

Corporate Governance Committee

23rd July 2021

Corporate Risk 9.4

Environment & Transport

“If climate change impacts happen more frequently or at a greater intensity than anticipated, then there is the risk that County Council services will be negatively affected”

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- To give an update on this risk in light of 3rd National Climate Change Risk Assessment for UK (June 2021)
- To update on how this risk is managed and the provisional recommendations for reducing this risk

- Committee on Climate Change's 3rd Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3) published 16 June 2021
- 61 risks assessed including risks to biodiversity / habitats, infrastructure and key services e.g., Social Services

Conclusions

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- Climate Change is here, already dangerous and will get worse
- UK needs to prepare for coming changes to protect people, economy and the environment
- Most risks “high”
- 8 need urgent attention

- Global heating to hit +1.5°C (above pre-industrial) between 2030 - 2052 at current rates - and may continue to +2C or more by end of century (IPCC 2018)
- On average hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters
- More extremes:
 - more summer heatwaves / hot spells
 - heavier summer downpours causing flooding
 - heavier Autumn rain
 - local extremes
 - no persistent snow by end of 21 Century (most of UK)



- Committee on Climate Change: 8 high priority risks for government action in next 2 years, including:
 - Impacts on nature, farming and forestry
 - Supplies of food, goods and services
 - Power system failures – due to storms, flooding, lightning
 - Health and productivity impacts from overheating in buildings
- Many relevant to County Council
- More work needed to assess detailed implications for Council

Met Office probabilistic projections for Leicestershire, 2050s compared to 1990s (high emissions scenario)

50% chance of summers on average **>2C** warmer;
hottest day over **2C** warmer than previous maximum

10% chance of summers on average **3C** warmer;
hottest day over **4C** warmer than before

Winter rainfall in county **most likely** to increase by **less than 10%** - but 10% chance of winter rainfall increase being over 30%

- Estimated cost to County Council of weather-related incidents (mainly high winds and excessive rainfall) 2000-2010:
£5 million (i.e. £500K per year) – (Source: LCLIP)
- Environment Team working to acquire current data
- **Highways Maintenance** indicative costs 2020-21 (excludes Winter Maintenance team):

Flooding	£70,481
High Winds	£1,064
Winter - Daytime treatment	£39,353
Grand Total	£110,899

- Climate Change Risk Assessment in place since 2009 (LCLIP)
- Last reviewed in 2015/16
- Current review due for completion by Autumn 2021
- Covers high-risk services:
 - 1) Critical Services (Business Continuity):**
 - a) Primary support (to community) e.g. Adults & Communities, Waste Management
 - b) Secondary support (to services) e.g. Property Helpdesk, ICT
 - 2) Long-term infrastructure asset management**
 - a) Property Services
 - b) Highways
 - 3) Resilience assurance**
 - a) Planning
 - b) Business Continuity
 - c) Flood Risk Management Team

- Interviews with key officers
- All services – risks to in-house services, procured services and knock-on / dependency effects
- Infrastructure services - specific risks
 - **Highways:** risk to bridges, drainage, green infrastructure etc
 - **Operational Property:** risks to building operation / maintenance e.g. overheating, flooding
 - **Strategic Property:** risk that commissioning fails to account for climate change

- Most services well-prepared for short-term emergencies
 - Business Continuity plans in place and managers aware; supported by Business Continuity Team
 - Flood response partnerships well-developed; flood planning / advice takes climate change into account; however flooding impacts data not readily accessible
 - Adults and Communities: heatwave plan linked to national alerts
 - Children and Families: risk assessment in development
 - Limited discussion of climate change impacts on weather related risks, with exception of flood risk
- Covid response – helped some resilience aspects e.g. ICT, Property Helpdesk
 - More flexibility, better comms
 - But **increased dependence** on ICT infrastructure

- Highways - **Draft** findings
 - Assessment still underway
 - Asset management approach (inspections etc) in place for all assets (e.g. bridges)
 - Three potential high risks:
 - **Core policies and strategies:** climate change & adaptation discussed in LTP3, limited mention elsewhere
 - **Drainage assets:** incomplete knowledge of legacy network – flooding / damage risk very uncertain
 - **Analysis of weather impacts:** need to develop process for analysing trends working with the Environment Team

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- Property - **Draft findings**
 - Assessment still underway
 - Inherent risks to Property are high, esp. flooding (this is well addressed) and overheating (less evidence of consideration)
 - Potential high risks:
 - **resilience to climate change not addressed in key policies and strategies** (Strategic Property Services) ↗
 - **overheating risk seen as low priority** (Strategic and Operational Property Services)
 - Other risks “medium” but need vigilance e.g. ensuring investment buildings are resilient, developing water resources strategy etc.

- Full report going to Environment Strategy Delivery Board in September
- Provisional recommendations
 - Development of a council and county wide Climate Change Adaptation & Resilience Strategy
 - Better align with National Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Programme
 - Services to address high risks identified
 - Explore how high-risk service areas can maintain their own detailed risk assessments in future
 - Consider amending risk statement to reflect need to respond to **existing** and future risk

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