

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

11 August 2022

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber and remotely via Microsoft Teams on Thursday, 11th August, 2022 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **UK Shared Prosperity Funding Investment Plan for NI**
3. **Dublin - Belfast Economic Corridor (Pages 1 - 4)**
4. **Presentation from KPMG to update Members on BCC's Climate Change Risk Assessment (Pages 5 - 22)**



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Update on Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor
Date:	11 August 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Enterprise and Business Growth Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a progress update on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) and work on a development plan, strategy and action plan to deliver on the partnership's objectives.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Members of the Committee are asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report and progress to date to develop the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>At CG&R 12 January 2022 Members were provided with an update on progress to support the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor including progress on the creation of a development plan and ongoing work on developing a strategy and action plan. Members noted the progress to date and endorsed the developmental plans of the partnership.</p>
3.2	<p>Since the last committee update the Development plan for the partnership has been completed. The strategy and action plan will be finalised in September 2022. Belfast City Council continues to act as lead partner on contract management alongside a project steering group made up of partnership representatives. The work to date has made a number of recommendations to support the ongoing development of the partnership including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A phased development timeline up to 2030. In the short term from 2022-2024 priorities include set up of initial partnership personnel, consideration of legal structures, and identification of funding options. DBEC should remain an informal partnership model in the short term, together with an MOU, with a view to exploring independent legal status for the partnership in the future. This will be funded initially through council contributions. DBEC should be established with a bottom-up governance structure, largely based on the current existing structure. This includes a board of 12 growing to 16 in the long term to include private sector representatives. The partnership should be housed at a single location with staff and resources to lead and manage delivery of the partnership aims. Key areas of focus should include Research and Development, Trade and Investment, Skills and Infrastructure and Connectivity.
3.3	<p>Stage 2 includes the development of a strategy for the partnership. The strategy aims to articulate a vision for the partnership to enable sustainable economic growth across the region. This part of the project will undertake a review of the economic context and key emerging work areas at a local and regional level and their potential to impact the region, and assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to achieving sustainable</p>

	economic growth across the region. This will provide an evidence base for action, identifying areas of focus for the partnership to address future opportunities and address any gaps in existing provision.
3.4	Stage 3 includes the development of an action plan. This aims to build on the foundations of the development plan and strategy. This piece of work will prioritise key areas of work for the partnership aligned with the key thematic areas to 2030. The action plan aims to clearly define the role of DBEC and other partners in delivering key actions and will identify new areas for collaboration, it will also identify potential opportunities to access funding and resources to deliver on the objectives of the partnership.
3.5	All stages of this work have been informed by extensive stakeholder engagement including workshops with DBEC partners and one to one meetings with stakeholders and strategic partners.
3.6	It is expected that the final draft of the development plan, strategy and action plan will be presented to the members of the political advisory group for consultation and feedback. The meeting will take place at the end of September, date to be confirmed.
3.7	Based on the recommendations of the development plan it has been agreed that a dedicated resource is put in place to support the delivery of the strategy and action plan for the partnership. This resource will include two dedicated positions which will be located in Newry and Mourne District Council as they are currently hold the chairing role, the positions will be responsible to the partnership. It is intended that the recruitment process will commence in August with the staff being in place by November.
3.8	In tandem with work on the development plan, strategy and action plan officials from partner councils have continued to identify collaborative opportunities, in addition to engaging with external stakeholders to further the aims of the partnership. Belfast City Council officials have met with representatives of Special EU Programmes Body, Intertradelreland, the Irish Government's Shared Island Unit, in addition to a range of business representative organisations to identify joint interventions and potential opportunities to access funding.
3.9	In June 2022, the partnership applied to the Irish Government's Shared Island Local Government Development Fund for funding to conduct a feasibility study on regional

	innovation centres. This funding is aimed at supporting cross-border local authority partnerships develop proposals for joint capital projects.
3.10	Belfast City Council have also partnered with Dublin City Council and Cork County Council to make applications for grants under this fund. The application with Dublin City Council is in relation to the circular economy and with Cork on Harbour facilities. These applications are being evaluated and allocations are expected to be announced in August.
3.11	The Peace Plus programme has also been identified as a potential source of funding relevant to the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. In particular Theme 2, Delivering Economic Regeneration and Transformation and Theme 6, Building and Embedding Partnership. Funding calls under these thematic areas are expected to open in the Autumn. The DBEC partnership are currently scoping out potential collaborative initiatives that would align with these thematic areas under Peace Plus, in preparation for funding calls.
3.12	Members will be updated with further progress on the strategy and action plan at a later date.
3.13	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The activities outlined within this report will be resourced from the 2022/23 Enterprise and Business Growth budget. Applications for grants under the Shared Island Fund do not require a matching financial contribution from council's, however, in-kind staff time will be required.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure consideration is given to equality and good relation impacts throughout the delivery of this project.</p>

