

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills
Executive Director for Environment & Economy**

Report to:	Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Date:	03 March 2017
Subject:	Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017

Summary:

As required by UK Climate Change Act the independent Committee for Climate Change Adaptation Sub-Committee produced an Evidence report on climate risks in June 2016. Government has considered and now responded to that report. They endorse the six priority risk areas identified and these will feed in to the next National Adaptation Plan due to be published in 2018. That Plan aims to ensure that government, business and other stakeholders have the information they need to take action.

Lincolnshire County Council already has plans which recognise the risks relevant to the county but will need to review them in light of the published Plan in 2018.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report and note the Government response.

The 2018 National Adaptation Plan will be considered when released.

1. Background

- 1.1 Our climate is changing, with greenhouse gas emissions from human activity the dominant cause. Irrespective of how much carbon we save through mitigation actions, Earth is still locked into some warming from historical emissions. Global average temperature increase of 0.85°C since 1880 is mirrored in the UK climate with a trend towards milder winters and hotter summers. Sea levels around the UK have risen 15-20cm since 1900. New evidence suggests that many of the recent extreme weather events can be directly linked to climate change and are consistent with climate change projections.
- 1.2 Climate change adaptation is the process of reviewing how severe weather has impacted us in the past, understanding how our climate might change in the future, evaluating the risks associated with these changes and, most

importantly, preparing for them through adaptive actions. The second national Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA-2017) was published in summer 2016 and government has recently responded. The response draws attention to six key areas of inter-related risks for the UK that need additional coordinated steps to be taken within the next five years;

- Flooding and coastal Change risks to communities, business and infrastructure
- Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures
- Risks of shortages in the public water supply and for agriculture energy generation and industry
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soil and biodiversity
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade
- New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.

1.3 Whilst local authorities are not currently required to report on adaptation, the government make it clear that there is an expectation that adaptation action should continue through the Climate Local commitment. Lincolnshire County Council has signed up to Climate Local and one of the first commitments is to increase local resilience to the changing climate through developing community resilience plans, awareness raising and training.

Lincolnshire Specifics

1.4 The risks and opportunities most relevant to Lincolnshire in the highest urgency category 'More Action Needed' are detailed below. These are taken from the full list of climate change risks and opportunities considered in the CCRA-2017. These risks need new, stronger or different government policies or implementation activities – over and above those already planned – to reduce long term vulnerability to climate change.

Flood and Water Management

- Ne4 Risks to soils from increased seasonal aridity and wetness
- Ne6 Risks to agriculture and wildlife from water scarcity and flooding
- Ne8 Risks of land management practices exacerbated by flooding
- Ne12 Risks to habitats and heritage in the coastal zone from sea level rise; loss of natural flood protection
- In1 Risks of cascading infrastructure failures across interdependent networks
- In2 Risks to infrastructure from river, surface/groundwater flooding
- In3 Risks to infrastructure from coastal flooding and erosion
- In9 Risks to public water supplies from drought and low river flows
- Pb5 Risks to people, communities and buildings from flooding
- Bu1 Risks to business sites from flooding

Public Health and Wellbeing

- Pb1 Risks to public health and wellbeing from high temperatures
- Pb4 Potential to health and wellbeing from reduced cold
- Pb9 Risks to health and social care delivery from extreme weather

- 1.5 Lincolnshire's approach to flood and water management has national recognition. Two overarching documents set out the activity required; Joint Flood Risk and Drainage Management Strategy, which looks ahead to 2025, and the GLEP's Water Management Plan with its focus on supporting economic growth around the supply, provision and management of water.
- 1.6 The Saltfleet to Gibraltar Point Coastal Management Review specifically looks at coastal protection and the impact that failure to protect this area of coastline will have to the local Lincolnshire and national economies. The SEA is currently out to consultation.
- 1.7 Climate change is included in a new topic as part of the refresh of Lincolnshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which provides an evidence base for the health and wellbeing needs of residents. Its effects on vulnerable residents will be explored and 'hot-spots' identified through use of the Climate Just website tool. In turn, this evidence base will help inform priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire and be used to influence service commissioners.
- 1.8 Communications plans are in place to ensure Met Office cold weather and heatwave alerts are disseminated to housing, health and care providers.
- 1.9 The Lincolnshire Winter Plan 2016/17 has been produced by the Urgent Care Team with contributions from Lincolnshire County Council and other partners across the health and care community – to plan for winter pressures on health and care services. Fuel poverty is a major cause of excess winter deaths and illness and so Lincolnshire County Council works with the Home Energy Lincs Partnership (HELP) to maintain and implement an affordable warmth action plan.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The CCRA 2017 provides direction and focus to the National Adaptation Programme which is due for publication in 2018. The NAP will identify future actions and seek to reduce the impacts of climate change on the UK.
- 2.2 The council will have opportunity to contribute to the development of the programme through workshops and events held throughout 2017. The NAP will help reduce the level of risk the UK faces from climate change.
- 2.3 Adaption assessment and adaptive actions for Lincolnshire are highlighted within our climate local programme and reported on annually. In light of the publication of the CCRA 2017 the climate local projects will be reviewed to ensure they still meet local and national priorities.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk and Impact Analysis will be carried out when 2018 National Adaptation Plan is issued and has been considered.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Climate Change Risk Assessment Synthesis report 'key messages fact sheet'

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment	www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-climate-change-risk-assessment-2017

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