



Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council

# Climate Adaptation Action Plan



# Introduction

The Action Plan sets out the practical steps we will take to deliver the commitments in our Climate Adaptation Strategy. Whilst the Strategy outlines our long term vision, priorities, and principles, the Action Plan provides trackable set of actions that guides implementation across the organisation and identifies any funding gaps.

The Action Plan is a live document that will be updated regularly to reflect new data, learning, changing climate risks, and opportunities for collaboration. The Action Plan will be updated as new funding becomes available or as budget requirements change.

Actions are prioritised to strengthen and expand the work we are already delivering, within available resources. Other key deliverables not currently funded are identified to support future planning and investment. The actions within the action plan are divided into three areas:

- **Actions we are already taking**
- **Actions we can take with existing resources**
- **Actions that will require additional funding**

## Summary of objectives

The actions in this action plan are aligned to our 12 strategic objectives:

1. Build a better understanding of the impacts of current and future climate change on people, place, and the Council as a service provider.
2. Maximise the use of available data in policy development, decision making, and service provision. Store our data in a way that is resistant to the risks posed by climate change.
3. Develop climate-resilient service plans that aim to strategically connect and protect our most critical services, transport routes, buildings, and communication channels.
4. Manage our council-owned land to maximise the benefits for people and nature (including safety considerations, exploring nature-based solutions, using climate-resilient species in planting schemes, and working with community groups).
5. Ensure an appropriate service during extreme events by reviewing business continuity plans against climate change risks.
6. Embed climate mitigation and adaptation into council decision making processes (including the risk register, cabinet and delegated decision reports, procurement and commissioning, and funding).
7. Make climate-resilient place-making decisions by integrating climate adaptation into our planning policies (including the Local Plan, design codes and Biodiversity Net Gain).
8. Lead by example in showing what climate adaptation looks like. Use our website and comms channels to showcase what can be (and has been) done by individuals, communities and organisations.
9. Use our existing partnerships to share learning, increase resilience, and support effective emergency response. Take a catchment or area-based approach to cross-boundary issues.
10. Enable and encourage individuals, households, communities, and businesses to be climate-resilient\*. Work with community groups to utilise existing buildings as climate resilient community emergency hubs.
11. Develop a consistent, transparent, forward-facing narrative that successfully communicates the benefits of climate adaptation and steps that everyone can take.
12. Use our political platform to lobby for funding and national policy change to support climate adaptation.

\*N.B. this includes (and is subject to) funding and grants.

## Delivery themes

There are six main themes delivery themes in the Climate Adaptation Strategy:



These ensure an authority-wide approach that aligns with our Council Plan and priorities.

## Key to the Action Plan

The actions identify what action we could take, who could lead on that action, what resource would be required, and when the action could be delivered.

The actions are divided into five key types:

- **Sustain current action:** action that is already underway and should be continued
- **Low:** can be implemented relatively quickly and easily to address current risks, within existing budget and resources The national adaptation approach refers to these as no regret actions.
- **Climate smart design:** near-term decisions that have a long lifetime, or 'lock-in'. They are actions we take now to embed climate resilience into our future.
- **Early adaptation activity:** activities to support future decisions and action: these are actions that help to prepare us for long term changes that will have longer lead-in times
- **Monitor:** no short-term action is needed, but monitor and keep under periodic review

We have included broad resource requirements using the following resource ranges:

- **L:** can be done using existing resource without creating a specific role
- **L/M:** one or less full time role, but would require allocated time
- **M:** 2-3 full time roles
- **M/H:** 3-5 full time roles
- **H:** 5+ full time roles

We have included broad funding requirements using the following cost ranges:

- **L:** Negligible (<£10,000)
- **L/M:** £10,000 - £100,000
- **M:** £100,000 - £500,000
- **M/H:** £0.5m - £5m
- **H:** £5m+



## Actions we are already taking

This section outlines some of the actions that we are already taking and can continue to take to strengthen our climate resilience, within current resource requirements.

What		Who		How		When			
Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding Requirements	Timescale
1 - Increasing understanding	1.01	Ensure alignment with Westmorland and Furness Council's Climate Change and Nature Action Programmes to deliver actions with shared benefits for nature, climate change mitigation and adaptation	Environment	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2027
1 - Increasing understanding	1.02	Create an inventory of the key questions that we need to answer in order to quantify and evidence our level of climate change risk	All	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2031
2 - Data management	2.01	Enable strategic decision-making through simplified data sharing agreements and by working with partners.	All	Sustain current action	All	N/A	L	L	March 2031
2 - Data management	2.02	Use the most recent national datasets in policy development and decision making (such as NaFRA2 for flooding)	Growth	Sustain current action	Inclusive and green growth	N/A	L	L	March 2031

## What

## Who

## How

## When

Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding Requirements	Timescale
3 - Service planning	3.01	Continue to use the Shoreline Management Plan to guide our approach to managing coastal flood and erosion risk, and the Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment Toolkit to develop nature-based solutions	Environment	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	Environment Agency	L	L	March 2027
9 - Partnership working	9.01	Continue to collaborate with Risk Management Authorities through the Cumbria Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership	Environment	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	Cumbria Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership	L	L	March 2027
12 - Lobbying and funding	12.01	Ensure Westmorland and Furness Council is best placed to secure long-term funding opportunities to help nature recovery, climate mitigation and adaptation by maintaining a register for funding opportunities.	All	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2027
12 - Lobbying and funding	12.02	Continue to respond to consultations on national strategic documents	All	Sustain current action	All	N/A	L	L	March 2031

## Actions we can take with existing resources

This section outlines some of the actions that we can easily take to strengthen our climate resilience without additional resource requirements.

