

Integrating the SDGs into Urban Climate Plans: Insights from the UK

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SDG-CapaCities

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ESRC collaborative networking project between UK (De Montfort University) and Japan (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies)

- Develop an understanding about climate planning and SDG awareness of cities in two countries
- Examine interagency coordination within cities and central-local government relations
- Develop a framework of analysis to evaluate the readiness of cities
- Identify and develop a network of researchers in Japan, UK and elsewhere who may be interested in similar issues

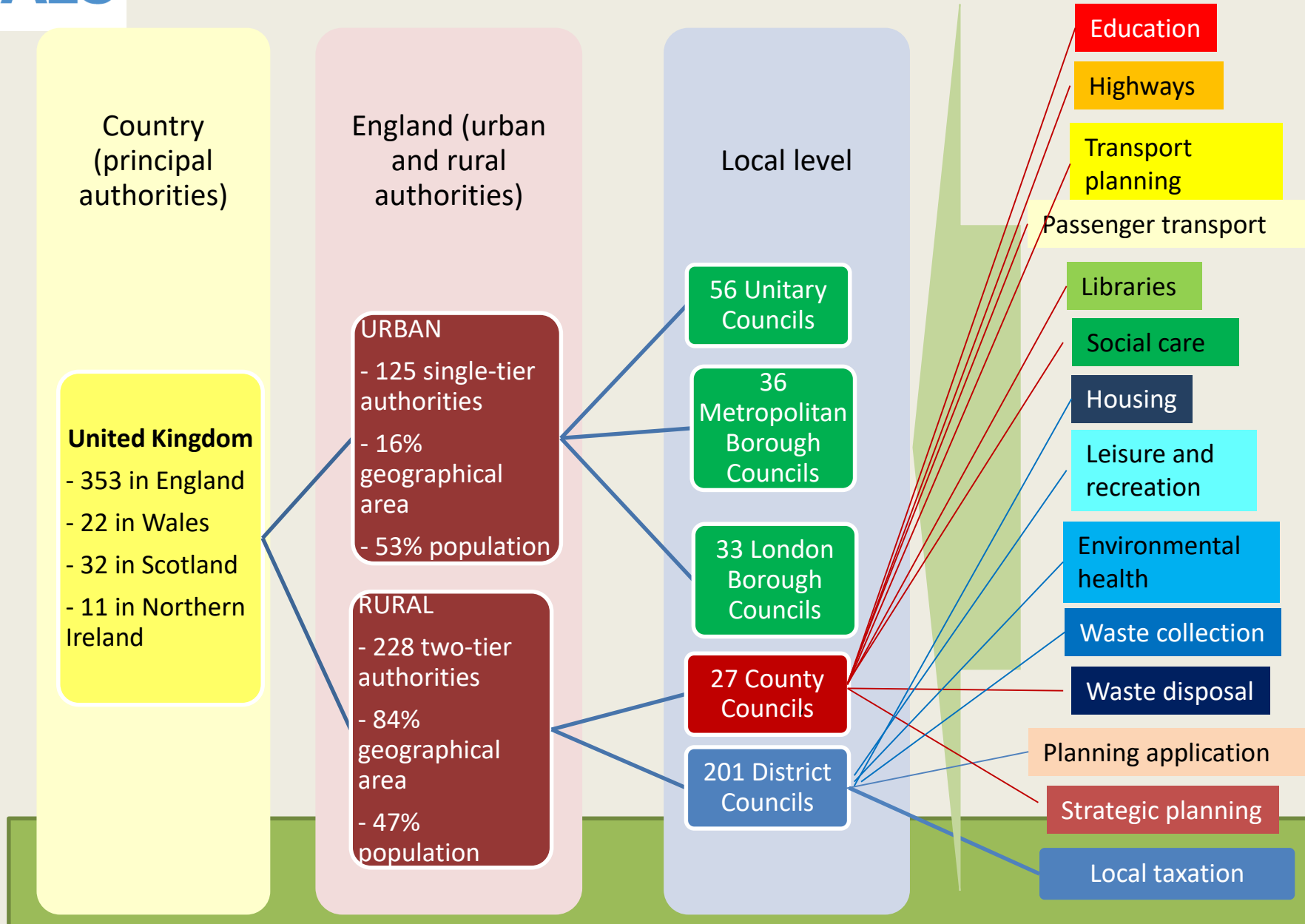
Aim and objectives of the paper

Conduct a preliminary analysis of the integration of the SDGs in the climate action plans of urban areas in the UK

- To identify whether city-level climate actions consider sustainable development of cities
- To explore the alignment of UK cities' climate actions and plans with SDGs