Belfast City Council: Climate Change Risk Assessment

11th August 2022

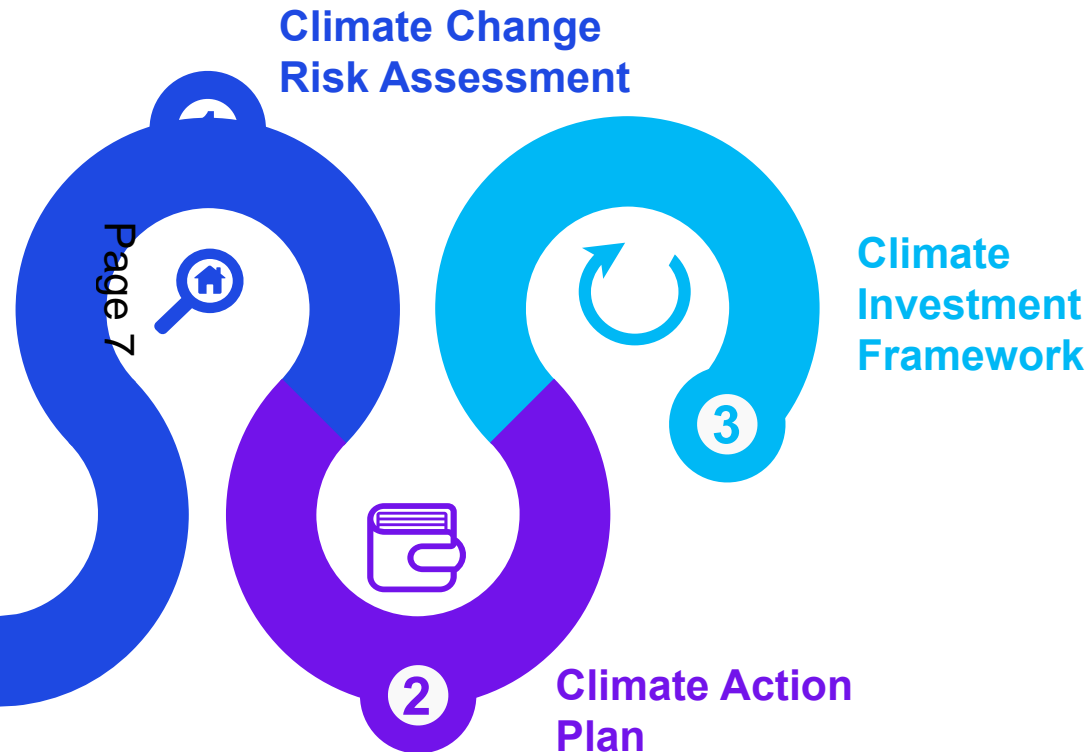
Presentation to Climate and City Resilience Committee

01

Introduction

Introduction

KPMG are working with Belfast City Council (BCC) on three individual but integrated projects which aim to develop a robust and costed Climate Action Plan for Belfast City Council



- ✓ **Climate Risk Assessment (June – August 2022)**
 - ✓ Identify key risks
 - ✓ Assess the magnitude of climate risk for the Council's assets, supply chains, infrastructure
 - ✓ Recommended actions
- ✓ **Climate Action Plan (August – October 2022)**
 - ✓ Identify and prioritise climate actions that are feasible, impactful and cost effective
 - ✓ Prepare a Climate Action Plan
 - ✓ Develop a comprehensive monitoring, learning and reporting framework to track progress
- ✓ **Climate Investment Framework (October – November 2022)**
 - ✓ Identify funding opportunities and develop a delivery plan to secure funding

02

Climate Change Risk Assessment: Overview and Progress to date

Northern Ireland's and Belfast's Changing Climate

0.8°C

Average temperatures increase for the most recent decade when compared to a 1961-1990 baseline.

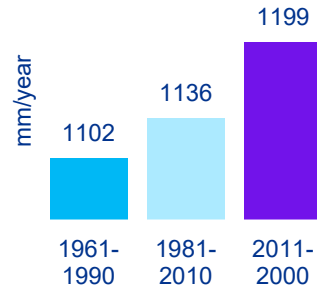
31.3°C

Highest temperature on record recorded on July 21st 2021 at Castlederg, Tyrone

(Source: UKCP18; ClimateNI; DFI)

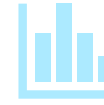
Rainfall

Average annual rainfall has increased by 7% for the most recent decade when compared with the 1961-1990 baseline.



58mm (2.3 inches) of rain fell in 90 minutes in Central Belfast on July 28th 2000

Sea level Rise



Sea levels around the UK have risen by 16.5 cm since 1901 with rates of rise accelerating in recent decades

For Belfast harbour, the 5 highest tidal surges have been recorded since 1994.

Large proportions of Belfast City Centre are between 1 and 2m below extreme tide level.

6,000 properties currently considered at significant coastal flood risk.

Impacts for BCC



Damage to BCC infrastructure and assets



Disruption and closure of services

Disruption of business-critical infrastructure



Safety risk for staff and public

Redeployment of staff as part of emergency response



Financial loss

Reputational risk

And these changes are projected to continue and intensify

A greater chance of hotter drier summers and warmer wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels.



By 2070, winters are projected to be up to 3.9°C warmer while summers could be up to 4.9°C hotter

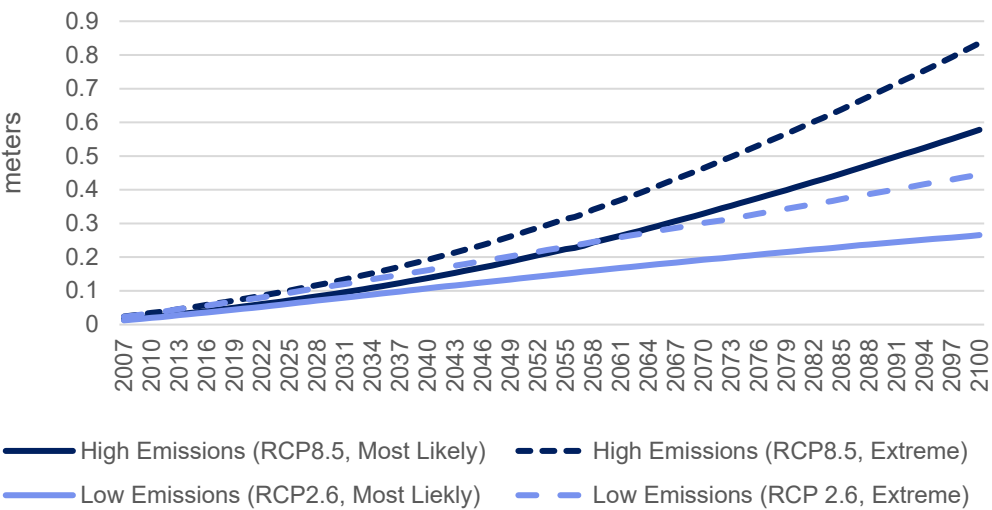


By 2070, winters are projected to be up to 25% wetter while summers are projected to be 38% drier



