



GETTING READY FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

SUPPORTING COUNCILLORS' LEADERSHIP ROLE IN ADAPTATION



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FOREWORDS

The climate in the UK is becoming more varied and volatile. In recent years huge areas have been hit by surprise floods, unusually hot days or unexpected snow falls. There is no doubt, whatever the combination of causes, that our climate is changing at such a rate that it will change our lives and communities. These changes present not just problems and challenges, there are opportunities too. Just ask the farmers in Devon who have started to grow olives.

As we come to expect the unexpected so we slowly begin to prepare for it and respond with debates, ideas and enterprise. With their role to build community resilience and promote well being, councils have a vital role to play in leading thought, debate and action to adapt to our changing climate.

Councillors in particular, as the elected representatives and leaders of communities, have an important role in the adaptation agenda, because their role is to identify and address local needs. This is demonstrated by the LGiU Climate Ready Learning Network that brought together over 30 councillors to explore their role in the adaptation agenda through engaging the public and improving the council. At the heart of local democracy, councillors' involvement could also generate the kind of debates that citizens and communities should have as they consider different adaptation solutions. This in turn could generate and influence national debates on adaptation, which for too long have been marginalised.

This practical guide gives examples to support councillors' role in adaptation to stimulate better understanding of the issues and contribute to local and national debates. It also sets in motion the LGiU's work to support local councils on delivering effective adaptation.

Andy Sawford

Chief Executive, Local Government Information Unit



I have long been an advocate for action on climate change. It is very clear that we urgently needed to start addressing issues around the sustainability and climate change agendas. This was highlighted by severe groundwater flooding in the winter of 2000 which caused over £11million of damage to Hampshire's highways.

We were one of the first councils to sign up to the Nottingham Declaration in 2001, and in 2004 we were among the first UK local authorities to sign up to the Aalborg Commitments (a pan-European sustainability performance framework). We identified that climate change would be the biggest threat to the achievement of our long-term vision. In 2006 I set up the Hampshire Climate Change Commission of Inquiry to investigate what we need to prepare Hampshire for a changing climate. In 2008, I encouraged our LAA partners to sign up to two climate change national indicators (NI 186 and NI 188) and to develop a Hampshire-wide vision and strategy for climate change.

For some time now, focus has been on the mitigation agenda and we now need to be in the same position on adaptation, embedding it in our risk management processes and everyday service delivery. It is vital that we are able to continue delivering quality services in an increasingly changeable climate. Weather and climate affects all our services, both directly and indirectly and this guide will be a practical tool in helping councillors deal with the challenges.

Cllr Ken Thornber
Leader of Hampshire County Council



PROVIDING LEADERSHIP ON ADAPTATION: CHECKLIST

Adapting to climate change means adapting the way we do things — in all areas of our lives — to respond to the changing circumstances. It means not only protecting against negative impacts, but also making us better able to take advantage of any benefits.

Councillors play a key role in championing adaptation at the local level and the checklist presents five suggested actions to support their leadership role in this agenda.

Communicating to the public

1. **Use simple language when talking about adapting to climate change so people can understand what it means.**
2. **Give people practical examples of what communities and councils can do to adapt.**
3. **Use more innovative channels of communication to reach out to the public.**

Improving your council

4. **Present a business case to your council to take account of adaptation.**
5. **Support and encourage partnerships between the council and relevant organisations and businesses to deliver adaptation effectively.**



INTRODUCTION

This practical guide aims to support councillors' role in the adaptation agenda. It presents a checklist with five suggested actions for councillors. The guide is informed by the discussions and ideas of over 30 councillors as part of the LGiU Climate Ready Learning Network on adaptation. The practical guide does not aim to provide all the answers to the challenges councillors face but aims to strengthen local and national debates on the adaptation agenda.

The carbon that has been emitted over the past 100 years and continues to be emitted today will lead to changes in our climate for at least the next 30 years. Changing our behaviour in response to these changes, and the impacts they will have, is known as adaptation, or adapting to climate change. Whether climate change will mean more regular floods or hotter summers, our homes and economy will need to be more adaptive or resilient.

