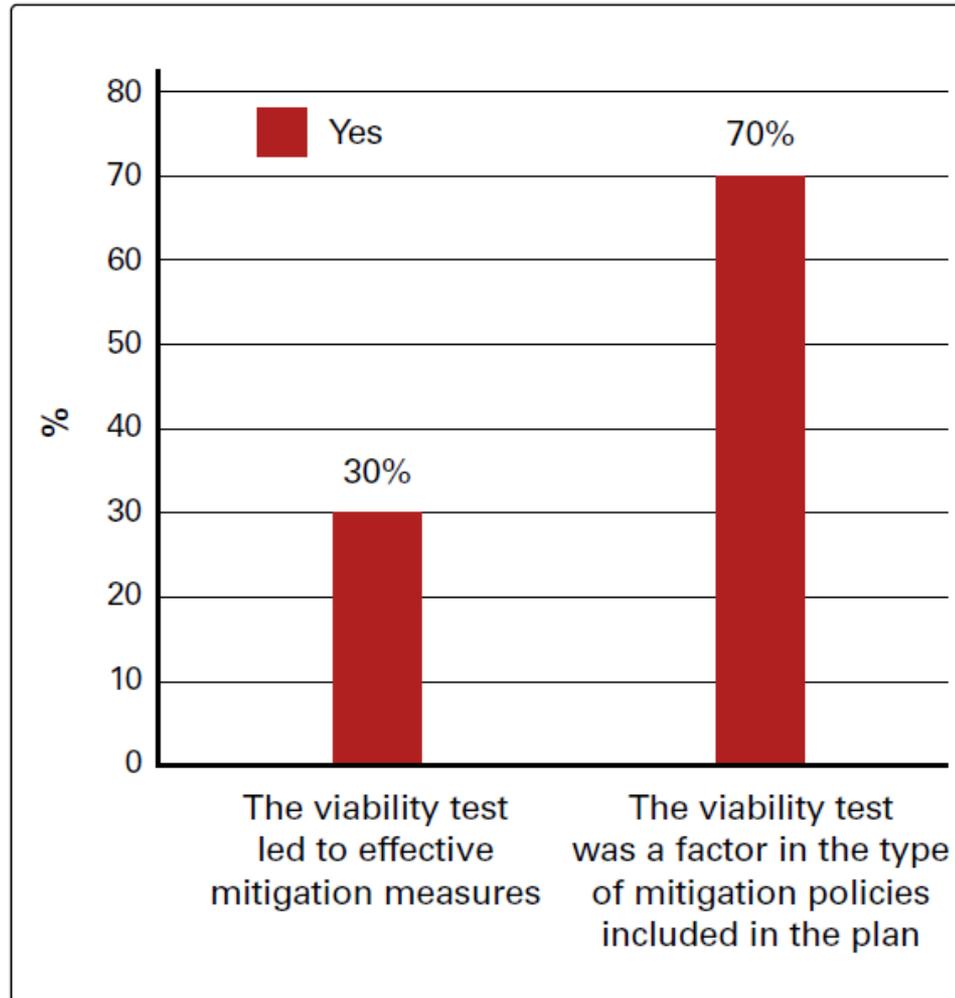
**7: Planning requirements** do not apply to a wide range of land uses, which affects local responses to climate change.

**8:** Specific approaches to dealing with climate change are still novel to many local authority planners, and access to **affordable training** is a major issue.

**9:** Climate-change-related policy outlined in local plans is generally **short term** and not sufficiently future-facing to deal with climate risk.

