



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL - 14TH JULY 2014

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN REPORT

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To make members of the Panel aware of the ongoing work on Climate Change Adaptation, including the identification of extreme weather events that have affected the county borough between 2003 and 2013, and the next steps in developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Under the Climate Change Adaptation statutory guidance, the Authority is required to report on the progress it is making in adapting to climate change.
- 2.2 A local Climate Impact Profile study identified 89 events of extreme weather that affected the county borough between 2003 and 2013.
- 2.3 A series of meetings has commenced to interview representatives from various Service areas to verify the data, and to identifying the most significant events and impacts in order to prioritise and focus future actions.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

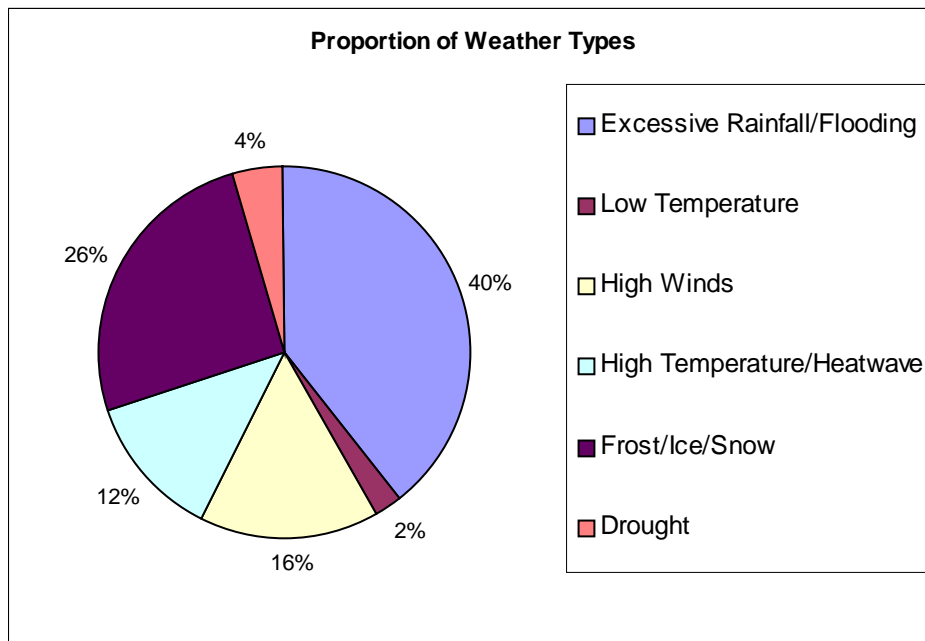
- 3.1 Addressing climate change adaptation contributes to the delivery of the following key strategies:
- Climate Change Strategy for Wales. Welsh Government (2010).
 - Climate Adaptation Delivery Plan. Welsh Government (2010).
 - One Wales, One Planet (2009), the Sustainable Development Strategy for Wales.
 - Wales Environment Strategy (2006).
 - Caerphilly Delivers - Caerphilly Single Integrated Plan 2013 - 2017
 - Caerphilly Climate Change Strategy (2009).
 - Living Better, Using Less, the Sustainable Development Strategy (2008).

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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.10 Progress to date
- 4.11 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.
- 4.12 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.
- 4.13 Support and funding was been secured from the WLGA to initiate the process and two workshops were run on Climate Change Adaptation. These workshops introduced climate adaptation to a range of key personnel from across the Authority and developed an approach to the issues. A report setting out this proposed approach was endorsed by SDAP in July 2012.

- 4.14 The guidance identifies that undertaking a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) is a useful step in developing a Climate Change Adaptation approach.
- 4.15 LCLIP is defined in the UK Climate Impact Programme (UKCIP) as “a resource that Local Authorities can compile so that they better understand their exposure to weather and climate. It is based on evidence of a locality’s vulnerability to severe weather events and in particular how these events affected a local community as well as the authority’s assets and capacity to deliver services” (UKCIP 2008).
- 4.16 The main aim of the LCLIP is to ascertain whether weather events over the study period have had a serious impact on Council activities. The LCLIP findings should assist the Council in forecasting and planning for future disruptions to their activities resulting from future, possibly more severe, weather events (potentially linked to climate change).
- 4.17 The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of researching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events between 2003 and 2013 which impacted on life in Caerphilly and, therefore, on Caerphilly Council operations. The data extracted from the media reports was collated into the following 6 weather types:
1. High temperatures/Heatwave
 2. Drought
 3. Excessive rainfall/flooding
 4. Storm/High Wind
 5. Frost/ice/snow
 6. Low temperatures/cold spells
- 4.18 The study identified 89 events of extreme weather:
- 35 excessive rainfall/flooding events
 - 23 frost/ice/snow events
 - 14 storm/high wind events
 - 11 Events of high temperatures/heatwave
 - 4 Events of drought
 - 2 Events of low temperatures/cold spells



A full list of the weather events is attached as Appendix 1

- 4.19 Data verification
- 4.20 The media typically report impacts of severe weather events on the public and do not usually link these to specific departments within a council. The next step is then to ascertain the “real” relationship between the media reported events and the impacts thereof. Also, it could be expected that the media would only report the most sensational events. This could result in an omission of events perceived to be mundane by the media but of major consequence for the Council.
- 4.21 In order to do this a series of meetings has commenced to interview representatives from various Service areas to verify the data obtained from media resources and investigate additional information absent from these reports. These interviews are also being used to identify specific impacts of the extreme weather events on the Service, how the Service has/is responding and to begin the process of identifying the most significant events and impacts in order to prioritise and focus future actions.
- 4.22 To date interviews have been held with officers and teams within the following Services:
- Community & Leisure
 - Engineering & Transport
 - Public Protection
 - Regeneration & Planning
- 4.23 The interviews and follow up work is being compiled into individual reports for each Service which will identify the main impacts and implications of extreme weather events for that Service. These Service reports will then contribute to an overall report which will provide a picture across the whole Authority

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 No Equalities Impact Assessment has been done on this report, however Sustainable Development and Equalities interact on many levels and work done in one area often supports the other. Creating sustainable communities, employment and transport for example, is of benefit to all the residents of Caerphilly county borough, regardless of their individual circumstances or backgrounds.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no initial personnel implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 There are no consultation responses, which have not been incorporated into this report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Panel note the progress being made on Climate Change Adaptation within the Authority.

10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

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

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 Climate Change Act 2008.

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Christopher Davidge, – Procurement Officer
Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.
Tracy Evans - ESD Officer:
Kelly Silcox – RDP Sustainable Energy Officer
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Appendices:

Appendix 1. Extreme Weather Events in Caerphilly County Borough 2003 - 2013