By 2100, sea levels are projected to rise by up to 94cms

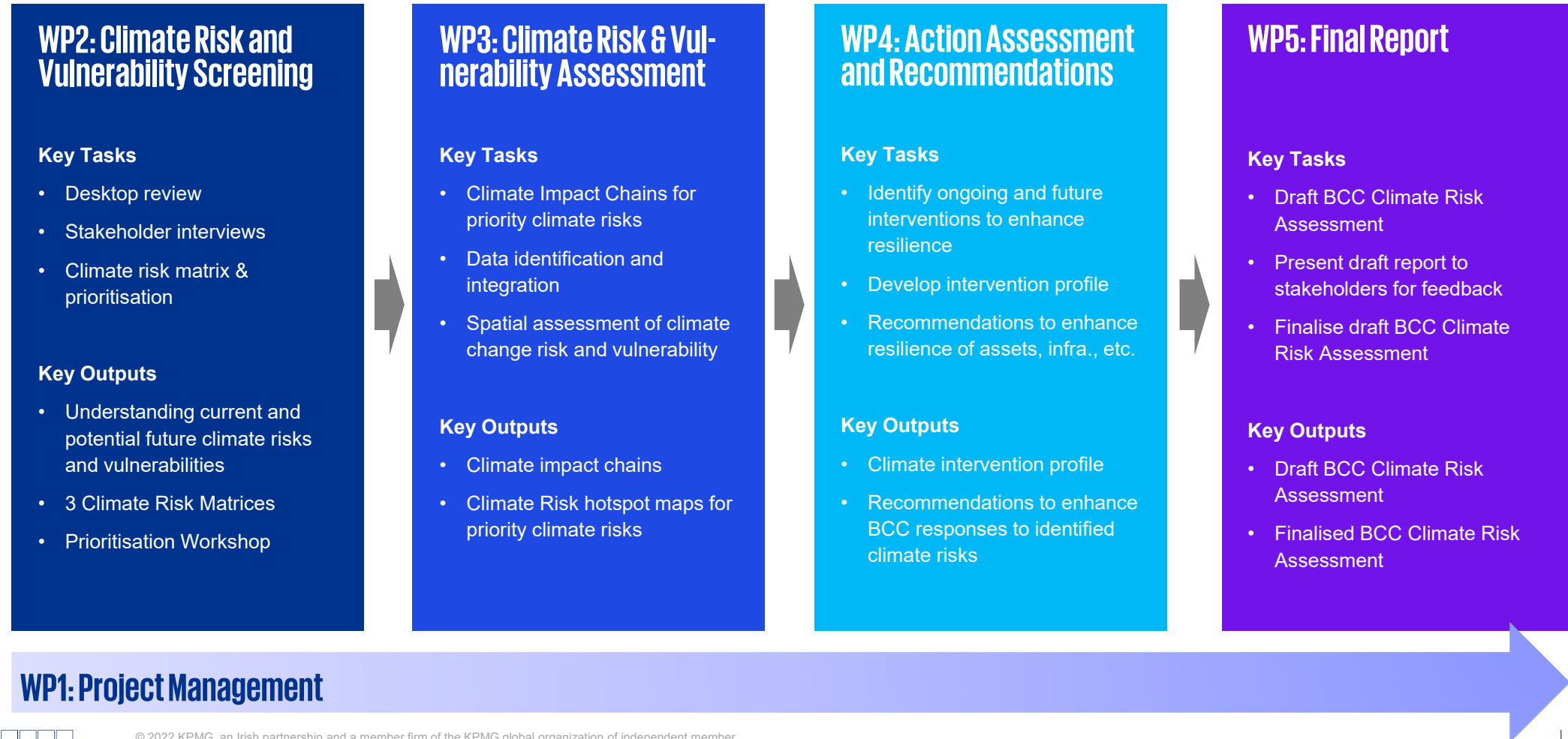
Projected Sea Level Rise For Belfast Harbour
(Relative to 1981-2000)



(Source: UKCP18 Probabilistic Projections)

Work Packages

The project is structured around 5 individual but interconnected Work Packages (WPs), the following diagram sets out the proposed Work Package (WP) structure for the project.

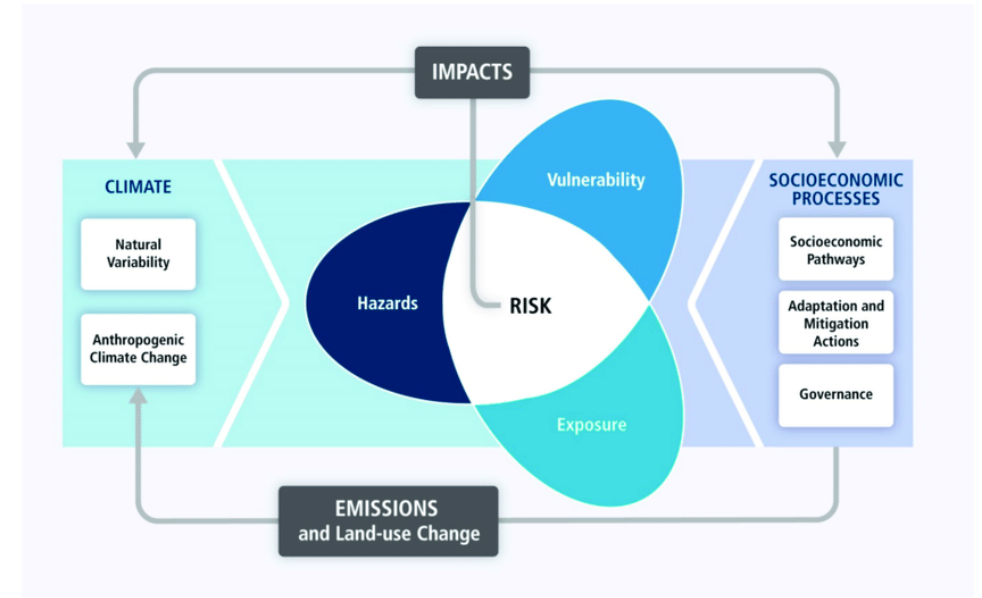


Aims and Objectives

The Climate Change Risk Assessment of Belfast will:

- Identify and assess key climate risks and vulnerabilities for Belfast City Councils' assets and infrastructure.
- With this enhanced understanding of climate change risk, assess the efficacy of existing interventions to offset current climate change risk and to provide for resilience in the medium to short term.
- Make recommendations to enhance the resilience of BCC to current and projected future climate impact risks.

