



Telford & Wrekin  
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest  
to create a better borough

# Telford and Wrekin Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan

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# Climate change

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### Climate change: World's hottest day since records began

4 July

### Climate crisis up close: a week of wildfires in Rhodes



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### Cerberus heatwave: Hot weather sweeps across southern Europe

13 July

### Storm Eunice: at least four dead as worst storm in decades roars in

Record-breaking gusts hit UK and Ireland, leaving trail of devastation and chaos

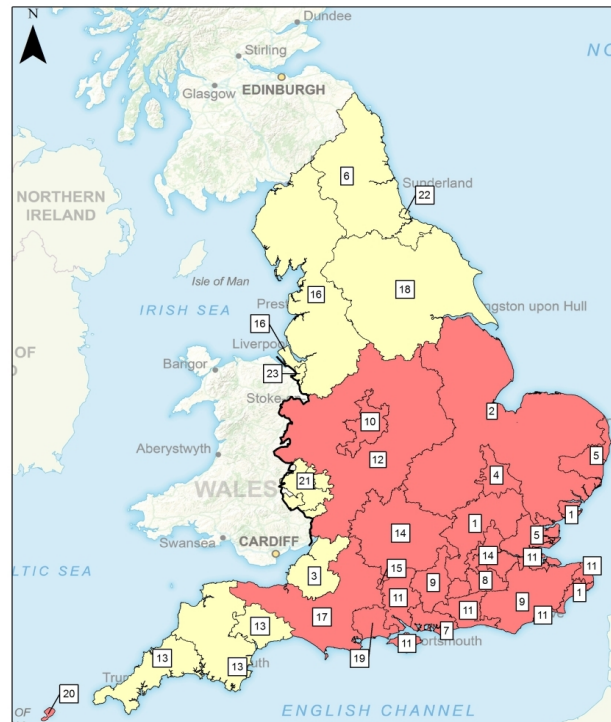
# Climate projections

## UK Climate Projections (UKCP): August 2022

- Increase in extreme weather events
- Warmer, wetter winters
- Hotter, drier summers

## Impacts

- Environmental, social, economical
  - Environmental damage
  - Significant damage to infrastructure
  - Impacts to health and wellbeing



Water stressed areas, 2021  
(GOV.UK)

# Progress so far

*The council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and set a commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030.*

## **Climate mitigation (decarbonisation) strategies**

Corporate: 'Becoming Carbon Neutral' (2020)

- Decarbonising the corporate estate and services

Borough-wide: Climate Change Borough Partnership Action Plan (2021)

- Working with partners to decarbonise Telford and Wrekin

# Climate Adaptation

## Climate Adaptation vs Mitigation

- *Climate Mitigation: efforts to reduce or prevent emissions of greenhouse gases*
- *Climate Adaptation: the process of building resilience against the risks posed by actual or expected climate change*

Actions that build climate resilient communities (adaptation) **are as important as** actions that mitigate the production of emissions.

# T&W: Adaptation so far

## Example adaptation measures:

- Promoting climate resilience through the new Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
  - Promote design best practice – buildings designed to reduce overheating (installing green walls/natural ventilation for example)
- Tree policy – planting a mixture of native and non-native species
- Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDs) handbook
  - Reduce the risk of flooding – manages surface water runoff
  - Opportunities to increase biodiversity – nature-based solution



# Why should we create an adaptation plan?

*Developing A Climate Adaptation strategy is a clear next-step for the council.*

## **Better preparedness and resilience**

- Demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing climate risks
- Strengthens existing emergency response plans
- Community resilience is strengthened

## **Maintaining service provision**

- Councils provide essential community services
- These services, and the standard in which they are delivered, must be maintained
- It will ensure business continuity

# Policy context

*How is the UK Government supporting climate adaptation?*

## **National Adaptation Programme (NAP)**

- NAP3 (third national adaptation programme), sets out the actions that government and others will take to adapt to the impacts of climate change in the UK (2023-2028). This report forms part of the 5-yearly cycle of requirements laid down in the Climate Change Act 2008

## **UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (UKCCRA)**

- UK Government works closely with the Climate Change Committee (CCC) to identify climate risks impacting the UK



# Telford and Wrekin Climate Adaptation Plan

## Aims

- To address the role that the council plays in climate adaptation across the borough
- It will be owned by the council, but will adopt partnership working
  - *I.e., Work alongside the Fire and Rescue service to assess areas most prone to wildfires*

## Developing the plan

- Two-pronged approach:
  1. Identify the risks (Climate Change Risk Register)
  2. Develop actions to mitigate those risks (Adaptation Action Plan)

# Climate Risks to Telford and Wrekin council

*What are the climate risks to the council and its stakeholders?*

## **Example risks**

- Impacts from extreme weather events (flash flooding, droughts, wildfires)
  - Damage to natural environment
  - Council services unable to cope

## **Climate Change Risk Register**

- A climate change risks register will be conducted.
- Organisations that adopt risk assessments will be more flexible and better prepared to cope with climate risks

# Example: Blaby District Council

## Climate Change Risk Register

Type	Risk? (Effect)	Result	Impact	Probability	Score	Influence	Overall Risk
Heat Wave/ Hotter summer temps	Damage to highways and transport infrastructure by prolonged high temperatures (melting surfaces and bridge expansion)	1. Transport disruption and road closures as road surfaces need to be repaired after melting	Damage to highway infrastructure likely to be significant	It is very probable that this will become an increasing problem over time	6	1 LCC is responsible for road network maintenance	6
		2. Residents and employees unable to travel to work or deliver essential services					6
	Overheating in the council vehicles	Need to ensure that the council fleet is maintained	The impact is low	It is very probable that this problem will increase over time	2	3 The council is responsible for the safety and comfort of those using it's vehicles	6

# Example Adaptation plans

## **Stafford Borough Council: Climate Adaptation Plan (2023)**

- Identifies measures which should be delivered by the council (on their own or in partnership) to build climate resilience across the borough
- Incorporates actions identified by the West Midlands Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action plan 2021-2026
- Telford and Wrekin *could* adopt this style of adaptation plan

## **West Midlands Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action Plan (2021-2026)**

- Identifies climate risks and creates adaptive measures for the west midland's demographic

# Developing the plan

## Project plan/development

- Final draft created by March 2024
- An internal 'Adaptation Working Group' will be formed to develop and monitor the action plan
- Work alongside scrutiny working group (subject to discussion)

## Where will this plan sit?

*Business Continuity Plan, Corporate Climate Action Plan, Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan*

## Possible partners

- Environment Agency
- Public Health bodies
- Wildlife Trusts
- Emergency services
- Climate Change Borough Partnership