



**Climate**SouthWest



**SOUTH WEST IMPROVEMENT  
& EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIP**

# **Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Project:**

## **National Indicator 188 Coordinator**

### **Final Report**

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### **Executive Summary**

Between November 2009 to March 2011, Climate SouthWest managed a project, funded by the South West Improvement and Efficiency Programme (SWIEP), to provide a co-ordinated programme of support to all 16 South West upper tier authorities to increase their skills and capacity to deliver against National Indicator 188: Planning to adapt to climate change (NI188). The performance indicator had 5 levels of achievement from 0 - 4. The main objective of the project was to get the 9 designated local authorities (those with NI188 as an indicator within their Local Area Agreement) to Level 3 by March 2011, and the remaining 7 to Level 2.

Activity included the coordination of regional workshops, one to one support, facilitation of improved communication and the production of good practice case studies.

This project has shown that the provision of dedicated and coordinated support has helped to advance South West local authority progress on climate change adaptation. This is recognised in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) NI188 annual report, which showed that South West authorities were making consistent progress against the indicator compared to other regions; and the strong positive feedback from the participating South West local authorities.

In light of current vulnerabilities to extreme weather and projected future climate, and with local authorities facing overall budgets of up to 40% over the next three years, authorities need to be more resilient to current and future weather than ever before. Local authorities need to make adapting to climate change as high a priority as possible to ensure business continuity and to guard against potential financial losses, environmental damage and the emotional damage severe weather events can have upon communities.

South West local authorities can also demonstrate progression and good practice in ensuring that future climate risks are being embedded into local authority decision making and core business. A number of good practice case studies have been produced to share this learning and experience across the South West and beyond.

Following the removal of NI188, and through this project, Climate SouthWest has identified a number of other responsibilities/key drivers that local authorities can potentially use to help

drive forward activity on adaptation. More detailed information can be found in the special case study produced as part of this project; 'Keeping Climate Change Adaptation on the Local Authority Agenda'. This case study, along with the others produced as part of this project, are located on the Climate SouthWest website: <http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/casestudies.htm#lg>

As a possible model for future working, this project has demonstrated that there are benefits from coordinating activity across organisations when looking at common issues in the context of climate change. In particular, resource savings, good publicity, the building of relationships, and the ability to be flexible and responsive to regional and local needs were highlighted as some of the main benefits.

## **1. Project Background**

As part of a national performance framework between 2008 and 2010, local authority activity was monitored against a suite of 198 national indicators, including NI188: 'Planning to Adapt to Climate Change' (NI188).

In 2009, Climate SouthWest (the region's only partnership focused on raising awareness of the impacts of climate change and promoting sustainable adaptation responses) led a successful collaborative bid to secure funding from the South West Improvement and Efficiency Programme (SWIEP) to employ a part time South West NI188 Coordinator to the end of March 2011.

The aim of the project was to provide a co-ordinated programme of support to all 16 South West upper tier local authorities, to increase their skills and capacity to deliver against NI188. The main project objective was to help ensure that all SW upper tier local authorities achieved NI188 Level 2 (as a minimum) by 2011; with all 9 NI188 designated local authorities achieving Level 3 (or above) by 2011. The project was developed by Climate SouthWest with support from Somerset County Council, Environment Agency, Natural England and the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) in response to local authority demand for support on adaptation activity. This project started in November 2009.

Although the abolishment of the National Performance framework occurred before the end of the project (thus removing the requirement for local authorities to formally report on adaptation activity); the project continued to support South West upper tier and district authorities on the delivery of adaptation activity through the provision of networking and the identification of other drivers or hooks.

The project objectives were met through delivery of a project action plan from November 2009 to March 2011, with progress being reported quarterly to the South West Improvement and Efficiency Programme. The project was overseen by a Steering Group, made up of representatives from Climate SouthWest, the Environment Agency, Government Office for the South West (GOSW), South West Councils and a local authority representative (Bournemouth Council).

