

ANGUS COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE – 3 SEPTEMBER 2013

**CLIMATE READY SCOTLAND: DRAFT SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
PROGRAMME CONSULTATION**

REPORT BY STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – COMMUNITIES

ABSTRACT

This report proposes a response from Angus Council to the Scottish Government's consultation document: Climate Ready Scotland: Draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) approve this report as Angus Council's response to the Scottish Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The consultation seeks views on a Programme, as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which sets out Scottish Ministers objectives, proposals and policies for addressing the impacts identified by the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) that have been identified as a priority for Scotland over the next five years.
- 2.2 Scotland's climate is changing. Over the last few decades it has become warmer, but also wetter, with an increase in both the amount of rainfall (especially in winter) and the occurrence of heavy downpours. Temperatures between 2003 and 2007 in Scotland were the highest since records began in 1910 and in 2011; rainfall in Scotland was some 35% more than the average for the period between 1961 and 1990.
- 2.3 We have recently experienced extreme weather in Scotland. Examples include the devastating winter storms in December 2012 across areas of eastern and northern Scotland, the very strong winds across much of the UK in December 2011 and January 2012 and the extremely cold winter of 2009/10. More local examples can be found in the Local Climate Impacts Profile at www.angus.gov.uk/sustainability/climatechange.htm
- 2.4 Climate projections for the next century indicate that the climate trends observed over the last century will continue and intensify over the coming decades. A rise in temperature of a few degrees would create conditions unlike anything experienced in Scotland today. We may have fluctuating temperatures and more prolonged periods of high rainfall or drought, leading to more extreme weather events, like heat waves or heavy rainfall. This will present a wide range of threats and opportunities to the environment, infrastructure, economy and people in Scotland.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Scottish Government recognises that much of the change in climate over the next 30 to 40 years is already determined by past and present emissions of greenhouse gases and by the inertia of the climate system some degree of further climate change is inevitable. While we cannot prevent this change, we can be more resilient and manage its consequences.
- 3.2 By planning and preparing for change now, the Scottish Government believe that Scotland will be better placed to take advantage of any opportunities and build resilience to the potential negative consequences that this change is bringing.
- 3.3 The consultation seeks views on a Programme, as required by section 53 of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009, which sets out Scottish Ministers objectives, proposals and policies for addressing the impacts identified by the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) that have been identified as a priority for Scotland over the next five years. The

Adaptation Programme will address the risks to Scotland, identified in the CCRA, relating to all matters not expressly reserved to the UK.

3.4 The Programme has an overarching aim to:

- *Increase the resilience of Scotland's people, environment, and economy to the impacts of a changing climate.*

3.5 The programme is structured around three main themes:

- **Climate Ready Natural Environment** – *A Scotland with a productive, healthy and diverse natural environment which is able to adapt to change.*
- **Climate Ready Buildings and Infrastructure Networks** – *A Scotland with well-managed, resilient infrastructure and buildings providing access to the amenities and services we need.*
- **Climate Ready Society** – *A Scotland with strong, healthy, resilient communities which are well informed and prepared for a changing climate.*

3.6 Each theme contains objectives and the policies and proposals to address the relevant risks identified by the CCRA and to drive the progress towards meeting the objectives. The objectives describe what is hoped will be achieved in the long-term (up to 2050). The questions in the consultation document attached (**Appendix I**) are relating specifically to those themes e.g. The Overarching Framework, Natural Environment (Objectives N1, N2 and N3); Infrastructure and Built Environment (Objectives B1, B2 and B3); Society Theme (Objectives S1, S2 and S3). The consultation document also asks for views on the Environment Report that assessed the Adaptation Programme. The themes and Objectives are outlined in the table below:

Theme	Objective Reference	Objective
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT	N1	Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on the natural environment.
	N2	Support a healthy and diverse natural environment with capacity to adapt.
	N3	Sustain and enhance the benefits, goods and services that the natural environment provides.
BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS	B1	Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on buildings and infrastructure networks.
	B2	Provide the knowledge, skills and tools to manage climate change impacts on buildings and infrastructure.
	B3	Increase the resilience of buildings and infrastructure networks to sustain and enhance the benefits and services provided.
SOCIETY	S1	Understand the effects of climate change and their impacts on people, homes and communities.
	S2	Increase the awareness of the impacts of climate change to enable people to adapt to future extreme weather events.
	S3	Support our health services and emergency responders to enable them to respond effectively to the increased pressures associated with a changing climate.

3.7 Under each of these objectives there are a number of different actions, for example N1 contains 12 actions and reference may be made to specific actions within the response form.

3.8 The consultation document has been circulated around departments within the council requesting views on how the document would impact on the different services so a co-ordinated response could be developed.

3.9 The draft programme and other associated documents can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/06/7592>

4. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that **Appendix I** should be submitted to the Scottish Government as Angus Council's response to the consultation document Climate Ready Scotland: Draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme. The closing date for responses is 27th September 2013.

