



# UK Climate Change Act (2008) and Adaptation Reporting Powers

Tuesday, 04<sup>th</sup> December 2018



## UK – Climate Change Act (2008)

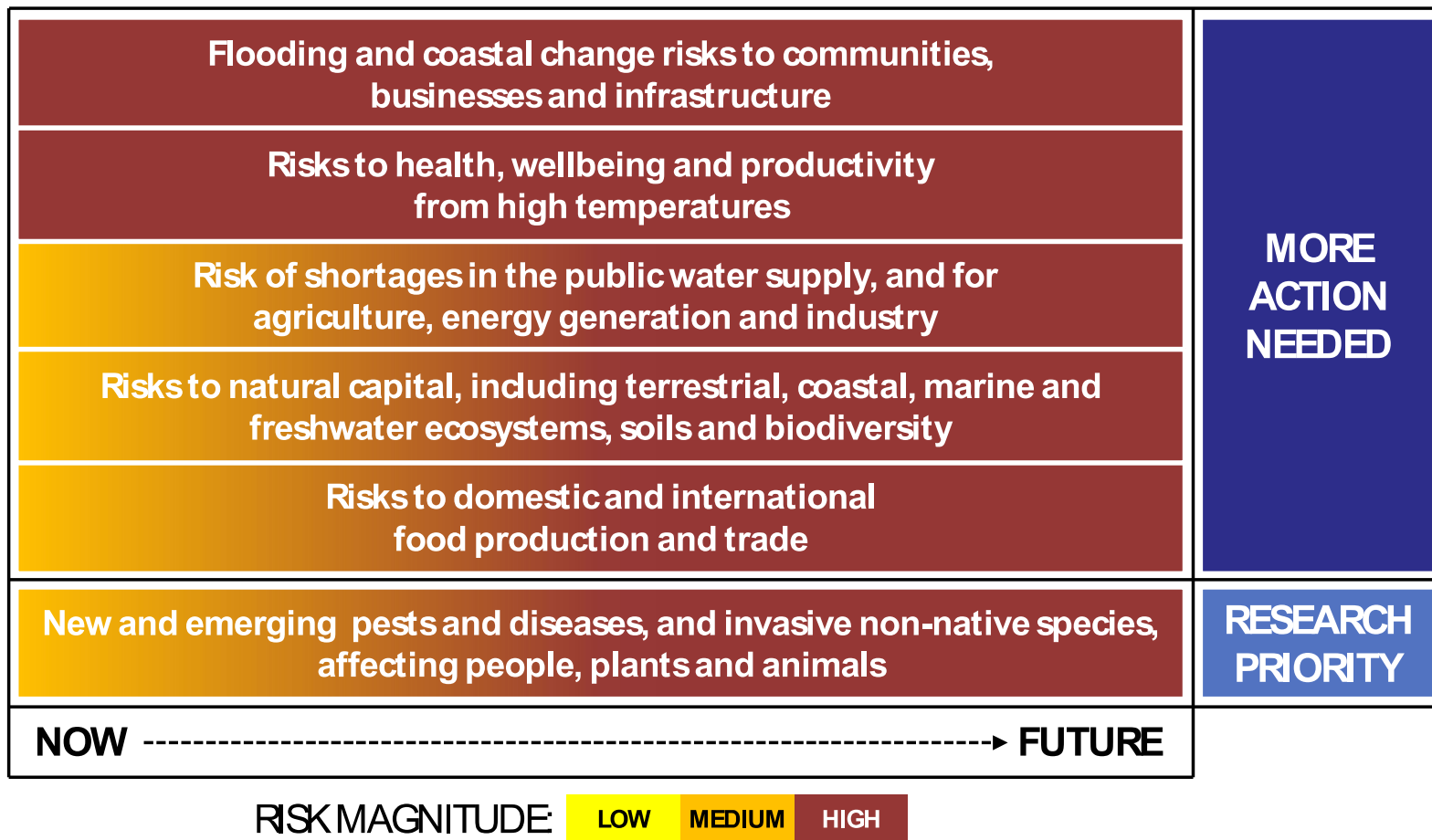
- Includes both adaptation and mitigation
  - Part 4: Impacts of and adaptation to climate change
- Adaptation is a devolved function – Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, and actions for Northern Ireland and Wales
- Established a Climate Change Committee with an Adaptation Subcommittee
  - To provide independent advice to the government on climate risks and opportunities
  - To report to Parliament on progress in preparing for climate change
- Requirement to produce a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment every five years (latest 2017)
  - Questions are set by government
  - includes working with the Devolved Administrations