What			Who		How		When		
Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding requirements	Timescale
1 - Increasing understanding	1.03	Make all services aware of the Cumbria Climate Change Risk Analysis, once published	All	Low	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2027
1 - Increasing understanding	1.04	Add climate adaptation to the Council's carbon literacy training content	Environment	Low	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2027
1 - Increasing understanding	1.05	Carry out further research ('deep dive') to quantify our level of exposure to climate risks, focussing on Council owned or managed assets and infrastructure	Connections and infrastructure, Growth infrastructure,	Further investigation	Climate and natural environment	Thriving Places, Resources	L/M	L	March 2031
1 - Increasing understanding	1.06	Carry out further research ('deep dive') to quantify our level of exposure to climate risks, focussing on business and corporate services	Enabling and corporate services	Further investigation	Climate and natural environment	Enabler Services, Assistant Chief Executive	L	L	March 2031
3 - Service planning	3.02	Ensure that climate change risks are considered when reviewing and updating service plans	All	Low	All	N/A	L	L	March 2031

**What****Who****How****When**

Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding requirements	Timescale
5 - Business continuity	5.01	Ensure that climate change risks are considered when reviewing and updating business continuity plans	All	Low	All	N/A	L	L	March 2031
6 - Council decision making	6.01	Add a section on climate change considerations to procurement, commissioning, and grant giving procedures	Enabling and corporate services	Low	Commissioning and procurement	N/A	L	L	March 2031
6 - Council decision making	6.02	Review how climate change considered as a risk on the corporate risk register	Enabling and corporate services	Low	Programme Management Office	N/A	L	L	March 2027
8 - Leading by example	8.01	Monitor and report on progress against our Climate Adaptation Action Plan	All	Low	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L	L	March 2027
9 - Partnership working	9.02	Collaborate with Team Barrow to embed climate adaptation into their work	Growth	Low	Inclusive and green growth	Team Barrow	L	L	March 2031
11 - Forward facing narrative	11.02	Be consistent, transparent, and forward-facing in our narrative, with a focus on potential adaptation solutions	All	Low	Communication	N/A	L	L	March 2027

**What****Who****How****When**

Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding requirements	Timescale
11 - Forward facing narrative	11.03	Share information about proactive action that everyone can take, and the benefits that everyone can share.	All	Low	Communication	N/A	L	L	March 2027
12 - Lobbying and funding	12.04	Work to secure funding for adaptation projects whenever it becomes available	All	Low	All	N/A	L	L	March 2027



# Actions that will require additional funding

This section outlines some of the actions that we would like to take strengthen our climate resilience but cannot do so without additional funding and resource.

## What

## Who

## How

## When

Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding	Timescale
1 - Increasing understanding	1.08	Carry out further research ('deep dive') to quantify our level of exposure to climate risks, focussing on the natural environment, landscape character and cultural heritage features	Environment	Further investigation	Climate and natural environment	University of Cumbria, External consultants	L	L	March 2027
1 - Increasing understanding	1.09	Carry out further research ('deep dive') to quantify level of exposure to climate risks, focussing on Health, social care, and communities	Health, communities and homes, Children, education, and learning	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	Thriving Communities Adult Social Care, Children's Services	L	L	March 2031
1 - Increasing understanding	1.10	Use the information from the 'deep dives' to complete a Climate Change Risk Assessment for W&F Council and circulate the results of this to all services	All	Further investigation	Climate and natural environment	N/A	L/M	L/M	March 2031
9 - Partnership working	9.06	Continue to develop natural flood management opportunities for community resilience across Cumbria beyond March 2027	Environment	Sustain current action	Climate and natural environment	Environment Agency, Cumbria CVS, Cumberland Council	M	M	March 2031

**What****Who****How****When**

Objective	Action ID	Action description	Theme	Action type	Lead team(s)	Suggested partners	Resource intensity	Funding	Timescale
9 - Partnership working	9.07	Work with Cumbria Combined Authority to develop a Cumbria-wide resilience strategy	Enabling and corporate services	Low	Strategy, data and insight	Cumbria Combined Authority	L/M	L/M	March 2031
10 - Enabling communities	10.04	Engage and involve communities in the development of community focussed adaptation actions	Health, communities and homes	Low	Safe and strong communities	N/A	L/M	L	March 2031
12 - Lobbying and funding	12.05	Use the results of the W&F Climate Change Risk Assessment to build the business case for longer term adaptation actions	All	Early adaptation activity	Strategy, data and insight	N/A	L/M	L/M	March 2031





## Translation Services

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone: **0300 373 3300**.

للوصول إلى هذه المعلومات بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال 0300 373 3300

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