In assessing climate change risk for Belfast, we have adopted the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Climate Risk Assessment Framework which identifies three key components of climate change risk (Hazard, Exposure, and Vulnerability).



Hazard: potential source of climate-related harm, i.e. damage or loss of property.



Exposure: presence of people, livelihoods, environmental services and resources, infrastructure, or economic and social or cultural assets in places that could be adversely affected.



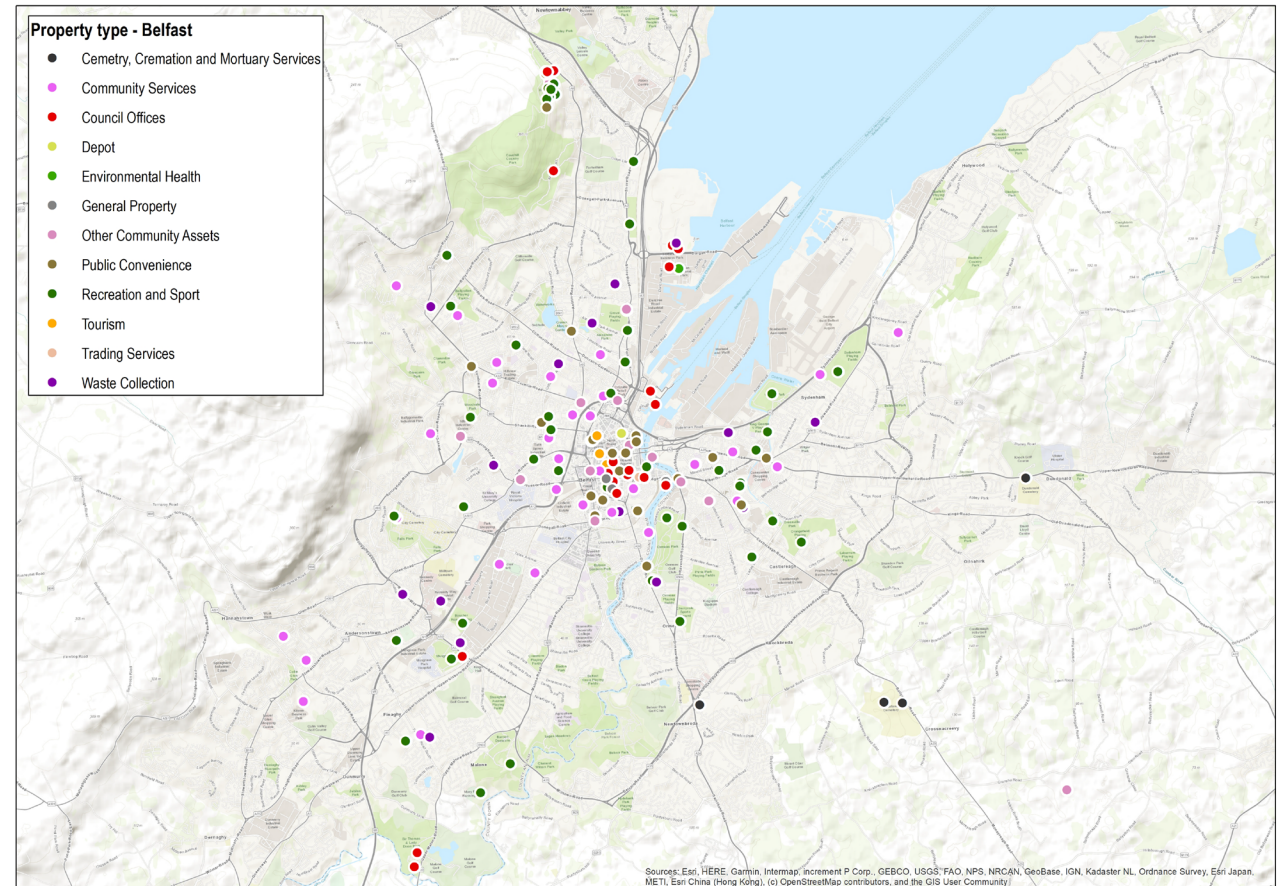
Vulnerability: propensity / disposition to be adversely affected.

Focus of Assessment

The Climate Change Risk assessment has a specific focus on BCC assets, infrastructure and people.

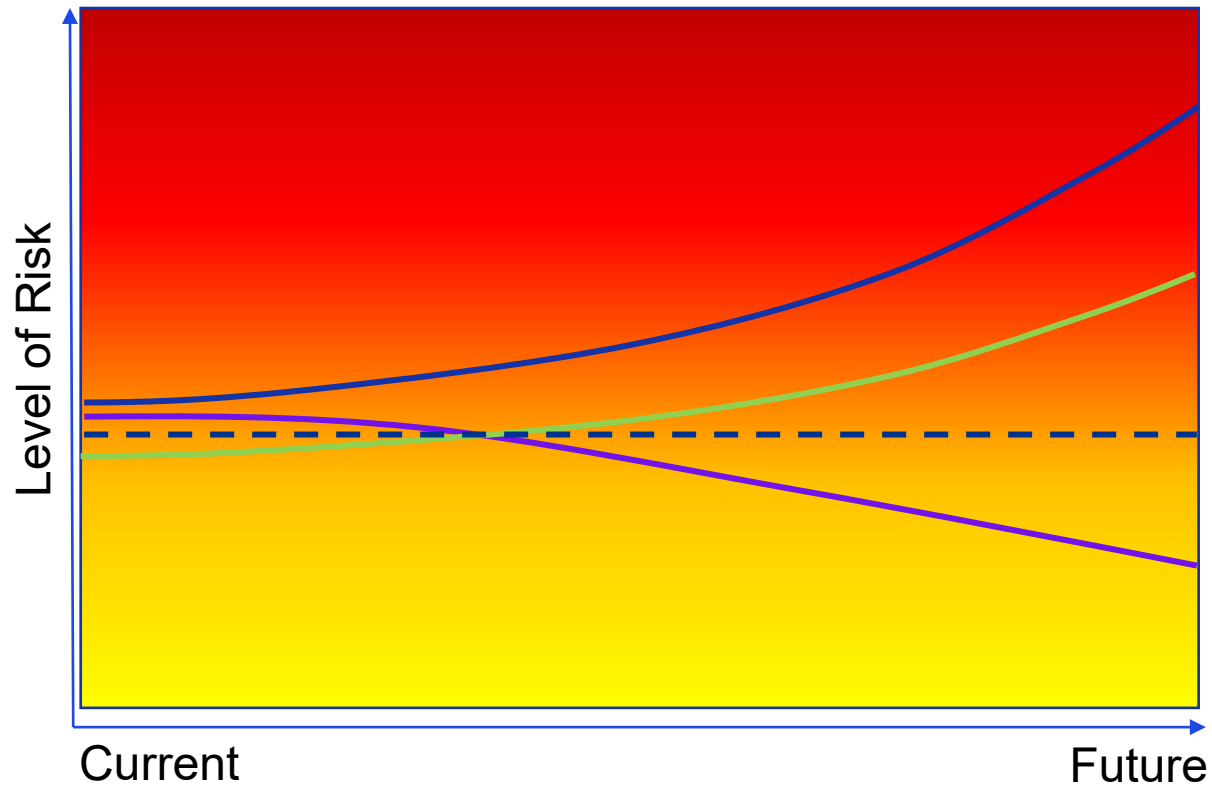
Assets and Infrastructure have been grouped into the following categories:

