

LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT  
2021-2023

# LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY  
EVALUATION OF PART 1  
2021-23



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

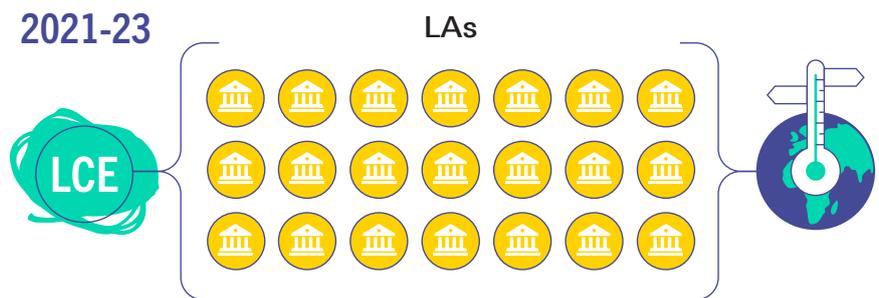
SALLY CUPITT

26.10.23

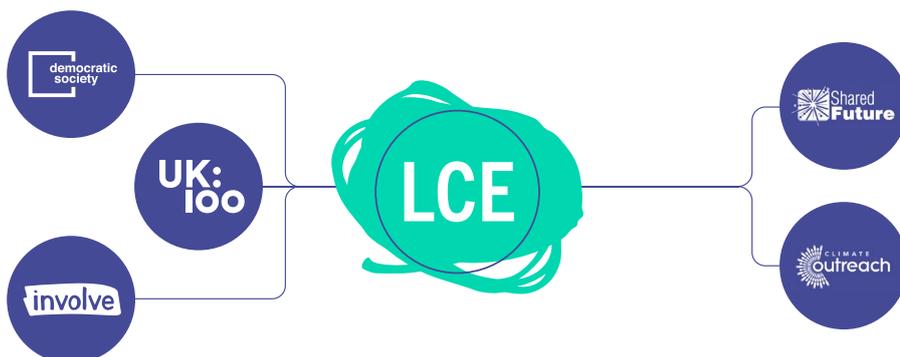
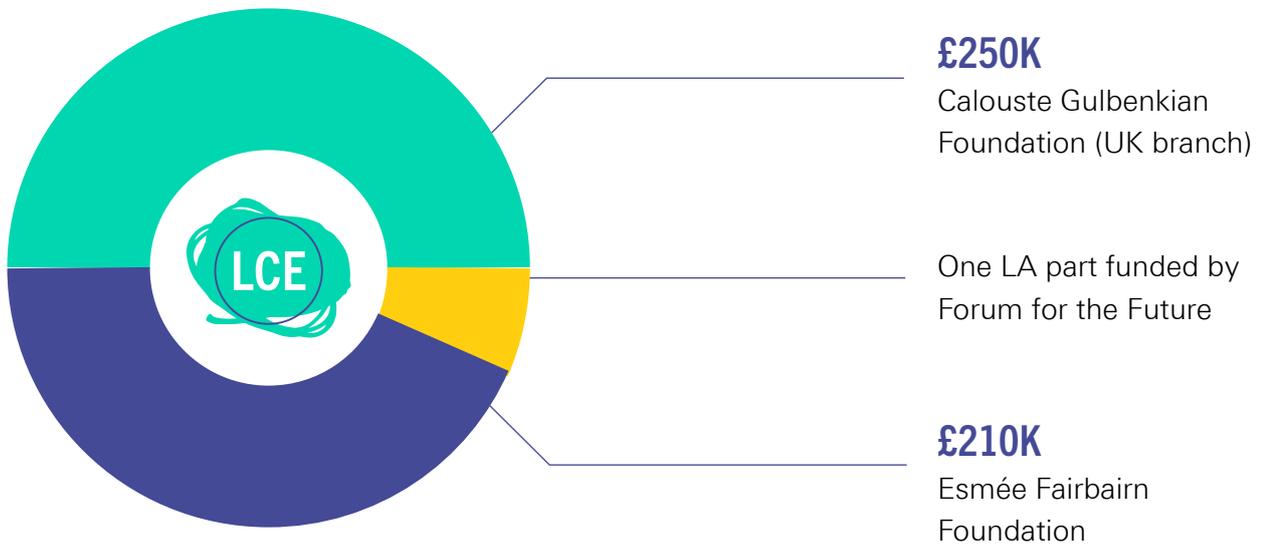
## 1. THE LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT (LCE) PROGRAMME