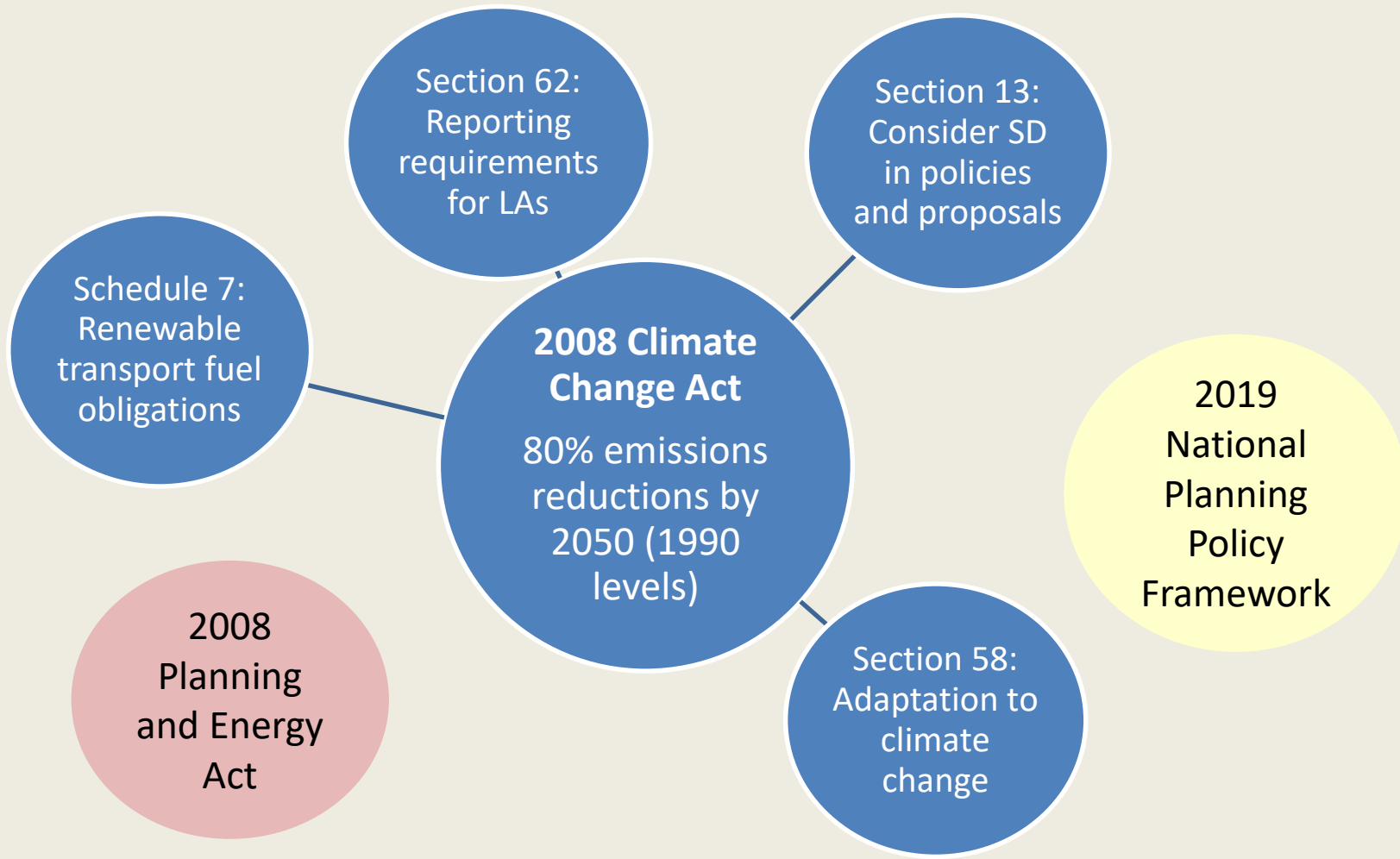
UK Local Authority background

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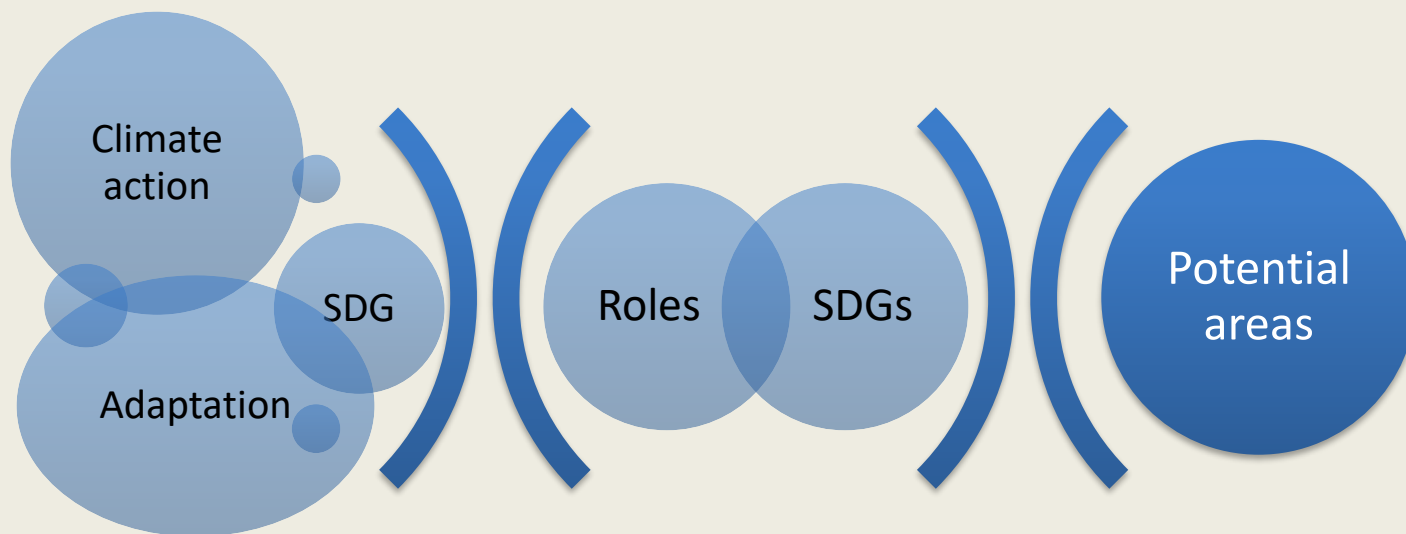
Legal and Policy Context

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Methodology

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Text analysis

- Systematic analysis of main themes using NVivo and Voyant tools (word clouds / word trees)
- Selected LAs: Bristol, Leicester, Milton Keynes

Mapping

- Selection of 26 UK local authorities (CoM signatories)
- Quick scan of local climate mitigation, adaptation and SD plans
