



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – CLIMATE CHANGE,
BIODIVERSITY AND CARBON REDUCTION**

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2022

Report of the Executive Director - Place

Climate Change Risks, Resilience and Adaptation

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an update to the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee for Climate Change, Biodiversity and Carbon Reduction on the work being undertaken by the Council to understand the climate change risks facing the Council and the services it provides, as well as to understand how the Council needs to adapt and build resilience to these risks.

2. Information and Analysis

Background

- 2.1 Recent reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) are unambiguous that the frequency and severity of extreme weather events have increased as a direct consequence of human-induced climate change. Climate change is both a driver of and interconnected with other risks, including socio-economic, health, and broader environmental concerns.
- 2.2 It is imperative that the Council understands risks to its services from the current and future impacts of climate change and put in place plans to increase resilience. The Council also has a critical role to play in working with partners and communities to plan and ensure Derbyshire is prepared and resilient to climate change.

- 2.3 A Derbyshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan was produced in 2013 with a high-level review of progress carried out in 2017. These were not published but were shared with departments across the Council and also with the partners that were involved in the development. The Adaptation Plan outlined the Council's strategy to adapt to future climate change and build resilience within its service delivery and the Derbyshire community, and addressed flooding, infrastructure, adapting the built environment and community and business resilience planning. A further review was scheduled to take place in 2021 as part of the four-year cycle for this work.
- 2.4 This review commenced in early 2021 through an analysis of the most up-to-date information on climate change projections for the UK, as well as a review of the relevance of the 2013 Adaptation Plan in light of advances in understanding of climate science, improvements in the understanding of climate change risks, and changes to the priorities and pressures within the Council and across the county.
- 2.5 The review found that the framework under which the Adaptation Plan was prepared has changed considerably since 2013. The plan was produced in partnership with Climate East Midlands which was subsequently incorporated into Climate UK. Central Government funding, that was in place to engage and support local authorities on climate change adaptation, has now come to an end which has resulted in the closure of Climate UK. In addition, the Climate Ready advice service offered by the Environment Agency, which helped councils and businesses prepare for climate change, closed in March 2016.
- 2.6 Public and private sector responses to climate change are now primarily driven by the Climate Change Act 2008. Under the Act, the UK Government is required to publish a UK-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) every five years, the first of which was published in 2012 and the next update is due to be published in 2022. This assesses the risks for the UK from the current and predicted impacts of climate change. Evidence from the CCRA is then fed into the National Adaptation Programme (NAP). The NAP identifies local Government as having a key role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future climate risks and opportunities.
- 2.7 Since the development of the Derbyshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan in 2013, there have been advances in the area of climate science, namely through updates to the UK Climate Projections (UKCP) published in 2018 in the format of UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18). UKCP18 provides the most up-to-date assessment of how the UK climate may change in the future. UKCP18 forms part of the Met

Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme and uses cutting-edge climate science to provide updated climate change projections to 2100 in the UK.

- 2.8 The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly apparent at both a local and global level and the evidence suggests that these impacts will intensify over the coming decades. There is therefore now a need to assess what this means to the Council and the services that it delivers. The Derbyshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan developed in 2013 provides a good starting point for this and will be developed using the latest data and understanding of climate science, and current understanding of assessing and managing climate change risks within the Council.

Moving Forwards

- 2.9 Led by the Climate Change Team and monitored by the Council's Climate Change and Environment Programme Board (CCEPB) a project commenced in July 2022 and is being delivered through a series of steps, as follows:

1. Engagement with each Departmental Management Team to provide an overview of the area of work and identify next steps for departmental engagement (**completed in July – August 2022**).
2. Meetings/workshops held with relevant officers from each department to review the risks and adaptation actions highlighted in the 2013 Derbyshire Climate Change Adaptation Plan, and to establish the key current risks, how they will change in likelihood and/or severity due to climate change and set out the priority actions that need to be taken to adapt and build resilience to the risks. Opportunities are also to be explored (**workshops scheduled for September – November 2022 with relevant officer attendance confirmed**).
3. Risk analysis presented back to the Corporate Risk Management Group for comment and implementation guidance (**December 2022**).
4. Identified and prioritised climate change risks and adaptation measures to be incorporated into the Strategic Risk Register, Departmental Risk Registers and Service Plans, as appropriate, and implemented accordingly (**January – February 2023**).
5. Appropriate implementation, monitoring and evaluation plan(s) established, including for where partnership working is required (**January – February 2023**).