Adaptation is fundamentally a local issue — flooding, coastal erosion, agricultural patterns, employment, regeneration and land use all impact at the local level. It is now recognised that local authorities have a very important role in grappling with the complex impacts of climate change — both risks and opportunities — and setting in motion plans for their services and communities.

“Until local authorities are actually seen themselves to be making some real initiatives and taking some real steps, it’ll be very hard to push our constituents to do much.”

CLlr Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council

Councillors play a key role in championing adaptation at the local level. Their ongoing enthusiasm in driving forward the green agenda, their awareness of the risks of ‘business as usual’ and their passion for community well being put them in the best position to develop public awareness of and the political will for taking action on adaptation.

Communities want to know that their locally elected representatives understand their needs when adapting to climate change and that councils have plans and processes in place to support and protect them. Councillors therefore need to be aware of and

contribute to their councils' responsibility in developing a [Sustainable Communities Strategy](#) to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the people in their area. This can be delivered through the local authorities [Power of Well-Being](#).

As community leaders, councillors are very tuned-in to their local communities and they are best placed to communicate the issues to their constituents. As decision makers, councillors play an important role in generating the political will necessary to get their councils to take action on adaptation. They can initiate political debates about the different adaptation strategies, which in turn could strengthen the national political debate on adaptation.

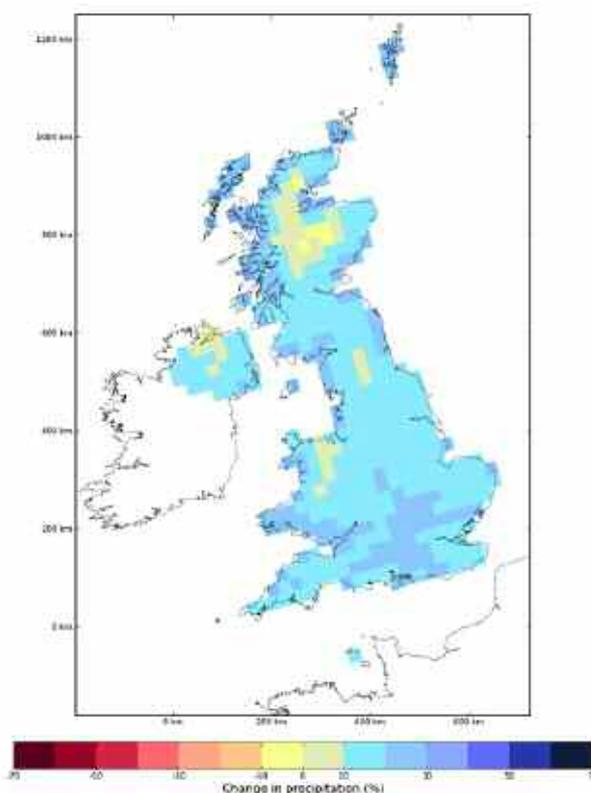


WHAT DOES ADAPTATION MEAN?

The past 10 years have been the warmest decade recorded in 160 years. Past weather events like the heatwave in 2003, the floods in 2007 and the extreme cold and snowfall in the winter of 2009 have shown how weather can have severe impacts on council services and on people's lives. The snow in the winter of 2009 and 2010 caused chaos to public transport, social service delivery and waste collection services across the country. The summer floods in 2007 in areas such as Gloucestershire, Hull and Lincolnshire left almost half a million people without mains water or electricity. Around 80 per cent of local businesses were badly affected as a result of the floods in Cockermouth in November 2009.

The greenhouse gases emitted over the past 100 years are causing changes in our climate that will continue for the next 30 years — even longer if we don't take action to reduce our production of these gases. In June 2009, the government released a detailed set of climate projections that show the changes we could see in the coming years up to the end of the century.