- Mapping of LAs services and related SDGs

Alignment

- Exploring to what extent cities are directly or indirectly influencing the climate-driven SDGs
- Work in progress

Text and document analysis

Climate Change Act 2018 word cloud



Commonly occurring terms:

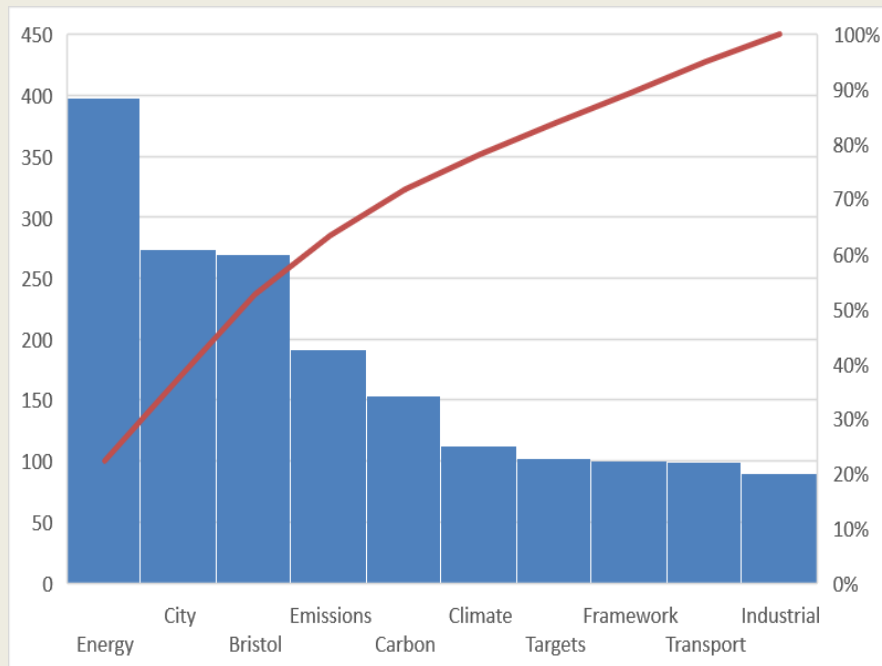
- Climate change: 323 times
- Sustainable Development: 7 times
- Sustainable: 17 times
- Adaptation: 28 times
- Local authorities: 11 times
- Missing terms: city, urban area, mitigation

- Greater emphasis on adaptation
- No direct obligations impose to cities regarding climate change mitigation and adaptation

