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Adaptation Toolkit for Local Authorities

March 2024





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HM Treasury



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



[Local Partnerships Website](http://LocalPartnershipsWebsite)





ADAPTATION TOOLKIT FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

<https://localpartnerships.org.uk/climate-adaptation/>

LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

CLIMATE ADAPTATION TOOLKIT
For local authorities

UKCIP

June 2021

Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk

Advice to Government
For the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3)

The UK Govt CCRA3
"To achieve net zero, we must integrate adaptation action into mitigation efforts. Successful mitigation will in turn ensure adaptation remains achievable."

Climate Change Committee



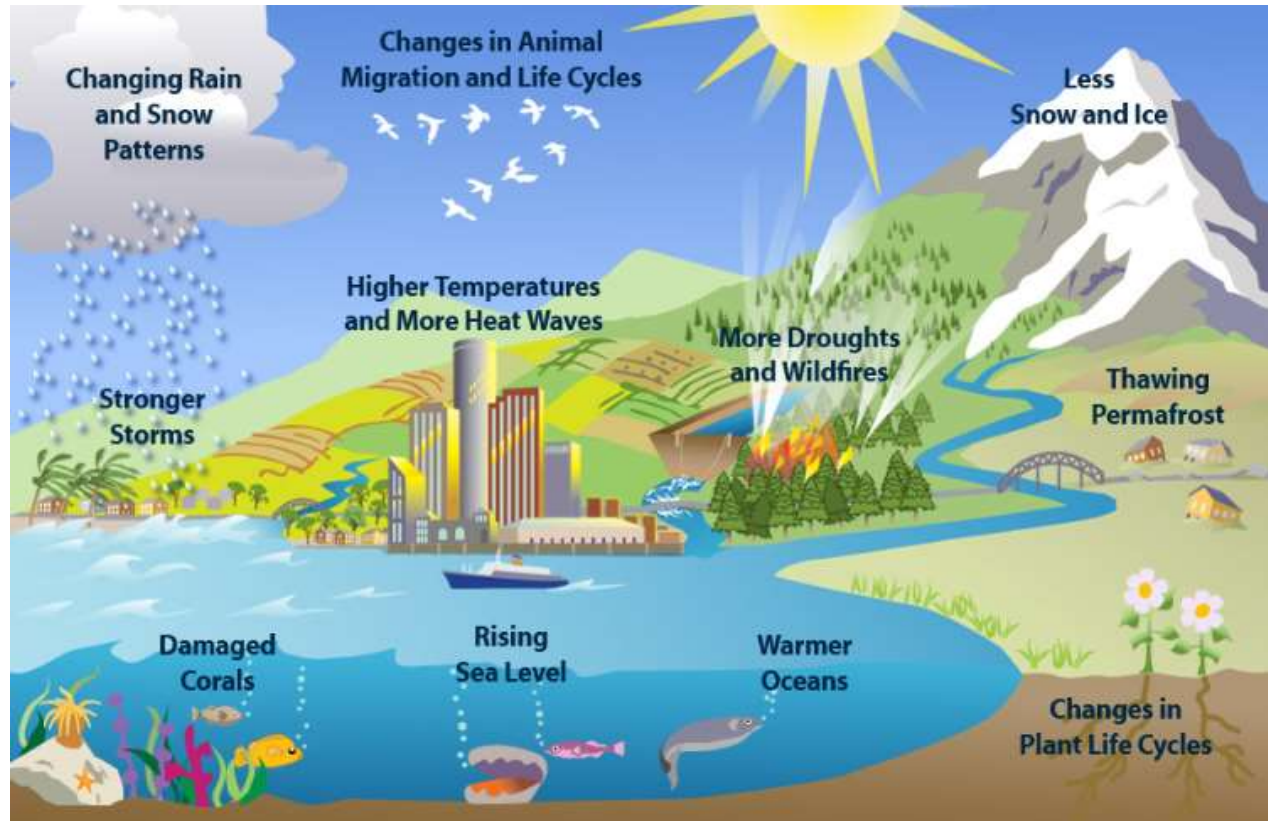
WHAT ARE WE HAVING TO ADAPT TO?

