



A call to action for local councils

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Local Councils Resource Pack



Introduction

The National Emergency Briefing calls on the UK government to deliver a live, televised emergency briefing on the climate and nature crisis in order to fully inform the public of the risks we face from the climate and nature crisis.

The National Emergency Briefing was held in Westminster in November 2025. It featured leading experts who briefed an invited audience of over 1,200 politicians and leaders from business, culture, faith, sport and the media. The briefing set out the implications of climate and nature breakdown for health, food systems, national security and the economy.

Following the briefing, a 50-minute documentary, the *People's Emergency Briefing*, has been produced. It contains footage of that event and is being screened across the UK in civic centres, cinemas, community halls, and churches.

The film is intended to build support for a government-led televised briefing to inform the public about the full scale of the crisis and show what level of response is now needed. MPs are being asked to add their names to a Parliamentary Call to that effect.

The initiative is:

- ✓ Politically neutral
- ✓ Evidence-led
- ✓ Designed to promote an understanding of risks

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Why should your council consider hosting a screening?

Councils are on the frontline of the climate and nature crisis. They are facing accelerating impacts, from heatwaves to flooding, in their localities.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, councils have a responsibility as Category 1 Responders for assessing and managing foreseeable risks to their communities, including through risk registers, resilience planning and emergency preparedness.

Over a hundred councils across the UK have already hosted screenings of the *People's Emergency Briefing* in order to help elected members and officers understand those risks and the implications for the delivery of services.

Hosting an internal screening for staff and/or members

The primary aim of hosting a screening is for the council to engage staff and/or elected members with the facts about the climate and nature crisis and encourage discussion about how this crisis will impact the council's work and responsibilities.

The experts in the film cover a range of relevant topics including: extreme weather, climate, nature, energy transition, health, food supply, economics, tipping points and national security. Many of these have direct implications for local authorities.

Councils are well-placed to deliver screenings to staff and members with the potential for the screening and discussion to tie directly into wider learnings around climate and nature risks, carbon literacy, service delivery, long-term financial pressures, and community resilience.

The event will help build shared understanding through an evidence-based briefing led by scientists and experts to develop a shared language around risk and resilience. It will also help contextualise how national risks translate into local impacts.

We encourage you to explore the screening resources and facilitation guidance.

[Council screening guide](#)



Discussion topics for councils

The film covers a range of key issues from extreme weather to food security. Local councils have a range of responsibilities and service delivery responsibilities that are at risk from the impacts of the climate and nature crisis.

Service area	Example impacts
Highways & transport	Flood damage, disruption, asset deterioration
Adult & social care	Increased demand, vulnerability to extreme weather
Public health	Heat stress, well-being impacts, food and water supply impacts, wildfire smoke
Housing & planning	Drainage, overheating, resilience standards
Emergency planning and business resilience	More frequent severe weather events and disruption
Parks and green spaces	Biodiversity loss, heat stress, flooding

You may find it helpful to centre discussions with different departments around key aspects of the briefing (eg planning officers and extreme weather; Integrated Care Board staff and health impacts).

In order to help you do this, each of the expert briefings is available in full on the website for streaming (~12mins long each). These are centred on single topics.

Structuring conversations about how the risks raised in the briefing might affect the delivery of services and the local community is also recommended.

If you'd like to know more about the expert briefings you can watch these in full on the National Emergency Briefing website.

NEB expert briefings



Next steps

To sign up to host a screening, or to request more information please email councils@nebriefing.org We will be delighted to help you with the next steps or answer queries.

Following your screening we strongly encourage your council to pass a motion in support of a live, televised emergency briefing introduced by the Prime Minister and the UK Chief Scientific Advisor and delivered by independent experts.

This is a very simple yet effective public statement and can be combined with a request from the council to the local MP(s) to support the call too.

Please note the call is not for the *People's Emergency Briefing* film to be screened on television – it is a call for a live, Covid-style government briefing.

You can learn more about the call for a televised briefing and what it would entail [here](#).

As of July 2026, a total of **131 cross-party MPs** are supporting the call for a televised briefing, having either signed the [Parliamentary Call](#) or an [Early Day Motion](#) to the same effect.

Finally, we would also be grateful to see the council make its facilities available for public screenings and/or host these themselves. The more people who see the film, the stronger the public awareness is of the need for a national televised emergency briefing.

For Residents: Asking your council to host a screening

You can invite the council to host its own internal screening and/or offer your own support and expertise if you are an experienced host.

We encourage anyone who has experience of hosting the *People's Emergency Briefing* to approach their local council about the initiative.

Each council is different, but for larger councils we suggest contacting the appropriate portfolio holder responsible for climate or the environment; as well as any relevant officer (eg Climate Officer, Sustainability Officer, etc), and your own local councillor.

We have a template letter you can adopt to approach your council in the resources section below. You can also contact your council as a constituent and ask them to engage with the initiative.

Further resources

[Screening guide for councils](#)

[Discussion guide for councils](#)

[Screening handout for council staff/members](#)

[Template council motion](#)

[Template email for residents to request their council engages with the National Emergency Briefing initiative](#)

[South Hams District Council calls on UK100 councils to support the NEB](#)

[The experience of Lancaster City Councillors in passing a motion and encouraging MP support](#)

For further assistance please contact councils@nebriefing.org

Thank you for reading.



Social tipping points are hard to see...until they happen