

Appendix B - Telford and Wrekin High Level Corporate Climate Change Risk Register

LAST UPDATED August 2026

Climate change adaptation refers to the process of building resilience against the current and predicted impacts of climate change.

To take a proactive, not reactive approach to climate adaptation, it is necessary that risks are identified, and measures are put in place to reduce their impact. The development of a Climate Change Risk Register forms a major part of this process.

This Corporate Climate Change Risk Register developed by Telford and Wrekin Council aims to identify the most critical risks that the Council's services and stakeholders will face. The register assesses the Council's risk to the current and predicted impacts of climate change using the four climate hazards as identified by the Met Office¹:

- Warmer, wetter winters
- Warmer, drier summers
- Extreme weather: heatwaves
- Extreme weather: flooding and storms

This Risk Register follows Telford and Wrekin Council's standard risk assessment method, ranking each risk using the 'likelihood' and 'impact' scoring matrixes (see below). Attached to each predicted risk is an accompanying mitigation measure. Predicted risks have then been given a revised likelihood and impact ranking to determine the effect of the mitigation measure if implemented. This allows the Council to determine the effect of the mitigation measure if implemented.

Definitions used in the risk register:

Likelihood of Risk Occurring

Likelihood	Definition
Very Low	May occur in exceptional circumstances
Low	Risk may occur in next 3 years
Medium	The risk is likely to occur more than once in the next 3 years
High	The risk is likely to occur this year
Very High	The risk has occurred and will continue to do so without further action being taken

¹ [UKCP18 Climate Change over land \(Met Office\)](#)

Impact of Risk if it does Occur

Descriptor	Financial	Reputation	Physical	Environmental	Service
Very Low	None	None	None	None	None
Low	<£50K	Minimal/ minimal media/ social media	Minor	Minor locally	Internal disruption only, no loss of service
Medium	£50K £1m	to Extensive local media/social media	Violence or threats of serious injury requiring medical treatment	Moderate locally	Disruption/ loss of service less than 48 hours
High	£1m to £5m	National media/social media	Extensive/ multiple injuries	Major local impact	Disruption/ loss of service less than 7 days
Very High	>£5m	Extensive national media (lead item)/social media	Extensive multiple injuries/ death	Major national/inter national	Severe disruption/ loss of service more than 7 days.

Ref	Risk	Result	Likelihood Without Controls	Impact Without Controls	What are we doing to manage the risk? (Controls)	Principal Risk Owner	Likelihood With Controls	Impact With Controls
Severe weather: extreme heatwaves								
1.1	Potential for roads to melt and deform	Additional maintenance expense on carriageway	High	High	Incorporate Polymer Modified Binders within surfacing to increase the allowable range of the material and therefore decrease the likelihood of deformation. This is an ongoing solution with the Council partnered with Balfour Beatty and Tarmac.	Highways & Engineering	Medium	Medium
1.2	Information and Digital Technology (IDT) issues: - Cabling - overheating of comms- rooms - switches infrastructure - impact to networks communication - voip call centres. - Schools power outages	Disruption to the overall communications network. Increased pressure on Information and Digital Technology (IDT) team to resolve IT issues. Impact to staff wellbeing. Online council services unable to run.	Medium	Medium	Maintenance contracts for air-conditioning are up to date and services conducted regularly. This is an ongoing solution with contracts already in place. All services maintain business continuity plans addressing impact of loss of online services	Information and Digital Technology (IDT)	Medium	Medium

1.3	Increase in potential of wildfires	Property damage and risk to human life, increased air quality exceedances, increased use of water. Increase demand on services. Economic impact - property loss Evacuation of areas of housing. Cost of ongoing welfare support.	High	High	Thorough planning to ensure that all new builds have a fire break between boundary of site and open fields. Education and awareness raising - emergency planning preparedness. This is an ongoing solution.	Council Wide	Low	High
1.4	Health risks: Increase in heat stress	Increased incidents of heat related health impacts/illnesses In particular, those who are vulnerable, elderly, those with heart and respiratory conditions and diabetes. This is likely to be significant for people with care and support needs, families, and carers and within the care workforce. Subsequent impact is that there will be an increase in demand on health and care services and the	High	High	Ensure that estate is equipped with cooling infrastructure - ideally powered by on-site renewables to reduce running costs Ensure vulnerable residents are supported in times of extreme heat to reduce demand of NHS. Working with public health and health protection teams to promote ways to reduce heat stress – to staff and residents.	Public Health	Low	Medium

		potential lack of capacity to deliver business as usual services and address additional demand. Care settings close leaving vulnerable people without care. Care Home Market is usually at 94% occupancy so there are no alternative locations easily available. Care settings come to the council to increase fees to support installation of climate management systems.						
1.5	Infrastructure risk: access to records limited due to server failure and / or computer failures due to overheating.	Employees are unable to view people's records to enable a full picture of the person's needs. Business Continuity Plans will be instigated which will include information at a point in time but long periods of time without records will have an impact on the person, their family and the people who are providing the care and support needed.	Medium	High	This is part of the current Business Continuity Plans and procedures are already in place to ensure a copy is available should the servers fail.	Council Wide	Very Low	High

1.6	Heatwaves pose a health risk to vulnerable residents in the Borough, i.e. elderly and young children.	Increased cases of sunstroke/dehydration/ heat-related deaths.	Very High	Very High	Work with Town and Parish Councils and other community organisations to identify the most vulnerable residents in their communities. Map and signpost cool spaces for community use. Work with Town and Parish Councils and other community organisations to promote this Support the creation of a 'information pack that is circulated to Members, alongside the delivery of an in-person 'deep dive' Members session that covers climate change, community impacts and adaptation. An Emergency Plan template has been developed and shared with Town and Parish Councils to be reviewed annually to enable them to add a climate lens on to any emergency they may need to prepare for. Support the creation of awareness and education materials for	Public Health	High	Medium
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					members on sunstroke/dehydration. Use a range of materials: online/postal/displays in community 'hubs' (i.e. libraries).			
Ref	Risk	Result	Likelihood Without Controls	Impact Without Controls	What are we doing to manage the risk? (Controls)	Principal Risk Owner	Likelihood With Controls	Impact With Controls
Severe weather: extreme rainfall and storms								
2.1	Increased high wind events causes trees to come down on the highway, impacting the resilience of the network (connectivity). Increase flooding events will majorly impact the resilience of the highway network (connectivity), including: Increased rate of deterioration of roads. Physical damage to roads requiring repair.	Additional demand on resources Additional maintenance expense on carriageway Reduced connectivity and mobility Increased numbers of property flooding Need to re-prioritise investment.	Very High	High	Prioritise the response within the resources available. This is an ongoing solution with the Council partnered with Balfour Beatty.	Highways & Engineering	Very High	Medium

	Working capacity of drains reduced leading to more frequent exceedance. Increased Land Drainage investigations and enforcement. Increased emergency response and deployment of flood barriers. Increased number of enquiries from public. Reduced strategic development and delivery.							
2.2	Damage to buildings roofs. Reduction/cancellation of services – reputational impact. Health and safety of outdoor activities. Access to facilities Staff being able to get into buildings.	Building closures. Event cancellations. Increased construction specifications. Financial costs- viability and repairs. More at risk of deterioration.	Very High	Medium	Building condition surveys. Maintenance contracts. Facility checklists. Written operating procedures/risk assessments and emergency action plans. New developments chosen in suitable locations with good green and grey	biT	High	Medium

	Damage to historic assets.				infrastructure (traditional stormwater infrastructure in the built environment). Effective policy to ensure sites are conditioned and infrastructure delivery. Manage council owned assets and review Risk Register.			
2.3	Flash flooding affecting areas away from rivers.	Residents/communities who are not experienced with flooding are significantly impacted due to ill-preparedness.	Very High	High	Town and Parish Councils/members to input into list of emergency flooding contacts for their areas. Support the creation of a 'disaster pack' that is circulated to Members, alongside the delivery of an in-person 'deep dive' Members session that covers climate change, community impacts and adaptation. An Emergency Plan template has been developed and shared with Town and Parish Councils to be reviewed annually to enable them to add a climate lens on to any emergency they may need to prepare for, including flooding. This will form part of BAU for	Climate Change & Sustainability	High	Medium

					disaster planning in each ward. Learn/knowledge share from wards who have more experience in adapting to flooding events (I.e., Ironbridge). Members to help, where appropriate, with practical measures such as supporting with/promoting actions e.g. clearing drains.			
Ref	Risk	Result	Likelihood Without Controls	Impact Without Controls	What are we doing to manage the risk? (Controls)	Principal Risk Owner	Likelihood With Controls	Impact With Controls
Hotter / drier summers								
3.1	Increase in air particulates leads to worsening air quality.	Increase in respiratory illness increase in excess morbidity, mortality. School closure impact on communities, increase in demands on health care services – Telford and Wrekin may be impacted from pollution that arises outside its boundary.	High	High	Education and awareness. This is an ongoing solution with the Council partnered with UKHSA, DEFRA and ICB. Potential for changes in working patterns - starting earlier - longer midday breaks finishing later.	Environmental Health	Low	Medium
3.2	Mechanical cooling insufficient	An increase in cooling infrastructure (air	Very High	Medium	Temporary portable Air Conditioning units.	biT	High	Medium

		conditioning installations) and energy consumption for cooling. Telford Ice rink cooling system fails. Significant loss of income if Ice rink closes. Increase costs of running cooling infrastructure/ replacing broken cooling infrastructure. More money is spent on energy and less on other services.			Ensure new and refurbished buildings have sufficient systems to maintain the required environmental conditions. Switch to greener cheaper energies, fabric insulation. New buildings designed with greater insulation to avoid extremes heat or cold. This is under ongoing review.			
3.3	Increased risk of long-term drought/water shortages.	Long-term drought and water scarcity will impact everyone living and working in the Borough	High	High	Support in the creation of awareness and education materials for members that address water shortages to circulate within the community. Work alongside Town and Parish Councils and community organisations to encourage behaviour change during periods of drought – e.g. water rationing. Encourage residents to collect water.	Climate Change & Sustainability	High	Medium

Ref	Risk	Result	Likelihood Without Controls	Impact Without Controls	What are we doing to manage the risk? (Controls)	Principal Risk Owner	Likelihood With Controls	Impact With Controls
Severe weather: - extreme heatwaves - extreme rainfall and storms								
4.1	Infrastructure risk: lack of access to health services	Due to current and future infrastructure challenges, travel and public transport options may be severely limited for residents. This will impact on their ability to receive timely support for their needs which will subsequently cause an increase in demand on health services as people are unable to receive the preventative support at the right time. This could also mean that people are unable to receive/access emergency care when needed which could potentially result in an increase in deaths.	Very High	Very High	This forms part of the Council's emergency response, alongside the Integrated Care System. Guidance would be shared with all staff and promoted to residents about how to keep safe and access health services in potentially different ways.	Public Health	High	Very High
4.2	Pressure on Health Systems – GP and Hospitals.	Increase risk of health complications and death in vulnerable people.	Very High	High	This forms part of the Council's emergency response, alongside the Integrated Care System.	Public Health	Very High	High

					Guidance would be shared with all staff and promoted to residents about how to keep safe and access health services in potentially different ways.			
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