- 2.10 By March 2023 risks will have been identified and agreed with services and departments and will be being embedded within service and departmental decision-making. Some measures will be implemented immediately or over the short term, whereas, for others, a phased or later date of implementation might be more appropriate due to the risk profile and considerations around funding and capacity. Furthermore, some measures may require a one-off change to policy or procedure, whereas others may require longer term and gradual investment or behaviour change.
- 2.11 The project is focusing on Council services and functions. There is, however, a need for a better understanding of wider County and regional risks, opportunities and priority areas of action to be established, particularly around impacts on communities, businesses and the natural environment. Opportunities for a collaborative county-wide or regional study are being explored through the Vision Derbyshire 'Living and Working Sustainably' workstream and through the East Midlands Local Authority Climate Network. This collaborative approach will accelerate action in areas where cross border working is needed to build county-wide and regional resilience, whilst allowing individual authorities to still hold and manage their own Council and service-level risk assessments and action plans.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The proposal for this project was presented to the Corporate Management Team (CMT), Corporate Risk Management Group (CRMG) and Governance Group between January and April 2022, where it received endorsement and confirmed that a departmental approach to delivery would be appropriate.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 **No Action:** Under the Climate Change Act 2008, central Government has the authority to require councils and other public organisations to report with assessments of the impacts of climate change risks in relation to their functions and proposals and policies for adapting to climate change including timescales for their introduction. Furthermore, as risks accelerate and the consequences become more severe, it will become increasingly necessary to understand and evaluate the risks to services within the Council and ensure any necessary measures to adapt to the risks posed are implemented and managed appropriately. It would be more difficult for the Council to handle such emerging future requirements effectively if it did not take action now to understand and respond to the risks.

5. Implications

- 5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 None identified.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications.

8. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- a) Notes the work being undertaken by the Council to understand the climate change risks facing the Council and the services it provides, as well as to understand how the Council needs to adapt and build resilience to these risks.

9. Reason for Recommendation

- 9.1 To ensure the Committee understands and supports the work being undertaken on climate change risks, resilience and adaptation

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have financial implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis through submission of a funding bid request via the Finance Senior Business Partner (Place) to the Climate Change and Environment Programme Board.

Legal

- 2.1 Although there is no current legal requirement for councils to undertake work on climate change risks to their service provision or put in place measures to respond to them, these activities are within their incidental powers relating to their functions. Because this project is concerned with identifying climate change adaptation measures to enhance resilient service delivery, it may also help to avoid any circumstances arising that could provoke future legal claims against the Council. Under the Climate Change Act 2008, central Government has the power to:
- issue guidance to all persons or bodies with functions of a public nature and statutory undertakers ('reporting authorities') about (a) assessing the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to the authorities' functions, (b) preparing proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of their functions, and (c) co-operating with other reporting authorities for that purpose, and
 - direct a reporting authority to prepare a report containing an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to its functions, and /or a statement of the authority's proposals and policies for adapting to climate change including timescales for their introduction.
- 2.2 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have legal implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Human Resources

- 3.1 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have human resource

implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Information Technology

- 4.1 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have information technology implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have equalities impact implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Through building resilience in service delivery, the project supports three of the key priorities in the Council Plan ('resilient, healthy and safe communities', 'high performing, value for money and resident focused services' and 'a prosperous and green Derbyshire'). It also supports the Council's commitments to tackling climate change, as set out in the Derbyshire County Council Climate Change Strategy (2021-2025).

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.2 Implementation of findings from the project will improve environmental sustainability through increasing the resilience of Council services to the impacts of climate change.

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

- 7.1 The delivery of some of the adaptation measures that may be recommended as a result of the project may have other implications for the Council. These will be considered on a case-by-case basis.