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ADAPTATION  
& RES<sup>♥♥♥</sup>LIENCE  
ACTION PLAN  
2021-2<sup>🎯</sup>26**

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**Wigan Council's response to a changing climate**

# CONTENTS

## Section 1

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Introduction

## Section 2

---

Adaptation and Resilience  
to Climate Change

## Section 3

---

Action Plan Framework and  
Development

## Section 4

---

Governance of the Action  
Plan

## Section 5

---

The Impact of Covid-19

## Section 6

---

Layout of the Action Plan

## Section 7

---

Our Adaptation &  
Resilience Action Plan  
2021-2026

**“PROTECTING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER”**



# FOREWORD

## COUNCILLOR PAUL PRESCOTT

### Portfolio Holder for Environment

**"Adaptation and resilience to climate change is inherent to our local environment. Preparing ourselves for future shocks will support many other priorities and inequalities that exist at the local level, building community support and spirit and ensuring that nobody falls victim to the extreme weather and changing climate."**

The climate crisis is a threat to all areas of life. Whether that be our reliance on fossil fuels for power and energy, extreme weather that all corners of the world can fall victim to, or the over-consumption of products and pollution of environments. As a global community, we must do everything within our power and more to transition to sustainable modes of living and dramatically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible. However, even if all emissions were stopped today, we would continue to see a level of global warming occur for at least several decades, if not centuries. Therefore, there is an urgent need for us to adapt and become resilient to the increasing impacts of a changing climate and prepare for a future that is likely to look very different from the past.

Adaptation and resilience to climate change is inherent to our local environment. Preparing ourselves for future shocks will support many other priorities and inequalities that exist at the local level, building community support and spirit and ensuring that nobody falls victim to the extreme weather and changing climate. Within Wigan borough, we currently are and will continue to experience an increasing trend of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers with less frequent but more intense extreme weather events including storms, droughts and heatwaves.

These events have the potential to impact all areas of our lives through flooding, increased incidence of weather-related illnesses, damage to physical and environmental infrastructure and the monumental impacts to health and wellbeing. The onset of the pandemic in 2020 has provided an insight into the potential socio-economic damage that can be made through an external threat, and the potential impacts from the climate crisis are likely to be even more severe.

However, not all is yet lost. We still have time to develop our adaptive capacity and build resilience with our residents, communities and businesses to help protect each other from the worst impacts of climate change. This is the responsibility of every person within Wigan borough, as global citizens, to unite and create an environment that is resilient, sustainable, driven by community spirit and concern for our neighbours and loved ones.

Our Adaptation & Resilience Action Plan is the commitment of Wigan Council to tackle the urgent threat of impacts from the climate crisis, and to promote adaptation to extreme weather events, creating resilient communities ready for the future. I am pleased to endorse Our Adaptation & Resilience Action Plan that will frame delivery over the next 5 years, in order to achieve the ambitions of the Outline Climate Change Strategy.



# FOREWORD

## KEITH BENSON

### Chair of the Our Resilience and Adaptation Working Group

Our climate change adaptation will be centred on the process of taking actions that aim to support and enable our residents and our place to adjust to the effects of current or expected climate change.

Global climate change is bringing new uncertainties, challenges and risks that the council needs to consider to ensure the future wellbeing of our borough, its residents and businesses.

As the climate heats up, it will bring with it all kinds of challenges and risks, from more frequent extreme weather events like heatwaves, droughts or floods whose impacts will affect everyone. To outline the council's planned response to these challenges and to mitigate the risk, it has developed an Outline Climate Change Strategy and the Our Adaptation & Resilience action plan will be central to the delivery of this strategy. And whereas ideas like sustainability and conservation tend to focus on preserving our environment, resilience and adaptation will focus on protecting our people and place from the changes that will come from a changing climate.

Our climate change adaptation will be centred on the process of taking actions that aim to support and enable our residents and our place to adjust to the effects of current or expected climate change. In particular, the adaptation actions will aim to moderate or avoid harm to people, property and infrastructure; and will look to exploit opportunities for utilising our borough's natural systems, along with investment in our infrastructure, to help in this adjustment. The action plan will also recognise that the need for adaptation will vary across our borough, depending on the sensitivity and vulnerability to environmental

impacts. And adaptation will be especially important for our most vulnerable communities since they may be the least able to withstand the worst impacts of climate change given there are clear links that adaptive capacity is closely linked to both social and economic development.

We also understand that without mitigation measures, adaptation alone cannot avert the risk of the likely impacts of climate change. As such, our resilience approach will recognise that the impact of climate change on our people, businesses and infrastructure will be composed of a hierarchy of scales of risk and impact. And our climate resilience will develop our ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to severe weather events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. On this basis, a key element of this action plan will be to ensure we have established systems and processes that can anticipate, respond to and learn from these events over time. It will also consider the resilience measures that will be required at both a borough and local level, where our communities can also play their part by developing their ability to withstand adversity and bounce back from difficult climate related events.

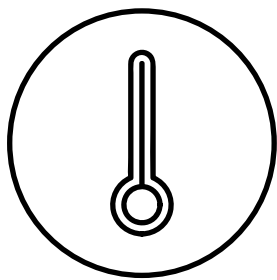
Given that this action plan will not simply focus on general policies or technical solutions, but will reach out to fully engage and include local people and businesses, I expect that this action plan will deliver outcomes that take the form of both incremental and transformational changes over the coming 5 years and beyond.

# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>BEIS</b>	<b>Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy</b>
<b>CAG</b>	<b>Climate Action Group</b>
<b>DEFRA</b>	<b>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b>
<b>EA</b>	<b>Environment Agency</b>
<b>GM</b>	<b>Greater Manchester</b>
<b>GMCA</b>	<b>Greater Manchester Combined Authority</b>
<b>UKCP</b>	<b>United Kingdom Climate Projections</b>

# SECTION 1

# INTRDUCTION



## 1.1

# CLIMATE CHANGE AND IMPACT ON WIGAN BOROUGH



"In terms of planning for the future, it will be necessary to make plans utilising climate models to inform on the economic, social and physical changes to the borough that will be resulting from climate change."

Wigan Council has acknowledged that we are already witnessing large scale local and regional climatic variations that vary significantly with regards to historic averages. Scientific evidence from the UK's Met Office has reflected that as of 2018, 20 of the warmest years on record, globally, have been in the past 22 years. The 10 hottest years in the UK since records began in 1884, have all occurred since 2002<sup>1</sup>.

The UK Climate Projections (UKCP) is a climate analysis tool that forms part of the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme, supported by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). The projections provide the most up to date assessment of how the UK climate may change in the future and provide guidance to organisations with regards to adaptation and resilience to climate change.

The most recent projections from 2018 (UKCP18) comprises historical observations and future projections for the UK, covering both land and sea environments<sup>2</sup>. At the regional level, the north west of England is projected to experience warmer, wetter winters and hotter drier summers with increased unpredictability of extreme weather events. We are already witnessing these changes in Wigan borough. Most recently February 2020 was recorded as the wettest February on record and featured 2 named storms. Surface water flooding

was widespread across the borough, in locations previously unaffected by flooding issues. Significant flooding also occurred in December 2015 and caused severe social, economic and environmental impacts. Conversely, May 2020, has been identified as the hottest May on record, and the impacts of the months long dry spell across Summer 2018 impacted our NHS services and local agricultural economy.

In terms of planning for the future, it will be necessary to make plans utilising climate models to inform on the economic, social and physical changes to the borough that will be resulting from climate change. The weather scenarios expected to impact the borough can be categorised as:

- Hotter, drier summers
- Warmer wetter winters
- Increased number of extreme weather events

Even if we were to stop all emissions today, the Earth will continue to warm regardless due to the volume of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. But that level of warming is dependent on the decisions we make today and over the next decade. Unfortunately, we are not able to control climate and weather. Therefore, it is necessary for us to not only mitigate the impacts of climate change via drastic emissions reductions, but to also **adapt** and become **resilient** to the inescapable impacts we will witness due to global warming.

1 Met Office (2019) UKCP18 Science Overview Executive Summary

2 Met Office (2019) UK Climate Projections: Headline Findings

# SECTION 2

# ADAPTATION N

# & RESILIENCE

# TO CL MATE

# CHANGE



## 2.1

# WHAT IS ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE?



**"Adaptation and resilience are key elements of our climate change strategy and are essential measures to ensure business continuity in the delivery of the Council's services and the wellbeing of the borough."**

Humans have had to adapt to their environments throughout history by developing practices, cultures and livelihoods suited to local conditions. However, climate change raises the possibility that societies may encounter weather event's that previous experience has not prepared them for. These impacts put huge pressures on the economy, society and the environment and risk affecting our ambitions to make Wigan borough a cleaner, greener place that we are proud of, and we are safe within.

In the context of climate change, adaptation refers to those crucial actions or plans that a community, business, household or individual will employ against a current or anticipated impact of climate change. Whereas resilience refers to the ability to recover (bounce back to the original state before the exposure to shock) from the effect of climate change. Adaptation and resilience measures can be planned or put in place spontaneously in response to a local event. Measures could include large scale infrastructure changes such as building defences to protect against flooding, improving the quality of road surfaces to withstand hotter temperatures as well as behavioural shifts

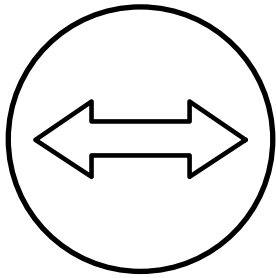
such as residents utilising less water, reducing their energy usage and more households and businesses protecting themselves against the risk of flooding.

Research has identified that the success of local authorities in developing strategies and implementing adaptation measures being due to 3 factors<sup>3</sup>:

- Recognising the secondary benefits of tackling climate change such as new employment opportunities and reduction in fuel poverty
- Strong political, professional and technical support in 'championing' climate change activities
- Working with utility companies, private, public and voluntary sector groups to secure the necessary finance to implement adaptation and resilience measures and reduce their carbon footprint.

Adaptation and resilience are key elements of our climate change strategy and are essential measures to ensure business continuity in the delivery of the Council's services and the wellbeing of the borough. Therefore, we have developed this Action Plan to set out the way that Wigan Council will look to achieve adaptation and resilience, over the next five years.

3 Allman, L., Fleming, P., Wallace, A., (2004) The progress of English and Welsh local authorities in addressing climate change, *Local Environment*,9:3,271-283



## 2.2

# WHY DO WE NEED TO ADAPT?

Climate change adaptation and resilience is significantly important to Wigan Council, as our borough is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We need to continue to enable our residents, communities, businesses and infrastructure to have the capacity to survive, adapt and grow in the face of these changes. Efforts and investments need to be underpinned by robust action on climate adaptation (and resilience) to protect our economy, key infrastructure and our natural environment.