### LCE support

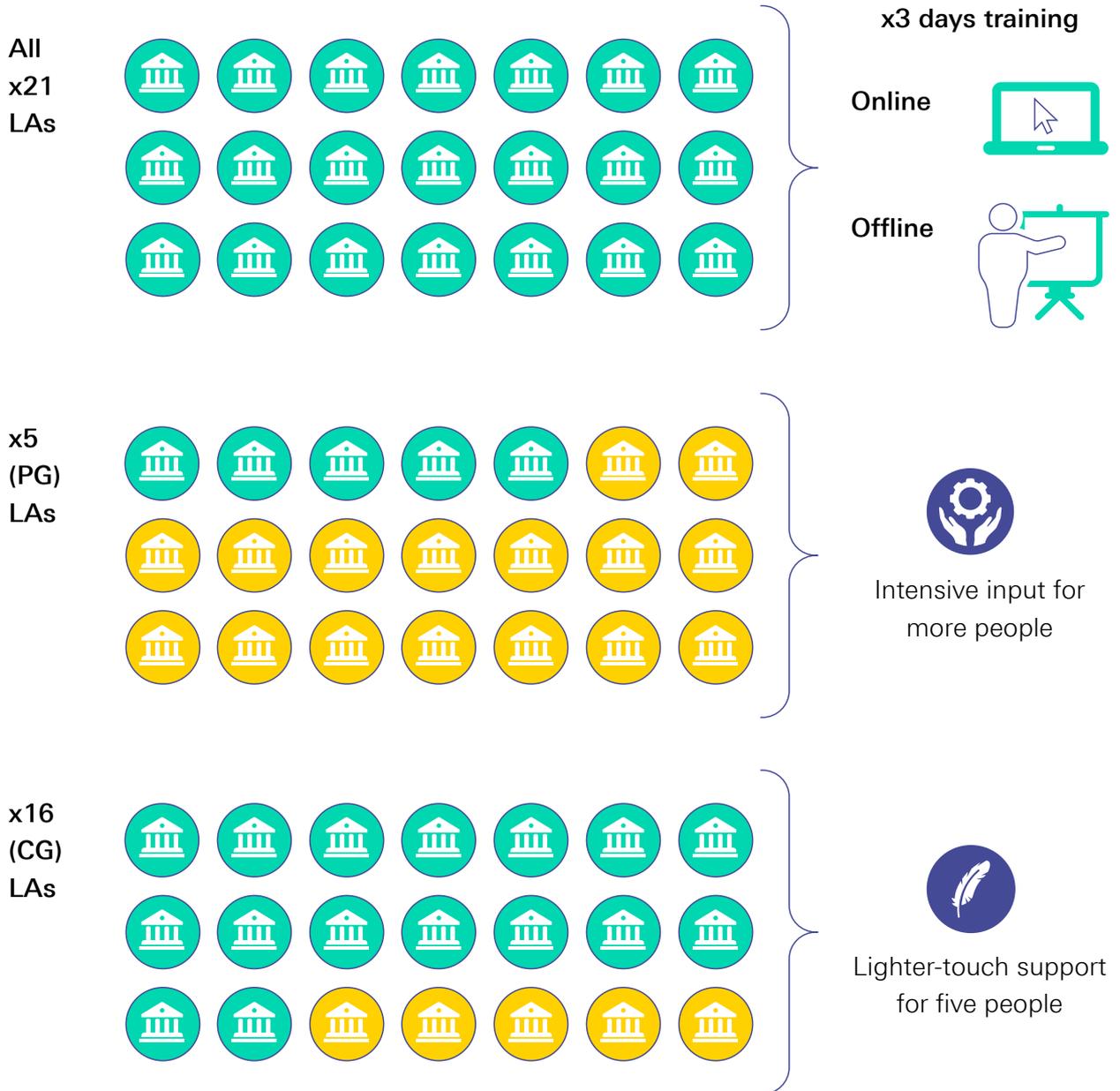
LCE supported 21 local authorities (LAs) to better engage the public around climate decision making