As an example, the map shows winter rainfall increases by around 10 to 20 per cent in most parts of the UK by the 2080s. And in the South East and West Scotland, we could see 20 to 30 per cent more rain.¹



¹ Central estimate based on a medium emissions level. "2080s" is shorthand for the 30-year time period from 2070-2099. (UK Climate Projections 2009, Defra)

What does this mean for local authorities? The changes are different across different parts of the UK, but the climate projections show that on the whole we will see hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters. The projections suggest that the UK could also experience sea level rises as high as half a meter in some areas by the 2090s.²

Whether it is heavy bursts of rainfall or hotter summers, our homes, infrastructure and economy will need to be better prepared. Adapting to climate change means adapting the way we do things — in all areas of our lives — to respond to the changing circumstances.

It means not only protecting against negative impacts but also making us better able to take advantage of any benefits. It ranges from managing flood risks and using water wisely to identifying business opportunities in tourism and the potential to grow new crops suitable to a changing climate. It also means making sure work in all service areas, for example transport and spatial planning, take account of the projected future climate.

As councillors, your understanding of how climate change affects services can help your councils to prepare and adapt. Your community leadership role is also very important in communicating the issues to the public so they can take action to adapt.

For more information about the UK Climate Projections, please see the LGA's publication on "What do the latest climate projections mean for you?" (*See Useful Information*).

² London, High emissions scenario



COMMUNICATING TO THE PUBLIC

1. Use simple language when talking about adapting to climate change so people can understand what it means

The phrase “adapting to climate change” and its concepts can be difficult to understand. This could mean that the public feel disengaged on this very important issue.

Our experience has shown that when the public talk about climate change, they can often focus on mitigation, talking about reducing carbon emissions, renewable energy, energy efficiency or low carbon building designs. Adapting to climate change can often be left to the academics and experts who are likely to talk about it using more technical language.

To ensure the public has a good understanding of what adaptation means, it might be helpful to consider how the effects of climate change and adaptation actions are communicated to the public. For example you could use more straightforward phrases.

The phrase “1:1000 year flood” aims to show the probability of an event happening. For example, the floods in Wychavon in July 2009 were considered to be a “one in 650 year” event.

However, probabilities can be different from the reality, which makes it difficult to translate them into decisions. Similarly, adaptation responses such as “green infrastructure” can be difficult for householders to understand. It is more straightforward to use phrases such as “irregular and unpredictable weather events” and “green area and open space”. Some suggestions are below.

“Mitigation has been very prominent in discussions and adaptation has been left out like Cinderella.”

CLlr Tim Wotherspoon, South Cambridgeshire District Council

Phrases such as...	...can be explained more clearly as:
“1:100 year event”	“Irregular and unpredictable weather event”
“Build resilience to impacts of climate change”	“Preparing buildings and services for hotter summers/wetter winters/more extreme weather events”
“Climate”	“The average weather experienced in a region over a long period, typically at least 30 years. This includes temperature, wind and rainfall patterns.”
“Green infrastructure”	“Multi-purpose green areas and open space such as gardens, woodlands and street trees”
“Identify risks and opportunities”	“Prepare for the problems and make the most of the benefits climate change will bring”
“Impacts of climate change”	“Events such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and other extreme weather events” or “the effects on services, such as disruptions to transport”
“Increased temperature and reduced rainfall in the summer”	“Hotter and drier summers”
“Increased temperature and rainfall in the winter”	“Warmer and wetter winters”
“Micro-climate”	“Climate conditions in a small area, e.g. a town, compared with the climate of a larger area, e.g. a region”
“Mitigation”	“Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow or stop global climate change.”
“Retrofit existing buildings”	“Add to or change features on existing buildings”
“Sustainable drainage systems”	“Drainage systems that reduce flooding and return excess water to rivers, streams and lakes”

2. Give people practical examples of what communities and councils can do to adapt

“There is this incredible inertia amongst the public and we have to get the message across to them.”

Cllr John Connor, Chichester District Council

Councillors come face to face with people less motivated to take action on climate change and who do not consider it a priority. Some people find adaptation a daunting task because they are concerned about its effectiveness and high costs, which are difficult to justify in a recession. By

using examples of adaptation to demonstrate effectiveness and value for money, councillors can get the adaptation message out to the public.

