




CENTRE FOR RESEARCH INTO  
ENERGY DEMAND SOLUTIONS

# A Local Green New Deal for Brighton and Hove



Tim Foxon, Donal Brown, Christian Jaccarini, Giulia Mininni, Claire Copeland, Marie Claire Brisbois, Siobhan Stack-Maddox, Beatriz Aguirre Martinez and Max Lacey-Barnacle

**Sussex Energy Group, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex, and New Economics Foundation**

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## Summary

- What do we mean by a 'Local Green New Deal'?
- What are key areas for action?
- Evidence – Survey and focus group in Greater Brighton region show citizens do value these benefits, though how they are implemented matters
- Policy recommendations for implementing energy demand reduction measures
  - What action is needed at the national level to enable this through new powers and funding?
  - What can be done now at the local level?

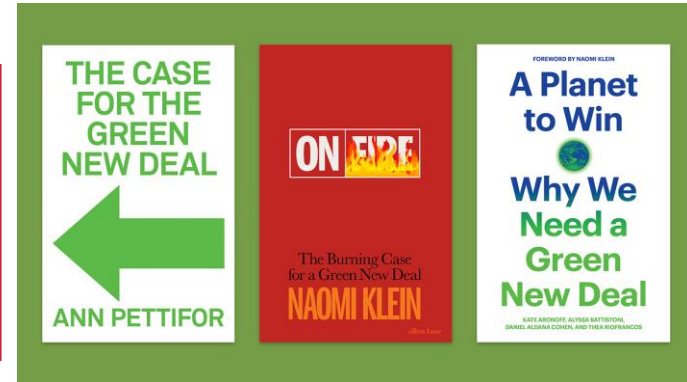
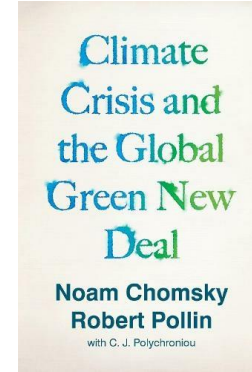
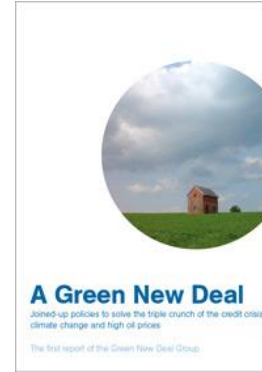
# Green New Deal: core elements

We reviewed a large amount of material to understand the origins and features of the UK GND

This review identified 5 core features :

1. financial reforms;
2. green infrastructure investment;
3. financing the GND;
4. ownership structures;
5. economic, social and climate justice

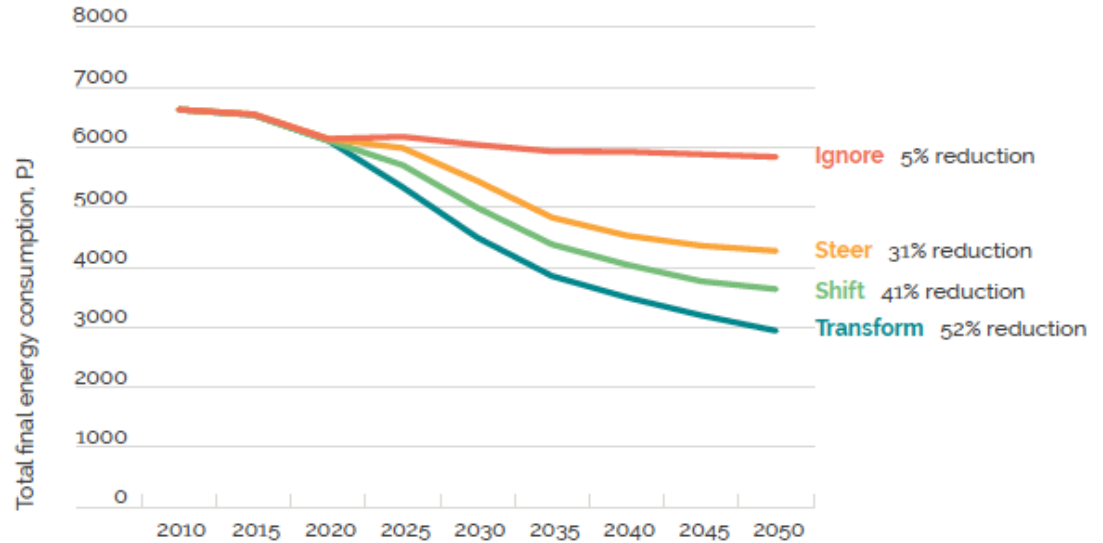
Brown et al (2023), The Green New Deal: historical insights and local prospects in the United Kingdom (UK), Ecological Economics, 205, 107696



