



<b>Subject:</b>	Public Body Reporting – Adaptation Report
<b>Date:</b>	16 April 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Mura Quigley, Adaptation and Resilience Advisor Claire Shortt, Monitoring, Learning and Reporting Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To inform members of the requirements for the Council’s Climate Adaptation Report that was submitted to DAERA by the statutory deadline of 31st March 2026.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. that the Council is required to submit an adaptation report 31st March 2026 covering a 4 year period from 1st Jan 2026;</li> <li>II. that the contents of the report must outline the current and predicted climate change impacts in relation to the Council’s functions i.e. a climate change impact assessment along with the Council’s adaptation targets and priority actions;</li> </ul>

	<p>III. that the priority actions are based on the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes 2 and 3, the Council's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and any additional adaptation work taking place across Council;</p> <p>IV. That all actions submitted in the report are outlined below;</p> <p>V. that the adaptation report was submitted to DAERA on the mandatory deadline of 31st March and is attached as an appendix to this report.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In June 2024 members were informed of the Public Body Reporting Requirements under the NI Climate Act 2022. Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 requires DAERA to make new Regulations, which will place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies. The regulations came into operation in early May 2024, 21 days after they were laid in the Assembly. The first report required under the regulations, the mitigation report was submitted to DAERA in October 2025. The Council was required to prepare and submit an adaptation report for submission by 31st March 2026.</p>
3.2	<p>The first adaptation report must cover the 4 year period beginning 1st January 2026 and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an assessment of the current and predicted impact of climate change in relation to the organisation's functions; and</li> <li>• the proposals and policies for adapting to climate change in the exercise of its functions, along with implementation timescales.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>The second and subsequent reports are required every 5 years and will include an assessment of the progress the body has made towards implementing the proposals and policies set out in any previous climate change adaptation reports.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Report Contents</b></p> <p>The adaptation report includes information under six headings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Part 1:</b> Profile – information about the organisation.</li> <li>▪ <b>Part 2:</b> Governance – what governance structures exist in Council to manage adaptation, strategies and plans that integrate adaptation planning and what objectives relate to it.</li> <li>▪ <b>Part 3 – Impacts:</b> the Council's climate risk assessment including the methodology and findings.</li> <li>▪ <b>Part 4 – Actions:</b> the Council's adaptation targets and priority actions and how this relates to the NICCAP.</li> <li>▪ <b>Part 5 – Case Studies:</b> inclusion of up to 5 case studies that illustrate best practice being undertaken by Council.</li> <li>▪ <b>Part 6 – Validation and Authorisation:</b> validated findings (i.e. through peer review or external experts) and authorisation of the plan with the relevant decision makers within the organisation.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p><b>Part 3 – Impacts</b></p> <p>The <b>Impacts</b> section sets out the various climate risks and opportunities work completed by the Council to date including the development of climate risk register in 2022 and the assets-based risk assessment in 2023.</p> <p>The climate risks for the Council include:</p>

- 11 risks under flooding
- 8 risks under extreme heat (including urban heat island effect)
- 5 risks under storms
- 4 risks for extreme cold
- 4 risks that are linked to global and city-wide factors

Each of these risks have been assessed and given a risk score in terms of their likelihood and impact, determined through engagement workshops with departments in 2021-2022.

#### **Part 4 - Adaptation Actions**

3.6 The following adaptation actions have been included in the submission:

#### **Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 2 (2 actions)**

- 3.7
1. In bringing forward their Local Development Plans, Councils will take account of climate change adaptation considerations as indicated in the Strategic Planning Policy Statement.
  2. Embed adaptation planning cycle across local council planning.

