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Cabinet

17 March 2026

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change - Councillor J' O'Boyle

**Director approving submission of the report:**

Director for Regeneration and Economy

**Ward(s) affected:**

All

**Title:** Coventry Climate Adaptation & Resilience Plan (2026 – 2030)

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**Is this a key decision?**

Yes

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**Executive summary:**

The impact of more extreme weather is being experienced both in the UK and globally, with the last year recorded as the hottest on record, and more frequent incidents of flooding and stronger storms. In Coventry we can expect to face further significant changes in the weather over the coming years with an increasing incidence of extreme weather events. The Met Office projections show that the region will face warmer wetter winters and hotter drier summers with declining levels of annual rainfall leading to lower levels of water availability. This has the potential to impact on our residents, businesses, services, infrastructure and natural environment. Some of the key risks the report highlights relate to food security, flooding of key infrastructure, homes and businesses and impacts of reduced water supplies, alongside public health risks due to high temperatures and poor air quality.

The Council have worked with consultants and partner organisations to develop an Adaptation and Resilience Plan for Coventry to better understand key risks and vulnerabilities. An action plan has been developed in response to this, and whilst the Council has a key role to play in its implementation, a citywide partnership approach has been taken, which include actions for partner organisations. Not all climate risks can be mitigated; in some areas we need to adapt to changes already happening to increase preparedness and impact. This report sets out the findings of this Plan, which is proposed to be adopted to support future policy development, and business, service and resilience planning and delivery.

## **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the adoption of the Coventry Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to ensure that this is a key consideration as part of Council policy development, service delivery and business continuity planning.
2. Endorse that the Council continues to work in collaboration with partners (through the city's Climate Change Board), wider stakeholders, businesses and communities to support delivery of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Action Plan. This includes seeking solutions and the necessary resources to address the identified risks from the increasing incidence from extreme weather events for the health and wellbeing of the population, the environment and the local economy.

## **List of Appendices included:**

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Coventry's Adaptation and Resilience Plan Executive Summary

Appendix 2 – Equalities Impact Assessment

## **Background papers:**

None

## **Other useful documents:**

UK Climate Risk Independent Assessment (CCRA3-1A) Technical Report  
Introduction June 2021

[Technical report \(CCRA3-1A\) - UK Climate Risk](#)

A Summary of Climate Change Impacts in the West Midlands Combined Authority  
Area Nov 2022

[A Summary of Climate Change Impacts in the West Midlands Combined Authority  
Area](#)

WMCA Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs) Nov 2022

[Microsoft Power BI](#)

Mapping Climate Risk and Vulnerability in the West Midlands Nov 2024

[WM-CRVA methodology\\_guidancedoc\\_v1.0.pdf](#)

Coventry Climate Change Adaptation Report Round 4 (ARP4) Dec 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-adaption-reporting-fourth-round-local-authority>

Climate Change Adaptation Report Round 4 (ARP4) Dec 2024  
[Climate Change Adaptation Report Round 4 – Coventry City Council](#)

Local Authority Climate Service Portal 2024  
[Local Authority | The Met Office climate data portal](#)

Just in Case: narrowing the UK civil food resilience gap February 2025  
[The report - Food Security](#)

Climate Change Committee Progress in Adapting to Climate Change April 2025  
[Progress in adapting to climate change – 2025 report to Parliament](#)

Duties and Powers for Local Authorities in the UK to Adapt to Climate Change CAG Consultants Report to the Climate Change Committee Nov 2025  
<file:///C:/Users/CVBRE408/OneDrive%20-%20Coventry%20City%20Council/Adaptation%20to%20Climate%20Change/National%20Policy%20Documents/Duties-and-Powers-of-Local-Authorities-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation.pdf>

Climate adaptation strategy for Transport Dec 2025  
[Climate adaptation strategy for transport - GOV.UK](#)

The World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2026 January 2026  
[https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_Global\\_Risks\\_Report\\_2026.pdf](https://reports.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2026.pdf)

Cabinet Report December 2024: [Agenda item - Climate Change Strategy 2024 - 2030 - Coventry City Council](#)  
[Climate Change Strategy – Coventry City Council](#) and [Climate Change Action Plan – Coventry City Council](#)

**Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

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# Report Title: Coventry Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan

## 1.0 Background & Context

- 1.1 The World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2026 identifies extreme weather events to be the greatest long term (10 years) risk to the Global Economy and the 4<sup>th</sup> most significant in the short term (2 years). The UK Climate Change Committee's latest report to Government concerning adaptation and resilience has been very critical of the lack of progress and is stressing the need for more action on the ground. One of the five pathways in Coventry's Climate Change Strategy is to address adaptation and resilience to the increasing incidence of extreme weather events and one of the principal actions was to develop an action plan to address the key risks to the City. This Plan is the result of the work carried out by over 15 organisations which all have a key role to play in addressing the very adaptation and resilience issues which impact upon the City
- 1.2 The recommended approach was to adopt the latter for the following reasons:
- a) The Climate Change Strategy recommendation which was developed in association with the independent Climate Change Board was for the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan. This is intended to address the risks presented to Coventry from the increasing incidence of extreme weather events and improve preparedness.
  - b) The complex nature of the causes and effects of extreme weather events and how they impact upon the city and the role various organisations and agencies have to play in addressing such risks requires a strongly collaborative partnership approach;
  - c) It provides a single strong message to potential funding bodies showing a well thought through, thoroughly researched collaborative effort with commitments to shared actions;
  - d) The Plan identifies opportunities for the more efficient pooling of resources and expertise (much of which does not exist within the Council) and the commitment to action, the measurement of performance and outcomes as well as collective accountability to the population we serve through the Council with a level of independent oversight
- 1.3 Over fifteen Coventry-based organisations involved in the Climate Change Board's Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group (chaired by the Environment Agency) carried out a detailed risk assessment for those risks which may be applicable for the City as a whole. This was undertaken using the Government's third national climate risk assessment set of indicators (<https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Technical-Report-The-Third-Climate-Change-Risk-Assessment.pdf>).

- 1.4 The team looked at the Government’s Technical Report covering 61 climate change risk factors (CCRA3) and considered those most applicable to Coventry. The Team assessed the level of vulnerability for each issue that the City was exposed to (whether it was the area, number of people or number of businesses likely to be affected) the level of sensitivity to the issue i.e. how it could affect the population including some groups in the population who may have conditions worsened by a factor (e.g. prevalence of respiratory illnesses etc) these and the level of adaptation and resilience we have already in place in relation to the nature of the risk and our ability to adapt to the risk to reduce its impact upon the City and its people. Each risk factor could have a vulnerability score from 0 to 6 with the higher the score reflecting the more vulnerable a location would be.

**Vulnerability Score = Exposure + Sensitivity – Adaptive Capacity**

- 1.5 In addition to identifying risks across the city as a whole, the team worked with the Met Office and the Universities in mapping out risks geospatially down to the neighbourhood level (local super output areas) where possible. The level of detail in relation to the varying environmental parameters such as risk of flooding, groundwater level etc is variable and working with the Met Office, DEFRA, the WMCA and Universities a more detailed picture to inform very local interventions will develop over time. A [Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Tool](#) (CRVA) for the region is now available, the database is under constant development.
- 1.6 The following key risks are identified and a level of priority assigned according to the level of vulnerability and importance. The darker coloured sections are High Priority and the lighter coloured are a Medium Priority:

Ref	Identified Risk	Score
H9	Risks to food safety and food security	5
I1	Risks to infrastructure networks (water, energy, transport, ICT) from cascading failures	4
I2	Risks to infrastructure services from river, surface water and groundwater flooding	4
I8	Risks to public water supplies from reduced water availability	4
H1	Risks to health and wellbeing from high temperatures	3
H3	Risks to people, communities and buildings from flooding	3
H7	Risks to health and wellbeing from changes in air quality	3
H10	Risks to water quality and household water supplies	3
H12	Risks to the delivery of health and social care	3
H13	Risks to education and prison services	3
B1	Risks to businesses from flooding	3
B5	Risks to business from reduced employee productivity due to infrastructure disruption and higher temperatures in working environments	2
H5	Risks to building fabric	2
H6	Risks and opportunities from summer and winter household energy demand	2

H8	Risks to health from vector-borne disease	2
I4	Risks to bridges and pipelines from flooding and erosion	2
I5	Risks to transport networks from slope and embankment failure	2
I10	Risks to energy from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	2
I12	Risks to transport from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	2
I13	Risks to digital from high and low temperatures, high winds, lightning	2
N4	Risk to soils from changing climatic conditions, including seasonal aridity and wetness.	2
N11	Risks to freshwater species and habitats from changing climatic conditions and extreme events...	2
N12	Risks to freshwater species and habitats from pests, pathogens and invasive species	2
N18	Risks from climate change to landscape character	2