# Low energy demand scenarios

- Delivering net-zero could mean an >50% reduction in energy demand
- Most energy saving activities must be devised and delivered locally
- This will require radical policy reforms and increased devolution in the UK

## CREDS Positive Low Energy Future (PLEF) scenarios



Source: <https://low-energy.creds.ac.uk/>

# Local Green New Deals

We propose “Local Green New Deals” as a unifying policy strategy for this

1. Cheaper, warmer, zero carbon homes
2. Affordable, sustainable public transport
3. Car-free city centres and active travel
4. Expanding green spaces and nature restoration



# Cheaper, warmer, zero carbon homes

## National goals



Almost all homes are EPC  
C or above by 2035

C

**53%** Energy efficiency  
& heatpumps  
reduce CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions

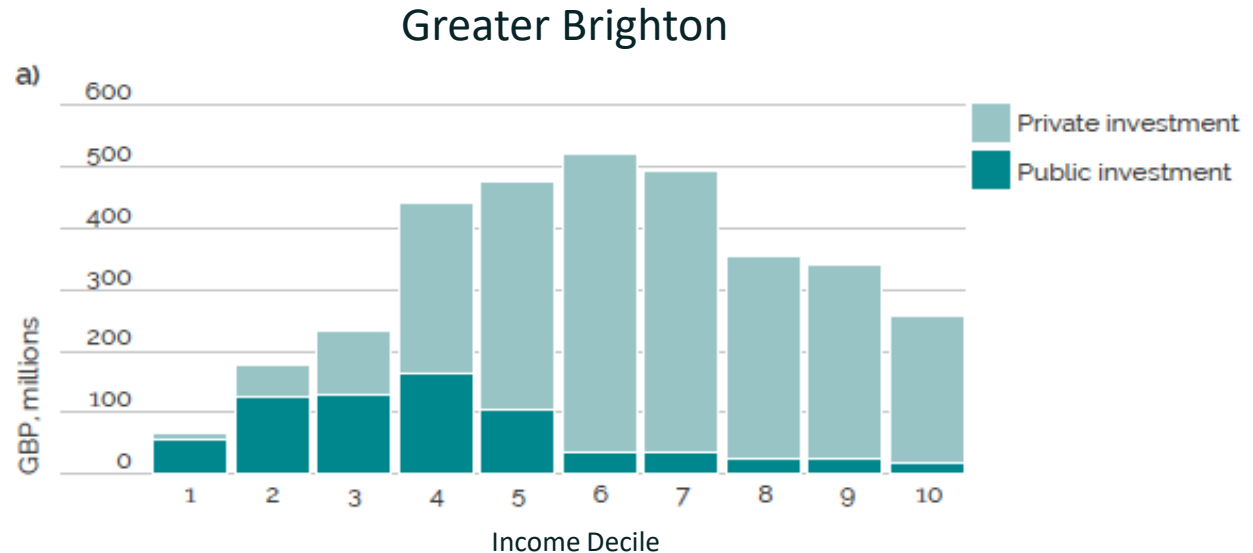


## Greater Brighton

- 316,000** Homes are retrofitted
- 46,000** Households lifted out of fuel poverty
- 5,000** New retrofit jobs created
- £4.84bn** Bill savings by 2045