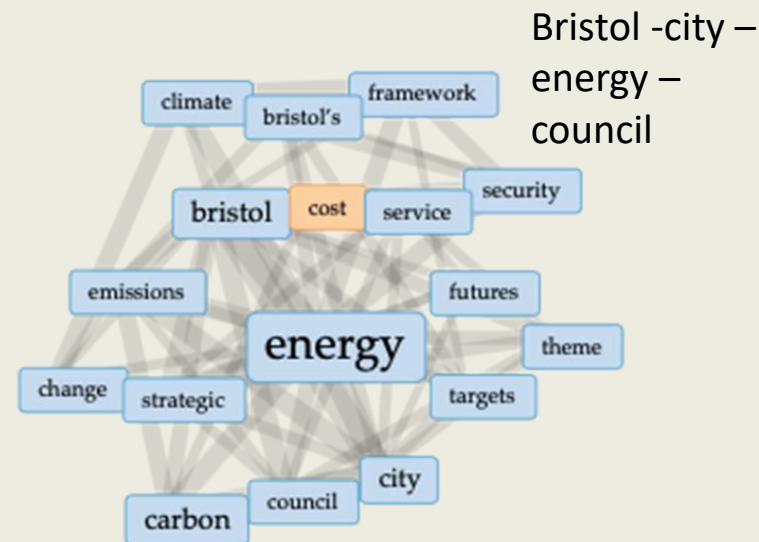
Text and document analysis

Bristol Climate Change and Energy Security Framework

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Most frequent words Pareto chart



Bristol -city -
energy -
council

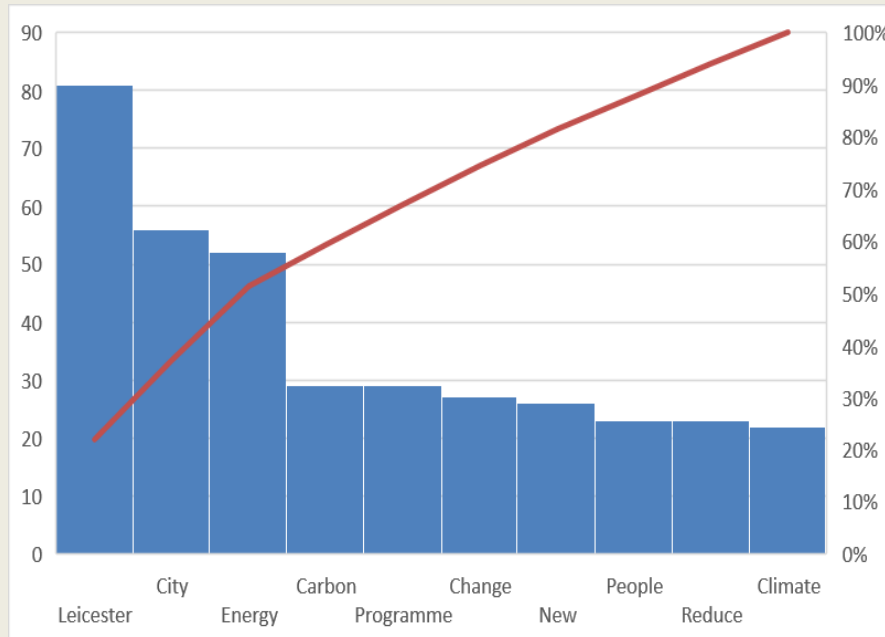
Energy – security – Bristol – climate – city
– framework - efficiency

Word linkage

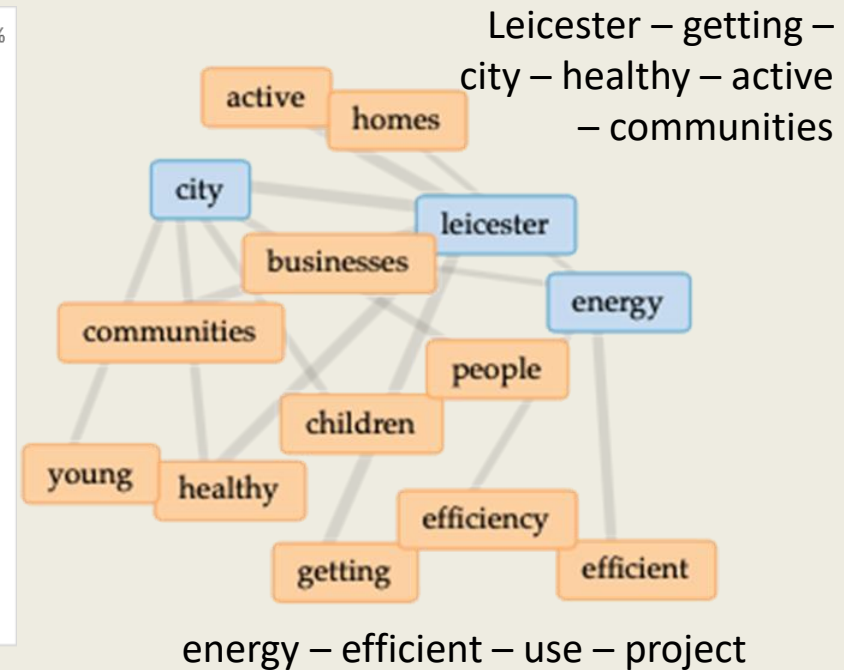
Text and document analysis

Leicester 2014 Low Carbon Plan

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Most frequent words Pareto chart

