

Monitoring Outcomes of the Climate Change Adaptation Scrutiny Review

Rec Number	Scrutiny Recommendation	Cabinet Response - Agreed or Not and Date for Implementation	Action taken to date – June 2011
1	<p>The Panel recommends that a more prominent role is given to the risk management of climate change adaptation and preparing for extreme weather. To reflect this, a Cabinet Member should be identified as being both responsible for the issue and accountable for the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.</p>	<p>Agreed in Principle, Date for implementation – 23 September 2010</p> <p>Emergency Planning, business continuity and strategic risk management for the council are based on comprehensive risk assessment; the Council will look closely into the local climate impact projections for the city and at whether this means widening the depth and reach of assessment to more service areas. Given the extensive potential impacts across a broad range of services and functions it makes sense for the Cabinet Member for Central Services to take on this responsibility.</p>	<p>The Cabinet Member for Central Services was identified as the lead Cabinet member for adaptation under the Conservative Administration – this responsibility recently been taken on by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability.</p> <p>The Sustainability Team is drafting a strategic risk for severe weather / climate change adaptation, working to the Strategic Director of Place on this. It was felt that this would be an effective way of placing a corporate emphasis behind this agenda and to encourage work to be progressed effectively and consistently across the organisation. Work on the LCLIP was met with a mixed quality (and level) of response and this may highlight how far up the priority list this agenda is.</p>
2	<p>The Panel welcomes the identification of resources to undertake a Local Climate Impact Profile (LCLIP). The Panel believes that resources also need to be identified to carry out an analysis of the implications of the UK Climate Projections data (UKCP09) for the city of Brighton & Hove.</p>	<p>Agreed in Principle – 31st January 2011</p> <p>It may be possible to undertake this work in partnership – for example, with East Sussex County Council – though the work could be achieved with the resources identified through LPSA funding as part of the Local Climate Impacts Profile work. External funds have been secured for an officer for six months, to develop this further, as one element of a wider programme of work, starting in October.</p>	<p>The LCLIP work has progressed following the national UKCIP methodology and has involved a media trawl of severe weather events over the past 10 years and contact with service areas to understand how they are affected by severe weather. As part of this process there was also a focus on business continuity and dialogue included questions about preparedness.</p> <p>The output of the national LCLIP methodology normally involves the production of a long report describing how weather has affected the local area. Learning from other Local Authorities suggested this may not be the best approach and therefore the findings have been presented in a short summary paper. Detailed findings have been stored in a database and this will be a useful resource to draw upon when further work is undertaken assessing the risks and opportunities of climate change.</p> <p>This work has included basic analysis of the climate projections for the area. Should it be required, the next level of work would be further</p>

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			analysis of climate projections on a local level and a comprehensive risk and opportunity assessment for each service area – this work requires a resourced programme of work to be agreed.
3	The Panel welcomes the development of a revised Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), which addresses both mitigation and adaptation in the city. The Adaptation Section of the Plan should be based on the work of this Scrutiny Panel. The Panel recommends that the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership monitors the progress of the outcomes of the CCAP.	Agreed – 31 st December 2010 Though the final decisions on this will rest with the City Sustainability and Strategic partnerships.	CCAP work has progressed and is being aligned with the One Planet Framework, and will be considered as part of the work around developing a new Corporate Plan, City Performance Plan and developing an Intelligent Commissioning plan before being taken further. This will draw together existing legal and policy requirements, including plans set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy and other city and council plans, policies and programmes, as well as recommendations from three scrutiny panels (Environmental Industries, Adaptation and this panel) in order to focus effort in reducing the city’s carbon emissions and preparing for the effects of climate change in the city. In order to ensure delivery, this piece of work requires effective member leadership and identification of officer champions.
4	The Panel recommends that the Climate Change Action Plan is monitored on a biennial basis (every 2 years), including an assessment of where we are and how well the city is adapting. This would include a report back to the Cabinet Member who is responsible for climate change adaptation (see recommendation 1).	Agreed – December 31 st 2012	Once the CCAP is reviewed it will be taken to Cabinet and subsequent progress will be reported on.
5	The Panel believes National Indicator 188 (NI188) is a worthwhile indicator because it can effectively measure the progress of local areas in assessing and addressing the risks and opportunities of climate change. The Panel recommends continued use of the process outlined in NI188, even if the National Indicators and Local Area Agreements (LAA) are changed or scrapped, unless a better method of assessing progress is found.	Agreed in principle – 30 th November 2010 The council will need to see what changes to the use of national indicators are introduced by the Government, but we accept the principle that the climate change adaptation process in NI 188 is a good one to use in the meantime.	National Indicators have been abolished by the Government and it does not appear that future returns are required for NI 188. However, planning for climate change adaptation has been placed as an outcome in the new City Performance Plan (under ‘Enhancing the Environment and Living within Environmental Limits’) and NI 188 has been included as the performance indicator for tracking progress. This is straightforward as it does not require data collection, but a relatively simple self assessment. This will provide a focus on the need to set and meet a challenging programme for taking the city through the stages of the indicator as it pro-actively prepares to adapt to climate change. It is hoped that a programme of work for adaptation of work may be

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	<p>replaces it.</p> <p>The Panel recommends that NI188 is placed within the LAA, if it continues post 2010/11. This would demonstrate the importance of this issue to the city. It would also provide a focus on the need to set, and meet, a challenging timetable for taking the city through the stages of the indicator as it pro-actively prepares to adapt to climate change.</p>		<p>developed, agreed and implemented – following agreement on resources (also see recommendation 7).</p> <p>The Sustainability Team undertook a light touch review of progress against the NI 188 framework in May 2011 and the prognosis was that the organisation remains at Level '0' and heading towards Level '1' on this framework.</p>
6	<p>The Panel believes that the challenges of adaptation cannot be met by statutory agencies alone. The Panel recognises the importance of existing mechanisms such as Local Area Action Teams and the voluntary sector, to develop the capacity of communities to adapt to increasingly extreme weather in the city. A learning and development programme needs to be produced to assist these champions. This work could be linked to the Climate Connections project.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle – 31st March 2011</p> <p>Climate change adaptation should include a strong element of community engagement to ensure that local people and communities are able to respond and adapt to the issues – this would also strengthen volunteer and self help activity, all of which can provide low cost, more sustainable solutions. External funding is being explored to start this work.</p>	<p>The City Sustainability Partnership sponsored the initial stages of working through the framework for NI 188 and also strongly supports a community engagement approach going forward. Community engagement is also one of the Administrations three key priorities.</p> <p>Although funding was explored from a source specific to this area of work it was not pursued due to the low likelihood of success (Joseph Rowntree). To date external funding has not been identified and current resources within the Sustainability Team would struggle to research funding and put bids together.</p> <p>This is an area of work that needs to be progressed further.</p>
7	<p>The Panel recommends that climate change resilience and business continuity needs to be a high level outcome which is built into the new Intelligent Commissioning Model.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle – January 31st 2011</p> <p>The new Director of Place will be asked to consider this.</p>	<p>Climate change resilience and business continuity needs to be considered in the Intelligent Commissioning timetable. Adaptation planning has been incorporated as an outcome in the City Performance Plan which will require a plan of work in order for performance to progress.</p> <p>Adaptation is being designed into draft sustainability guidance and tools available for commissioners and report writers and this will be used to aid key considerations when developing commissioning scopes and designing services.</p>

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8.	<p>The Panel recommends that an Adaptation Test¹ should be developed for publicly commissioned services. These services would be required to use the test to demonstrate how they are planning to face the challenges of adaptation.</p> <p>This test could contain a set of questions, such as:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>'Have you identified the possible range of impacts of climate change on the activities and responsibilities of your institution or business, and their timescales?'</i>²</p> <p>The Panel believe it would also be useful to encourage other businesses in the city to use this test.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle – 1st June 2012</p> <p>It may make sense to adapt this test for use at strategic commissioning level only, and this will be explored, while ensuring that the reporting burden does not get passed down the chain to front-line service providers and their organisations. The test is not suitable for lower tiers, as for them it would be over-prescriptive and could over-burden service delivery units, especially small, local businesses competing for contracts.</p>	<p>The tools and guidance being developed to support intelligent commissioning will incorporate questions in relation to adaptation. In addition, we will seek the views of the administration on this.</p>
9	<p>The Panel welcomes Planning proposals to ensure that developments can adapt to future climate changes. This will be achieved by implementing planning policies which require that new developments in the city must demonstrate that they can adapt to climate change through addressing such issues as flooding, overheating, rain events, storm surges</p>	<p>Agreed – 23rd September 2010</p>	<p>City Planning is signed up to this approach and this should be reflected in all planning policy documents and their application.</p>