- Cemetery, Cremation and Mortuary Services
- Community Services
- Council Offices
- Depots
- Environmental Health
- General Property
- Other Community Assets
- Public Convenience
- Recreation and Sport
- Tourism
- Trading Services
- Waste Collection



Current and Future Climate Risk Profile

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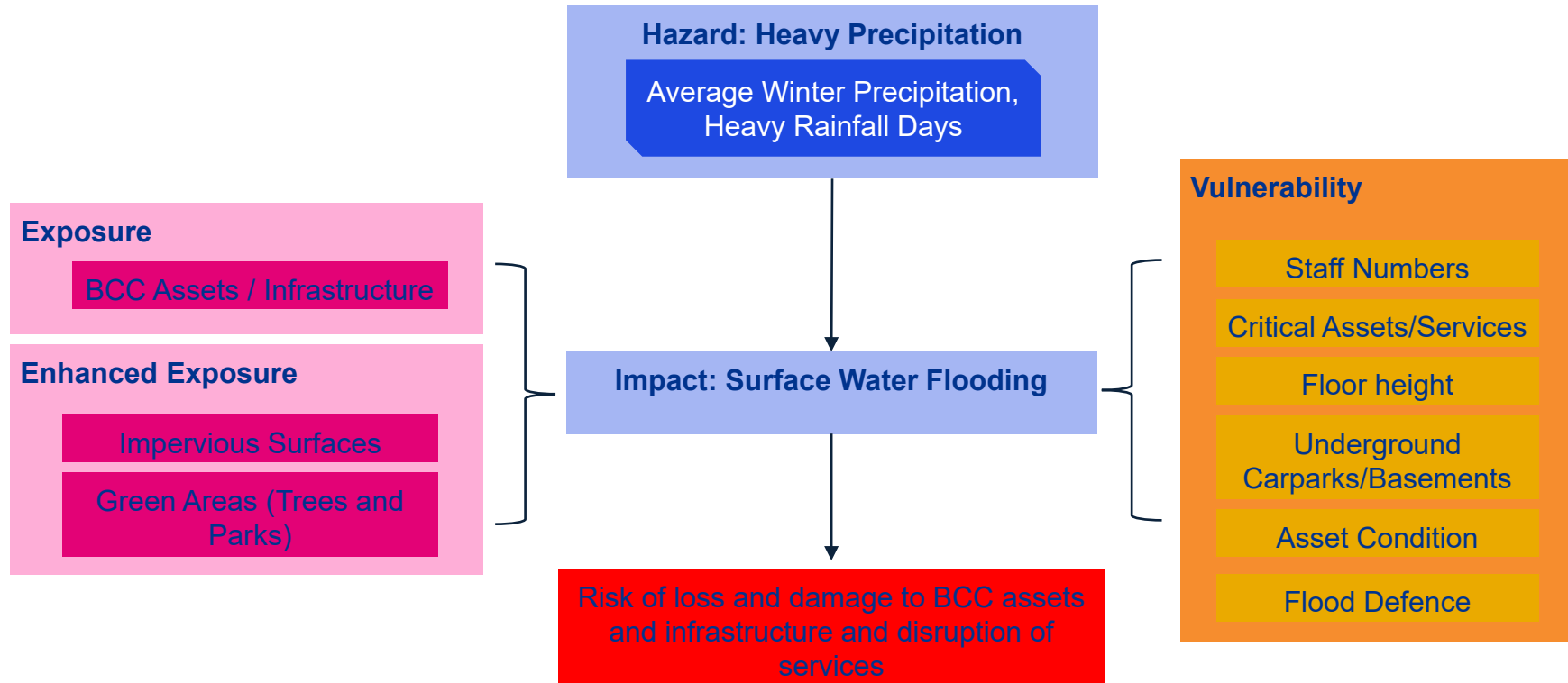
Current climate related risks (e.g. **coastal and surface water flooding**) are **projected to increase** as a result of projected changes in climate parameters and future development pathways (e.g., urbanisation)

Projected changes in climate parameters (e.g., average and maximum temperatures) and development will result in **new and emerging climate- related impacts and risks** (e.g. heat-related risks).