Climate Change is also more likely to have a greater impact on those residents who are already dealing with fuel or food poverty, low income and disabilities. Therefore, it is vitally important that we strengthen our adaptation actions, so that we may protect the most vulnerable within our communities. Environmental concerns are a clear driver for these measures, however there are also strong economic and legislative drivers.



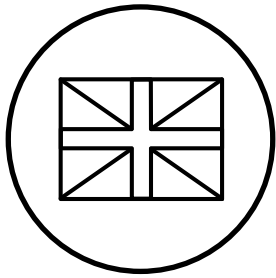
## 2.3

# WHY DO WE NEED TO HAVE RESILIENCE?

Resilience is an essential part of everyday life for all people and the ability to bounce back from an external shock or pressure is different for different individuals and communities, based on their specific situation. Making communities, infrastructure, buildings and the environment more resilient to shocks and stresses requires understanding of the type of risk and how to manage it. With regards to climate change, types of risk include changes in localised seasonal weather patterns, as well as more frequent

and unpredictable extreme weather events.

Managing climate risk requires addressing the threat or vulnerability, or both depending on the situation. Effective planning can then be put into place to ensure that, during the next extreme weather event, communities are better placed to experience the threat as they have learnt and protected themselves as much as possible to ensure the shock is not felt as severely.



## 2.4

# ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE LEGISLATION

England's legislative adaptation and mitigation framework is primarily set out in the Climate Change Act 2008. The Act places a duty on Local Authorities to set out the actions that they will take to adapt to the challenges of climate change in the UK.

As a member of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Wigan Council need to ensure our climate change actions are symbiotic with Greater Manchester strategies.

The 5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester (GM) sets out Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change as one of the 5 climate-related challenges. The priorities established under this challenge include:

- Priority 1 – Embedding climate change adaptation and resilience in all policies
- Priority 2 – Increasing the resilience of and investment in our critical infrastructure
- Priority 3 – Implementing a prioritised programme of nature-based climate adaptation actions
- Priority 4 – Improving monitoring and reporting



# SECTION 3

ACT  ON PLAN

FRAMEWORK

AND

DEVELO  PMENT



**This action plan outlines how Wigan Council can adapt to a changing climate and improve its resilience to extreme weather events to ensure business continuity and service provision to the borough.**



**Figure 1:** Climate Change Action Themes taken from Wigan Council's Outline Climate Change Strategy (2020)

## 3.1

# ACTION PLAN FRAMEWORK AND DEVELOPMENT

Wigan Council's Outline Climate Change Strategy was approved by Cabinet in October 2020 and sets out high level strategic objectives that will focus the Council's response to climate change over the coming years. The strategy marks the beginning of a journey and is designed to evolve in line with developing information, data, technology, innovation and central government policies. The strategy has been developed through consultation with a variety of internal and external stakeholders and has utilised frameworks from the local plan core strategy, housing, transport, economic and public health strategies.

The environment and climate change are key themes within our corporate strategy The Deal 2030, with the vision 'a cleaner, green borough' for us all to enjoy. The Deal 2030 was created in response to the ideas brought forward by our residents and communities who highlighted concerns over the state of the environment, including the impacts of climate change, air quality, pollution and single use plastics.

The Outline Climate Change Strategy has outlined six key climate change action themes. Each of the action themes have an operational working group and this document reflects the developments of the Our Adaptation & Resilience Working Group. The Our Adaptation and Resilience Working Group consists of officers representing all the council's internal service providers and is supported through consultation with external stakeholders. This action plan is underpinned by policy set out within the National Adaptation Programme for England, as well as the 5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester.

Current understanding of adaptation and resilience to climate change, in particular extreme weather, forms part of everyday delivery for many services within the Council. An initial workshop was held in early 2020 and comprised internal stakeholders and representatives from the GMCA and the Environment Agency (EA).

The principle aim of the workshop was to understand the fundamental basics behind the perception of adaptation and resilience within the Council's daily operations and strategic planning. In particular, consideration was given to understanding the impact of four broad weather risks related to a changing climate including:

- flooding,
- extreme cold,
- hot weather,
- and drought.

Responses were collated listing risks, impacts, opportunities and actions and aligned to the Council's corporate strategy focussing on Our People, Our Place and Our Future. A working group for Our Adaptation and Resilience was then established, to develop ideas and suggestions taken from the workshop and wider service, into a comprehensive action plan that will provide the framework of delivery of this climate change action theme.

This action plan outlines how Wigan Council can adapt to a changing climate and improve its resilience to extreme weather events to ensure business continuity and service provision to the borough. But the action plan also frames how improvements within the Council can also benefit the borough through increased knowledge, awareness and support for those facing the impacts of climate change.

# SECTION 4

# GVERNANCE OF THE ACTON PLAN



# 4.1 GOVERNANCE OF THE ACTION PLAN

Overall governance of the action plan lies with the Council's Cabinet.