5. RISKS

This report does not require any specific risk issues to be addressed.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

7. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no Human Rights implications arising from this report.

8. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues contained in the report fall within an approved category that has been confirmed as exempt from an equalities perspective.

9. ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN AND SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Our communities are safe, secure and vibrant
- Our communities are developed in a sustainable manner
- Our natural and built environment is protected and enjoyed
- Our carbon footprint is reduced.

10. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, Strategic Director – Resources, Strategic Director – People, Head of Corporate Improvement & Finance and Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Property have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

11. CONCLUSION

It is recommended that this report be submitted to the Scottish Government as Angus Council's response to Climate Ready Scotland: Draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

ALAN McKEOWN
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

P&T/GWC/RManson/IAL
5 August 2013

APPENDIX 1: CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT SCOTTISH CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION PROGRAMME

Consultation on the Draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme

RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response to ensure that we handle your response appropriately

1. Name/Organisation

Organisation Name

Angus Council

Title Mr Ms Mrs Miss Dr *Please tick as appropriate*

Surname

Manson

Forename

Rosemary

2. Postal Address

Communities Directorate - Planning & Transport

County Buildings

Market Street

Forfar

Postcode DD8 3LG

Phone 01307 473258

Email MansonRC@angus.gov.uk

3. Permissions - I am responding as...

Individual

/

Group/Organisation

Please tick as appropriate

- (a) Do you agree to your response being made available to the public (in Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site)?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

- (b) Where confidentiality is not requested, we will make your responses available to the public on the following basis

Please tick ONE of the following boxes

Yes, make my response, name and address all available

or

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

or

Yes, make my response and name available, but not my address

- (c) The name and address of your organisation **will be** made available to the public (in the Scottish Government library and/or on the Scottish Government web site).

Are you content for your **response** to be made available?

Please tick as appropriate Yes No

- (d) We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Please tick as appropriate

Yes

No

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1 Views on the Overarching Framework

1a To what extent does the overarching framework of the Programme outlined in Figure 1 set an appropriate long term direction for climate change adaptation in Scotland?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly *Tick one box only*

Comments:

The three themes in the overarching aim *almost* mirror a sustainable development approach to adaptation to climate change impacts. However, the economic strand of sustainable development has not been addressed sufficiently. Many of proposals within the programme require a strong economy in order for those actions to be implemented.

Clear, easy to understand diagram. Would use 3 different colours for each section as the three blue looks quite dull.

1b Does the overarching framework address the current and predicted impacts to Scotland identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly *Tick one box only*

Comments:

The overarching framework goes a long way towards addressing the current and predicted impacts to Scotland identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment. However, there is so much uncertainty surrounding predicted impacts that there needs to be a degree of flexibility in the adaptation programme in order to address unpredicted effects and impacts.

2 Views on the Natural Environment Theme

2a Do objectives **N1**, **N2** and **N3** collectively set an appropriate long term direction to ensure that Scotland's natural environment is able to adapt to our changing climate?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly *Tick one box only*

Comments:

I don't think that the objective summary for N3 really reflects the activity being carried out in the 15 actions.

2b To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **N1** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly *Tick one box only*

Comments:

Why is transport the first objective? In principle it sounds good but success is dependant on the organisations involved fulfilling their objectives. Should there be more emphasis on partnership working e.g. river catchment scale. There is also a scant mention of the National Biodiversity Strategy and absolutely none of local Biodiversity Partnerships. I realise this is the National Strategy but perhaps these should be tied in somehow?

2c To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **N2** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

More reference to the national Biodiversity Strategy but again no mention of Local Biodiversity Partnerships who are in many localities involved in more nature based projects than any other local or national organisation. Will marine planning partnerships still have a local enough focus to be able to influence and facilitate local awareness raising, projects and collaboration with local authorities, partner agencies etc?

2d To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **N3** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Well identified long term objectives adhering to national and European policy.

2e Taken together, do the policies and proposals listed under objectives **N1**, **N2** and **N3** address the current and predicted impacts to the natural environment in Scotland identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

See comments above.

3 Views on the Infrastructure and Built Environment Theme

3a Do objectives **B1**, **B2** and **B3** collectively set an appropriate long term direction to ensure that Scotland's buildings and infrastructure networks are able to adapt to our changing climate?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Generally yes, but impact of development does not seem to be fully addressed e.g. exacerbating run off and potential flash flooding.

3b To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **B1** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Are there implications for building standards eg the capacity of guttering and downpipes to cope with increased heavy rain events, especially on older properties?

Impacts on more erratic water supply for heavy water users, water bottlers and those with their own supplies.

3c To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **B2** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Refer to Coastline Management Plans – particularly with reference to strategic routes such as the east coast rail line.

Generally need to disseminate information to all concerned – for example use of design to adapt to changing climate, micro siting etc.