¹ An example of an Adaptation test and 10 indicative questions can be found in The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution's report 'Adapting Institutions to Climate Change' (2010) http://www.rcep.org.uk/reports/28-adaptation/documents/adaptation_final_report.pdf

² Ibid, page 111

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	and other climate related impacts. Any new planning documents will be fully informed by relevant studies about climate impacts now and in the future.		
10	The Panel recommends that BHCC, and the Brighton & Hove Strategic Partnership, approach neighbouring local authorities and other bodies to identify areas of good practice, undertake a peer review and identify potential areas for cross working.	Agreed – 31 st October 2010 Officers are involved in a Sussex Sustainability Network and there are also strong connections to build on in shoreline management, planning and other	We work with neighbouring authorities via the Sussex Sustainability Network where best practice is shared and discussed, as well as with Climate South East, a wider regional support and good practice-sharing network; but the resources allocated to adaptation work are very limited.
11	The Panel recognises that the universities and colleges in the city could be used as a valuable resource in building up knowledge about adaptation and engaging with the community. The Panel recommends that this be further explored.	Agreed – December 31 st 2010	The University of Sussex was involved in detail in the panel's work through external independent chairman Prof Gordon MacKerron from SPRU, but this has not yet been developed further. We also discussed the Joseph Rowntree bid with the University of Sussex CUPP manager and took their advice on the likelihood of success.
12	The Panel welcomes the awarding of funds for BHCC to develop a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). It recommends that the work on the SWMP is developed as a matter of urgency and used, where possible, to bid for funding in this vital area.	Agreed – September 23 rd 2010 We have made a start on the Surface Water Management Plan work and have made contact with the Environment Agency. Next steps include formation of a working group with the EA, adjacent local authorities, and Southern Water etc. The Plan will help inform the City's needs, so there may be potential to use it as the basis of a bidding document - though DEFRA and the agency have given no guarantees of any future funding streams for SWMP works. Brighton and Hove is one of 77 authorities receiving additional funding from DEFRA to support the development of surface water flood risk management plans and other early actions and our allocation is the second highest behind Birmingham. An allocation totalling	The SWMP process is a partnership based approach to understand and resolve the complex causes of local surface water flooding, and to agree on the most cost effective way to manage and mitigate flood risk. This is a four phase process and includes: (1) Preparation, (2) risk assessment, (3) development of options and (4) action planning. Phase 1 of the SWMP has been completed and the information produced used to inform the preparation of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. There is an informal Scrutiny flood risk workshop due to be held on the 22 nd July to bring the panel up to date with the SWMP process. Any amendments will be issued to the EA before the August 2011 deadline. Progression of further phases of the SWMP has not been confirmed at this stage and measures need to be put in place to comply with the new, emerging and ongoing lead local flood authority responsibilities of B&HCC. The funding from DEFRA has been pass-ported from 10/11 into 11/12 to

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		<p>£275,000 has been given to support the additional burden necessary to develop a surface water management plan for Brighton and Hove and other surface water management risk actions. Payment will be made over two financial years with £180,310 allocated for 2009/2010 and £95,000 allocated for 2010/11. The funding will be included as part of the Area Based Grant (ABG) administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG).</p>	<p>continue the development of the SWMP and most of this specialist work will be undertaken by consultants. A partnership has been established with the EA and Southern Water Services, and both have input into the PFRA process so far.</p>
13	<p>The Panel believes that it is essential that sufficient resources are identified to be able to carry out the work recommended in this report.</p> <p>On completion of the work recommended by the Panel, if further resources are needed to address adaptation these should be reported in any further revisions of the Climate Change Action Plan or other relevant strategy documents.</p>	<p>Agreed in principle – September 30th 2011</p> <p>The resource implications need to be understood in more detail and integrated into the budgeting process. External funding sources are also being explored.</p>	<p>There is no current capacity in the Sustainability Team to explore funding bids and at present there are no allocated resources to further work on adaptation.</p>