The Our Adaptation & Resilience Action Plan will be monitored and implemented by the Our Adaptation & Resilience working group. The group is chaired by the Service Manager for Highways and Network Management and consists of representatives from Civil Contingencies, Public Health, Highways and Infrastructure, Flood risk and Drainage, Business, Parks, Corporate Land Management and Greenspaces, Community Engagement and PR & Media. Representatives external to the Council will be invited to join where appropriate.

The Our Adaptation and Resilience Group will meet on a quarterly basis, to track progress on short, medium and long-term actions as defined by the action plan.

These progress reports will be submitted to the operational Climate Action Group (CAG) on a quarterly basis so that progress can be tracked alongside the five other developing climate change action themes.

Overall progress will be monitored by the Climate Emergency Board, comprising members of the senior management team and elected members. This board will oversee strategic decisions in the response to the climate crisis.

On an annual basis, the working group will be required to create an annual progress report on adaptation and resilience for the Council and the borough. The progress report will be submitted to the CAG for approval and will then go on to the relevant oversight boards for additional review and comments.

At this stage, progress reports will also be provided to external stakeholders to ensure continuous engagement of private sector, education and voluntary organisations with regards to overall progress on work related to climate change.



**Figure 2:** Governance of the Our Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan



## 4.2

# WHAT HAS WIGAN COUNCIL DONE SO FAR?

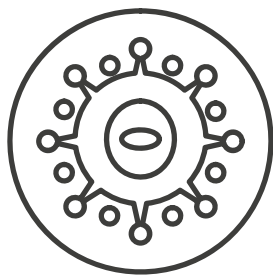
Wigan Council has operated in response to external pressures for many years. Therefore there are already a number of actions and strategies in place to support with adaptation and resilience efforts:

- Developed a comprehensive Flood Risk Management Strategy as the Council is Lead Local Flood Authority for the borough
- Contributed to the development of the Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Assessment to ensure future growth aspirations consider flood risk appropriately
- Established a robust Winter Maintenance Service to ensure the borough's Key Route Networks is resilient to the impacts of extreme cold weather, ice, snow and frost during the winter months
- Developed a Greenheart Strategy that focusses on provision of abundant greenspaces across the borough to promote the health and wellbeing of our residents and also to utilise the natural environment to safeguard us from impacts of climate change
- Implemented robust Civil Contingency plans for the Council and the borough to deal with the extreme scenarios of heatwaves, drought and flooding
- Secured the construction of extensive flood alleviation schemes such as the Environment Agency's River Douglas dam in the centre of Wigan. This scheme now protects approximately 600 homes and 170 commercial properties in the low-lying southern areas of Wigan.



# SECTION 5

## THE IMPACT OF COVID-19



At the local level, Wigan Council need to ensure climate-positive behaviours are reinforced and residents can continue, or transition towards, more sustainable modes of living and working that support the recovery to COVID-19, and also the global climate crisis.

## 5.1

# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a public health crisis that has exposed the fragility of our globalised society to external shocks from the natural system. The onset of COVID-19 also revealed how globalisation and mass travel supported the spread of a pandemic quickly across global nations. However, the pandemic has also raised fundamental concerns regarding the sustainability of our way of living<sup>4</sup>. The current health crisis and longstanding climate crisis have striking similarities with regards to their impacts on transport, food systems, local health and the disproportionate effect on vulnerable groups and deprived communities. However, despite sharing a number of similarities, the most striking difference between the two crises is the urgency of action to counter the rapid spread of the pandemic as compared to the slow action to mitigate longstanding, well-documented and accelerating climate change<sup>5</sup>.

National pressure has been applied to central government throughout 2020, to ensure the UK does not return to 'Business as Usual' and a green recovery is enacted in response to COVID-19 that drives vital new economic activity and strengthens our resilience to the impacts of climate change. There is estimated to be a large reduction in global emissions for 2020 by a record 5-10%, with a potentially larger

reduction in the UK<sup>6</sup>. However, this is likely to be a temporary phenomenon as vehicular travel, business and industry are expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels.

Clear parallels can be drawn between the UK's first instance of lockdown beginning in March 2020, and rapid improvements in the local environment, including air quality and the rewilding of greenspaces. Within Wigan borough, the positive impacts of lockdown included more residents taking up active forms of transport including walking and cycling, alongside enjoying spending more time connecting with nature, therefore improving overall health and wellbeing in the midst of a global pandemic.

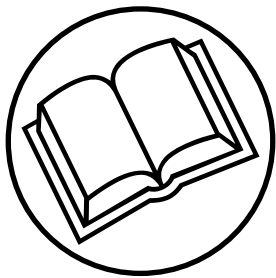
At the local level, Wigan Council need to ensure climate-positive behaviours are reinforced and residents can continue, or transition towards, more sustainable modes of living and working that support the recovery to COVID-19, and also the global climate crisis. Wigan Council have also experienced resilience first-hand in the form of the response as a local authority and public health body, to the support and prevention required at the local level. This experience will provide us with much needed guidance on how to navigate socio-economic and environmental crises at the local level.