Current climate related risks are **projected to decrease** (e.g. cold related morbidity and mortality) as a result of projected changes in climate parameters and future development pathways

Risk Assessment Procedure – Surface Water Flooding

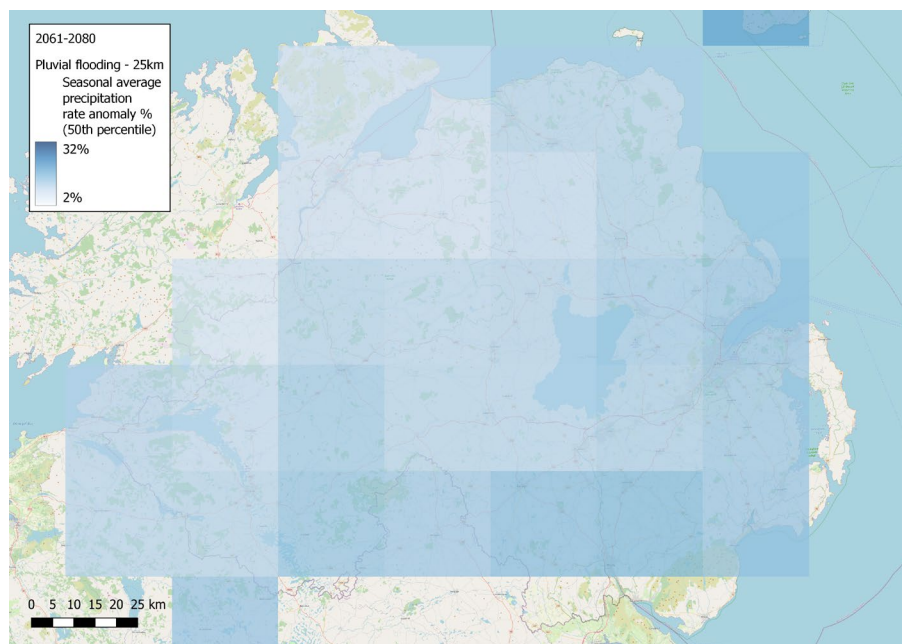
Risk Statement: Projected increases in the frequency of heavy precipitation events leading to surface water flooding of BCC assets and infrastructure resulting in increased costs and disruption of services.



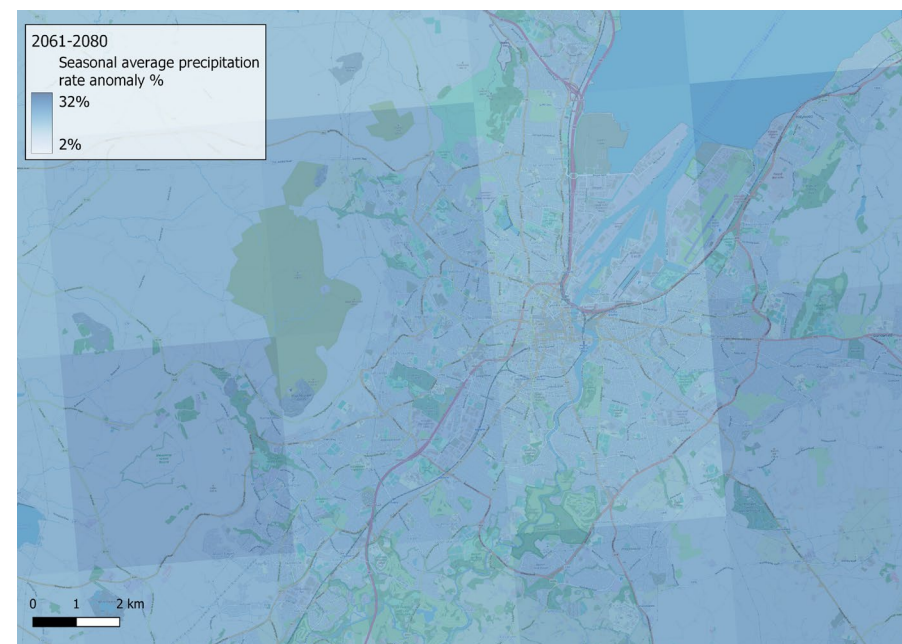
Risk Assessment Procedure – Surface Water Flooding

Our approach employs the most up-to-date climate projection data for Northern Ireland and Belfast. We assess projected changes in the key drivers of climate risk for both high (RCP8.5) and low (RCP2.6) emission scenarios and the period 2021-2041 and 2061-2080 (with reference to 1981-2000). We employ both UKCP18 Probabilistic (25km²) and Local Projections (5km²).

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Projected changes in winter precipitation for Northern Ireland for an RCP8.5 scenario and the period 2061-2080 (source: UKCP18 Probabilistic Projections, 50th percentile)

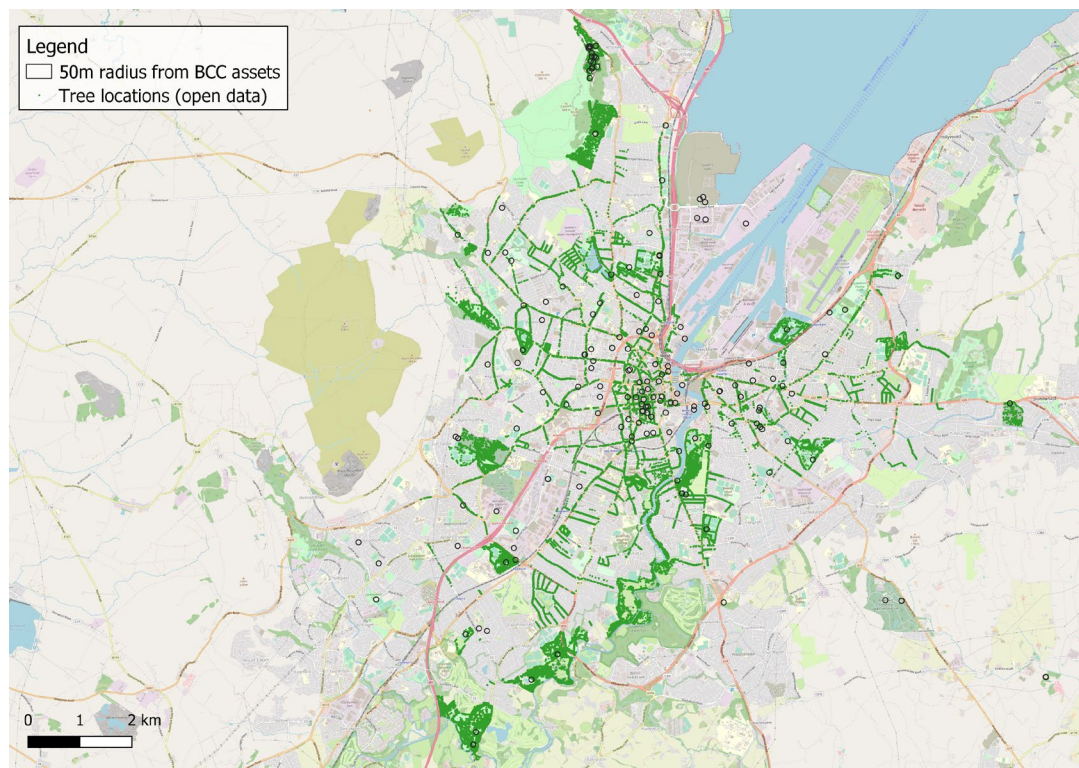


Projected changes in winter precipitation for Belfast for an RCP8.5 scenario and the period 2061-2080 (source: UKCP18, Local Projections, Ensemble Median)

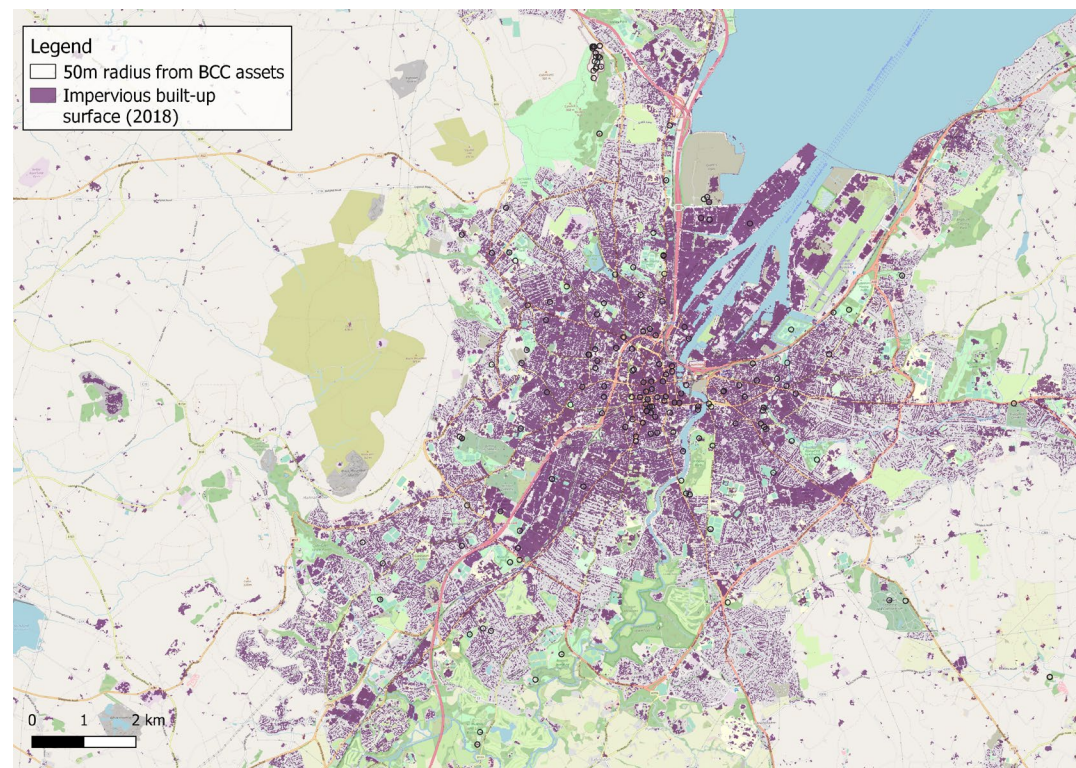
Risk Assessment Procedure – Surface Water Flooding

To further understand the level of exposure of BCC assets and infrastructure, we have employed environmental data to assess factors that can enhance exposure to pluvial flooding. Examples of datasets that assess how environmental conditions can serve to enhance exposure to climate risk are provided below.

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Trees serve to decrease exposure to extreme heat and provide for areas of reprieve (Source: BCC Open and Linked Data)



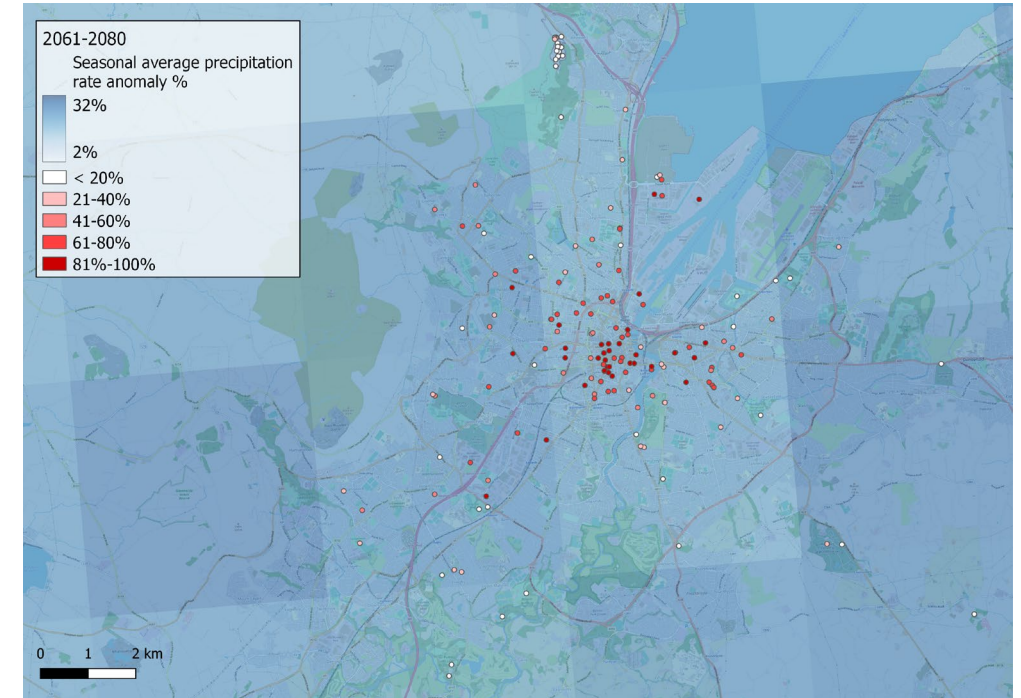
Impervious surfaces serve to exacerbate flood risk by increasing overland flows and causing pooling (Source: Copernicus Land Monitoring Service)

Assessing Surface Water Flooding – Exposure and Hazard

We combine information on projected changes in hazards, exposure to hazard and vulnerability to provide assessments of climate risk on a spatial basis and on a site basis.

