



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 25TH JULY 2012

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION – COMPLYING WITH THE STATUTORY GUIDANCE

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the Authority's responsibility under the Climate Change Adaptation statutory guidance, and to seek approval for the proposed approach.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This document outlines the Authority's responsibility under the Climate Change Adaptation statutory guidance, and the approach that proposed in order to meet the requirements
- 2.2 Some initial work has begun as part of the process of producing a corporate Climate Adaptation Plan for Caerphilly County Borough Council, including securing funding from the WLGA to support the process. Two, one-day workshops have been held with key members of staff to discuss and identify the most appropriate approaches.
- 2.3 This report outlines the proposal to adopt a bespoke Service-specific approach to adaptation based on sound risk assessment methodologies, in order to tackle the particular issues that each Service will encounter and to develop an Adaptation Plan for CCBC that reflects the real impacts of climate change on the Authority.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Addressing climate change adaptation contributes to the fulfilment of the following key strategies (although this is not an exhaustive list):
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Welsh Government (2010).
 - Climate Adaptation Delivery Plan. Welsh Government (2010).
 - One Wales, One Planet (2009), the Sustainable Development Strategy for Wales.
 - Wales Environment Strategy (2006).
 - Caerphilly Community Strategy (2004).
 - Caerphilly Climate Change Strategy (2009).
 - Living Better, Using Less, the Sustainable Development Strategy for Caerphilly county borough (2008).
 - Caerphilly Countryside Strategy (2010).

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 gave Welsh Ministers the power to issue guidance on climate change impacts and adaptation. It also gave them the power to issue a direction requesting bodies with public functions to prepare an adaptation report. Local authorities are included as 'reporting authorities' as are the Health Boards, Fire Services and others.

- 4.2 In January 2012 the Minister for Environment & Sustainable Development published new statutory guidance, setting out what is required of us. The guidance is in 5 parts. Parts 1 & 2 have been published. Parts 3-5 are expected in the very near future.
- 4.3 The Minister expects all key reporting authorities to make continued progress in preparing for a changing climate and identified the challenge as being to embed consideration of climate change impacts and possible responses into decision-making processes.
- 4.4 The guidance identifies that efforts to reduce global emissions (mitigation) are vitally important if we are to avoid dangerous climate change. However, because of historic and current emissions, some degree of climate change over the next thirty or forty years is inevitable. It is the work that we need to do to adapt to these inevitable changes that is covered in the guidance.

The Welsh Government's guidance on climate adaptation follows a 5-stage, management-system styled approach:

- 4.5 **Part 1: Starting.** Sets out what is meant by 'preparing for a changing climate', and showing why it's important and worthwhile. It highlights some linkages with other work, for example with sustainable development, and suggests what good preparation might look like. It also involves learning about how the climate has already changed, how an organisation has been affected by weather in the past, and what we are already doing that counts as preparing for climate change.
- 4.6 **Part 2: Investigating.** This involves refining the climate change impacts identified in Part 1, and identifying levels of sensitivity and adaptive capacity. It also includes a climate change risk assessment that explores the likelihood and consequence of each impact and provides your organisation with a list of prioritised impacts to develop actions for in Part 3.
- 4.7 **Part 3: Planning.** This stage leads to an adaptation plan using information generated by previous investigations carried out in Part 2. It includes setting aims and objectives, identifying and prioritising adaptation options, and establishing baseline data and indicators, which help with monitoring and reviewing in Part 5.
- 4.8 **Part 4: Implementing.** Part 4 discusses implementation of the adaptation plan produced in Part 3. It also addresses the need to build the adaptive capacity of the organisation and partners through training and communication, as well as delivering and managing `adaptation actions.
- 4.9 **Part 5: Reviewing.** The principal goal of Part 5 is to determine whether the aims and objectives set out in your adaptation plan are being achieved. Reviewing allows for new climate information and any lessons learned to be captured and fed into the process, which should be seen as ongoing.

The Welsh Government is expecting key reporting authorities to make progress in preparing for a changing climate during 2012. This will include reporting at the end of the financial year on what has been achieved, and our proposed approach.

4.10 **What has been done to date**

In association with the Caerphilly Living Environment Partnership, a high-level Climate Change Strategy was produced for the borough in 2009. The Strategy identified actions on mitigation (reducing the causes of climate change), adaptation (adapting to the changes) and opportunities. Mitigation is being taken forward by the carbon reduction and management work across the Authority.

The Partnership recognised the need to collaboratively produce a Climate Adaptation Plan for the borough. Under the guidance, Health, Police and Fire partners are also required to produce Climate Adaptation Reports, as responsible bodies.