# Home retrofit: public vs private investment

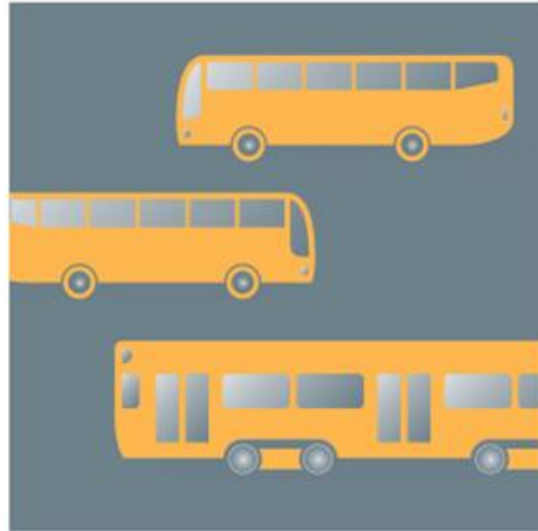
- Blended Finance model
  - Public Investment £286,300,000
  - Private investment £2,650,200,000



# Affordable, sustainable public transport

## National goals

## Greater Brighton



By 2040, hundreds of new bus routes & increased service frequency

**66%** Increase in bus journeys

**44%** Increase in tram, train & metro journeys

Bus journeys increase from 6% to 7% of overall trips

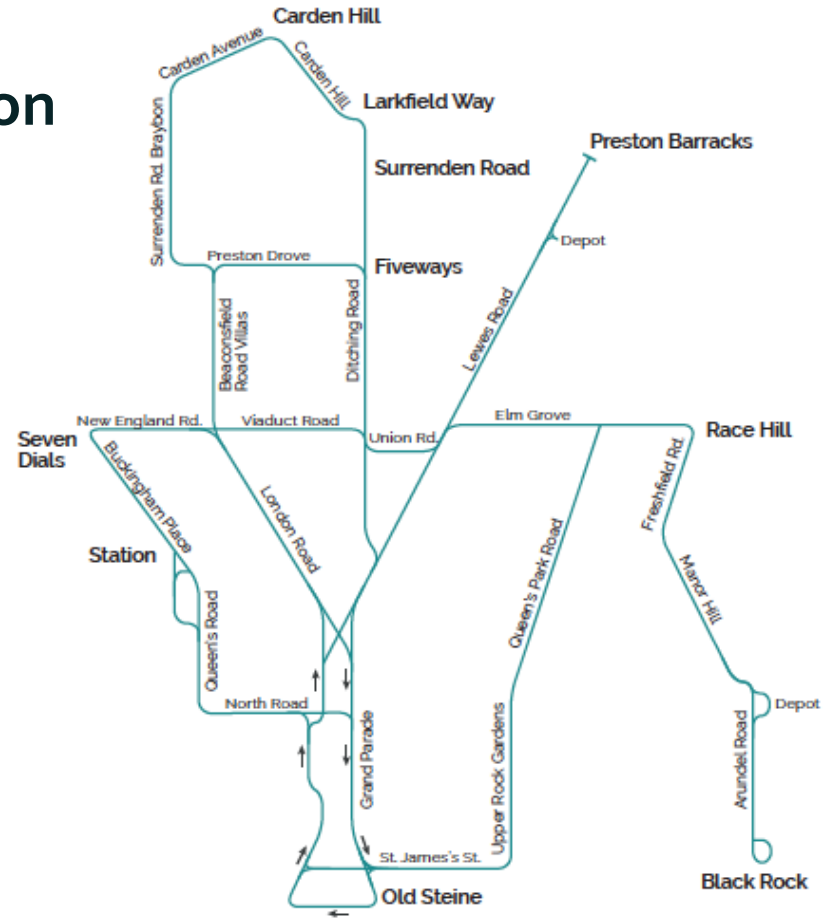
**£2.1bn** Investment by 2040 to rapidly electrify buses

**£200 to £400m** Reintroduction of Brighton & Hove tram system



# Rapid transit/ light rail expansion

- Reintroduction of trams in Brighton and Hove?
- Systems in similar UK cites have cost £ 200- £ 400m



# Car-free city centres and active travel



## National goals

Pedestrianisation,  
expanded cycle lanes &  
improved public transport

**21%** Reduction in car  
journeys

**225%** Increase in  
walking & cycling

## Greater Brighton

Estimated investment in bikes  
& cycling infrastructure: £610m

**33%**

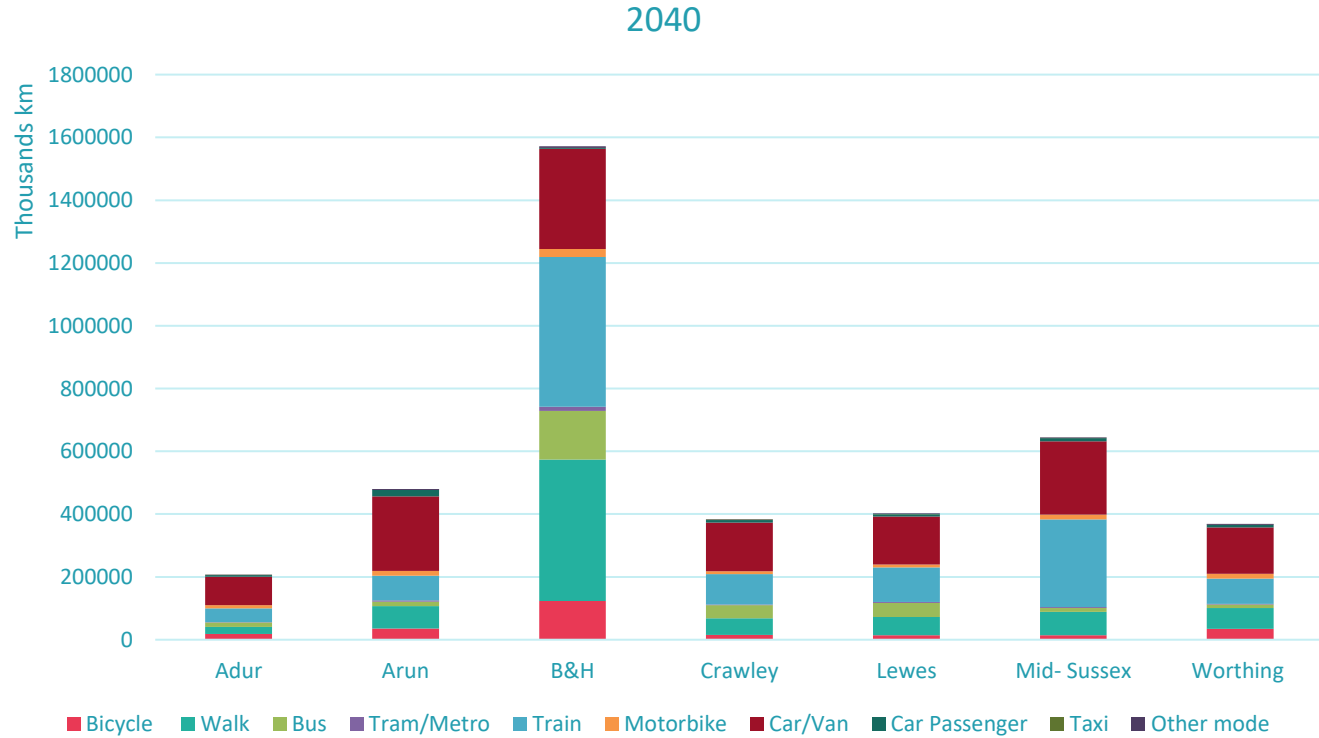
Car & van journeys decrease  
from 55% of all trips by 2040

**20%**

Walking increases from 6% of  
all distance travelled by 2040

# Modal shifts

- Huge expansion in walking and cycling
- Significant reduction in volume & proportion of journeys taken by car



# Expanding green spaces and nature restoration

## National goals

**218.8Mt**

Cumulative carbon sequestered by 2040 using broadleaved native woodland

**2,338km<sup>2</sup>**

Land required

## Greater Brighton

**800ha**

Required to deliver the local share of afforested land

**£11m**

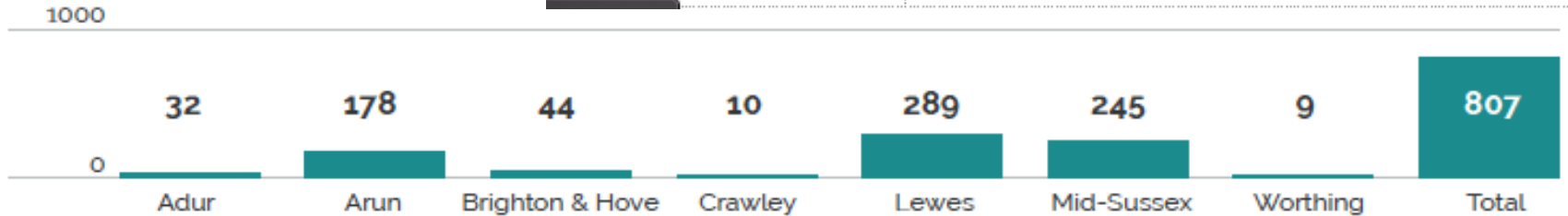
In carbon credit payments by 2040



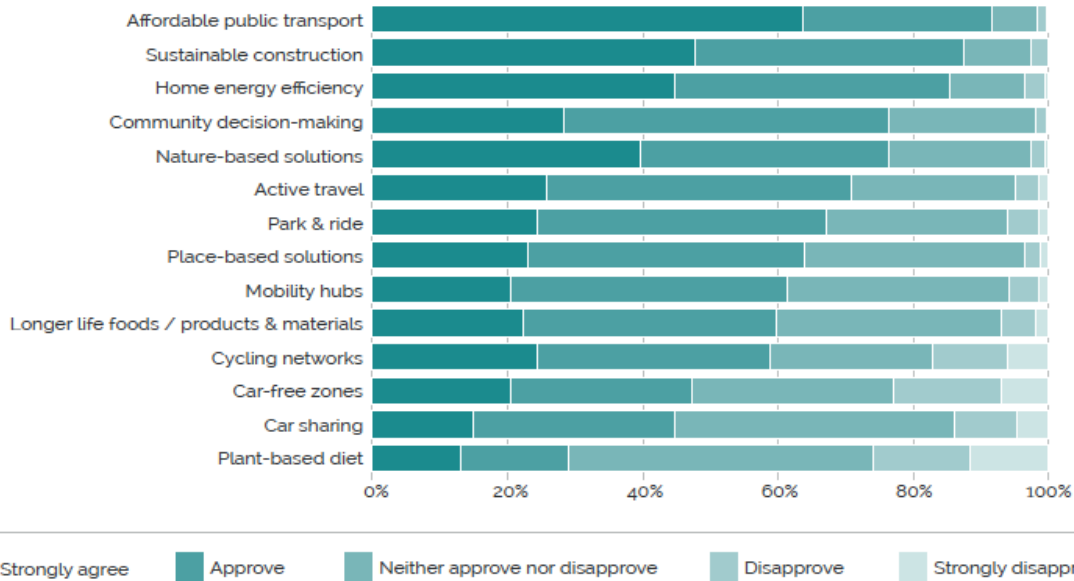
# Afforestation scale & costs

	Afforested Land (Ha)	tCO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Sequestration Costs
Adur	32	29,626	£444,388
Arun	178	166,702	£2,500,526
Brighton and Hove	44	40,907	£613,608
Crawley	10	9,651	£144,764
Lewes	289	270,414	£4,056,211
Mid Sussex	245	229,326	£3,439,891
Worthing	9	8,355	£125,323
<b>Greater Brighton Total</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>754,981</b>	<b>£11,324,710</b>
£/ha			£14,038

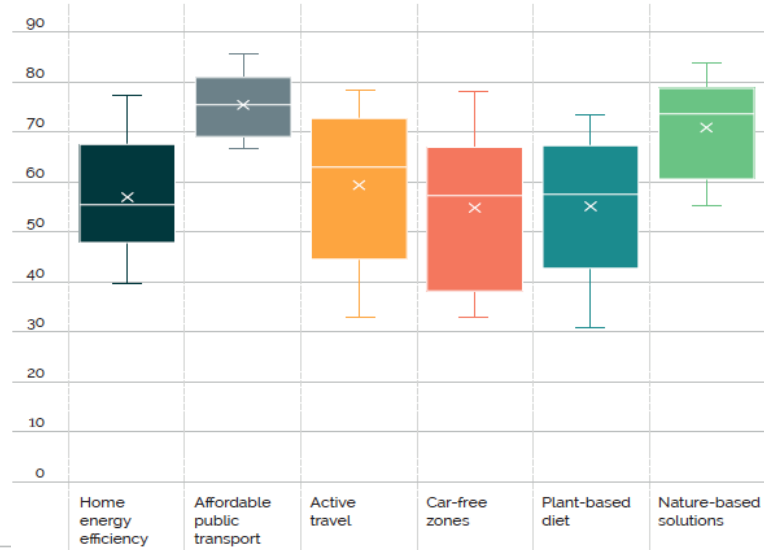
a)



# How popular are these measures?



Survey with n= 343 Greater Brighton Residents



Detailed focus group with 25 residents

# Cheaper, warmer, zero carbon homes

## Current action

- The Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) set up a Retrofit Taskforce in 2021 to make all council homes zero-carbon by 2030.
- BHESCo - home visits to assess what can be done to improve thermal comfort and cut energy costs
- Eastbourne and Lewes councils are working with AECOM and Robertson Projects - research into programme delivery and bulk purchasing.





# Cheaper, warmer, zero carbon homes

## Key recommendations

- A 10-year Local Retrofit Delivery Framework supporting regions to set up a Retrofit Taskforce and local one-stop shops, backed by grant and interest-free funding.
- A nationwide citizen engagement campaign to engage the public on the retrofit challenge.
- New training courses and apprenticeships for retrofit tradespeople.
- Local government should support community organisations & should also establish a direct labour organization.

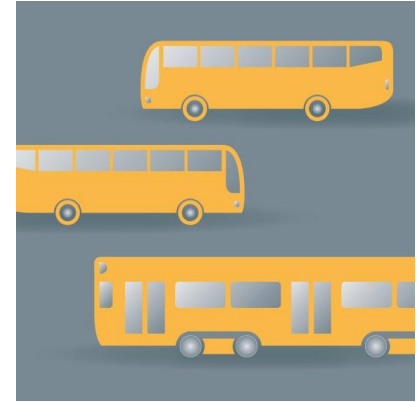




# Affordable, sustainable public transport

## Current action

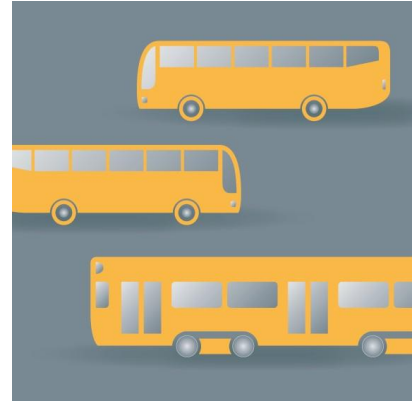
- Major funding is determined by the Department for Transport in response to bids from each transport authority
- In Greater Brighton, there are three transport plans in place – one produced by each transport authority.
- Currently, buses in Greater Brighton are run by private operators on a for-profit basis.
- DfT additional funding cut from £3bn to £1bn to support Enhanced Partnerships



# Affordable, sustainable public transport

## Key recommendations

- Review the functional geography of transport authorities and integrate rail and regional transport planning.
- Give control over buses to all transport authorities. Lift the ban on setting up municipally-owned bus operators and move towards a not-for-profit system.
- Devolve the powers for setting up rapid transit systems to local government.
- Give local areas the ability to tax large local employers for rail infrastructure.
- Reform appraisal tools for large capital projects.



# Car-free city centres and active travel

## Current action

- Split responsibility for highways and planning and parking in two-tier areas.
- Local government has the power to restrict vehicle traffic by means of a traffic restriction order (TRO) to create schemes such as Low-Traffic Neighbourhoods, such as the much contested one in Hanover and Turner.
- Cycle lanes exist across parts of the city.