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/about/>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/584281/uk-climate-change-risk-assess-2017.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/584281/uk-climate-change-risk-assess-2017.pdf)



The government endorsed in January 2017 the ASC's six priorities for the second National Adaptation Programme





# UK – Climate Change Act (2008)



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

## The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting

**Making the country resilient to a changing climate**

**July 2018**



## National Adaptation Programme (2<sup>nd</sup> released July 2018)

- Strategy for adapting both to the climate change that we are already seeing, and that which we might see in the future
- Focus on a set of actions government and others will be undertaking over the next five years to address the most urgent risks (link to CCRA) – includes a detailed action log
- Natural environment, Infrastructure, people and the built environment, business and industry, and local government
- Aim: to make the country more resilient to climate change

Objective	Key actions and progress milestones	Timing	Monitoring and Metrics	Owner
<p align="center"><b>Chapter 6: Local Government</b></p> <p>NB. We have not identified actions and progress for the Local Government sector with the relevant 56 risks set out in the Climate Change Risk Assessment, as per other sectors. Local authorities cover a large number of areas in the provision of their services, which are cross cutting, and it would be logistically difficult to make the links.</p>				
<p>Planning for and implementing climate change adaptation at local government level, and addressing relevant priority climate change risks affecting the sector, with government and local government working together.</p> <p>This will embed into activities undertaken by local authorities in the course of fully discharging their duties so that they can support and protect local communities.</p>	<p>In line with the 25 Year Environment Plan, Defra will facilitate partnership working by developing 14 local natural capital plans from existing Area Integrated Plans. Local natural capital plans will be co-designed and delivered by organisations in the area whose actions already impact upon the environment. This will rely on the organisations identifying shared priorities and coordinating activity to address them.</p>	Commencing summer 2018.	<p>We will develop a set of performance metrics to make sure we are delivering on the goal of mitigating and adapting to climate change. This will be part of a national picture on delivering on the 25 Year Environment Plan.</p>	Defra
	<p>The government, informed by advice from local government delivery partners, will ensure that, where a case is made, government legislation, policy and programmes are joined up to continue to enable and support councils to build resilience to the impacts of climate change through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ undertaking over the remainder of 2018 a scoping exercise of both gaps and opportunities for wider join up, evolution of the policy and the legislative landscape to support local and local government delivery;</li> <li>□ developing a prioritised set of policy or legislative focus areas and map these to existing areas, such as planned consultations;</li> <li>□ developing, where needed, new interventions to influence, or shape, and how and by who these will be progressed; and</li> <li>□ agreeing a deliverable programme of work linked, as appropriate, to wider key groups and networks, including outside the Local Government sector.</li> </ul>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Spring 2019</p>	<p>Investigation of other city reporting mechanisms (Carbon Disclosure Project/Compact) and international or national standards. There are valid and local reporting and evaluation frameworks, for example Leeds City Council monitors progress against climate change adaptation actions through its environment programme board.</p> <p>Joint working to understand an efficient, effective and more consistent approach to monitoring and how this could operate within cities and the Local Government sector more widely.</p>	Defra, Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, Local Government Association (LGA), Association of Directors Of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT), Core Cities.





# Adaptation Reporting Powers

Adaptation Reporting Power was introduced as part of the Climate Change Act (2008).

- Seeks to ensure that statutory undertakers (such as water, energy, and transport organisations) and bodies which perform public functions are addressing current and future climate impacts.
- Reports should therefore set out to include:
- An assessment of current and future impacts of climate change on their organisation; and
- Proposals for, and progress made towards, adapting to climate change

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/climate-change-adaptation-reporting-second-round-reports>

Two rounds of reports are available online



# Adaptation Reporting Power

- Strategy for first use of its power in 2009
  - Statutory direction for priority infrastructure operators and on a voluntary basis for a number of public bodies
- Second strategy for ARPs in 2013
  - Completely voluntary
- Third strategy for ARPs in 2018
  - Intend to pursue reporting on the basis that:
  - It continues to be voluntary and in line with the reporting requirements under the ARP
  - Primary objective is to support integration of climate change management within organisations
  - Secondary objective – process lends to support national and sectoral assessment of preparedness and feeds into the Adaptation Sub Committee's reports to parliament