The likelihood of more frequent and extreme severe weather has increased

These changes to weather and climate will *impact the Council over the short, medium & long term*

The impacts pose varying levels of *risk to services and assets* across the Council

Mitigating these risks requires *changes to how the Council operates and makes decisions*





KEY FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Response to climate and severe weather



Direct support to communities



Critical support to other services ability to operate in severe weather



Planning for future resilience for communities & service delivery



Providing long-term assets

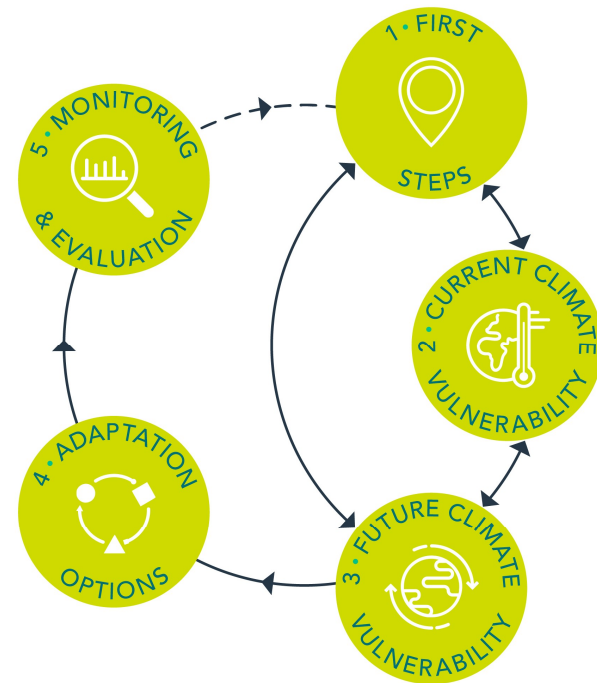


Requires a joined- up approach across services



The Climate Adaptation Toolkit

[Climate adaptation toolkit and risk generator \(localpartnerships.gov.uk\)](http://localpartnerships.gov.uk)

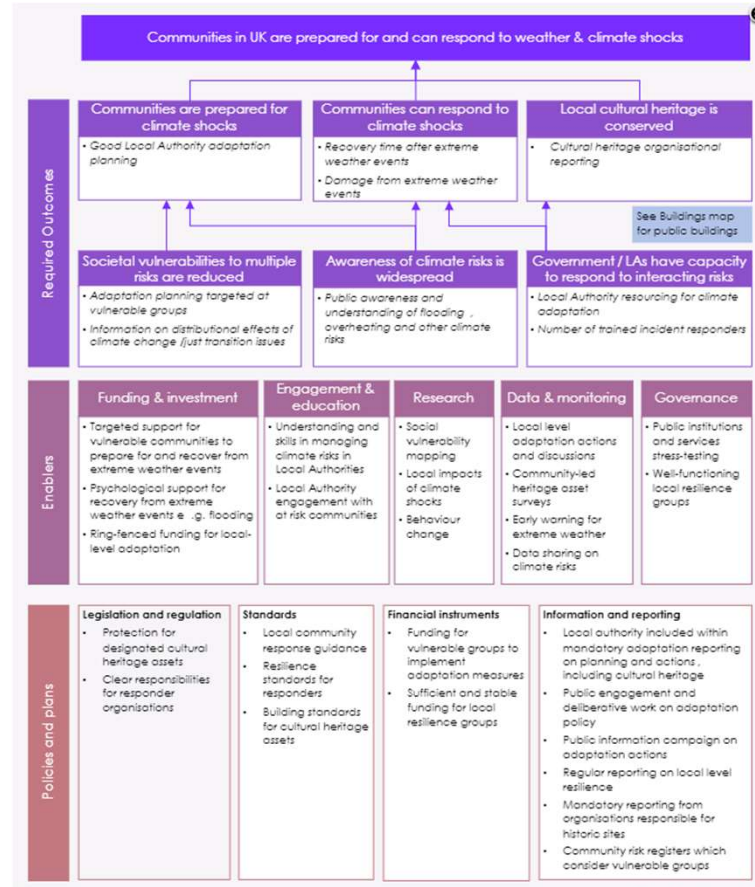




Getting started

Common factors or triggers for taking adaptation action are:

Developing and reviewing your local climate risk assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Providing support for service area reports and business case development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impacts of an extreme weather event, such as a flood or heatwave which has negative impacts on operations, services, finances, health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing resilience to disruption to services from extreme weather	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics and public expectations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory duties	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investing money to save in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Avoiding future liability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making decisions about the resilience of long-term assets such as infrastructure or land-use	<input type="checkbox"/>





QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR MANAGERS

Open discussion format for groups of managers – gut reactions. No wrong answers!