### LCE funding



## 2. WHAT LCE DELIVERED



### Engagement

Training



Other support



### 3. WHAT LCE PARTICIPANTS THOUGHT OF THE PROGRAMME

People participating directly in LCE were mostly LA staff (officers) but, for the PG, included some community partners.

**WE INTERVIEWED**



LCE participants, representing

**ALL PGS**

and

**x15 CGS**



In general, PGs and CGs thought the LCE training was good



LCE team's facilitation skills particularly valued



Practical sessions rated more highly



Some felt training could have been shorter



Training attendees were from a range of teams, roles and different LA tiers.



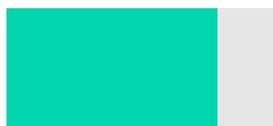
Diversity was beneficial



Content didn't meet everyone's needs.

#### LCE preparation

LAs that felt the LCE preparation prior to training was helpful.



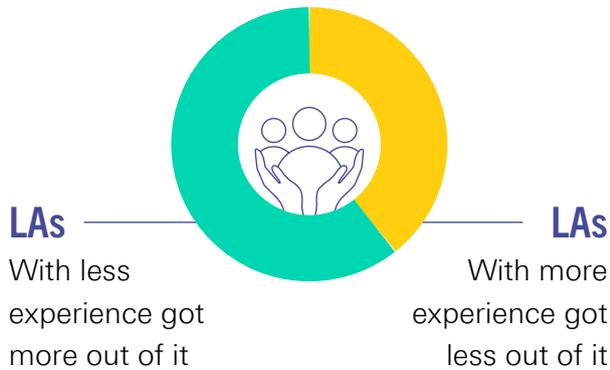
LAs that felt more or different preparation – might have been useful.



**Suggestions for future preparation:**

- a stronger sense of LAs' starting needs;
- pre-training for some to ensure a basic
- understanding of climate or PE;
- processes in place from the start to facilitate the embedding of learning.

**Peer support**

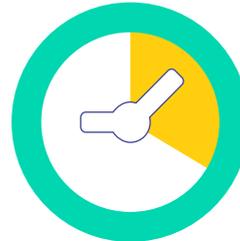


**Mentoring**

Mentoring was very useful for a few CGs.

A third of mentoring time used by

**9 OUT OF 15 CGs**



This was often due to a lack of live projects within the mentoring offer timeframe, despite this being extended.

Most PGs thought LCE mentoring after training was

**GOOD**

some describing it as...

**EXCELLENT**



Delays were mainly caused by;



Pre-election period



staffing issues within LCE and LAs,



changes in PE project viability.

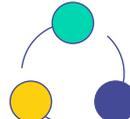
Areas for improvement included:



more participant involvement in PE activities;



streamline some aspects of the PE process;



develop a shared understanding between LCE and LAs about PE, roles and processes;



improve communication, particularly around PE events.

The LCE approach to capacity building was very helpful to most participants.



LAs and LCE staff raised some aspects for consideration:

- Whether it's acceptable to support LAs to do imperfect PE, or have better consultation.
- Whether the LCE approach might be slightly less facilitative with more expert input.
- Whether experiencing good PE in practice where scope is clear, might encourage engagement and focus.

## 4. OUTCOMES TO DATE

It is too early to judge the full success of LCE and what changes will sustain over time. There is good potential for further changes as a result of LCE, and LCE plans to evaluate further in 2024. Some strong early outcomes have been achieved to date.