- 1.7 A series of over 120 specific actions have been identified by the Climate Change Board's Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group and these are detailed in the Adaptation and Resilience Plan along with key milestones, lead personnel, resources, partner organisations (including the Strategic Energy Partnership) and target dates for delivery etc.
- 1.8 The greatest identified risk relates to food security for the population, with prices subject to volatility from global markets that are increasingly impacted by climate change and conflict. This could hit hardest for those experiencing food poverty and put more demand on food banks. To help mitigate this risk we need to develop local infrastructure and networks to support communities to have access to local fresh produce and a greater level of independence from the insecurity of global food markets and the prospect of increasing food prices.. The Council is working with partners to develop a series of initiatives to open up more land for food growing and support communities and resident with training, along with community cooking activities to help develop food growing and culinary skills for healthy eating in the city.
- 1.9 The impacts of extreme weather events on infrastructure (e.g. electricity grid including substations, gas supply, water mains, fibres and cable, telecoms etc) poses a significant risk and the extent of progress in identifying and addressing those risks requires considerably more work across all of the major infrastructure providers. This will require detailed audits and action plans down to the level of facilities on the ground. There are opportunities for collective effort and some useful lessons to be learned from national pilots elsewhere in the country to be used in Coventry. A case will be made by the Sustainability Team and partners to providers with a cost benefit analysis for the relevant bodies for securing investment and funding. These assets will need to use the latest technologies physical barriers and safeguards to protect this vital service infrastructure.

1.10 The changes in climate have significant effects upon wildlife and biodiversity in the city. There will need to be changes in the way habitats and land are managed, with a focus on conservation management and creation of nature corridors to support nature recovery. Working in partnership with local communities, more areas of green space will be created from current areas of neglected or vacant land along with tree planting in urban areas. All of these measures will also help with water conservation, reducing the risk of flooding e.g. rain gardens and swales and cooling down neighbourhoods especially during periods of extreme heat.

1.11 Some examples of the 100 plus specific actions to illustrate the range of activities the Plan covers include:

- Local Plan Policies to drive future developments so that measures are taken to conserve water and minimise impact of extreme weather events such as energy efficient cooling and heating using latest green technologies.
- Development of Landed Kitchens and community food growing areas and activities to support food distribution in times of crisis with Food Network
- Raising public awareness and supporting development of neighbourhood resilience groups in areas at risk from extreme weather events with projects at neighbourhood level
- Engaging providers in auditing risks to infrastructure and interventions to address them particularly in relation to heat and flood
- Providing support and guidance to businesses in developing risk assessments and plans for business premises and workforce to minimise impacts upon the local economy.
- Research and enforcement activity relating to housing conditions and promotion of retrofit grants to private landlords to reduce risks relating to heat, damp, condensation and mould and use of battery storage to assist those at risk of fuel poverty.
- Development of sustainable urban drainage schemes, rain gardens and areas of green space across the city particularly in the deprived neighbourhoods where access is poor to help reduce risk of flooding, assisting water conservation and cooling for areas in the city.

1.12 In addition to the Risk Assessment, Strategy and Action Plan, Coventry was invited by DEFRA to contribute to the Government's development of the Fourth National Adaptation Plan. DEFRA initiated the further Adaptation and Resilience Reporting process ARP4 which previously involved the major utility and infrastructure service providers such as the water companies, National Grid, Port Authorities, utilities etc (as part of the Climate Change Act 2008) which is now extended to some Pilot local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-adaption-reporting-fourth-round-local-authority>

- 1.13 Coventry also supported the WMCA and the University of Birmingham in the development of the West Midlands Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment tool for the region which includes vulnerability assessment data down to Local Super Output Area (LSOA)  
<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjojODQ3MmNmYjgtMTAwMS00OTU5LTk4MzktNDE0ZDA4Y2E2MzE3IiwidCI6IjA4NTIiYjQ1LWYxYWU0NGUwYS05ZWZhLWU2ZDY2YmJiNjcyZiJ9>
- 1.14 Coventry's climate adaptation and resilience planning process was independently assessed as a Level 3 performing organisation which is identified as 'Efficient Management' and set a target to rise to Level 4 in the next year, which is at the level of delivering 'Breakthrough Projects'.

## 2.0 Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 The following options have been considered by the City Council:

a) Do nothing and continue with existing areas of activity some of which relate to statutory obligations e.g. addressing some flood risks and any matters which arise on an ad hoc basis; Doing nothing would expose the City to all of the real risks identified by the Risk Assessment which would have adverse impacts upon public health, the delivery of essential services, business activity, tourism and the economy. **This option is not recommended.** Or

b) Develop a City Council Action Plan which relates to all the services and activities managed by the City Council;

A Plan developed by the City Council alone would not be able to address the complex adaptation and resilience issues that climate change presents. There is a strong need for a collaborative ongoing effort sharing evidence, pooling expertise and resources co designing approaches and where relevant working in partnership on the Ground to address issues in an environment experiencing some dramatic changes. **This option is not recommended,** or

c) Develop a partnership approach involving a number of key stakeholders in addition to the City Council whose activities and services can impact upon the City as a whole.

The effects of extreme weather events affects everyone both individual and organisations and can have serious consequences for a very large number of public, private and voluntary providers of goods and services across the City.

The complex nature of these issues and the need for pooling resources and expertise in order to address them suits the development of City Strategy and

Plan which facilitates collaboration and collective action when necessary. **This is the recommended approach.**

2.2 The recommended approach was to adopt the latter for the following reasons:

- a) The Climate Change Strategy recommendation which was developed in association with the independent Climate Change Board was for the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan. This is intended to address the risks presented to Coventry from the increasing incidence of extreme weather events and improve preparedness;
- b) The complex nature of the causes and effects of extreme weather events and how they impact upon the city and the role various organisations and agencies have to play in addressing such risks, requires a strongly collaborative partnership approach;
- c) It provides a single strong message to potential funding bodies showing a well thought through, thoroughly researched collaborative effort with commitments to shared actions;
- d) The Plan identifies opportunities for the more efficient pooling of resources and expertise (much of which does not exist within the Council) and the commitment to action, the measurement of performance and outcomes as well as collective accountability to the population we serve through the Council with a level of independent oversight.

### **3.0 Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The public consultation regarding Climate Adaptation and Resilience was carried out as part of the process in developing the Climate Change Strategy. It was established to be the least understood of the five pathways for delivering on sustainability. The Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan provides a detailed assessment of the risks associated with extreme weather events and their potential impact upon the community and the economy. Through continued engagement, this information will help increase understanding of vulnerability and actions that can be taken to reduce impacts amongst residents and businesses.
- 3.2 A series of focus groups have been held in the key at risk neighbourhoods in Hillfields, Foleshill, Longford and Radford with a view to supporting the establishment of local resilience groups at the neighbourhood level. That has been done in conjunction with WMCA and local universities. A pilot neighbourhood will be selected to move towards this goal.
- 3.3 The Council commissioned CAG Consultants, Slingshot Solutions and Sustainability West Midlands to work as a team in supporting the 'Independent Climate Change Board's' 'Adaptation & Resilience Pathway Group' chaired by the Environment Agency. The task of the Consultancy Team was to work with the Pathway Group obtaining the necessary data and information for

undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment with information available. This informed the identification of the key vulnerabilities to the population, the local economy, environment & infrastructure as well as the delivery of essential services.

- 3.4 A focused event was organised followed by workshops and meetings to engage senior representatives from those organisations with interests in adaptation and resilience. Representatives who had access to resources and expertise to support the development of a Strategy and Implementation Plan for the City contributed in identifying priorities and opportunities for collaboration, including looking at how each of their organisations can contribute to enhancing the City's adaptation and resilience in addressing the identified risks from extreme weather events. The Risk Assessment, Strategy and Plan are the products of that process.

#### **4.0 Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The Adaptation and Resilience Plan will be implemented with immediate effect. It details over one hundred identified actions, with suggested milestones etc, lead personnel, partner organisations and where known resources.
- 4.2 A number of the actions are also aspirational and resources will need to be found to make them a reality. Already some bids have or are to be submitted for funding from the EU, regional and national government and other external sources for specific actions within the Plan.
- 4.3 Progress on the delivery of the Adaptation and Resilience Plan will be reviewed by the Council and its partners on an annual basis and will be subject to major review in 2030.

#### **5.0 Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance**

##### **5.1 Financial Implications**

A number of actions within this Plan are to be funded through existing routes for funding for projects on the ground arising through the land use planning processes e.g. Section 106 or Biodiversity Net Gain or allocations from central government e.g. flood management. Several actions within this Plan are also aspirational and bids for funding in partnership with others will also be sought from other sources e.g. National Lottery. Forthcoming funding changes expected from central government and the role of local authorities in addressing Adaptation and Resilience is being assessed by the Government's Climate Change Committee and changes in the Environment Agency and the new proposed regulatory/enforcement body to replace OFWAT with its new functions may also create opportunities for funding through allowing more investment from the Water Companies for water conservation measures.