#### **Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 3 (16 actions)**

- 3.8
3. Preparation of a Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action Plan for Belfast City Council
  4. Belfast Community Planning Our Planet Board
  5. The UPSURGE project testing nature-based solutions
  6. Belfast Sustainable Food Programme
  7. Belfast Tree Strategy (formerly Preparation of an iTree Eco Report for Belfast)
  8. Develop a baseline of Climate Impacts on Finance Councils will create a climate impact 'tagging' system, to create a baseline of financial impacts on council business operations from severe weather events. This will complement existing Met Office information gathering on non-financial impacts of weather events.
  9. Councils will be delivering at least the first iteration of a climate adaptation action plan, linked to a regularly reviewed risk register, in alignment with public body reporting duties brought forward by DAERA.
  10. Corporate Risk and Adaptation - Climate change adaptation will be embedded in each council corporate plan, recognising the challenges of increasing climate impacts over coming decades.
  11. Work with sustainable food places partnerships/communities to develop initiatives which enable more local food growing and community-owned food partnerships.
  12. Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) will have widened its remit to consider the promotion and development of societal resilience.
  13. Regional Community Resilience Group will continue to work with communities impacted by flooding;
  14. Councils will ensure that any sustainability/net zero procurement screening includes climate adaptation considerations, to take advantage of co-benefits, ensure consistency and avoid unintended consequences;
  15. Councils will ensure local development plans demonstrate how climate adaptation considerations will be embedded in all approval decisions, recognising increasing climate impacts over coming decades;

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16. Local Development Plans will specify that developments are designed using the most up-to-date floodplain definitions from DfI, and councils will publish figures of how many approvals are granted by exception annually;
17. Councils will collaborate through the community planning partnership to undertake work on how adaptation relates to community planning;
18. Green and Blue Infrastructure targets are set by councils to ensure places and people are well informed and more resilient to more intense and frequent flooding and heatwaves.

**BCC Climate Action Plan (13 actions)**

19. Initiate a series of building-level Climate Risk Assessments for buildings identified at most risk from extreme weather events;
20. Integrate climate risk scores identified in the CCRA into the BCC Asset Management system and utilise to identify areas for more detailed Climate Risk Assessments on priority sites/buildings and new developments;
21. Raise awareness of nature-based solutions (NbS) as a resilience measure;
22. Develop plan to identify, assess, develop and maintain and enhance existing nature-based solutions for climate resilience;
23. Invest in projects that aim to increase resilience and mainstream nature-based solutions;
24. Apply SUDs policy and guidance (SUDS Manual C753) as standard practice in the Capital Programme;
25. Start to deliver the Tree Establishment Strategy and continue the One Million Trees Programme (linked to action 7);
26. Develop a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents to support a transition to an inclusive, net zero and resilient future.
27. Establish an internal Council governance structure that supports sustainable food – potentially reporting to the Climate Programme Board;
28. Develop a sustainable food policy for the Council that addresses waste, sourcing, packaging, emissions measurement and an events protocol;
29. As part of the development of a sustainable/ low carbon procurement policy and supplier guidance documents, include sustainable food requirements such as Veg City, Soil Association's bronze catering mark and the Cool Food Pledge into food provided within Council's estate;
30. Explore the potential and feasibility of increasing the no. of climate friendly meals sold within the Council estate.
31. Develop and launch an accessible climate data platform to track progress on delivering climate adaptation and mitigation actions.

3.10

**New Actions in 2026 (3 actions)**

32. Deliver the Nature in Towns and Cities Project
33. Deliver the Belfast Alleyways Programme
34. Develop a City Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

3.11	<p><b>Part 5 – Case Studies</b></p> <p>The Council is also required to publish <b>case studies</b> demonstrating adaptation action across the Council. These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Belfast Tree Strategy</li> <li>2. Local Development Plan</li> <li>3. Nature in Towns and Cities &amp; Alleyways</li> <li>4. Belfast Sustainable Food Programme</li> <li>5. UPSURGE</li> </ol> <p>The content of these case studies has been developed by the relevant departments across council responsible for delivering them.</p> <p>Full details of the submission are available in Appendix 3 and 4</p>
3.12	<p><b>Part 6 – Data Validation</b></p> <p>This section verifies and confirms data is validated and approved under the relevant governance structures of Council.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>
4.1	<p>Many of the actions identified are already resourced and underway. However, there are a number of actions in NICCAP 3 that when published will require a resource and action owner to be identified in Council and a monitoring plan developed. These will come forward within the annual planning cycle for the Council’s CAP which will be included in each corporate planning cycle up to the end of the reporting period which is December 2029.</p>
5.0	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</b></p>
5.1	<p>Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council’s screening process.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Appendices</b></p>
6.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">The list of 40 public bodies that are required to report under the Act.</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Climate change Act 2022 (section 42)</a></li> <li>3. Draft Adaptation Report Presentation to include impacts, risks, actions and case studies.</li> <li>4. <a href="#">Submitted Adaptation Report to DAERA</a></li> </ol>