How has your service area been impacted by extreme weather events?

What are the biggest risks within your service area due to a changing climate?

What are the indirect service impacts?

What are your critical thresholds (a point in a system at which sudden or rapid change occurs)

When / who is responsible for decisions made about an emergency response or service change?

Could a minor risk today become a major risk in the future?

Is planning for service design through a climate lens?



RISK EXAMPLES

Closure of courts due to extreme weather impacts vulnerable children (e.g., a child cannot be removed from a home without a court order)

Risk profile of the housing stock – ability to keep homes warm and cold. Substantial change to properties have planning implications

Properties impacted by extreme weather requires decant into other properties – impacting on tenants and their lives – links to public health and increase in mental health issues / access to medical supplies

Seasonality of waste (e.g., higher in spring than winter) but seasons blurring / becoming longer / unpredictable – e.g., hot weather in September saw an increase in green waste

Correlation between very hot weather and children with disabilities admitted to hospital as their machines stop working at home

Vulnerable children in poor quality housing – links to housing and decision making on maintenance etc.

IT failure huge impact on other services, e.g., can't access a list of vulnerable children / can't release comms

Personal carers visits to homes – accessibility issues during extreme weather, increases visiting times, potential to recruit more staff, costs more money



Stakeholder and decision mapping



Who are the stakeholders?



Who are the people who experience the decision and its impacts?

Who are the decision makers?

Are the stakeholders the same people/organisations making and accountable for decision making?

How important are the decision makers relative to the stakeholders?

What are the impacts of these decisions?

- Outcomes
- Longevity
- Climate risk/impact



Current experiences

What would have enabled you to cope with that event, or what would have helped you to cope better. For example:

- Leadership
- Communication systems
- Business continuity management
- Emergency and contingency plans, including faster response actions etc.



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8 PRIORITY RISKS TO PEOPLE AND PLACE



1
Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards

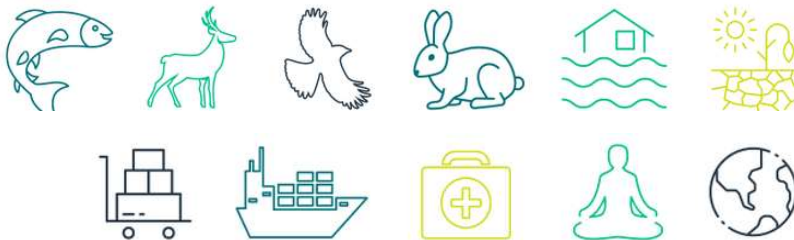
2
Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought

3
Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards, leading to increased emissions

4
Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple climate hazards

5
Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks

6
Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system



7
Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings

8
Multiple risks to the UK from climate change impacts overseas



PLACE EXAMPLES

<p>Damage to buildings and infrastructure</p> 	<p>Increased reliance on resources to react</p> 	<p>Missed waste collections</p> 	<p>Green and blue spaces inaccessible to the public</p> 
<p>No access to key buildings</p> 	<p>Reduction in land suitability affecting housing numbers</p> 	<p>Overcrowding of public spaces</p> 	<p>Clean up resources and costs</p> 






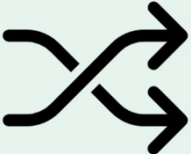




PEOPLE EXAMPLES

<p>Disruption to IT services</p> 	<p>Concerned residents</p> 	<p>More reliance on emergency services</p> 	<p>Introduction of new diseases / viruses</p> 
<p>Increased demand on housing maintenance teams</p> 	<p>Overheating of buildings</p> 	<p>Vulnerable members of the community isolated</p> 	<p>Staff absence due to illness</p> 