ID	Belfast City Council Asset	% impervious surface within 50m	2021-2040 precip. rate anomaly (%)		2061-2080 precip. rate anomaly (%)	
			Median	2nd highest	Median	2nd highest
1	AGNES ST CIVIC AMENITY SITE	80.0%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
2	AGNES ST PUBLIC CONVENIENCE	77.6%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
3	ALBERT CLOCK	68.8%	3.83	11.99	16.88	24.63
4	ALBERT SQUARE PUBLIC CONVENIENCE	81.0%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
5	ALDERMAN TOMMY PATTON MEMORIAL PARK - BOWLING PAVILION	0.0%	4.79	12.97	17.27	25.99
6	INVERARY COMMUNITY CENTRE	18.4%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
7	ALEXANDRA PARK RECYCLING CENTRE	40.5%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
8	ANDERSONSTOWN LEISURE CENTRE	53.2%	5.01	10.94	20.87	24.67
9	ANTRIM RD AUTOMATED PC	22.8%	6.34	10.51	20.05	29.48
10	ARDOYNE COMMUNITY CENTRE	74.0%	6.53	11.10	20.62	25.76

For a sample of BCC assets, the table provides data on % of impervious surfaces with 50m of the asset and projected changes in average winter precipitation for RCP8.5 and the periods 2021-2040 and 2061-2080. Projected changes are with reference to the 1981-2000 period and refer to the median and 2nd highest value of the local projection ensemble.



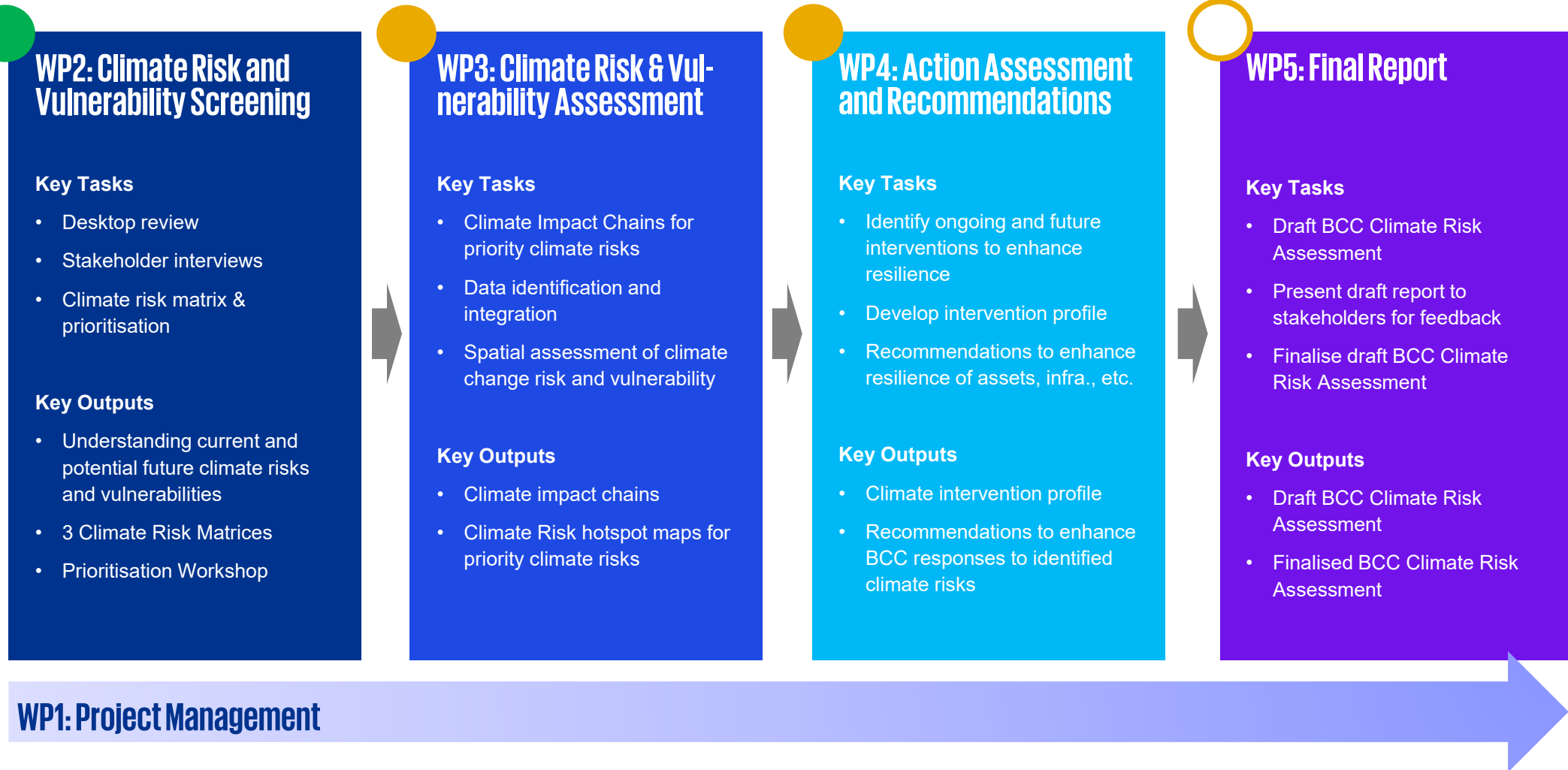
Projected change in average winter precipitation for RCP8.5 and the period 2061-2080. BCC assets are also depicted and characterised according to % of impervious surfaces within 50m of the asset location.

04

Next Steps

Work Packages

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