



## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY PANEL – 28TH MAY 2015**

**SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLAN REPORT APRIL 2015**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To make the Panel aware of progress by the Authority on the work on climate change adaptation as required under the Climate Change Act 2008.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Under the Climate Change Act statutory guidance, the Authority is required to report annually on the progress it is making in adapting to climate change.
- 2.2 Meetings have been undertaken with 43 senior officers covering each of the 18 Service within the Authority. One hundred and twenty eight impacts were identified, of which 33 were rated as a high priority for further assessment.
- 2.3 Work is being undertaken to finalise a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) which will mean that the work in line with Part 1 of the statutory guidance will be complete.

### **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.

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

- 4.4 **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.
- 4.5 **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.
- 4.6 **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.
- 4.7 **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.
- 4.8 **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.
- 4.9 Progress to date

The guidance identifies that undertaking a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP) is a useful step in developing a Climate Change Adaptation approach.

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).

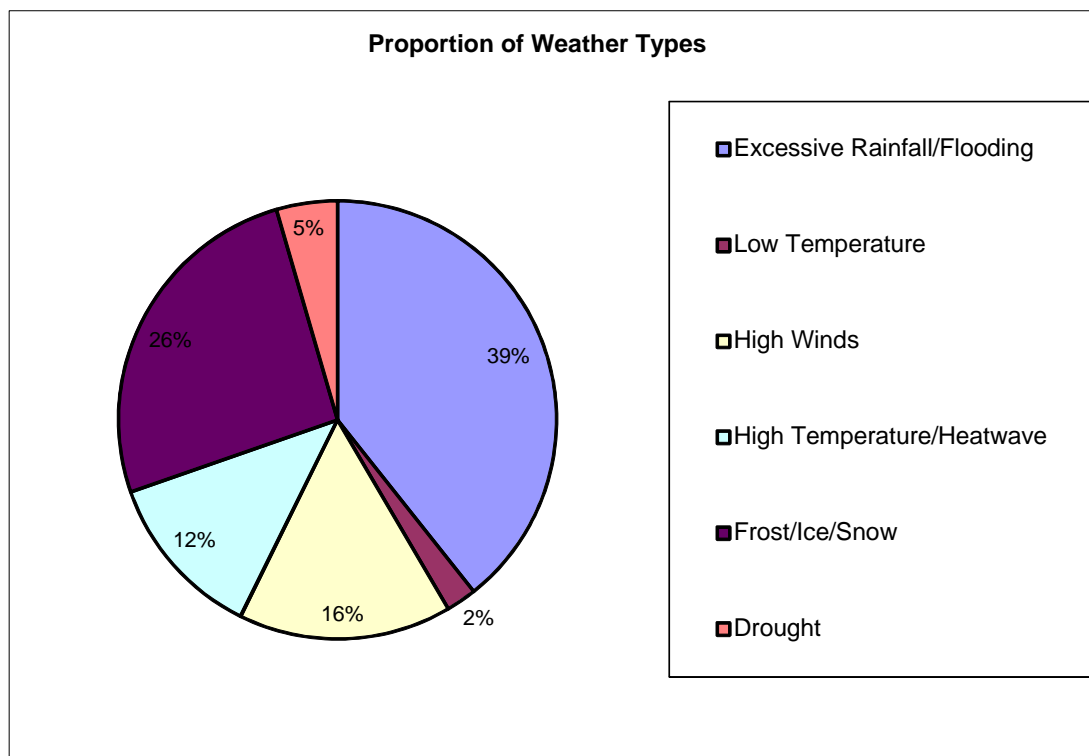
The main aim of the LCLIP is to ascertain whether weather events over the study period have had a serious impact on Council activities. The LCLIP findings should assist the Council in forecasting and planning for future disruptions to their activities resulting from future, possibly more severe, weather events (potentially linked to climate change).

- 4.10 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.

4.11 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.



4.12 Data verification

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 their impacts. 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.

In order to do this a series of meetings has been undertaken with senior officers from each of the Authority’s 18 Services. In total 43 senior officers were interviewed and consulted.

These interviews were used to identify specific impacts of the extreme weather events on the Service, how the Service has/is responding and to identify the most significant events and impacts in order to prioritise and focus future actions.

4.13 A total of 128 impacts were identified of which 33 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	4	4	12	33

The interviews and follow up work has been compiled into individual reports for each Service which identified the main impacts and implications of extreme weather events for that Service. All these reports have been completed in draft and are being agreed with the relevant service area. Once agreed these Service reports will then contribute to the overall LCLIP report which will provide a picture across the whole Authority.

The work to compile the individual Service reports into the overall LCLIP report is well advanced and should be completed in May 2015.

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

The work has identified that there is a good understanding of climate change issues across the Authority. Services are aware that the climate is changing, with Services considering and planning to adapt to the changes they are seeing.

4.15 The study also identified that the Authority is subject to numerous changes being driven by a combination of the current 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.

4.16 The completion and approval of the LCLIP will mean that Part 1 of the statutory guidance will be complete. The next step, set out in Part 2, is for those impacts identified as being high priority, to go forward for further investigation, vulnerability assessment and risk assessment. This work will commence when the LCLIP report has been agreed and approved.

## 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 See list below.

## **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.

Authors: Paul Cooke – Team Leader, Sustainable Development & Living Environment.  
Consultees: Cllr Ken James – Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development  
Cllr Derek Havard - Vice Chair, Sustainable Development Advisory Panel  
Chris Burns – Interim Chief Executive  
Pauline Elliott – Head of Regeneration & Planning  
Paul Rossiter – Energy & Water Conservation Officer  
Steve Martin - Principal Contracts Officer (Energy)  
Alison Palmer – Community Planning Co-ordinator  
Wayne Turner – Network Development Officer.  
Tracy Evans - ESD Officer  
Kelly Silcox – RDP Sustainable Energy Officer