<sup>4</sup>Botzen, W., Duijndam, S., van Beukering, P., (2020) Lessons for climate policy from behavioural biases towards COVID-19 and climate change risks. World Development

<sup>5</sup>Lidskog, R., Elander, I., Standring, A., (2020) COVID-10, the Climate, and Transformative Change: Comparing the Social Anatomies of Crises and Their Regulatory Responses. Sustainability

<sup>6</sup>Committee on Climate Change (2020) Reducing UK Emissions Progress Report to Parliament

# SECTION 6 LAYOUT OF THE ACTION ON PLAN



**“Many actions within this action plan are intrinsically linked to other climate change action themes, and also crosscut other Council priorities and strategies. Actions have been combined in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that lead service areas can include these actions within their targets as any other form of service delivery.”**

## 6.1

# LAYOUT OF THE ACTION PLAN

Utilising the climate scenarios of hotter, drier summers, warmer wetter winters and increased number of extreme weather events, combined with outcomes from service area discussions, the action plan is categorised under two main areas:

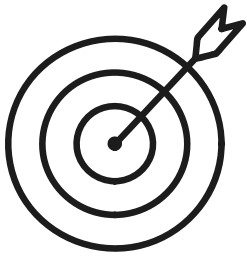
1. Council Adaptation and Resilience – this section focusses on how the authority will adapt and become resilience to a changing climate to ensure business continuity and essential service provision across the borough
2. Borough Adaptation and Resilience – this section focusses on the direction measures that the Council can provide to support residents, businesses and communities to adapt and enhance their resilience to climate change

Each action states a responsible service area within the Council, a timescale for review and / or completion, key performance indicators, resources and financing that may be required, partner organisations and service teams that can provide additional support as well as political support or endorsement from elected members.

Many actions within this action plan are intrinsically linked to other climate change action themes, and also crosscut other Council priorities and strategies. Actions have been combined in order to avoid duplication and to ensure that lead service areas can include these actions within their targets as any other form of service delivery.

All actions will be reviewed on an annual basis, in order for the Our Adaptation and Resilience Working Group to generate an annual progress briefing. The action plan will undergo a holistic review and refocus targets by 2026, whereby a new action plan will be created to outline delivery between 2026 and 2031.





**With the development of this Action Plan, and the associated works around this, the Council and our communities will be better placed to understand the current impact of a changing climate on the borough and the Council as an organisation.**

## 6.2 ACTION PLAN AIMS

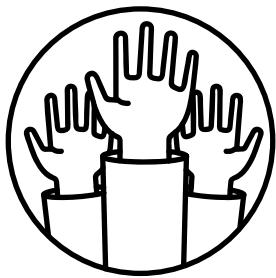
The purpose of this action plan is to raise awareness of the challenges surrounding adaptation to climate change and the capability of the borough in being resilient to its impact. It will also provide a strategic overview, guidance and planning to ensure both Wigan Council and Wigan borough are progressing towards a future that is more resilient to climate-induced risks and impacts. Key outcomes from the action plan and associated working group include:

- Ensure climate resilience is a priority in all Council activities, including procurement
- Raise awareness and understanding of adaptation and resilience across Wigan borough
- Implement engagement and education activities that link in with the wider climate change themes and promote self-resilience for communities across the borough
- Collaborate with partner organisations who may have developed local resilience forums within the community

- Engage with local businesses and organisations to promote the development of their own adaptation and resilience plans
- Develop an updated Local Climate Impacts Profile to highlight the current vulnerability to severe weather events, and how these events affect local communities as well as Council assets, infrastructure and capacity to deliver services

With the development of this Action Plan, and the associated works around this, the Council and our communities will be better placed to understand the current impact of a changing climate on the borough and the Council as an organisation. With this understanding, we can implement strong actions to prepare responsive and proactive adaptation and resilience measures across the borough. From the Action Plan, we will better identify and understand the groups and areas most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as risk of flooding, or extreme heat – and ensure these vulnerabilities are mitigated and prioritised in line with adaptation actions.





Wigan Council will work with key stakeholders to begin preparing communities for the future. Many partner organisations including the Environment Agency, public health and emergency authorities, as well as utility suppliers, already factor in adaptation and resilience as part of their daily operations.

## 6.3

# THE BEGINNING OF A JOURNEY TO CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

This report details the first action plan framing the next five years of work.

Throughout the development of this plan, Wigan Council have identified that strong community engagement will be vital to the successful delivery and implementation of the many actions that will improve the borough's resilience to climate change. Wigan Council has a significant leadership role to encourage and influence the borough and it's residents, communities and businesses to begin the building of self-reliance. The Council acknowledges, as with all measures surrounding climate change, that the authority cannot do this alone. We need the support of individual households, schools, community hubs, faith groups, voluntary organisations, the private sector, the public sector and many other citizens and groups to work with us to ensure that, as a collective, we can adapt and build resilience to the changing climate that is inevitable for our borough.

Wigan Council will work with key stakeholders to begin preparing communities for the future. Many partner organisations including the Environment Agency, public health and emergency authorities, as well as utility suppliers, already factor in adaptation and resilience as part of their daily operations. We will

build on existing relationships over the next 5-year period, utilising knowledge, skills and experience from external stakeholders, to support the Council in will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it reflects and reports progress that is being made.

It is anticipated that the initial focus of the five year Action Plan actions will be around Place based activities, with the delivery of the actions that will develop our people and communities following on. And whilst some of the actions are expected to be fully completed within the five year period, other actions, by their nature will be ongoing; and their five year window will continually slide forward, but with annual reporting to ensure progress is being monitored. In addition, the current scope of some of the actions may well result in further sub-actions being developed within the five year period, so that this action plan will be amended and developed over this time to address those specific needs. This approach should ensure that all elements of a boroughwide Adaptation and Resilience response are covered, as momentum and issues are identified by all key stakeholders and partners.