# Car-free city centres and active travel

## Key recommendations

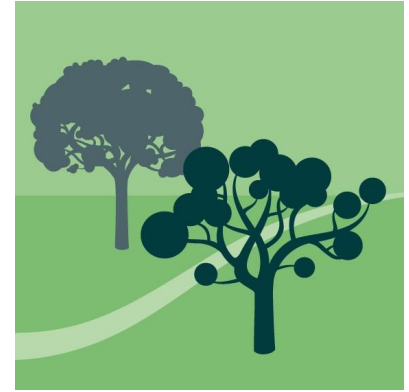
- Central government lays out a clear vision for low-traffic town and city centres, with LTNs made less difficult and expensive to implement.
- Require national highways to work with local government to tackle emissions.
- Radically reform appraisal tools for large capital projects, to properly capture the benefits of active travel and public transport.
- Empower and fund local development corporations to develop transport-led housing.



# Expanding green spaces and nature restoration

## Current action

- Brighton & Hove councillors have agreed a plan to plant thousands of young trees in the city every year funded from a £1 million grant from the council's Carbon Neutral Fund and funding from UTCF
- The Trees for Cities' forgotten places project is part of a widespread program to plant thousands of trees in Brighton and Bexhill



# Expanding green spaces and nature restoration

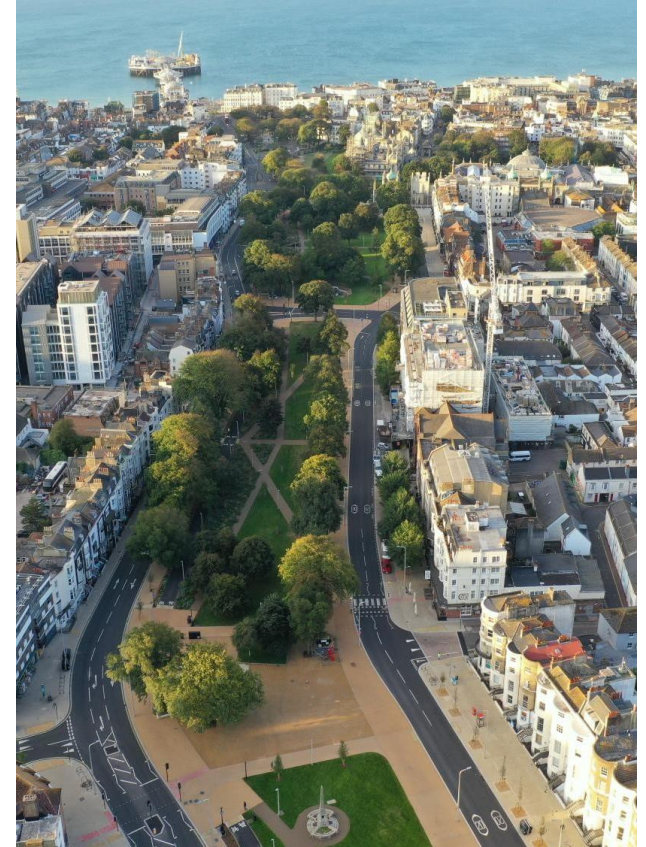
## Key recommendations

- Create a national Land Use Framework that amends property rights such that landowners must comply with agreed uses for agricultural and rural land.
- Reform UK food systems to empower farmers to take better care of their land.
- Make the Land Register free to access for all.
- Shift agricultural subsidies to reward farmers for increasing biodiversity and carbon sequestration.



# A Local Green New Deal for Brighton & Hove

- What do you think should be included in a Local Green New Deal for Brighton & Hove?





# Thank you

## Read the report:

<https://www.creds.ac.uk/publications/local-green-new-deals-a-transformative-plan-for-achieving-the-uks-climate-social-and-economic-goals-locally/>

## Contacts:

### University of Sussex

Prof Tim Foxon: [T.J.Foxon@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:T.J.Foxon@sussex.ac.uk)

Dr Donal Brown: [Donal.Brown@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:Donal.Brown@sussex.ac.uk)

Siobhan Stack-Maddox: [S.Stack-Maddox@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:S.Stack-Maddox@sussex.ac.uk)

### New Economics Foundation

Christian Jaccarini: [christian.jaccarini@nefconsulting.com](mailto:christian.jaccarini@nefconsulting.com)



**Local Green New Deals:  
A transformative plan for achieving  
the UK's climate, social and  
economic goals locally**

December 2023

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