

A Climate of Resilience? Local Governance in the North East

Keith Shaw: keith.shaw@northumbria.ac.uk

Louise Maythorne louise.maythorne@northumbria.ac.uk

University of Northumbria, Department of Social Sciences

Climate change is widely accepted as one of the most pressing issues for national governments of the 21st century. However, while a global response is vital, the role of local governance in addressing these challenges should not be underestimated; indeed at a local level climate change should be 'the single priority which overrides all others, now and for the foreseeable future' (LGA, 2007:8). Against this backdrop of local climate governance a new *resilience* agenda is emerging which offers a new approach to a persistent problem.

This paper draws on interviews in Local Authorities across the North-East of England to answer the questions 'how might we best build resilient local government in relation to climate change?' and 'what role can communities play within this process?'