# SECTION 7



# OUR

# ADAPTATION

# & RESILIENCE

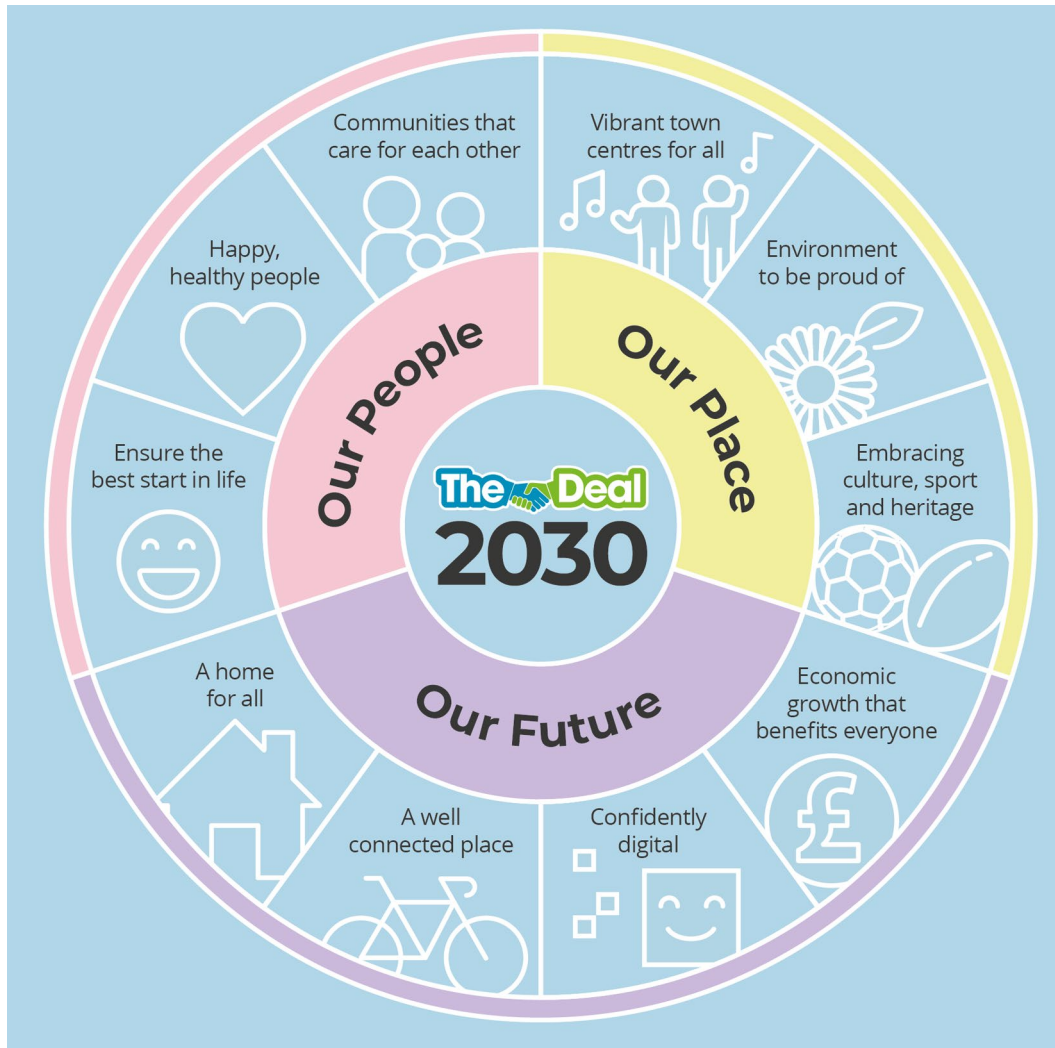


# ACTION PLAN

# 2021-2026



# OUR ADAPTATION & RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN 2021-2026



# THEME 1: COUNCIL ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

## 1. Flood Risk

Lead officer : Laura Morrison, Flood Risk Engineer

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
1.1	Our People	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Update Wigan Borough's Flood Risk Management Strategy in line with the Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Assessment; Identify developments in priority flood risk areas and hotspots across the borough	1 year then Annual Update	Wigan FRSM updated	Within existing resources  Additional resources maybe be required once Strategy updated	Internal: Planning Policy and Development Management,  External: GMCA, United Utilities, Environment Agency
1.2	Our Place	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Trial the use of remote sensor technology to assess known flooding areas across the highway network and the wider borough, to target action prior to severe rainfall events	1-2 years	Success of the trial has been evaluated and validated	Pilot project within existing resources  Additional funds will be required if remote sensor technology is deemed successful and needs to be installed boroughwide	Internal: Civil Contingencies  External: United Utilities, Environment Agency
1.3	Our Future	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Continue to develop flood risk mapping database as known flood areas become more prevalent across the borough. Aim to prioritise areas in a hierarchy of risk to aid in deploying resources during severe rainfall events	1 year then Annual Update	Flooding hotspots identified, mapped and flood risk hierarchy in place	Within existing resources  Additional resources maybe be required once flood risk hierarchy developed	Internal: Civil Contingencies, ICT and Digital  External: United Utilities, Environment Agency