### What local authorities did with their learning

x5  
(PG)  
LAs



implemented some PE during LCE; work is ongoing in some sites. Engagement activities undertaken by the PG with support from LCE, to end July 2023, included:



Most of this engagement involved significant LCE input; in **two areas** LCE was less able to influence the work undertaken.



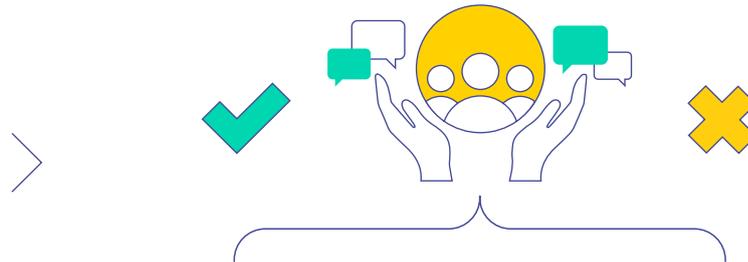
Some PE undertaken by the PGs would not have taken place without LCE.

In some areas, the engagement undertaken was very different as a result of LCE – more interactive, accessible, open or locally focused.

THIS EVALUATION INTERVIEWED

24

members of the public who had taken part in PE delivered as part of LCE.



- Liked the workshops
- Felt able to speak
- Thought the facilitation was very good.
- Pre-event communication could have been clearer and more timely.
- Slow follow up may have damaged the motivation generated.



Online engagement



Securing good attendance at workshops was difficult, perhaps at least in part because the councils felt unable to offer the recommended honorariums.



Pop up stalls



This was variously due to:

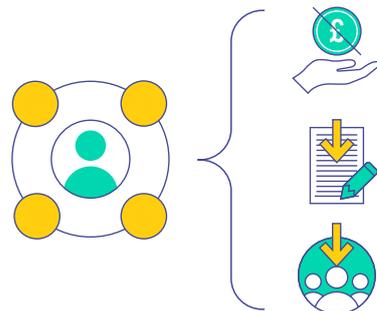
- limited resources;
- wanting to trial low-cost methods;
- not wanting to offer payment in the context of a financial crisis.



Workshop Attendance



There was a **lack of diversity** in those applying to attend LCE workshops.



Diversity may have been affected by the lack of honorariums.

Lower overall application numbers combined with lack of diversity monitoring.

Working with a limited selection of community partners reduced marketing reach.

11 OUT OF 15 CGs

made changes as a result of LCE



changes around PE for climate decision-making



or planning for PE.



With light-touch support from LCE.

# LOCAL CLIMATE ENGAGEMENT

## Outcomes within local authorities



Findings from LCE PE activities have the potential to **influence future LA decision making**;



In some LCE projects work is underway to incorporate findings into local plans.



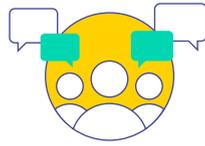
Some learning was new; other findings confirmed what officers already knew.



Most CG respondents reported **new learning**; some had shared this in their organisations.



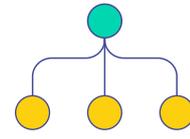
Some respondents had made significant **changes in approach**; 'from telling to asking'.



Some respondents still lacked confidence and skills to do PE on their own.



A few local authorities said their climate work had been given new **momentum**.



There are plans to replicate LCE engagement projects.



Going through the LCE process was valuable in itself.



It improved working relationships between stakeholders.



Some officers reported being more able to advocate for good PE.



In part due to the credibility of LCE consortium partners.

## Outcomes for local communities



The in-person LCE workshops



had a catalytic effect on some community participants and on local nature groups



This has the potential to further stimulate public participation in climate action.

## 5. LEARNING FOR FUTURE PE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES WITH LAs

The learning listed here includes some things LCE successfully built into their programme from the start, and things that LCE learned through the programme.

