

NI 188 – Planning to Adapt to Climate Change			
Is data provided by the LA or a local partner?	Y	Is this an existing indicator?	N
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>To ensure local authority preparedness to manage risks to service delivery, the public, local communities, local infrastructure, businesses and the natural environment from a changing climate, and to make the most of new opportunities. The indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and incorporating appropriate action into local authority and partners' strategic planning.</p> <p>The impacts might include increases in flooding, temperature, drought and extreme weather events. These could create risks and opportunities such as: impacts to transport infrastructure from melting roads or buckling rails, increases in tourism, increased damage to buildings from storms, impacts on local ecosystems and biodiversity, scope to grow new crops, changing patterns of disease, impacts on planning and the local economy and public health.</p> <p>Examples of the processes, tools and evidence that could be used to reach the various levels have been included. However, this list is not exhaustive and any appropriate methodology can be used.</p>		
<b>Definition</b>	<p>Local authorities should report the level of preparedness they have reached against the 5 levels of performance, graded 0 to 4. The higher the number, the better the performance.</p> <p>The criteria for achievement of each of the levels is detailed below.</p> <p><b>Level 0: Baseline:</b> The Authority has begun the process of assessing the potential threats and opportunities across its estate and services (for example, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers / strategies etc) and has identified and agreed the next steps to build on that assessment in a systematic and coordinated way.</p> <p>Examples of evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Authority has identified a lead official to identify and provide advice to service/department heads on potential impacts of future climate change on its functions</li> <li>• The Authority has undertaken an audit of existing relevant risk registers and action plans in place (eg community risk register)</li> <li>• The Authority has established a process for actions it needs to take to meet higher levels</li> </ul> <p><b>Level 1: Public commitment and prioritised risk-based</b></p>		

**assessment:**

The Authority has made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk. It has undertaken a local risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It can demonstrate a sound understanding of those not yet addressed in existing strategies and actions (e.g. in land use planning documents, service delivery plans, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers / strategies etc ). It has communicated these potential vulnerabilities and opportunities to department/service heads and other local partners and has set out the next steps in addressing them.

## Examples of evidence:

- The authority and partners have made a public commitment to manage climate risks e.g. signed up to the Nottingham Declaration or an equivalent
- A Local Climate Impacts Profile or equivalent process is ongoing
- Initial assessment produced using the UKCIP scenarios
- Department / service heads facing significant vulnerabilities and opportunities have an understanding of the issues, with evidence of actions already in place to address these
- Evidence of working in partnership and pooling of resources and expertise across sectors, areas and council tiers where applicable

**Level 2: Comprehensive risk-based assessment and prioritised action in some areas:**

The Authority has undertaken a comprehensive risk based assessment of vulnerabilities to weather and climate, both now and in the future, and has identified priority risks for its services. It has identified the most effective adaptive responses and has started incorporating these in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations (such as planning, flood management, economic development, social care, services for children, transport etc). It has begun implementing appropriate adaptive responses in some priority areas. In its role as a community leader the council has started working with its LSP encouraging identification of major weather and climate vulnerabilities and opportunities that affect the delivery of the LSP's objectives.

## Examples of evidence:

- Comprehensive risk assessment produced (for example using the UKCIP method)
- Nottingham Declaration accreditation
- Council Members and department and service heads have a detailed understanding of weather and climate risk in all vulnerable areas identified in risk assessment and actions

taken in priority areas.

- Documents like Local Development Frameworks include climate change adaptation
- Local adaptation partnership established
- LSP partners are aware of actions being taken by the council, feel engaged in the process and confirm they have started to identify weather and climate risk that affect the delivery of their own objectives.

**Level 3: Comprehensive action plan and prioritised action in all priority areas:**

The Authority has embedded climate impacts and risks across council decision making. It has developed a comprehensive adaptation action plan to deliver the necessary steps to achieve the existing objectives set out in council strategies, plans, investment decisions and partnership arrangements in light of projected climate change and is implementing appropriate adaptive responses in all priority areas. This includes leadership and support for LSPs in taking a risk based approach to managing major weather and climate vulnerabilities / opportunities across the wider local authority area.

**Examples of evidence**

- Action plan developed and published
- Nottingham Declaration accreditation at a higher level
- Detailed understanding of risk and action taken to embed relevant adaptation response in council strategies, plans, partnerships and operations by all department / service heads where weather and climate risks have been identified.
- Initial cost analysis undertaken and potential sources of funding identified for major vulnerabilities
- LSPs feel fully engaged and action plan includes commitment from authority and LSP
- Pooling of skills, knowledge and resource across LSP
- Consulted with authorities responsible for climate change management and others who can provide advice on good practice e.g. Environment Agency, Natural England, DEFRA.

**Level 4: Implementation, monitoring and continuous review:**

The Authority and LSP are implementing the comprehensive adaptation action plan across the local authority area, and there is a robust process for regular and continual monitoring and review to ensure progress with each measure and updating of objectives. The Authority and LSP are taking appropriate adaptive responses.

**Examples of evidence:**

- Clear and robust continuous monitoring and review system in place
- Outputs from the review and monitoring process are

	ploughed back into the action plan and other relevant council and LSP strategies		
<b>Formula</b>	N/A		
<b>Worked example</b>	LA rates performance against the 5 levels of performance	<b>Good performance</b>	Year on year improvement
<b>Collection interval</b>	Annual (Apr – Mar)	<b>Data Source</b>	Local authority assessment against the criteria
<b>Return Format</b>	Number (0-4)	<b>Decimal Places</b>	No decimal places required.
<b>Reporting organisation</b>	Local Authority.		
<b>Spatial level</b>	Single tier, county council and district		
<b>Further Guidance</b>	<p>Good quality performance can be typified by assessments and plans which seek to include local authority strategic partners throughout the stages.</p> <p>Sources of guidance, tools and resources which can assist with undertaking the assessments required for levels 0-4 are outlined below. Each contains several useful processes and tools which can be used to achieve each of the stages. However, any appropriate methodology can be used to achieve the stages of this indicator.</p> <p>Guidance on how to undertake climate risk assessments and action plan processes is available in the Nottingham Declaration Action Pack. The pack uses an overall 5 step process as a guide to developing an adaptation action plan. Much of this guidance will relate directly to the tasks in levels 0-4 of the indicator <a href="http://www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk">www.nottinghamdeclaration.org.uk</a></p> <p>In addition to the information provided here, other resources are available to support local authority work in this area:</p> <p>The UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) <a href="http://www.ukcip.org.uk">www.ukcip.org.uk</a> has a range of tools and resources that will assist in achieving the level 0-4 tasks.</p> <p>The production of a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) could assist with defining the local climate vulnerabilities and risks and increasing awareness amongst officers and members.</p> <p>Local Authorities should seek additional guidance from statutory authorities, such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, on issues such as flooding, water resources, coastal management, waste, biodiversity, landscape and the natural environment.</p>		