Councillors can speak with more authority and credibility about adaptation by presenting examples of adaptation that have been implemented by councils and communities and the benefits of these adaptation actions. This could encourage communities to change their perception and behaviour. While more research is required into what the most cost-effective adaptation solutions are, there are some good examples of actions already taken by councils and communities to adapt to climate change.

“Until local authorities are actually seen themselves to be making some real initiatives and taking some real steps... it’ll be very hard to push our constituents to do much.”

Cllr Graham Gibbens, Kent County Council

Community and council actions on adaptation

Manage flood risks

Gloucestershire County Council has been actively involved in raising awareness of flood risks so the public can take individual action to adapt. This includes developing a flood information pack, promoting flood defence products and campaigning on specific issues, such as disposing of fat, oil and grease in an appropriate way to prevent clogging up the drains and increasing the risk of flooding.

Somerset County Council is working with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group to plant woodland which will stop water running off the land and prevent flooding.

Prepare for disasters

A research project in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, shows that low-cost retaining walls made with old tyres can effectively prevent landslides during rainy seasons. With less than one-third of the cost of conventional

Diversify crops

retaining walls and a huge supply of disused tyres in the area, a wall was built with tyres packed full with earth. The walls proved successful when they resisted a torrential rainfall and protected hillside slum communities.

To seize the opportunities of a changing climate, Otter Farm in Devon is growing a diverse range of crops from olives and peaches to more traditional peas and asparagus so that whatever the weather conditions, there will always be some crops that will thrive.

Create green space

Manchester City Council planted trees in deprived areas. It also increased the number of green roofs on buildings across the city. The benefits included rain and surface water absorption, reducing the risk of flooding, reflection of heat, and the release of moisture to cool down the city.

Ensure water efficiency

Reigate and Banstead Borough Council and Surrey County Council are involved in a project that aims to reduce water demand in social housing. Water savings are made through changing the features of individual homes, a school and a leisure centre, for example installing sustainable showers and toilets and collecting rain water to use for toilets and washing machines.

Conserve biodiversity

Lancashire County Council's ecology service holds biological data for the area and provides advice on development control and planning matters. The council also maintains a system that manages heritage sites of importance to the habitats, species and geological or landscape features.

3. Use more innovative channels of communication to reach out to the public

The messages on adaptation are not reaching the public, meaning public awareness of this agenda is low.

Councillors are best placed to reach out to the public through their day-to-day contact with them. The use of conventional means of communication such as surgeries, letters, emails, council plans, websites and newsletters may not be enough to reach out to and engage with the public on adaptation. Some groups in the community may not use conventional communications due to a lack of interest or access.

Yet some of these groups may be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and need to know what climate changes might mean for them.

“It’s one thing to have the political aspirations in your plan, but making that work from the ground... is where leadership comes in... it’s our day-to-day contacts that tell the public what their authority is really like.”

Cllr Edward Collicot, Lewes District Council

To better connect with the public and discuss adaptation, councillors could use more innovative ways of communicating. This could be tapping into the fast-growing social media networks such as Facebook or Twitter that are already used by some councillors, or thinking creatively about new forms of connecting with the public.

Getting the message out

Council website, newsletters and emails

Conventional methods of communication are still valuable as they are the first point of call for people who want to find out about council services. For members of the public who use these methods, there are creative ways of building adaptation messages into existing communication channels so people understand how council services are affected by climate change and ways in which they can adapt. For example, information about adaptation could be posted on the back of council tax bills, service notification letters and parking tickets.

Blogging and social networks

Some councillors are using social media by setting up their own blog or joining social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, to engage with a wider group of people. These are effective ways of promoting the work that you are doing on adaptation and linking up with organisations or causes that you support. The benefits include generating an interest around a topic, mobilising groups to take action, connecting with people not usually involved in public consultation and ensuring campaigns are more focused.

Face-to-face contact

Technology can be a cost effective way of reaching out to people but councillors have an innate desire to connect with people through face-to-face contact to build personal relationships and demonstrate commitment to addressing people’s problems. For example, councillors can get involved with local adaptation awareness raising activities and campaigns with local community groups that are already addressing adaptation, such as the Transition Initiative.

Examples of innovative communication

Staffordshire County Council developed an interactive website [OC3 project](#) to direct residents to up-to-date and reliable information about climate change. It outlines the predicted changes to the climate and links to local initiatives and blogs of interest to the public. The website also provides prize-winning games for people to take part and enables people to edit and update the website.

[airAlert](#) is a service that informs vulnerable people, especially those with respiratory problems, of the daily air pollution level so they can make informed decisions before going outdoors. It sends a message through mobile phones, home phones, emails, webpages or RSS feed on computers.

Cardiff City Council, Wychavon District Council and councils in Northamptonshire among others have been involved with organising “flood fairs” for residents and businesses to access advice and information on flooding and flood risk reduction, such as self help flood prevention devices.



IMPROVING YOUR COUNCIL

4. Present a business case to your council to take account of adaptation

As with other decisions in council spending, a business case for adaptation is needed to demonstrate efficiency and justify the council's spending and priorities in times of spending cuts and growing demands on key services.

Adaptation ranks low on many council agendas and is often perceived as dispensable, especially when compared with issues such as social services and housing. However, the reality is that adaptation will have direct impacts on very important council services. There is also an assumption that adaptation is all about managing risks and threats caused by impacts of climate change. In fact, both risks and opportunities need to be understood.

“Perhaps we should be looking to see how we can use this as an opportunity to adapt our services.”

Cllr Anne Hawkesworth, Bradford City Council

Councillors as executive or committee members can work with their officers to present a business case for their council to adapt. For example, identify links between adaptation and existing performance indicators, sustainable community strategies and other local

plans. Portfolio holders for adult social care, children's services, housing, leisure, planning, tourism and transport could present the risks and opportunities of climate change to their services and the council could identify ways to adapt these services to function effectively.

Members of scrutiny committees could also improve council services by carrying out a review of council's preparedness for past and future risks and opportunities.

“There are potential opportunities for local government to improve leisure facilities, to take advantage of climate change and to adapt to deal with extreme rainfall.”

Cllr John Gardner, Stevenage Borough Council

Building a business case for your council to adapt

- **Assess the risks of climate change impacts to decide on the resources that should be used for adaptation.**
- Boost the reputation of your council by entering it into climate change or sustainability awards to be recognised for taking action on adaptation.
- **Carry out a scrutiny and review of your council's preparedness of past risks and opportunities.**
- Conduct a cost-and-benefit analysis of the adaptation action and compare it with the cost and benefits of "business as usual".
- **Identify business and employment opportunities in tourism, agriculture and other local industries.**
- Link the need for adaptation with existing performance indicators, local plans and strategies.

Examples of making the case for adaptation

Climate South West and South West Tourism produced a DVD called 'Changing Climate, Changing Business' that features case studies to highlight practical actions taken by businesses in the tourism industry to adapt to climate change.

Hertfordshire County Council conducted research into the impacts of climate change on health and adult care services. The aim was to understand the risks and vulnerabilities of climate change across the council and to emphasise the importance of adaptation and the changing role of health and adult care services to cope with future changes. This research, among other studies on adaptation, has influenced the council's Corporate Plan 2009-2012 to make climate change a strategic priority.

Kent County Council used the scrutiny approach to get buy-in across the council for climate change adaptation. Select committees were set up for both climate change and flood risk management. This helped increase and embed climate change awareness into the council's processes and planning.

Oxfordshire County Council used the Local Climate Impacts Profile, a tool designed to assess exposure to weather and climate, to work out the cost associated with weather incidents over a decade, estimated to be £16.4 million. The project succeeded in raising awareness of adaptation internally and gathered evidence that the council was vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Even though this figure was a considerable underestimate it lent weight to the adaptation agenda within the council.

The Environmental Management Department in eThekweni Municipality in Durban, South Africa, is working to integrate adaptation into its urban planning process. This involves demonstrating the impacts of climate change on different departments, such as health, tourism, business, water and infrastructure. For example, the health department has been particularly proactive in exploring the impact of climate change on malaria distribution in Durban.

5. Support and encourage partnerships between the council and relevant organisations and businesses to deliver adaptation effectively

It is difficult to deliver on adaptation without shared resources and clear responsibilities and priorities with different partners.

Adaptation is difficult to achieve when working in isolation. For example, flood risk management remains a challenge for many local authorities partly due to a lack of effective partnership working and cooperation with relevant bodies such as water and utility companies. It is widely recognised that partnerships can be very effective at getting buy-in from relevant organisations, developing shared goals and priorities and apportioning funds and responsibilities. This is particularly important in adaptation due to the potentially high costs of the solutions and the cross-boundary and cross-policy nature of some of the climate change impacts.

“We need to work together... we can’t act in isolation.”

Cllr Deborah Urquhart, West Sussex County Council.

important in adaptation due to the potentially high costs of the solutions and the cross-boundary and cross-policy nature of some of the climate change impacts.

Councillors are people from all walks of life with links to community and voluntary organisations, private businesses and other local bodies. As part of their community leadership role, they could improve the council’s work on adaptation by developing these valuable relationships between the council and relevant partners.

Through their decision making and scrutiny role, councillors could encourage more and better partnership work between councils and other organisations so that funds, responsibilities and priorities on adaptation could be distributed more effectively.

Working with others

Businesses

Link with businesses such as supermarkets and utility companies to support communities with little access to services in extreme weather events

Promote opportunities in industries such as tourism and construction to boost local employment and business links

Developers

Set expectations and regulations for new buildings

Government departments and national agencies and bodies

Work with bodies such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and Defra to access the latest information

Coordinate adaptation efforts to minimise costs and maximise efficiency

Highway Agency

Coordinate transport links in extreme weather events and improve the quality of roads to minimise risks

NHS	Ensure the delivery of health services in extreme weather events to vulnerable people and those living in remote areas
Regional bodies	<p>Work with the RDA and the Regional Assembly and to provide support for businesses and communities to achieve sustainable economic development, such as attracting global investment for environmental products and services and promoting tourism</p> <p>Tap into the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships for government funding and resources for skills development in adaptation</p> <p>Work with the Regional Climate Change Partnerships to develop integrated responses to the impacts of climate change and raise awareness of the risks and opportunities</p>
Schools	Raise awareness among children on adaptation by setting up youth councils or running activities such as board games, radio shows and theatres
Third sector organisations	<p>Coordinate relief efforts during extreme weather events</p> <p>Disseminate and target information on risks and opportunities and adaptation solutions to specific groups of the community, especially to vulnerable people</p>

Examples of partnerships

The Manhood Peninsula Partnership was initiated by residents of Chichester to bring together bodies and organisations to look at adaptive ways to address the impacts of rising sea level. With West Sussex Councillor Peter Jones as Chair, the partnership brings together 10 organisations including Chichester District Council, West Sussex County Council, the Environment Agency, the Peninsula Community Forum and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to jointly bid for national and European funds, develop local projects and support local initiatives such as improving drainage systems.

Lincolnshire County Council through its Local Strategic Partnership formed the Lincolnshire Environment and Climate Change Action Partnership (LECCAP) to deliver climate change adaptation measures. LECCAP produced and influenced a range of work including coastal management initiatives, Catchment Flood Management Plans, Water Cycle Strategies and green infrastructure projects.

A project in flood prone areas of Mozambique helped raise awareness of flood risks among children, one of the vulnerable groups most likely to be affected. Using board games, radios and theatres, children were provided with useful information in a fun and accessible way about impacts of flooding and ways to cope with the problems.



USEFUL INFORMATION

Information on adapting to climate change

- [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#)
- [Nottingham Declaration](#)
- [UK Climate Impacts Programme \(UKCIP\)](#)
- [UK Climate Projections 2009 \(UKCP09\)](#)

Guides to understanding climate change

- [Adaptation and resilience](#), LGiU, 2009 (for LGiU members only)
- [Climate change controversies: a simple guide](#), Royal Society, 2008
- [No nonsense guide to climate change](#), Verso Books, 2001
- [Preparing for climate change — guidebook for Local, Regional, and State Governments](#), The Climate Impacts Group, King County, Washington, and ICLEI — Local Governments for Sustainability, 2007
- [The new Copenhagen climate deal — a pocket guide](#), WWF, 2009
- [The Psychology of Climate Change Communication](#), Centre for Research on Environmental Decisions, 2009
- [The rough guide to climate change](#), Rough Guides, 2008
- [Understanding climate change — glossary](#), UK Climate Impact Programme
- [What do the latest climate projections mean for you?](#) LGA, 2009,

A business case for adaptation

- [Adapting Institutions to Climate Change](#), Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, 2010
- [Assessing the risks of climate change: financial implications](#), Association of British Insurers, 2009
- [Changing Climate, Changing Business DVD](#), South West Climate Change Impacts Partnership and South West Tourism (DVD available online)
- [Future proof: preparing your business for a changing climate](#), CBI, 2009

Practical examples of adaptation

- [Adapting to Climate Change: Local areas' action](#), CAG Consultants' publication, June 2009 (publication available online)
- [Database of local coping strategies](#), UNFCCC website
- [Local authorities – case studies](#), UK Climate Impact Programme
- [Local Government Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit](#), Cities for Climate Protection Australia Adaptation Initiative, ICLEI, 2008
- [Flooding case studies](#), IDeA, 2010

Social media

- [Local Government 3.0: How councils can respond to the new web agenda](#), LGiU, 2009
- [Social media networking](#), IDeA, 2010
- [Social Media: youth participation in local democracy](#), LGiU, 2009 (£10)



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Last but not least, special thanks to the elected members who have taken part in the LGiU adaptation roundtable and the Climate Ready Learning Network discussions. This publication is informed by ideas and the issues raised at these meetings.

Elected members

Cllr Martin Veal
Cllr Guy Jackson
Cllr Anne Hawkesworth
Cllr Michael Ellis
Cllr David Myers
Cllr Lady Kay Fisher
Cllr Stan Hepstinstall MBE
Cllr John Connor
Cllr Dr Stuart Anderson
Cllr Les Ames
Cllr Bob Parker
Cllr Jonathan Wallace
Cllr Ken Thornber
Cllr Graham Gibbens

Council

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Blaby District Council
Bradford City Council
Bradford City Council
Breckland District Council
Breckland District Council
Broxtowe Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Dorset County Council
East Hertfordshire Council
Gateshead MB Council
Hampshire County Council
Kent County Council

Cllr Tim Ashton
Cllr Edward Collicot
Cllr Peter Burgess
Cllr Brian Morrey
Cllr Emma Dewinton
Cllr Ian Hudspeth
Cllr Michael J Brown
Cllr David Bard
Cllr Tim Wotherspoon
Cllr John Gardner
Cllr Stuart Bodsworth
Cllr Carol Coleman
Cllr John Sandy
Cllr Deborah Urquhart
Cllr Angela Harvey
Cllr Frank Pearson
Cllr Anthony Blagg
Cllr Anna Mackison

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South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Stockport MB Council
Surrey County Council
Waverley Borough Council
West Sussex County Council
Westminster City Council
Winchester City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Wychavon District Council

Author: Joyce Lee, policy analyst, LGiU's Centre for Local Sustainability

The LGiU is the largest, most influential think-tank and representative body operating in the space between Town Hall, Whitehall, Westminster and communities. Now in its 27th year, the LGiU continues to make a significant impact on public policy.

Our mission is to strengthen local democracy. Four policy centres—Service Transformation, Local Sustainability, Local Democracy and Children's Services — ensure that the LGiU's focus is on how councils and partners can deliver positive results and genuine impact for empowered communities.

The LGiU's Centre for Local Sustainability helps councils to better manage local resources; these resources can be environmental, social or economic. The Centre provides briefings and advice on climate change, waste management, green space, biodiversity, water quality, air quality, transport, planning, rural sustainability and sustainable economic development. The Centre for Local Sustainability works in partnership with government agencies and the private sector to join up policy and ensure that local government fully contributes to the development and implementation of sustainability strategies.

Centre for Local Sustainability at

LGiU

22 Upper Woburn Place
London WC1H 0TB
020 7554 2800
info@lgiu.org.uk
www.lgiu.org.uk

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