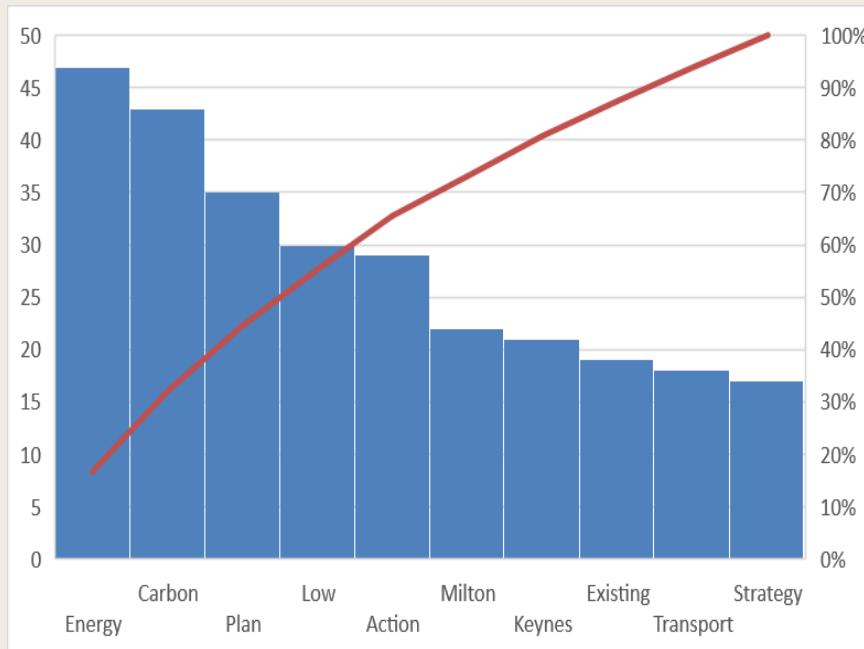


Word linkage

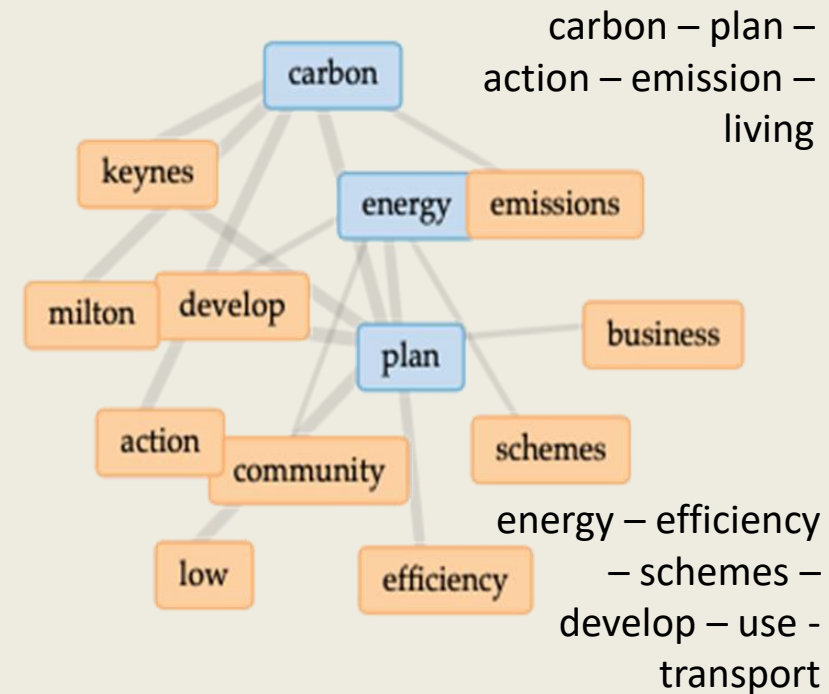
Text and document analysis

Milton Keynes 2012 Low Carbon Plan

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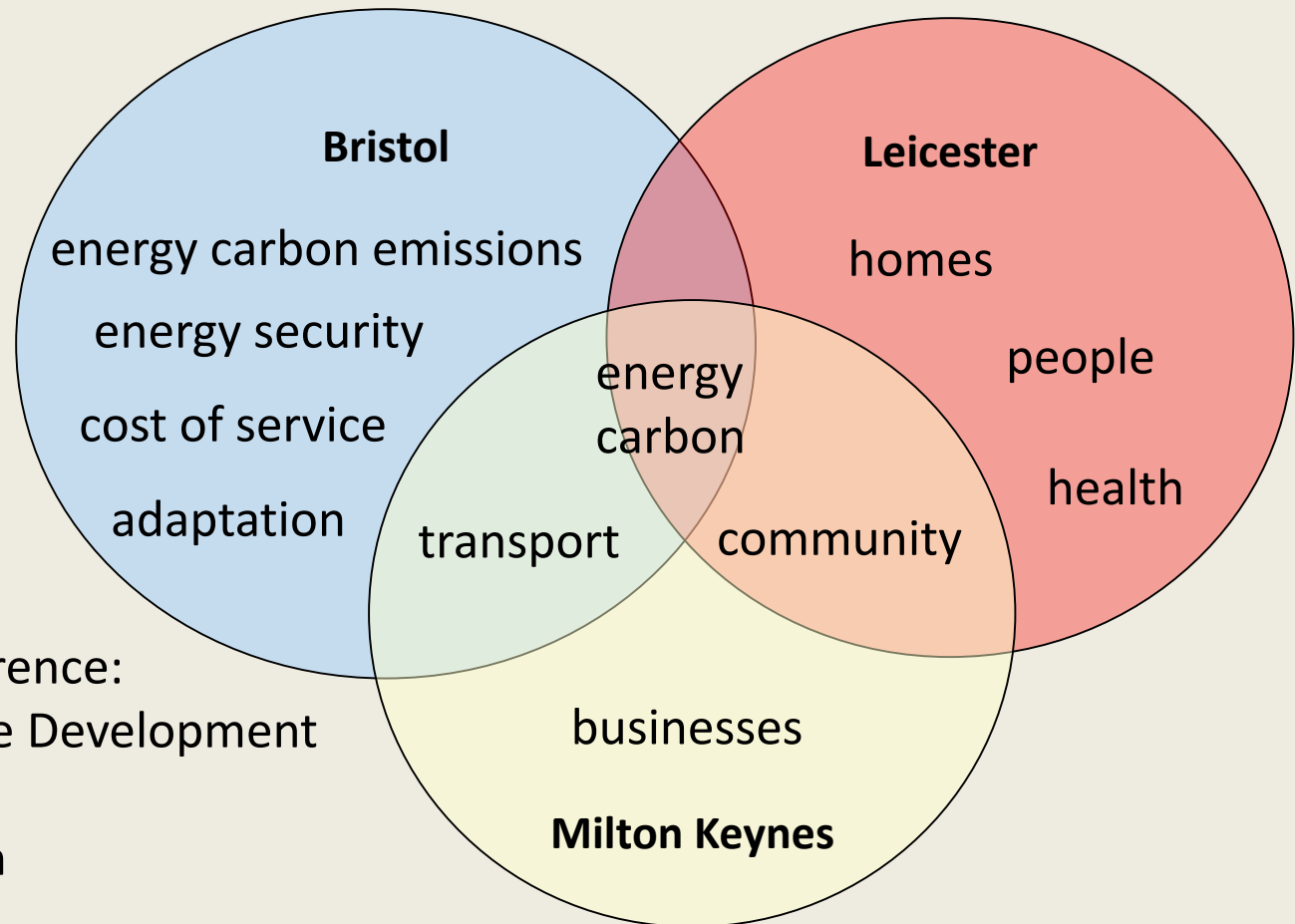
Most frequent words Pareto chart



Word linkage

Text and document analysis

Summary of selected cities



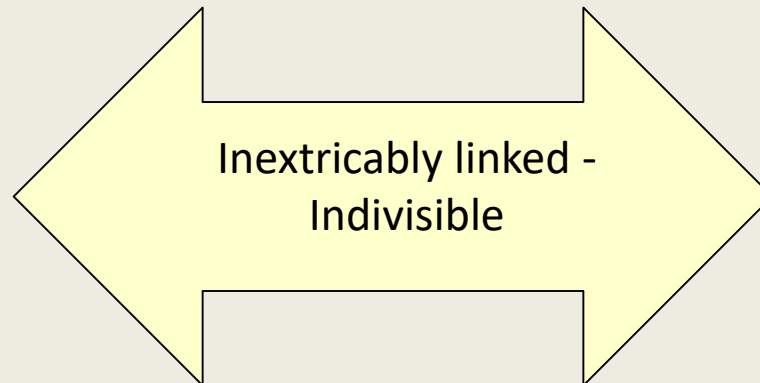
Limited occurrence:

- Sustainable Development
- Mitigation
- Adaptation

SDG mapping of climate actions

Approach: How city-level SDGs are influenced by climate actions?