## 2. Highways & Operations Management

Lead officer : John Williams, Highways Asset Manager

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A – Adaptation R – Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
2.1	Our Future	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Review Winter Maintenance Service Policy and Severe Weather Deployment Plan and develop a service plan to deploy resources to maintain the resilience of the highway network and critical sites within the borough throughout the winter months.	1 year then Annual Update	Review Complete	Within existing resources	Internal: Civil Contingencies PR & Media  External: TfGM and other GM Authorities
2.2	Our People	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Explore the potential to undertake winter maintenance preventative treatments to footways and cycleways, ensuring that sustainable active travel is encouraged throughout the winter months and lowers the potential risk / liability of injury to the public.	1 year	Review Complete	Additional budget and resources maybe be required if further resilience needed	Internal: Corporate Land Management  External: TfGM and other GM Authorities
2.3	Our People	Civil Contingencies	A/R – Review council services to ensure technical and operational staff and resources are in place and prepared to react to potential extreme weather events.	1 year	Review Complete	Within existing resources	Internal: Central Watch, operational services
2.4	Our Place	Highways and Network Management	A/R - Work with partners to explore the potential for co-investment packages on capital projects along the highway network and priority areas across the borough, such as major drainage works. Utilise smart data, to share best practice and support the delivery of safer, resilient communities	Ongoing	Number of co-investment capital projects undertaken annually	A proportion of funding for capital projects may be sourced internally.  Collaborate effectively with partners to understand funding and resource requirements	Internal: Major Projects, Planning Policy, Corporate Land Management  External: Environment Agency, United Utilities

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
2.5	Our Future	Civil Contingencies	<p>A/R - Undertake a study to identify the types of extreme weather that will impact different areas of the highway network and critical infrastructure.</p> <p>Upon completion of the study, identify the parts of the network / infrastructure that needs increased resilience.</p>	1 year	<p>Frequency and type of weather events impacting highways and infrastructure</p> <p>Km of Highway or Number of Structures or infrastructure impacted</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p> <p>Additional budget and resources maybe be required if further resilience needed</p>	<p>Internal: Network Management, Climate Change Manager, Joint Intelligence Unit, ICT and Digital</p> <p>External: Potential consultancy support</p>
2.6	Our Future	Highways and Network Management	<p>A/R - Review the existing maintenance regimes of highway drainage gulleys and assets, identifying priority areas.</p> <p>Upon reviewing Asset Management and Service planning, climate change needs to be included as a risk to the network</p>	1 year then Annual Update	<p>Service standards reviewed; number of drainage assets being maintained to service standards</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p> <p>Additional budget and resources maybe be required to meet future service standards</p>	<p>External: United Utilities, Environment Agency</p>

### 3. Civil Contingencies

**Lead Officer : Andrew Sharrock, Programme Manager Health Protection & Civil Contingencies**

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
3.1	Our People	Civil Contingencies	A/R - Review and existing civil contingency and emergency plans that deal with severe weather events in particular relating travel and weather information and working to support the most vulnerable people across the borough.	1 year then Annual Update	Review Complete	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required to meet future service standards	Internal: Community Engagement, Housing, AWARE teams
3.2	Our People	Human Resources & Organisational Development	A/R - Develop a Future Reservist list to utilise transferable skills of internal staff who can be redeployed during a large-scale extreme weather event, in particular develop model training for staff to have the skills and ability to provide support and assistance to essential services and vulnerable residents and communities across the borough.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of staff retained on Future Reservist model	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required to develop/ train Future Reservist	Internal: All services  External: Voluntary Sector
3.3	Our People	Civil Contingencies	R - Explore the creation of Community Resilience Volunteers such as flood wardens or snow angels within the community, for residents to act as information sources and initial support to those at risk of flooding and extreme weather. Target community organisations for additional support.	1-2 years	Review Complete	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required to develop/ train Future Volunteers	Internal: Network Management, Communities teams, PR & Media, Legal, Deal for Communities Team  External: Voluntary Sector, Environment Agency, environmental organisations

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
3.4	Our Place	Climate Change Manager	A – Review previous studies on climate vulnerabilities and adaptation mapping across the borough to create a Climate Vulnerability map for the borough using information for flood risks, heatwaves and droughts and cold snaps.	1-2 years	Review complete and map developed	Within existing resources	Internal: Joint Intelligence Unit, Civil Contingencies, ICT and Digital  External: GMCA, Environment Agency

## 4. Corporate Land Management

**Lead Officer : Karen Hewitt, Corporate Land Manager**

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A – Adaptation R – Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
4.1	Our People	Corporate Land Management	A/R - Explore the feasibility of increasing the volume of greenspaces and sustainable urban drainage systems on corporate land and priority locations across the borough, to reduce the risk of flooding to communities from extreme rainfall events.	1 year then Annual Update	Mapping of priority locations for mandatory biodiversity net gain, and landscape scale interventions	Currently working with GMCA and specifically the IGNITION project to understand the feasibility of SuDS in key locations across the borough.  Further Wigan-centric work may involve additional funding for studies	Internal: Network Management, Finance, Climate Change Manager, Parks & Street Scene, PR & Media  External:  Environment Agency, United Utilities, Groundwork and other environmental organisations
4.2	Our Place	Streetscene	R – Develop an intelligence led approach to prioritise sweeping of the highway, particularly in areas of high leaf fall or where drains are more heavily silted due to the nearby topography or type of land the water is running off into the network.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of miles of priority locations on the highways swept for detritus  Number of drainage assets blocked in priority flood risk locations	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required to meet future service standards	Internal: Network Management
4.3	Our Future	Corporate Land Management – Estates Management	A/R - Ensure that climate change adaptation and resilience risks are embedded in the Estates & Commercial services risk register, as well as corporate asset management strategies.	1 year then Annual Update	Key climate risks identified in new and updated strategies and risk registers	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required if further resilience needed	Internal: Asset Management, Estates, Finance