Doesn't seem to address heat issues – cooling, heat mapping and district heating systems to reduce demand and use energy more efficiently, reducing waste heat.

3d To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **B3** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

B3-3 Strengthen link between design and climate change adaption in the SPP
B3-10 Can RMMP and Estuary Fora provide a linked approach to development and water based activities along the shoreline?

Should the Shoreline Management Plan be included here?

Ensure development avoids locations and designs that exacerbate the effects of climate change such as development in undeveloped floodplain, using surfacing the creates increased run off and adds to the potential for flash flooding on flooding on adjacent properties.

3e Taken together, do the policies and proposals listed under objectives **B1**, **B2** and **B3** address the current and predicted impacts to Scotland's buildings and infrastructure networks identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Seems to address flooding comprehensively – but could perhaps do more to ensure that adaption and mitigation are integral to the development industry at all stages.

4 Views on the Society Theme

4a Do objectives **S1**, **S2** and **S3** collectively set an appropriate long term direction to ensure that our communities are able to adapt to our changing climate?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Objective S3 is too narrowly focussed. This Objective should consider issues beyond health services and emergency responders, such as:

- Supporting communities in the broadest sense to tackle issues.

4b To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **S1** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

Ownership of every action is focussed solely in the public sector with no specific role or involvement from the private or voluntary sectors. Specifically, in S1-5, information should be disseminated more widely to include representatives of national companies, SMEs, charities and the wider third sector.

4c To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **S2** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

No reference to BU6, BU7, HE3, HE5 and HE6 being tackled by any actions.

Objective refers to raising awareness of the impacts of climate change to enable people to adapt to future extreme weather events. However, the policies and proposals quite sensibly tackle climate change in general, as opposed to specifically extreme weather events.

In addition, gathering the information is useful, however sharing it with communities during times of extreme weather events may prove difficult and there should be a more robust strategy to ensure that the information “gets out there” in the absence of electronic communications.

Policy/Proposal S2-7 is the key to the success of this objective and should be adequately resourced.

4d To what extent will the policies and proposals listed under objective **S3** provide an appropriate focus for the lifetime of the Programme in order to progress towards the long-term objective?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

We anticipate that the information identified in S3-13 will be publicly available but the document should specifically state this.

4e Taken together, do the policies and proposals listed under objectives **S1**, **S2** and **S3** address the current and predicted impacts to Scottish society identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Comments:

5 Views on the Role of Others in Delivering the Programme

5a What support will public bodies require in meeting their duties to help deliver the programme?

Comments:

Adequate financial and human resources and sufficient training for appropriate staff.

Local authorities will need to be able to support local partnerships that will carry out many of the roles identified at a local level. It is also important to develop cross boundary working e.g. Tay AAG, TayPlan, and Possible North East Green Network. I think that some partnerships like marine planning/ existing partnerships e.g. Tay Estuary Forum should remain at the small dedicated scale as sometimes a smaller focus area is important.

5b Are the arrangements for ensuring public engagement and for involving employers, trade unions and other stakeholders in meeting the programme objectives sufficient?

Yes No

Comments:

There is insufficient information regarding the arrangements for public engagement available within these documents.

6 Views on the Environmental Report

6a To what extent does the environmental report set out an accurate description of the current environmental baseline?

Fully Mostly Partially Poorly Tick one box only

Please give details of relevant sources:

6b Do you agree with the predicted environmental effects of the draft adaptation programme, set out in the Environmental Report?

Yes No

Comments:

The report does recognise the potential for negative environmental effects. However, care needs to be taken to ensure that when actions are implemented that they do not have a detrimental effect elsewhere, e.g. flood defence measures could have impacts on wildlife, soils, landscape etc. There is also a need to be alert to other “unpredicted” effects that implementing the programme might cause.

6c Do you agree with the recommendations set out in the Environmental Report?

Yes No

Comments:

Angus Council welcomes the fact that the Scottish Government recognises the potential for more mixed or uncertain effects could arise from a number of the policies included in the draft Adaptation Programme and that some of the potential positive impacts could be outweighed by global scale climate change impacts.

6d Do you agree with the proposals for monitoring of the environmental effects of the draft programme set out in the Environmental Report?

Yes No

Comments:

The five yearly monitoring reports should assess the success of individual actions and build on these. Future reviews of the programme should also highlight where particular actions have resulted in a negative impact on the environment allowing flexibility for changing tactics as experience grows. The main focus for the programme should take a “no regrets” philosophy which results in positive effects for the environment, economy and society.

6e Are you aware of any further environmental information that will help to inform the environmental assessment findings?

Yes No

Please give details of relevant sources:

6f Are you aware of other 'reasonable' alternatives to adaptation programme and its content that should be considered as part of the SEA process?

Yes No

Please give details of relevant sources:

7 Additional Comments

7a Please provide any additional comments you would like to make on the draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

Comments: