

# Corporate Governance Committee

## 23<sup>rd</sup> 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”

**Joanna Guyll**

**Assistant Director Environment & Transport**



- 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
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>£110,899</b>

- 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

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- 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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