One of the most pressing needs for supporting the delivery of the Plan will be to secure funding is for a specialist post for co-ordinating the activities of the

multi-agency Partnership in implementing the Plan. This will be a matter to be initially broached with a number of key stakeholders with interests in adaptation and resilience across the City to establish whether the cost of the post could be shared across the Partnership.

## **5.2 Legal Implications**

- 5.2.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 establishes a framework for tackling climate change. It sets legally binding targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including a net-zero target by 2050. The Act also includes provisions for carbon budgeting, risk assessments, and adaptation programs.
- 5.2.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 also outlines responsibilities for local authorities, primarily focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change. While not mandated to achieve specific targets, local authorities have powers and influence in areas like transport, energy, waste management, and planning, which contribute to national carbon reduction goals. They are also expected to address climate change risks and impacts within their area.
- 5.2.3 The recommendations proposed in this report are consistent with the Council's duties set out in 5.2.1 – 5.2.2 above.
- 5.2.4 Whilst the legislative tools vary, the urgency is consistent and broad discretionary powers such as the General Power of Competence enables councils to go beyond minimums to protect their communities with some specific duties for flood risk and emergency planning and a de facto duty created by national planning policy. (See CAG's report for the Government's Climate Change Committee 'Duties and Powers for Local Authorities in the UK to Adapt to Climate Change') <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Duties-and-Powers-of-Local-Authorities-for-Climate-Change-Adaptation.pdf>)
- 5.2.5 The UK Climate Change Committee recommends that local authorities embed climate adaptation and resilience into all core services, spatial planning and risk management strategies.

## **6.0 Other Implications**

### **6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

In addition to meeting one of the three priorities in addressing the causes and consequences of climate change this plan also recognises the need for a just transition and that the most vulnerable members of society are those most at risk from the effects of extreme weather events as a consequence of climate change. In addition the impact of such events on local businesses can be significant and need to be addressed in order to safeguard jobs and protect the local economy. The Adaptation & Resilience Strategy and Plan therefore contributes to all of the One Coventry Plan's key priority areas.

## **6.2 How are risks being managed?**

A very detailed risk assessment has been developed as part of the Plan, and the Strategy and Implementation Plan details how they will be managed. Working as a collaborative partnership will also help to increase the City Council's chances in securing and pooling resources where necessary to increase the prospects for successful delivery and mitigate risks.

## **6.3 What are the impacts upon the organisation?**

Faced with an increasing risk of extreme weather events in the years to come this work could help to reduce the negative impacts upon the City's assets and infrastructure and also to help protect the health and wellbeing of the workforce and the population it serves. The successful delivery of actions in the Plan should assist the continuity in the delivery of public services as well as reducing disruption to businesses, damages and losses.

## **6.4 Equalities / EIA?**

The attached Equality Impact Assessment (Appendix 2) demonstrates that the Adaptation and Resilience Plan will have no negative impacts on people and in many cases will seek to address inequality and mitigate the impacts of climate change on communities most vulnerable to future climate impacts.

The Strategy and Action Plan is primarily focused on engaging and supporting those who are most vulnerable in society and providing the necessary support to mitigate the effects of such incidents on local residents and businesses and to enhance resilience in those vulnerable locations wherever possible.

## **6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?**

The need to address adaptation and resilience is one of the five key pathways identified in the Climate Change Strategy and the production of the Risk Assessment, Strategy and Plan is one of the key actions identified in the Climate Change Strategy. The increasing incidence of extreme weather events is presenting a growing risk to the City its infrastructure, the environment and of particular concern the risks to the population in terms of health and wellbeing and also costs to businesses and the economy and economic stability.

## **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

The Climate Change Board's Adaptation and Resilience Pathway Group recognises the importance of this issue not only to the City but also to the resilience of the organisations which have been involved in this work. There is an ongoing commitment to working in partnership for addressing the issues of concern and mitigating the impact of events when they occur. There is also a particular focus on safeguarding the most vulnerable members of the

population wherever possible and addressing the needs for those most at risk of extreme weather events.

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Members: Cllr O'Boyle	Cabinet Member Jobs, Regeneration and Climate Change		20/02/2026	25/02/2026
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