## Local Authorities and ARPs

### Consultations on Third Round ARP (2019-2021)

- A number of individuals and organisations when responding to the consultations pressed the importance of local government councils involvement in reporting
- UK Government did not extend the reporting to include local governments
  - Mindful of the need to minimise burdens to local councils in the context of their current responsibilities for addressing climate risks.
  - Recognised that many councils are already taking action on adaptation and did not see a need to mandate them to report which would be in addition to their other reporting responsibilities





# Local Governments in the UK

## Challenges:

- Resources squeezed due to pressures on local budgets
- Resilience projects – focus on flood risk management, and tend to address immediate issues
- Relative priority of climate change in the land-use planning system
  - Land-use planning and building controls are crucial in shaping local action to prepare for climate change

## UK cities pressing ahead with action on climate change

- Cities can play a key role in developing and implementing climate change programmes because they are located at the interface of local action and national and international level climate change adaptation (and mitigation) commitments
- Ensure urban centres can manage climate change impacts – ensure our cities are healthier and more sustainable places to live.
- Flood risk management, sustainable transport, water efficiency, green infrastructure, energy efficiency and use of low-carbon energy.
- The Committee on Climate Change (Adaptation Sub-Committee) – define expected long-term climate change outcomes for cities



# Reasons for concern in UK cities

## Flooding

- Sewer networks lack sufficient capacity to cope with the heavier rainfall that climate change is expected to bring, and new building developments are adding to this risk by increasing the flow of water into the sewerage system
- Number of vulnerable properties is increasing five times faster than measures are being fitted

## Overheating

- Around 2,000 heat-related deaths occur each year in the UK and this is projected to increase to 7,000 by 2050
- To increase resilience as well as provide additional benefits to health and biodiversity, the UK's urban greenspace needs to increase.

## Infrastructure

- Aging and vulnerable infrastructure (transport, digital and ICT, energy and water) requires attention, particularly consideration of dependencies and interdependencies

## Health and wellbeing

- Capability of health and social care systems need to be enhanced as changes in climate are projected to increase demands



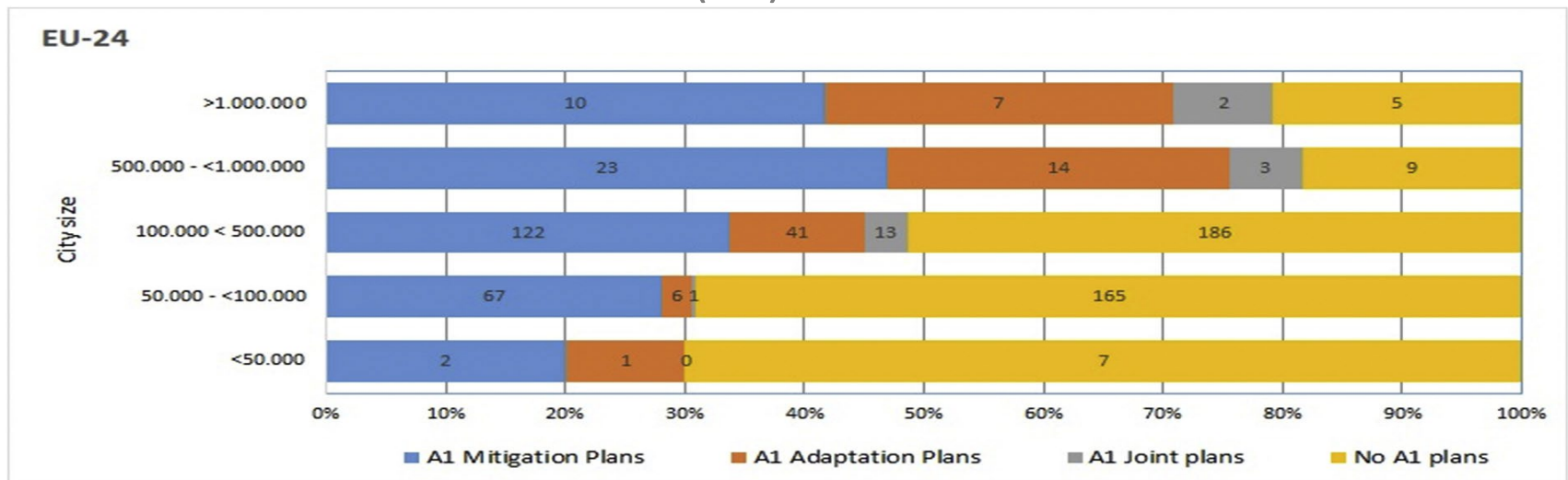
# Cities are Preparing and Responding

Reckien, et al. 2018

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0959652618308977?via%3Dihub>

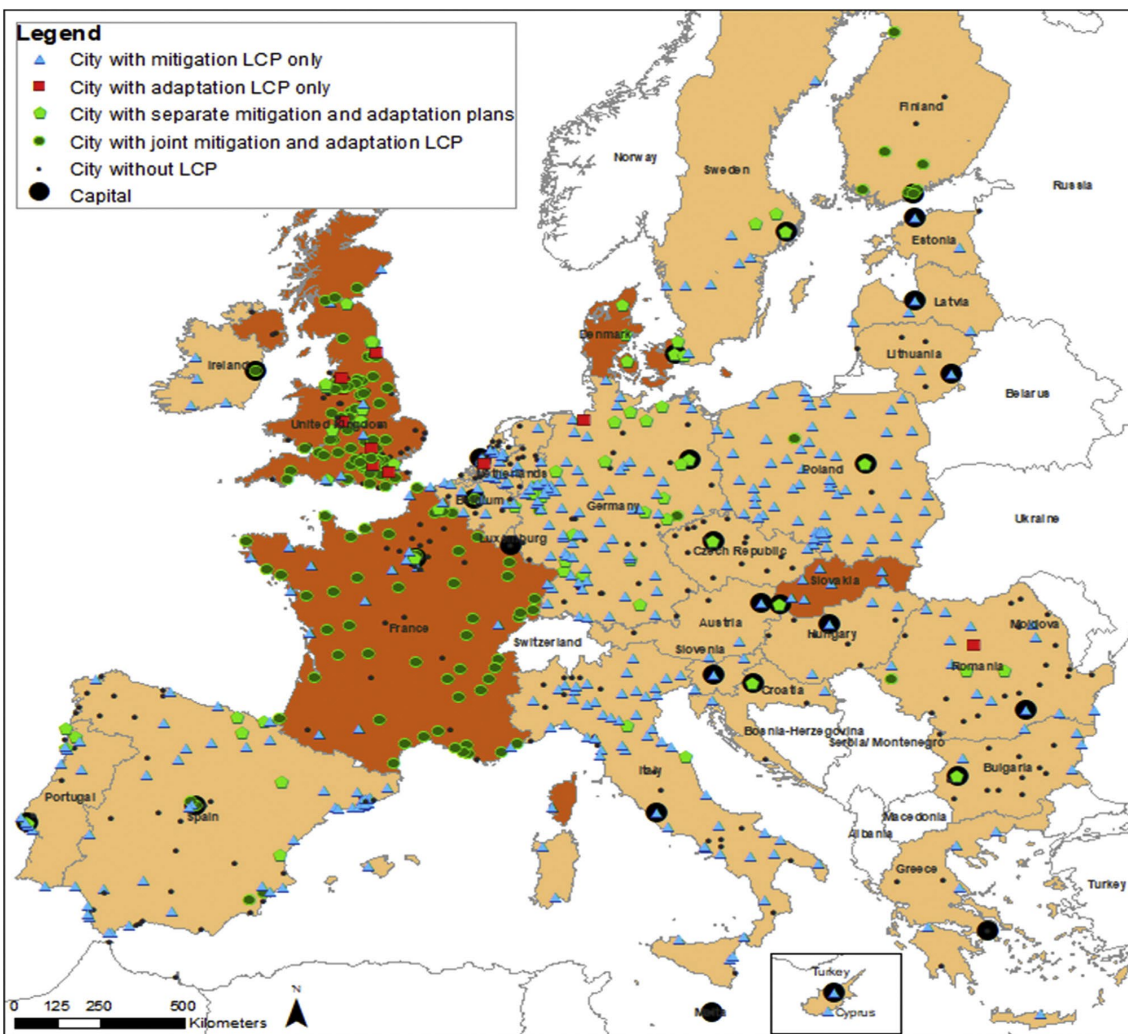
Recent analysis of state of local planning for climate change across 885 urban areas of the EU-28

- Alignment with spatial (local, national and international) and other climate-related policies
- Three types of local plans: Autonomously produced plans (A1); produced to complying with national regulations (A2); and produced for international networks (A3)