Support and funding has been secured from the WLGA to initiate the process and two workshops have been run on Climate Change Adaptation. These workshops were designed to introduce climate adaptation to a range of key personnel from across the Authority and to develop an approach to the issues. This report summarises the approach developed and agreed during these workshops.

4.11 **What is proposed to be done**

The workshops focussed on delivering the requirements of the guidance. They identified that in order to be successful in planning and adapting to climate change, we will need to focus initially on building understanding and awareness of climate change across the breadth of our Service areas and to promote the need for managers to consider adaptation to the likely impacts of climate change on those services in our borough.

Therefore it is proposed that Services will be given the opportunity to take part in 2 half-day workshops, supported by a small facilitation team - consisting of officers from the Sustainable Development & Living Environment Team, Performance Management, and Emergency Planning. It is proposed to link Services together to reduce the overall number of times that the workshops are run to around 7. The aim is to create a bespoke approach for each Service area, to which managers and operational officers can relate their work.

4.12 **Service Workshop (A)**. The first half-day workshop will address part 1 of the guidance by building understanding of the projected effects of climate change and how these may affect the Service area, giving consideration to how the Service has been affected by the climate in the past and any activities or precautions already being taken to improve resilience.

Services will be asked to think about what the implications will be, relating to the Service and its clients, in areas such as: citizen health and wellbeing, communities, the local economy and the environment / natural resources.

Within each of the Service areas, we will encourage representatives to consider:

1. Incidences of Severe weather since 2002. What have the impacts been, in the last ten years, of extreme instances of rain, heat, cold/snow or storm events? What have the impacts been on Services? What have the consequent impacts been on budgets? It is anticipated that Services should fairly easily be able to gauge the disruption from weather. Services will be encourage to build a narrative – a picture of how their service, and their staff could be affected by severe weather in future.

2. Built assets and premises. Have historic events affected the built assets used by the Service? What might the Service and financial implications be of future events on built assets? Is there a need to map the Service's built assets against flood risk? Does the Service require or rely upon any of the emergency services or other agencies? Does the Service have a business continuity plan?

3. Infrastructure. In what ways does the Service rely upon various modes of travel and transport? Services will be asked to consider the interconnectivity between themselves and other Services.

4. Service demand. What are the climate change impacts on clients and customers of the service? How will the demand for your services be affected?

5. Procurement. Are there any procurement issues or weather dependent goods and services?

6. Service logistics. Are there any service logistics issues?

7. Strategy. Are the service's climate risks recorded on the Authority's risk register or in the Corporate threat register?

4.13 **Opportunities.** The Workshop will be brought to an end on a positive note – Services will be asked - what positive aspects of Climate Change are there for the service and what opportunities might the types of climatic conditions expected to occur bring to this service area?

4.14 **Service Workshop (B).** The second half-day will begin to address part 2 of the guidance by initiating a climate change risk assessment. The Service will be aided in refining the potential climate impacts highlighted in workshop A, identifying levels of severity (i.e. sensitivity) and adaptive capacity (i.e. resilience) within the Service area, and selecting particular priorities for adaptive action. The SD & LE Team will help facilitate a Service-specific business case approach to investment in adaptation, and begin to identify the support that service leads will need to achieve resilience.

It is proposed that the Service will select its top 10 adaptive actions to form a SMART action plan that can be translated into Service Improvement Plans and financial planning.

4.15 It is anticipated that, as a result of the workshops, an action plan and report will be produced to meet the initial requirements of the statutory guidance on the Authority

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no initial financial implications associated with this report. There are likely to be financial considerations from the actions that Services decide to take to adapt to climate change, but these are not known at this time.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposed approach will involve a small facilitation team consisting of members of staff already identified. CMT are asked to support the use of officer time to deliver the workshops and for groups of staff from each of the services to participate.

7. CONSULTATIONS

7.1 See list below.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Panel endorse the proposed approach to Climate Change Adaptation within the Authority

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 In order to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Climate Change Act 2008.

Authors: Paul Cooke, Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment
Natalie Davies, Living Environment Officer: davieng@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees: Cllr Ken James, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable
Development
Cllr Colin Mann, Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel
Anthony O'Sullivan, Chief Executive
Pat Mears, Head of Regeneration and Planning
Rob Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection
Norman Liversuch, Countryside and Landscape Manager
Mark Williams, Building Consultancy Manager
Paul Rossiter, Energy & Water Conservation Officer
Alison Palmer, Community Planning Co-ordinator
Anne Knibbs, Buyer, Procurement Services
Wayne Turner, Network Development Officer
Tracy Evans, ESD Officer:
Natalie Davies, Living Environment Officer