SDG example: (Bristol Green Capital Partnership, 2018)



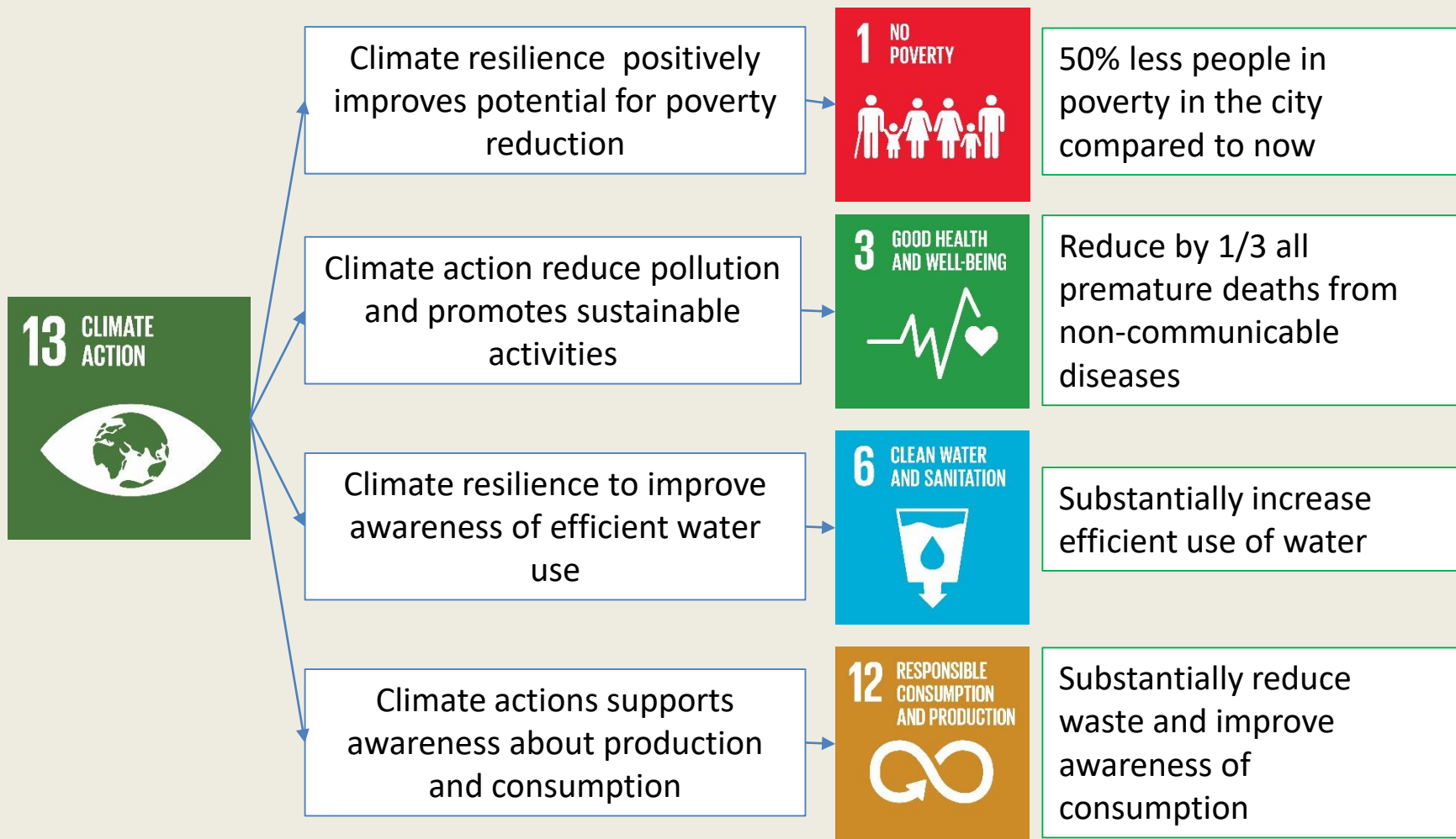
Example of city goal:

Significantly increase renewable energy use and improve energy efficiency

SDG mapping of climate actions

Reinforcement

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SDG mapping of climate actions