This project also ran alongside another SWIEP funded project hosted by Climate SouthWest to support nine top tier authorities to undertake a Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP). The purpose of the LCLIP project is to raise awareness and understanding of current vulnerability to weather events in a local authority area, by looking at the consequences of extreme weather events from the recent past. It highlighted the main consequences of weather events to which a local authority and its service provision are currently vulnerable. The outputs of this project supported progress against NI188 for the participating authorities.

## 1.1. Financial Information

Climate SouthWest successfully secured £43,500 to run the project. In addition, £12,500 to cover project management and overhead costs was contributed by Climate SouthWest /Environment Agency. The total project expenditure of the SWIEP funding was just over £41,500. A summary breakdown of project expenditure over the project period November 2009 to March 2011 is as follows:

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Salary employment costs (part time at 3 days a week)	£31,135.14
Project Costs (events, workshops & training)	£8514.16
Travel and Subsistence	£1942.16
<b>Total SWIEP Expenditure</b>	<b>£41,591.46</b>
Project Management & Overhead costs	£12,500
<b>Total project Expenditure</b>	<b>£54, 091.46</b>
<b>Under spend (from £43,500 SWIEP allocation)</b>	<b>£1908.54</b>

The difference between the allocated resource and actual expenditure can be accounted for by the slightly later project start in November 2009, rather than September 2009, (due to the length of the recruitment process); and the cancellation of an 'Adaptation in the Built Environment' event in March 2011.

## 1.2. NI188 and South West upper tier authorities

NI188 'Planning to adapt to climate change' was a way of measuring individual local authority progress and action to assess and manage climate risks and opportunities within their local area. Nine of the sixteen upper tier authorities in the South West had NI188 as a designated indicator. This meant that it was one of their top 35 indicators incorporated into their Local Area Agreement, and they were committed to achieving Level 3 of NI188 by March 2011. The nine Councils were; Bournemouth Borough Council, Dorset County Council, Gloucestershire County Council, North Somerset Council, Poole Borough Council, Somerset County Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Wiltshire Council, and the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The other seven upper tier authorities, who did not have NI188 as a designated target, were encouraged to reach Level 2 by March 2011. These seven authorities were; Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, Cornwall Council, Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council, Swindon Borough Council and Torbay Council. (Note: Devon County Council had NI188 as a local target).

## 2. Project Outputs

### 2.1 Events

Throughout the duration of the project 8 workshops/events were held. The events were designed to facilitate networking between South West local authorities and key partners (i.e. Government Office for the South West, Environment Agency, Natural England and UKCIP), share good practice and disseminate methodologies for assessing climate risks. The initial workshops were linked to meeting the various levels of NI188 and to adaptation related

themes like green infrastructure. Later into the project, following the removal of NI188, the project meetings were more focused on 'looking to the future' to support local authorities to continue to deliver adaptation work in a changing environment with limited resources. Table 1 highlights the events held, and attendance numbers of South West local authorities and partner organisations.

Table 1: South West NI188 Network Events – Attendance numbers

<b>SW NI188 Network Events (November 2009 – March 2011)</b>	Total Number attending	Number SW local authorities represented *	Number of other organisations represented
Workshop 1 – Comprehensive risk assessment, action planning & working with Local Strategic Partners and community partners. (January 2010)	24	13	5
Workshop 2 – Business Areas Climate Impacts Assessment Tool (BACLIAT) training for local authorities. (February 2010)	17	11	5
Workshop 3 – Climate East Midlands Project - inter-regional networking. Comprehensive risk assessment continued & practical adaptation responses. (April 2010)	24	10	10
Workshop 4 – Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP) results and comprehensive action planning. (July 2010)	20	14	2
Workshop 5 - Planning for Extreme Weather and Climate Change. (October 2010)	26	16	4
Workshop 6 - 'Natural Solutions: creating green and resilient communities' Swindon Green Infrastructure event. (November 2010)	27	10	8
Workshop 7 – NI 188 Network Meeting. (January 2011)	12	7	3
Workshop 8 – 'Building for a future climate' Event cancelled due to low take up. (March 2011)	0	0	0
Workshop 9 – Delivering adaptation in a changing climate. (March 2011).	12	10	2

\* Figure shows the number of actual authorities represented rather than the number of officers.