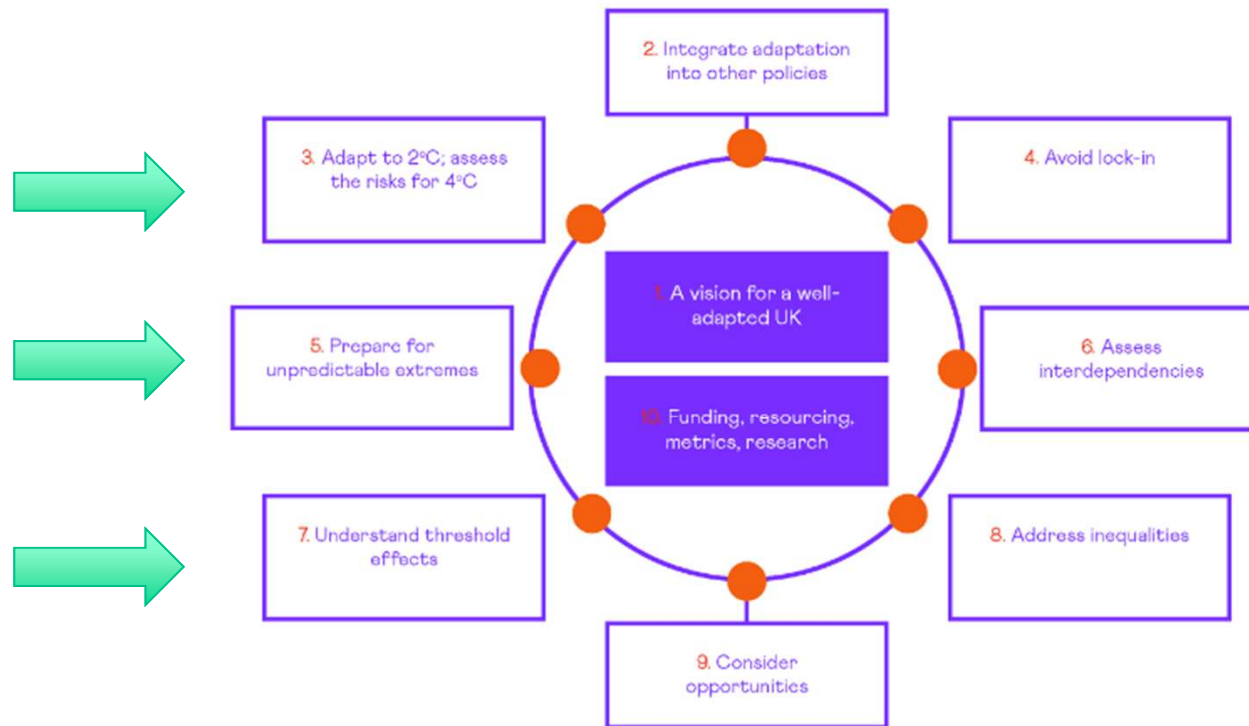
RISK EXAMPLES – BOTH PEOPLE AND PLACE

<p>Diverting attention and resources away from other issues</p> 	<p>Lack of funding to respond appropriately to climate related events</p> 	<p>Additional energy consumption required to both heat up and cool down</p> 	<p>Potential inability to access important services and buildings</p> 
<p>Additional costs</p> 	<p>Changing and/or redistribution of priorities</p> 	<p>Water shortages and supply issues</p> 	<p>Decrease in staff morale</p> 



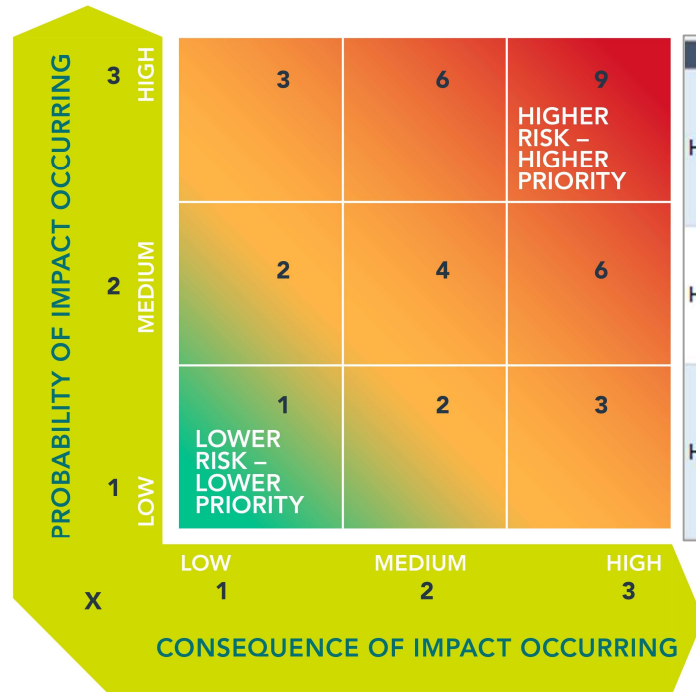
CLIMATE DATA – UKCP18

Using climate projections data to support risk assessment and adaptation planning





Risk scoring example

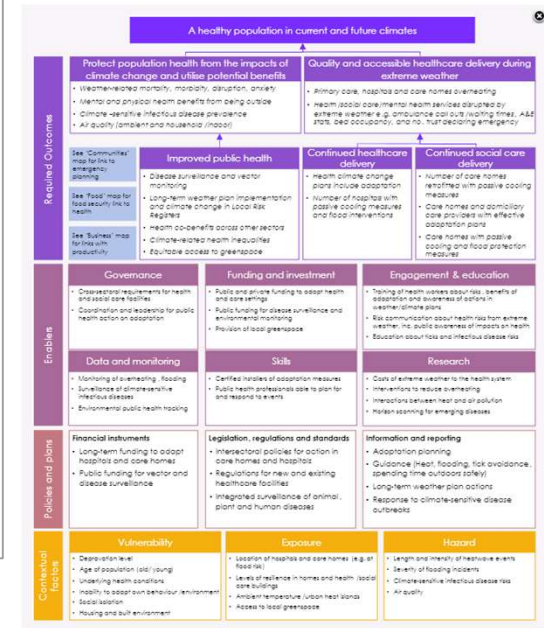


Risk ID	Risk / Opportunity	Specific Risk	P	C	Risk Score
H01	Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	Greater demand on primary care services - GPs, Pharmacies - due to vulnerable groups affected by the heat, e.g. people suffering from heat stroke, fainting, medical equipment not working in the heat	2	2	4
H01	Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	Front line staff unable to work in extreme heat conditions / delays to prescriptions etc.	2	3	6
H01	Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	Impact on front line social care services - vulnerable people not being seen due to carers unable to get to them due to additional tasks required to deliver care taking longer / delayed visits, backlog in service delivery	3	3	9



Types of adaptation strategy

Adaptation strategy type	Notes
Use of risk-based policy and project appraisal process and techniques	Proactive. Organisations that adopt risk assessment will be more flexible and better able to cope with climate risks.
Delay and buy-time	Proactive. A delay strategy can help to deliver a better decision, if the delay time is used to improve your knowledge – for instance by combining it with research or monitoring.
Research	Proactive or strategic. Use research to better understand climate risks and performance of adaptation options.
Monitoring	Proactive: system performance monitoring. Reactive: climate impact monitoring.
Information supply, education, awareness-raising	Proactive or reactive. Can be used to raise awareness of the need to adapt.
Contingency planning	Strategic planning for low probability, high consequence events.
Diversification or bet-hedging	Proactive technical or policy response.
Insurance	Proactive, fiscal response.
Defend and manage	Proactive or reactive technical measures.
Change of use	Proactive or reactive. Includes planning responses, with or without technical measures.
Retreat and abandon	Proactive or reactive. Includes strategic planning response.
Safety factors, climate headroom, buffering measures	Proactive or strategic. Includes technical and regulatory response.





Types of adaptation strategy

Planned/proactive adaptation is generally more effective and less costly than reactive

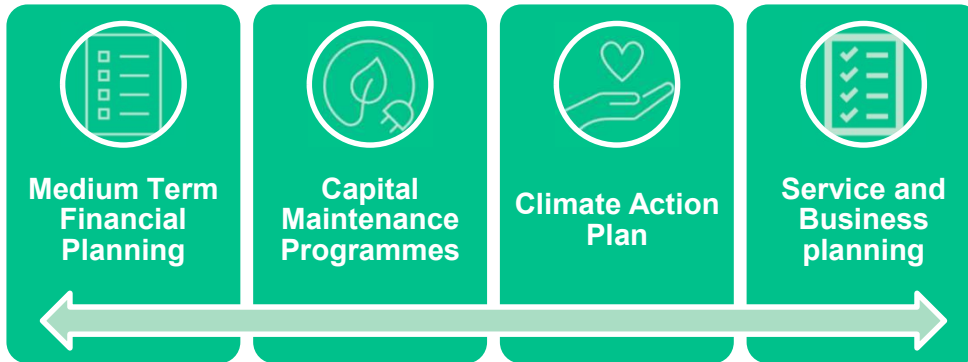


Building Adaptive Capacity

- Gathering & sharing data and information
- Develop plans, policies and strategies

Delivering Adaptation Actions

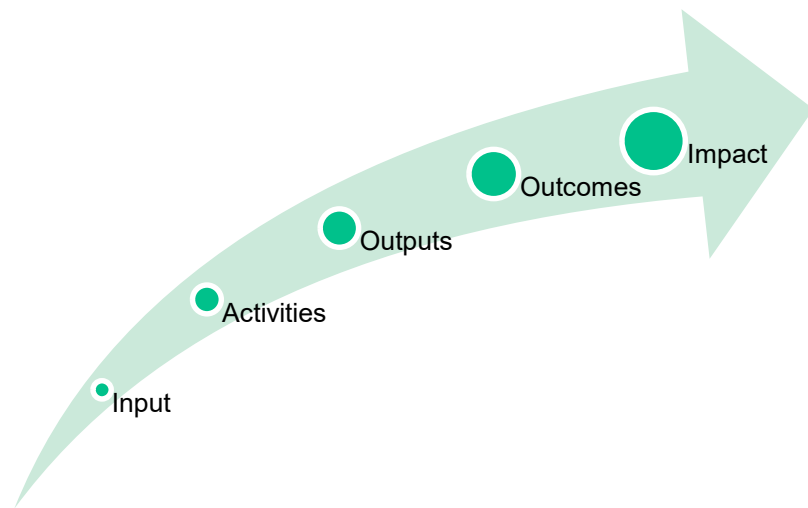
- Accepting the impacts and bearing losses
- Avoid/reduce exposure (flood defences, change location, increase shade cover)





Adaptation reporting

CCC Monitoring Framework and Adaptation Reporting Power



Communities in UK are prepared for and can respond to weather & climate shocks				
Required Outcomes	Communities are prepared for climate shocks	Communities can respond to climate shocks	Local cultural heritage is conserved	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Local Authority adaptation planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery time after extreme weather events Damage from extreme weather events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage organisational reporting 	
	See Buildings map for public buildings			
	Societal vulnerabilities to multiple risks are reduced	Awareness of climate risks is widespread	Government / LAs have capacity to respond to interacting risks	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation planning targeted at vulnerable groups Information on distributional effects of climate change / just transition issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness and understanding of flooding, overheating and other climate risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authority resourcing for climate adaptation Number of trained incident responders 	
Enablers	Funding & investment	Engagement & education	Research	Data & monitoring
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted support for vulnerable communities to prepare for and recover from extreme weather events Psychological support for recovery from extreme weather events e.g. flooding Ring-fenced funding for local-level adaptation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding and skills in managing climate risks in Local Authorities Local Authority engagement with at risk communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social vulnerability mapping Local impacts of climate shocks Behaviour change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local level adaptation actions and distributions Community-led heritage asset surveys Early warning for extreme weather Data sharing on climate risks
Policies and plans	Legislation and regulation	Standards	Financial instruments	Information and reporting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection for designated cultural heritage assets Clear responsibilities for responder organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local community response guidance Resilience standards for responders Building standards for cultural heritage assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for vulnerable groups to implement adaptation measures Sufficient and stable funding for local resilience groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authority included within mandatory adaptation reporting on planning and actions, including cultural heritage Public engagement and collaborative work on adaptation policy Public information campaign on adaptation actions Regular reporting on local level resilience Mandatory reporting from organisations responsible for historic sites Community risk registers which consider vulnerable groups



Plan for monitoring and evaluation



Purpose of evaluation:






- Evaluate effectiveness
- Assess efficiency
- Understand equity
- Provide accountability
- Assess outcomes
- Improve learning
- Improve future interventions
- Compare with similar interventions

Evaluation criteria

- **Baseline of existing conditions**
- **Indicators**
- **Metrics**



Toolkit updates – Spring 2024

-  Risk Matrix updated and available now
-  Reference material and resources updated
-  Signposting and guidance on UKCP18 data and forthcoming Met Office service
-  Further detail on monitoring, evaluation and reporting
-  Updated workshop activities

Thank you

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localpartnerships.org.uk