



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 5TH NOVEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: LOCAL CLIMATE IMPACTS PROFILE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To make the Panel aware of the Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) report and recommendations approved by the Corporate Management Team on the 30th July 2015.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Under the Climate Change Act statutory guidance, the Authority is required to make progress in adapting to climate change, and to report annually on progress.

2.2 Meetings were undertaken with 43 senior officers covering each of the 18 Service within the Authority. Each Service received an individual report. One hundred and twenty eight impacts were identified, of which 33 were rated as a high priority for further assessment.

2.3 This report identifies a total of 14 recommendations, divided into two areas:

- Existing work and reviews where consideration of climate change adaptation issues should be included. This includes 5 recommendations under 3 headings:
 - Strategies and Plans
 - Review of policies and procedures
 - Financial considerations
- Specific additional work on climate adaptation issues. This includes 9 service specific recommendations

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 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. Statutory guidance was published setting out the detail of what is required. The guidance is in 5 parts, based on a management-system styled approach.

4.3 The Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) along with other associated work was carried out between February 2013 and May 2015.

The first phase of the LCLIP process consisted of researching media sources in order to identify occurrences of extreme weather events during the study period between January 2003 and December 2013. The research identified 89 severe weather events:

- 35 excessive rainfall/flooding events
- 25 frost/ice/snow/cold events
- 14 storm/high wind events
- 15 Events of high temperatures/heatwave/drought

4.4 As part of the next stage of the process, interviews, workshops and questionnaires were used with 43 senior managers across the 18 Service within the Authority to verify the data and to identify priority impacts.

A total of 128 impacts were identified of which 32 were rated as "high" priority.

	All weather	Excessive rainfall	Frost Ice Snow	Storm high winds	High temperature	Total
Total impacts identified	2	43	32	21	30	128
Rated as high priority	0	13	3	4	12	32

4.5 The preparation of this LCLIP has identified that there is a good understanding of climate change issues across the senior officers in the Authority who were interviewed. Services are aware that the climate is changing, with many services considering and planning to adapt to the changes they are seeing. The levels of understanding of other employees was not assessed as part of this work.

4.6 Across the Authority existing systems are in place which compliment and enable adaptation work. These systems include Business Continuity, Emergency Planning, Major Incident Plan, Corporate Risk assessment, as well as the individual Service Plans.

4.7 The study also identified that the Authority is subject to numerous changes being driven by external factors including the financial climate and new legislation. These are driving changes at a quicker rate than the natural adaptation of the organisation to climate change. Many of the potential changes also provide an opportunity to make the organisation more resilient to climate change. The rationalisation of buildings, changes to HR policies to enable more flexible or home working all have the potential to enable us to deal better with severe weather

events. Climate change adaptation issues are being factored into the overall change process that the Authority is currently going through.

4.8 In addition to this overall LCLIP report, each of the 18 Services within the Authority has received an individual report summarising the findings from the interviews and research. Each of these reports identifies and characterises the impacts of climate change on the Service, and assess them as high, medium or low priority.

4.9 LCLIP Recommendations

Part 2 of the Welsh Government guidance recommends that each organisation should consider the scale of the future work. This should include considering whether the priority is to take a high-level look at impacts affecting the organisation as a whole, or focusing on assessing detailed impacts for specific departments/service areas/types of infrastructure/assets/communities.

4.10 The report recommends a twin track approach, with some high level issues such as a review of key policies, being combined with some further work on specific impacts relating to individual Service areas.

This report identifies a total of 14 recommendations, divided into two areas:

- Existing work and reviews where consideration of climate change adaptation issues should be included. This includes 5 recommendations under 3 headings:
 - Strategies and Plans
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4.11 The completion of the LCLIP will mean that the steps outlined in Part 1 of the Welsh Government's statutory guidance will be complete. The next steps, set out in Part 2, are for those impacts identified as being of high priority, to go forward for further investigation, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment.

4.12 The LCLIP report was approved by Corporate Management Team on the 30th July 2015

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 likely to be financial considerations from implementing the recommendations set out in the report. Some will require climate change adaptation to be considered as future policies, procedures and work is developed. Other recommendations will require amendments to existing ways of working, or prioritising of resources. The cost of this work will be dependant on the specific work identified, but this is not known at this time.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no initial personnel implications associated with this report. The report does however recommend that climate change adaptation should be considered in future reviews of personnel and other policies.

8. CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 See list below.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Panel note the contents and recommendations contained in the Local Climate Impacts Profile report.

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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Appendix 1 Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) report