

Transport

Transport is one of the biggest contributors of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK. This section covers the main enabling actions councils can take to reduce car use and encourage more sustainable transport within their area. These questions and results only apply to councils that are “transport authorities”¹, which have the powers over the transport network in their area. In the UK these councils are county councils, all single-tier authorities and the English Mayoral authorities.

Average score²
by council type

22% Single Tier

9% District

18% County

7% Northern Ireland

41% Combined Authority

LEADING THE WAY

 **57%** of transport authorities¹ have 20mph as the default speed limit³

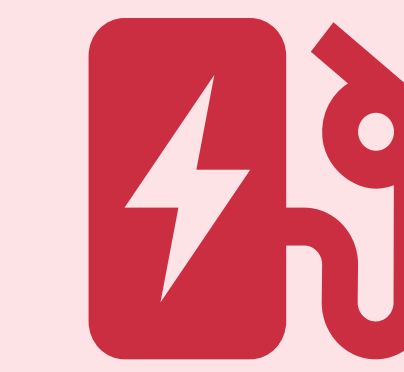
 **59%** of transport authorities have low-emission⁴ buses in their area⁵

DRIVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

25% of local authorities* have expanded airports or their road networks⁶

0  English councils received the highest capability rating by Active Travel England⁷

3  English transport authorities⁸ outside of London have high bus ridership⁹



ACCELERATED ACTION NEEDED

20% of local authorities* have 10% or more of their council fleet as electric vehicles¹⁰

32% of councils** have 60 or more public Electric Vehicle chargers across their area¹¹



AIR QUALITY

98% of air quality authorities¹² in England have high PM2.5 levels in 25% or more of the council's area¹³

55% of air quality authorities¹² have high NO2 levels in 25% or more of the council's area¹⁴



(*) “local authorities” excludes combined authorities • (**) “councils” include all 389 UK local and combined authorities assessed in the 2023 Council Climate Action Scorecards • (1) transport authorities are county councils, all single-tier authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the English Mayoral authorities. • (2) **Average scores here:** https://councilclimatescorecards.uk/sections/s2_tran/ • (3) **Q2.4** Is the council committed to making 20mph the standard speed limit for most restricted roads? • (4) We defined low-emission buses as those that are hybrid, electric or hydrogen powered. • (5) **Q 2.8a** Are there any low emission buses used within the council's area? • (6) **Q 2.1b** Does the combined authority's Transport Plan include expanding or building a high carbon transport project? • (7) **Q 2.6** Has the council taken clear steps to support active travel? • (8) The three English councils were Brighton & Hove City Council, Reading Borough Council and Nottingham City Council. • (9) **Q 2.8b** Is bus ridership within the council's area high? • (10) **Q 2.1** Is the council transitioning their vehicle fleet to electric? • (11) **Q 2.10** Has the council supported the expansion of a public network of electric vehicle chargers? • (12) English air quality authorities refers to district councils and English single-tier authorities. High PM2.5 and NO2 refers to air pollution levels, which break the guidelines set by the World Health Organisation (WHO). • (13) **Q 2.12a** Do the PM 2.5 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods in the council's area exceed the safe World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution guidelines? • (14) **Q 2.12b** Do the NO2 levels in a significant proportion of neighbourhoods within the council's area exceed the safe World Health Organisation (WHO) air pollution guidelines?