

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
20 SEPTEMBER 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Nigel Simons, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change	
Contact Officer(s):	Hannah Swinburne, Principal Climate Change Officer	Tel. 01733 453479

PETERBOROUGH CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee:	
1. Review and comment on the proposed approach to the development of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 The report has been requested by the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 This report is brought to the Scrutiny Committee to share a proposed approach to developing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan. Councillors requested to review the approach and provide comments.

2.2

This report is for Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by the Council:

4. Climate Change.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
---	-----------	----------------------------------	------------

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Background

In 2019 Peterborough City Council declared a climate emergency. Since this declaration, the council has committed to reduce organisational and city-wide emissions but has not yet produced a plan for how the council will adapt to the predicted changes to the climate. Climate change is

expected to cause increased periods of intense rainfall, flooding, heatwaves and droughts.

A preliminary report on climate risk in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough region, 2020-2099 was written by researchers at the University of Cambridge and UKRI British Antarctic Survey. The report states that currently around 10% of buildings are at risk of flooding, by 2100, this is expected to rise to 13% without adaptation measures; an increase of 30%. One in ten homes and one in four agricultural and industrial facilities would risk flooding by 2100. The river Nene catchment is a productive agricultural area, and therefore flooding would also impact the UK's food production. In addition to this, there is the risk of flash and surface water flooding which is not quantified here. In urban areas which have been paved, this risk is particularly high. The river Nene is tidal and can experience storm surges. Sea level rise will increase the risk of tidal flooding in Peterborough. With a 2.6°C rise in average global temperatures, the average summer temperature across Peterborough would likely be above 36°C for one in every 20 years. In 2019, there were 892 excess deaths across England due to high temperatures. Should temperatures rise as expected, excess deaths would also likely rise. Temperature rises could also impact the risk of agricultural diseases and pests, impacting food security. Decreased summer rainfall and increased summer temperatures will impact water levels. This, coupled with expected growth in population, will put pressure on water availability, leading to droughts. The report identifies 42 of the 2017 Climate Change Risk Assessment risks being important to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region.

Since the above report was written, the UK has experienced record high temperatures, with 39.9°C recorded at the Met Office weather station closest to Peterborough in July 2022. The summer of 2022 also saw severe drought, with 8 areas across the UK declared to be in drought.

4.2 **The Need**

Given the above evidence, there is a clear need for the development of a climate change adaptation plan, which will ensure that the council can deliver services to its residents, and Peterborough is protected from the most severe impacts of climate change.

The draft proposal for inclusion within the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan includes:

- An evidence base for how Peterborough may be impacted by climate change
- An evaluation of how council services will be impacted if no adaptation work is undertaken
- Proposed actions for how the council can reduce the impact to council service delivery
- Proposed actions for how the council can protect Peterborough from the most severe impacts
- Proposed actions for how the council can respond to climate change events

4.3 **Funding**

The council was awarded a £100,000 grant through the Shared Prosperity Fund to develop a Climate Change Adaptation Plan; the funding must be spent by March 2025 (£40,000 in 2023/24; £60,000 in 2024/25).

4.4 **Proposed approach**

It is proposed that delivery of the Adaptation Plan is split into two elements: Risk Assessment and Action Planning.

1. Risk assessment: Development of a local evidence base for what climate change impacts are likely to occur across the region.

Stakeholders

Officers from local authorities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including those from Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have developed a proposal to co-fund and procure a supplier

to develop an evidence base to understand the predicted local impact of climate change.

Colleagues from public sector organisations have been invited to join the stakeholder group to develop a brief for the evidence base, a workshop has been held to understand priorities for these organisations.

The aims have not yet been finalised; however early discussions have focused on:

- The implications of the climate crisis on specific Cambridgeshire and Peterborough public sector services (e.g., highways, key supply chains) across a 2°C and 4°C temperature rise;
- The implications should be translated to understand the potential “do-nothing” costs to support business planning and business case development. “Do-nothing” costs may include those associated with repair work, interim service provision whilst existing service is disrupted, or additional service needs (such as additional health care);
- Wider potential risks related to public sector ambitions, for example on economic development.

Delivery Plan

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Climate Programme Board agreed to instruct a business case to be written for the development of this work. This will be used to determine if the CPCA will offer co-funding. Cambridgeshire County Council are also seeking funding to co-fund this work. Peterborough City Council can co-fund this work through allocating a proportion of its Shared Prosperity Fund. This will represent value for money for Peterborough as more can be achieved by joining resources and reducing redundancies, as there will be similarities between the evidence base for each area within the local region.

A procurement process will be undertaken once funding is secured, and the brief is finalised.

1. Action planning: Development of a Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan

Delivery plan

Whilst a shared approach is beneficial for the development of the evidence base, it is proposed that creating the action plan should be undertaken solely for Peterborough City Council so that the actions can align with council priorities and available resource.

This work will also be funded from the Shared Prosperity Fund awarded to this project. A consultant will be procured to produce the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan. A soft market test will be undertaken to understand what can be delivered for the funding available; the project scope will be adjusted accordingly.

