

Climate Adaptation Reporting - Forest of Dean District Council

December 2024

1. Introduction

This report addresses Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) support for climate adaptation in the four towns in the Forest of Dean District (Cinderford, Coleford, Lydney and Newent).

We are not aware of any other authorities reporting on adaptation activity for these areas.

The District Council's core responsibilities are set out on our [website](#). In addition, we provide [support to communities](#) in a number of important areas.

As part of our [UK Shared Prosperity](#) award, we undertook a 'Climate Resilience Implementation' project which supported the development of local climate risk assessments and action plans for the four towns together with work on a toolkit for parish councils to use in their adaptation planning. Whilst the outputs from this project were primarily for the use of the local town and parish councils, the fact that the district council has key assets and operates key services in these areas is clearly of significance.

It had been planned to undertake additional, internal (to the District Council) adaptation planning during 2024 but due to organisational restructuring and associated resourcing pressures, this was not conducted as intended. This activity is being considered for FY2025-26.

2. Governance, management and strategy

FoDDC has a Climate Team that sits within the Communities and Place Directorate. The Climate Team Leader is currently part of the Senior Management Team. There is an appointed [cabinet lead](#) for 'Climate Emergency'.

Our [Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan](#) (CESAP) is published on our website. We work with this plan alongside the more newly created '[Council Plan](#)'.

The first priority of the Council Plan is 'Thriving Communities' described as being '*to foster resilient and inclusive communities that are motivated and competent to adapt to the challenges and opportunities posed by the climate and nature emergencies.*'

Year 1 of the Council Plan acknowledges the UKSPF funded project to support climate adaptation and resilience in the district. Our [Q2 performance report](#) shows the project as complete (page 30) with the UKSPF funded requirements being fully delivered. We do recognise however, that ongoing support for towns will be required into 2025 and possibly beyond this.

Within the CESAP, under the ‘Built Environment’ section we have set out an action as:

B4: Adaptation Review of Council Buildings

Description: Carry out a review of Council buildings and produce a plan identifying specific actions for adapting them to current and future risks of climate change.

Indicators of success by 2025: Production of a risk assessment report and adaptation plan.

This project has yet to commence. It is anticipated that this will be considered for inclusion within the Year 2 Council Plan priorities.

FoDDC does not operate any ISO/BS management systems although adoption of these is under discussion. Whilst aspects of the ‘Climate Resilience Implementation’ project were developed with reference to ISO14091/202 (e.g. adaptive capacity), we have not conducted a wider exercise to consider our planned adaptation activity alongside relevant ISO standards.

FoDDC is an active participant of [Climate Leadership Gloucestershire \(CLG\)](#) and supports many areas of its programme of work, including under the [adaptation theme](#). FoDDC Top Management and the Cabinet Lead for Climate Emergency attend CLG meetings.

The Local Partnerships’ ‘Climate Adaptation Toolkit For Local Authorities’ was used as the start point for developing a toolkit for parishes within the ‘Climate Resilience Implementation’ project.

3. Understanding risks and challenges

Risk assessment scope

Within the ‘Climate Resilience Implementation’ project, FoDDC commissioned a series of risk assessments, as one for each town and overall district wide risk assessment. These assessments are contained in Annex A.

The risk assessments addressed local risk based the on the specific circumstances of each town. Key themes addressed are set out in the table below.

Risk theme	How addressed
Flooding	Tidal/coastal, fluvial or pluvial flood risk depending on location. Each risk assessment includes a flood risk map.
Heat stress	Increasing days with shade Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) above 25°C detailed for all towns.
Disruption to travel	Increasing road risk melt identified for all towns, rail disruption considered for Lydney.
Wildfire	Addressed for the two towns situated in/neighbouring the heavily forested area of the district, with increasing risk identified over time.
Growing season change	Noting the lengthening season for growing under both scenarios.
Dairy cattle heat stress	Identified for Newent due to its location in the main agricultural region of the district.
Others	Drainage, energy demand, international (food security) and subsidence risks noted where appropriate.

The complementary role of Gloucestershire County Council, FoDDC and local town and parish councils is set out on our [website](#).

Whilst the risk assessments were primarily created to inform town council activity, it should be noted that the district council has [significant assets](#) in the towns as set out in the table below.

Town	District Council Assets
Cinderford	Car parks, crematorium, tenanted industrial units, waste services depot, leisure facility*
Coleford	District council head office, car parks, tenanted retail units, leisure facility*
Lydney	Car parks, leisure facility*
Newent	Car parks, leisure facility*

*Leisure facilities are contracted out, using leased/third-party facilities.

We have started to introduce the risk assessments into relevant project discussions within FoDDC, e.g. electric vehicle car charger installation and active travel planning.

4. Risk assessment scenarios

The risk assessments consider local information where available and address risk and changes until 2100, with data points for 2050, 2070 and 2100. The primary data sources used in developing the risk assessments were:

UK Climate Change Projections <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/pub/data/weather/uk/ukcp18/science-reports/UKCP18-Overview-report.pdf>

Climate risk indicators
<https://www.ukclimateresilience.org/>

Flood risk
<https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessments-climate-change-allowances>

The risk assessments considered two possible greenhouse gas emission scenarios – i.e. two possible climate futures. These aligned with those recommended by Climate Leadership Gloucestershire:

Medium - Global emissions are mitigated to varying levels.

Under a medium emission scenario we reach a global temperature rise of between 2°C and 3°C by 2100.

High - Global emissions grow unmitigated.

Under a high emission scenario we could reach 4.3°C global temperature rise by 2100.

5. Hazard identification and risk screening

The table below shows perceived direct relevance of risk themes in relation to FoDDC and town council activities within the towns.

Risk theme	FoDDC Activity	Town Council Activity
Flooding	Y	Y
Heat stress	Y	Y
Disruption to travel	Y	Y
Wildfire	Y	Y
Growing season change	N	N
Dairy cattle heat stress	N	N
Drainage, energy demand, international (food security) and subsidence	Y	Y

6. Risk analysis and evaluation

For each town council, a 'Climate Adaptation Plan' was created, and within this a priority list of risks was identified (Section 1.6.1.). The town council plans are included in Annex B.

We are not aware of any further detailed analysis of the identified risks in relation to likelihood, consequences, overall risk or financial impacts.

7. Risk management

The risk assessments have not yet influenced changes in FoDDC management systems. This is in part due to the assessments and resulting adaptation plans being developed for town council use.

8. Interdependent and cascading risks

Analysis of interdependencies and cascading risks were not considered for the town risk assessments and have not been considered subsequently by FoDDC.

9. Adaptation action plan and implementation

FoDDC supported the creation of four town adaptation plans (Annex B). Annex B5 shows a comparison of actions within each plan.

Each plan includes the following considerations (for each proposed project):

Risks addressed

Timescales (to implement)

Prioritisation

Cost estimates

Co-benefits

Barriers to implementation

Resources requested and potential funding

Monitoring arrangements

FoDDC are monitoring progress with these plans. One town council has made reportable progress in relation to 'local heat alerts', 'local resilience planning', 'urban tree planting', 'tap water refill scheme', 'wildflower verges' and 'community retrofit'.

Additional support to and monitoring of town and parish council actions is planned by FoDDC for 2025. This will include roll out of the parish council adaptation toolkit (See Annex C).

The following are documents that can be found on the Council's website.

ANNEX A

- A1. Climate Risk Summary: Forest of Dean
- A2. Climate Risk Summary: Cinderford
- A3. Climate Risk Summary: Coleford
- A4. Climate Risk Summary: Lydney
- A5. Climate Risk Summary: Newent

ANNEX B

- B1. Climate Adaptation Plan: Cinderford
- B2. Climate Adaptation Plan: Coleford
- B3. Climate Adaptation Plan: Lydney
- B4. Climate Adaptation Plan: Newent
- B5. Comparison of town action plans

ANNEX C

Parish council adaptation toolkit

End