Enabling effect

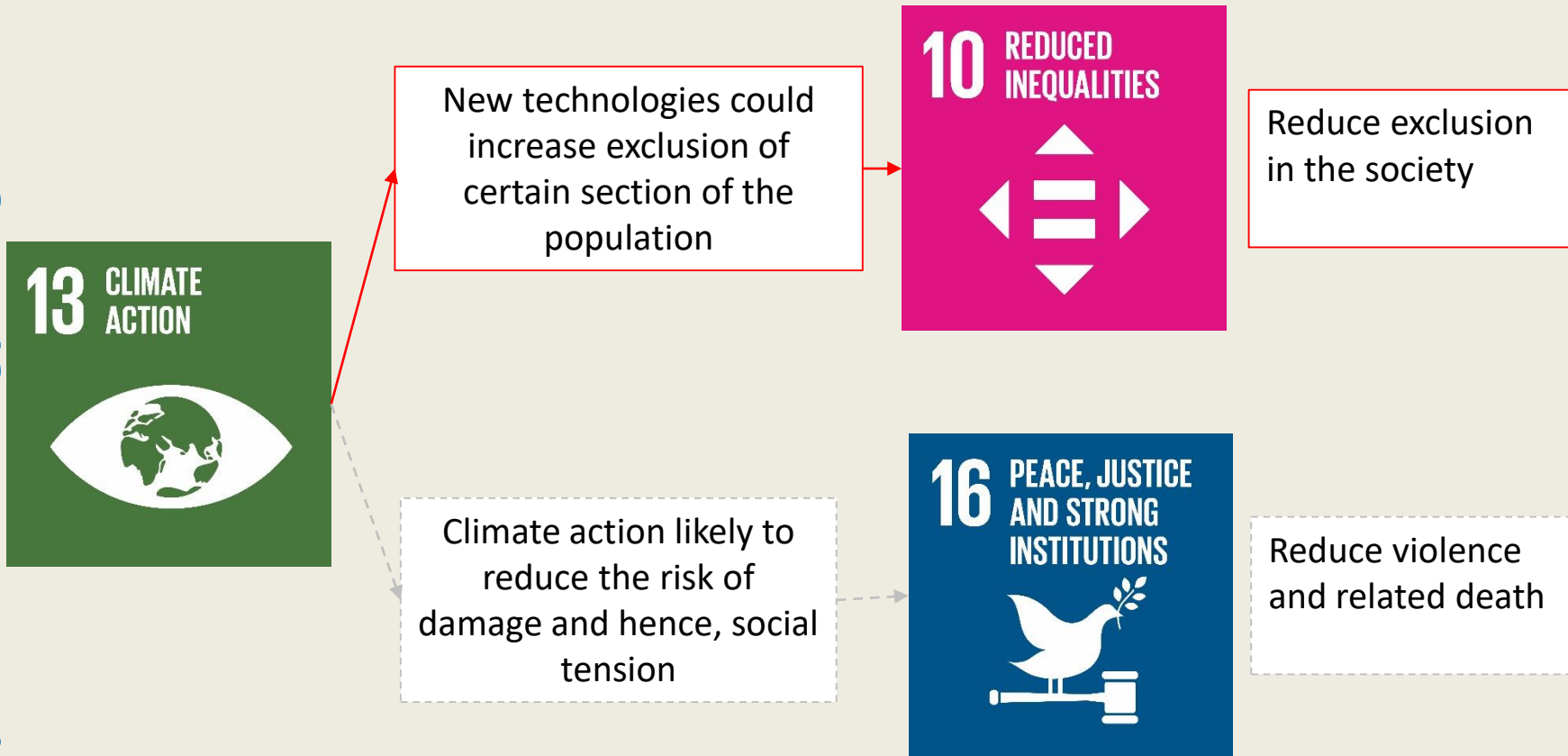
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SDG mapping of climate actions

Constraining effect or no direct influence

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Conclusions

- Despite no direct obligations of cities in the 2008 Climate Change Act, LAs should report policies and progress towards national emissions reduction targets
- City-level climate action plans differ considerably, with limited and indirect link to Sustainable Development
- Climate actions can support the achievement of city-level SDGs
- Better alignment could benefit local authorities and citizens

Next steps



- Map SDG targets against climate action objectives
- Further thematic analysis of documents
- Thank you for listening!
- Welcome suggestions and questions

References

- Bristol Green Capital Partnership (2018). *Driving the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda at City level in Bristol*, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol (https://bristolgreencapital.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Bristol-Method_Driving-the-SDGs-agenda-at-city-level-in-Bristol_17-Jul-2018.pdf)
- Leicester City Council (2014). *Carbon Reduction Roadmap*, Leicester.
- Milton Keynes Council (2012). *Milton Keynes Low Carbon Action Plan 2012*, Buildings Control and Sustainability Team, Milton Keynes.
- Nilsson M, Griggs D, Visbeck M (2016). Map the interactions of sustainable development goals. *Nature* 534:320–322.
<https://doi.org/10.1038/534320a>