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A – Adaptation R – Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
4.4	Our Future	Corporate Land Management and Facilities Management	A/R – Develop a Council resilience health check for properties across the corporate portfolio, beginning with those in the most vulnerable areas and providing community support.	Ongoing	Key climate risks identified in new and updated strategies and risk registers	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required if further resilience needed	Internal: Asset Management, Buildings and Facilities Management, Finance, Wigan Housing
4.5	Our Place	Corporate Land Management	A/R - Explore potential of increased greenspaces through the review of closed landfill sites and watercourses on council land. Phase 1 – feasibility/desk top review – second phase is needed	Feasibility study to be refreshed within 1 year then Annual Update	Mapping of priority locations for mandatory biodiversity net gain, and landscape scale interventions	Within existing resources  Additional budget and resources maybe be required if further study needed	Internal: Network Management, Finance, Climate Change Manager, Parks & Street Scene, PR & Media  External:Environment Agency, United Utilities, Groundwork and other environmental organisations

# THEME 2: BOROUGH ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

## 5. Community Health & Engagement

Lead officer : Kerrell Walley, Climate Change Manage

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
5.1	Our People	Public Health	A/R - Support a reduction in slips, trips and falls experienced during extreme weather through the development and implementation of the Local Falls Prevention Strategy	Annual Review	Reduction in number of claims received by the Council through slips/trips/falls	Within existing resources	Internal: PR & Media, Communities teams  External: NHS, CCG
5.2	Our People	Civil Contingencies	R - Continue to deliver enhanced communications to the borough, informed by accurate weather conditions, providing alerts, early warning signals, advice and support prior to extreme weather events.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of messages and alerts released to the public through communication channels	Within existing resources	Internal: Civil Contingencies  External: United Utilities, Environment Agency
5.3	Our People	Joint Intelligence Unit	R - Review vulnerable residents list to support the identification of those likely to be most at risk from the defined scenarios and enable proactive responses as appropriate.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of residents included on an extreme weather response list	Within existing resources	Internal: Information Governance  External: Utility Providers

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
5.4	Our Place	Public Health	R - Ensure that routine health impact assessments, carried out both internally and externally as part of new developments, include considerations of impacts from climate change, specifically extreme weather. This could severely impact the physical / mental health or wellbeing of an individual or community	1 year then Annual Update	Number of assessments with climate change considerations	Within existing resources  However external funding likely to be required to support implementation of projects	Internal: Civil Contingencies, Communities, Adult and Children's Services, Planning Policy
5.5	Our Future	Climate Change Manager	A/R - Work collaboratively with Wigan Youth Cabinet, to promote understanding of adaptation and resilience to climate change and to promote the feasibility of nature-based solutions in schools to tackle climate change and enhance biodiversity.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of schools and education providers engaged on resilience and adaptation to climate change	Within existing resources  However external funding likely to be required to support implementation of projects	Internal: Environmental Education, Corporate Land Management
5.6	Our Future	Deal for Communities Team	A/R - Identify priority risk areas for the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector and support in any adaptation and resilience measures required. This could include helping to source funding for preventative measures, or wider education to support local people.	1 year then Annual Update	Number of organisations identified within a priority risk area for extreme weather	Within existing resources  However external funding likely to be required to support implementation of projects	Internal: Economic Development, Climate Change Manager, Environmental Education, Adults and Children Services  External: VSCE sector organisations

## 6. Natural Environment

**Lead officer : Martin Purcell, Greenheart Project Officer**

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
6.1	Our People Our Place Our Future	Corporate Land Management	A/R - Encourage collaborative working across the five other climate change action themes, to ensure the priorities within 'Our Natural Environment' provide co-benefits to measures within other action plans. This includes ensuring an environmental focus within every decision both in terms of ecosystem services and the protection of biodiversity.	Ongoing	Environmental considerations applied to all action plans	Within existing resources	Internal: Parks & Streetscene, Public Health, Deal for Communities Team

## 7. Economy

**Lead officer : Karen Guest, Business Investment Manager**

Action Number	The Deal 2030 Priorities	Lead Service Areas	Action A - Adaptation R - Resilience	Timescales	Key Performance Indicators	Resources / Financing Required	Partner Organisations / departments
7.1	Our People Our Place Our Future	Economic Development	A/R - Champion adaptation and resilience work with businesses, showcasing best practice across industry and through work implemented by the Council. Communicate strategic issues with the business community, providing training and advice including carrying out Business Resilience Health check to ensure businesses can react well to external pressures such as extreme weather.  This action should focus on businesses in priority areas at risk of extreme weather, to build resilience.	1-2 years then Annual Update	Identification of priority risk areas and mapping of businesses within. Resources to recruit/train officers to undertake health checks or fund GM partners to deliver. Access and bids for grants to adapt or improve resilience of businesses to severe weather events	Within existing resources  However external funding likely to be required to support implementation of projects	Internal: PR & Media  External: Business Growth Hub