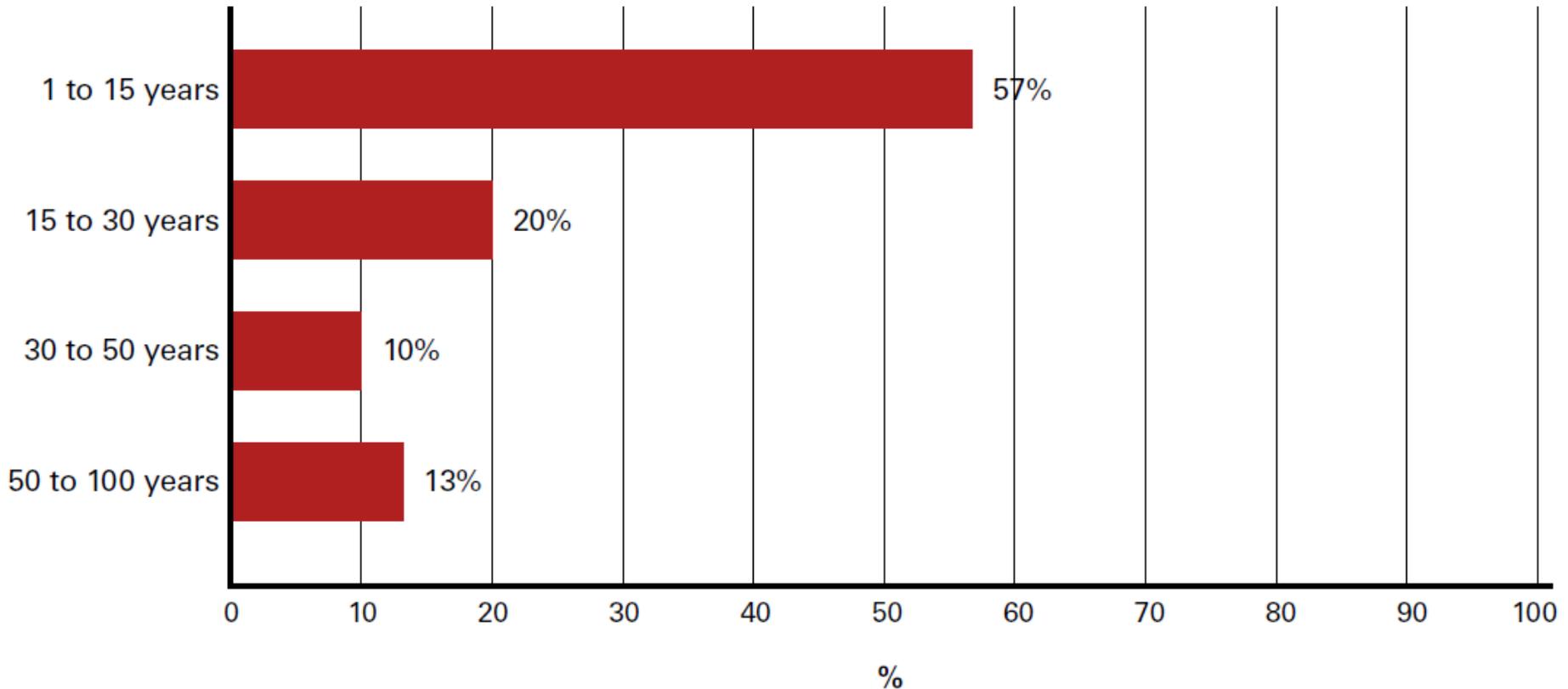
**10:** The **duty to co-operate** among LPAs is overwhelmingly focused upon housing growth, with little to no emphasis placed on cross-boundary climate change issues. However, strategic co-operation on issues such as evidence-gathering is a major opportunity area for climate change work.

# The impact of the NPPF viability test on mitigation policy



# The timescales for adaptation policy included in local plans

Given the long-term impacts of climate change, what time horizon does the local plan have for climate change adaptation policy?



# Recommendations

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- 1: **Re-prioritise climate change** in the local plan system
- 2: Provide clarity on the **legal requirements** on climate change
- 3: Provide clarity in **national policy**
- 4: Define the scope of climate **evidence in local plans**
- 5: Deal clearly with **risk**

# Recommendations

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- 6: Reform the **governance** of the delivery of action on climate change
- 7: Review the scope of the **English spatial planning system**
- 8: Provide **adequate resources** to plan for climate change
- 9: Encourage spatial planning over the **long term**
- 10: Promote new forms of **strategic co-operation**