It is proposed that the action plan will include:

- An evaluation of how council services will be impacted if no adaptation work is undertaken
- Proposed actions for how the council can reduce the impact to council service delivery
- Proposed actions for how the council can protect Peterborough from the most severe impacts
- Proposed actions for how the council can respond to climate change events

Key principles

The Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan should be developed with the following key principles in mind:

1. Conducted with input of stakeholders

The action plan must be developed with the aid of a wide range of council services and external partners to create a plan which identifies the true risk to the area and to plan effectively to minimise these.

It is proposed that all service areas input into the work so the council can understand how well prepared the city and council are to climate change impacts. There will also likely be a particular focus on the following service areas due to their potential role in alleviating the impacts of climate change:

- Highways – alternative construction materials and design may improve outcomes in climate events
- Sustainable drainage – the design and location of drainage projects can strategically alleviate flooding events
- Planning - well-designed homes can lessen the impact of climate change events to residents
- Housing – as above, consideration also needs to be given to existing homes.
- Environment – tree planting and nature recovery can impact drainage and provide shade
- Public Health – changes to healthcare may be required in an altered climate
- Emergency planning – climate change may alter requirements of emergency planning
- Audit – preparedness for climate change may need to be considered in audit reviews
- Finance – business case development for adaptation works will need to consider costs of action and in-action

This list is not final and will be updated following further consultation and project development.

Stakeholders from a small number of external organisations, key to climate adaptation, will be invited to input into the project. These may be from government departments, energy operators, water providers, transport operators or local environmental charities.

1. Developed with protecting health as a central tenet

There are many elements of climate change adaptation which are relevant to health. These will be explored in much more detail in the project through close working with public health colleagues. Examples of how climate events can impact health include: emergence of new diseases due to increased average temperatures, raised temperatures exacerbating existing health conditions, pathogen growth within stagnant flood water, unhealthy eating through increased costs of food and many others. Consideration of health will be prioritised through development of the plan.

2. Developed to ensure council services remain available

The council performs many statutory and necessary functions to aid its residents, communities and businesses. Should the council be prevented from delivering these, our city will be negatively impacted. Ensuring a satisfactory level of service is provided is critical for the council.

3. Developed to protect essential frontline services

Through its policies, activities and the assets it is responsible for, the council has the power to impact the ability of other organisations to deliver services in climate events.

For instance, ensuring that key routes across the city are available and useable when flooding occurs will allow the delivery of not only council services, but also critically, all emergency services.

4. Financially responsible

As a public sector organisation, the council must ensure it responsibly uses public funding to result in the best outcomes for the city. The costs of not acting, must be weighed against costs

of completing adaptation works. This should be considered when developing the plan.

5. Adopt a just transition approach

A just transition to net zero is a principle which aims to ensure that no groups or individuals are negatively impacted by policies and actions to tackle climate change, and that all are included in a move to sustainable and fairer communities and workplaces.

In July 2023, Council resolved to ensure that a just transition is a key theme within the development of climate change action plans. Therefore, the development of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan will have a just transition as a core theme.

Different groups and communities will experience climate events in different ways. A variety of factors such as mobility, age and economic status may impact a person's experience of climate events, and these will be considered throughout the development of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan.

Next Steps

- 4.5 The Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee is asked to review and comment on the approach to the delivery of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan.

Officers will consider suggestions and adapt plans for the Adaptation Plan's development.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 **The Economy & Inclusive Growth** - Delivery of the Council Climate Change Adaptation project will support the Council to ensure it understands the activity required to adapt to the inevitable changes climate change will bring.

Carbon Impact Assessment - this report contains no proposals for changes to service delivery and therefore there is no decision to take which may impact carbon emissions of the council or the city.

Sustainable Future City Council - delivery of this project provides an opportunity to influence 'how we work', 'how we serve' and 'how we enable', ensuring required adaptations are understood and meaningful action brought forward. Identification of actions required to adapt to and prepare for climate events may help to avoid costlier works to repair damage to buildings and/or infrastructure, and avoid closure of services.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 No consultation has been undertaken at this stage of the project. Discussion has taken place with regional authorities including Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to ensure the project supports the delivery of shared objectives.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that Councillors provide comment on the approach to the delivery of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 The Council has been awarded funding, via the Shared Prosperity Fund, to deliver this project. This paper outlines how the Council intends to bring forward this project.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The option of not delivering this project has been ruled out. The project offers a timely opportunity, to ensure the Council understands the likely measures needed to adapt to a changing climate.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 The development of the Peterborough Climate Adaptation Plan is funded through Shared Prosperity Fund Grant.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 The procurement of the services referred to in this report will be undertaken in compliance with the Council's Contract Rules.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 A just transition to net zero is a principle which aims to ensure that no groups or individuals are negatively impacted by policies and actions to tackle climate change, and that all are included in a move to sustainable and fairer communities and workplaces.

In July 2023, Council resolved to ensure that a just transition is a key theme within the development of climate change action plans. Therefore, the development of the climate change adaptation plan will have a just transition as a core theme.

Different groups and communities will experience climate events in different ways. A variety of factors such as mobility, age and economic status may impact a person's experience of climate events, and these will be considered throughout the development of a climate change adaptation plan.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 11.1 [Preliminary report on climate risk in the Cambs Peterborough region 2020-2099 final.pdf \(hubspotusercontent40.net\)](#)

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 N/A