# Cities are Preparing and Responding

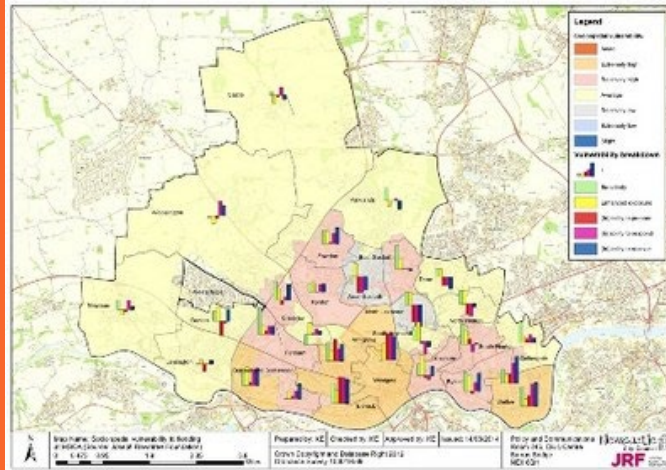


- 26% have an adaptation plan and 17% a joint adaptation and mitigation plan
- 33% lack any form of stand-alone local climate plan
- Cities in countries with national climate legislation (Denmark, France, Slovakia and UK) are twice as likely to produce local adaptation plans





# Newcastle upon Tyne, UK



## Key vulnerable sectors:

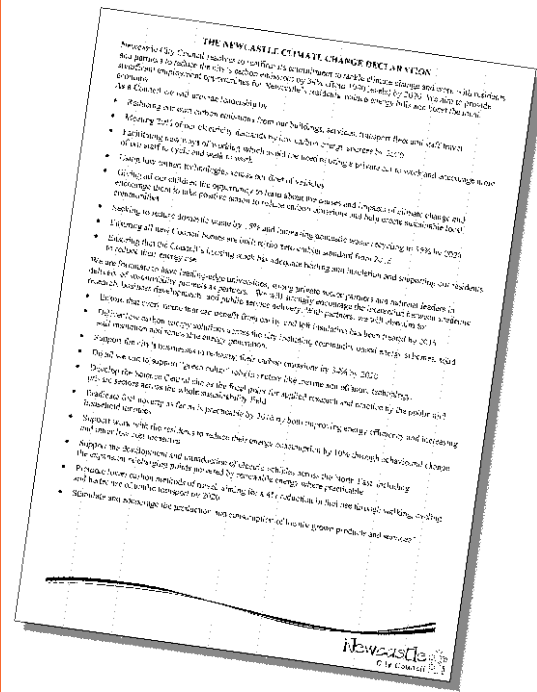
- Urban areas, buildings, biodiversity, financial, energy, health and transport

## Climate change impacts:

- Extreme temperature, ice and snow, flooding and storms

## Early work in 2010

- Assess impacts and vulnerabilities associated with historical weather events, raise awareness of adaptation potential, establish a practitioner network and gather evidence
- Draft work programme layout out priority actions – Built environment, infrastructure, healthy and resilience communities, businesses and council services







## Adaptation in Newcastle, UK

The City Council is undertaking a range of actions to adapt the City to these changes. These include:

- Understanding how climate change could affect our services and revising plans in response
- Assessing how climate change will affect major developments and ensuring they are resilient to future climate through local plan policies
- Delivering major projects to reduce risks of flooding
- Pledge on Blue and Green Cities, with our partners - to increase the amount of water features, and green walls, roofs and space in the City as an effective way to tackle flooding, prepare for a changing climate and deliver extra benefits.
- Advising residents on actions on their own properties to help reduce flood risk
- Building residents' and organisations' capacity to prepare, respond, and recover in extreme weather
- Working with other cities to improve our plans

[https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wwwfileroot/environment-and-waste/climate-change-and-energy-saving/bluegreencities\\_pledge\\_signed.pdf](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/sites/default/files/wwwfileroot/environment-and-waste/climate-change-and-energy-saving/bluegreencities_pledge_signed.pdf)



# Adaptation and Cities

- Adaptation is best delivered through an effective partnership engaging governments at all levels (national, sub-national and local), businesses and industry, communities and individuals
- Choices about adaptation and mitigation made today in cities will have a long-lasting impact for decades and centuries to come.
- Avoiding negative lock-ins and catalysing positive ones will require strategically planned action that is embedded alongside other urban development processes, and sustained through continuous review and evaluation of risks and opportunities.
  - Limited understanding of lock-in risks and opportunities represents a considerable gap in our knowledge
  - Implications of lock-ins are exacerbated by rapid urbanization in many regions and the urgency of climate action to meet the Paris Agreement and national goals
- Interdisciplinary research is urgently needed to better understand the nature and extent of adaptation options, including in the context of dependencies and interdependencies of risks and adaptation actions
- Innovation is needed to develop new tools and business models that will enable adaptation planning in cities and more importantly, their implementation of the resulting plans