## 2.2 Communications

Communications and the sharing of good practice between project partners (and externally) was key element of this project. The NI188 Coordinator facilitated the following activity:

- General communications via meetings, email, questionnaires and local media. Initial, mid and end of project questionnaires were completed to identify and respond to stakeholder needs as appropriate.
- Dedicated NI188 Network pages on Climate SouthWest website: <http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/sr-localgov.htm>
- A Communities of Practice online discussion group. This was set up to provide an online facility for informal interaction with other network members and the posting of key documents. This Community's page has now been closed following the end of the project; but ongoing networking will be facilitated via Climate SouthWest and directly between South West local authorities.
- Good practice guides and case studies –accessible via the Climate SouthWest website: <http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/casestudies.htm#lg>
- Teleconference meetings on themed subjects, including UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09) and the format of the county level data.
- The creation of a South West Adaptation Mapping Resource – which will be hosted on the South West Observatory environment pages website in June 2011: (<http://www.swenvo.org.uk/themes/atmosphere/climate-change/>)

### 2.3 One to one support

During the project's inception, it was anticipated that one-to-one support for local authorities would involve a considerable amount of the NI188 Coordinator's time. Although the uptake of the one-to-one support was not as great as anticipated, with local authorities benefiting more from the collective networking and events, there were requests for one-to-one support through out the project.

Initial meetings were held with all of the South West upper tier authorities, between November 2009 and January 2010, to identify their level of progress to date and local needs going forward. Regular telephone meetings were held and support was provided as appropriate throughout the project.

Examples of the specific support provided to local authorities to help them progress with NI188 include:

- Working with Bournemouth Borough Council and Plymouth City Council to help devise the content and structure of NI188 partner engagement and risk assessment workshops.
- Presenting future climate scenarios at a North Somerset Council climate change and business event.
- Developing and delivering a BACLIAT workshop for the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
- Providing feedback to local authorities on the content of NI188 returns to Defra.
- Identifying and circulating key documents to local authorities as required e.g. risk assessment methodologies, templates.
- Providing guidance on future timescales local authorities should be planning for.
- Providing evidence for making a business case for a NI188 officer at Bath and North East Somerset Council.
- Devising a NI188 risk assessment workshop for planners/key officers at Swindon Borough Council.
- Acting as a conduit for specific local authority concerns back to Defra (as part of the national NI188 review).

### 3. Results and evaluation

#### 3.1. South West Upper Tier Authorities - Progress against NI188

The original aim of the project was to ensure that all 9 South West NI188 designated local authorities reached Level 3 (Comprehensive Action Planning) by March 2011, while encouraging the remaining 7 to reach Level 2 (Comprehensive Risk Assessment). Table 2 below shows local authority progress against NI188 reporting up until March 2010 (the last formal reporting period before the indicator was abolished). The table also captures updates of ongoing adaptation activity by the 16 local authorities up to the end of the project, to reflect activity following the demise of NI188. From the information provided, it can be concluded that by the end of the project all 16 upper tier local authorities had made sufficient progress on adaptation, that roughly equates to the requirements of NI188 Level 2.

While progress up to March 2010 (and beyond) cannot be directly attributed to the role of the South West NI188 coordinator (as this is difficult to ascertain), the consistent progress that the South West authorities have made since the project's inception, in comparison to other regions, is a good indicator that the dedicated support provided by the NI188 Coordinator has been beneficial.

Following the removal of the indicator in November 2010, further progress made by each local authority on climate change adaptation can only be measured in a descriptive and subjective way. The NI188 Coordinator gathered information about the current status and future plans for each local authority concerned, and this will be updated and maintained by Climate SouthWest in the future.

Table 2: South West upper tier local authority NI188 annual reporting to Defra (plus target for March 2011).

Local Authority	March 2009	March 2010	Original Target for March 2011	Progress made by end of Project
<b>Designated</b>				
Bournemouth Council	1	2	3	Created a climate impacts assessment tool and developing an adaptation strategy and action plan (January 2011)
Dorset County Council	0	2	3	Level 2 Risk Assessment Report on website. Focusing high risk areas and work on i) highways project with the Met Office; ii) Pathfinder project looking at how climate change will effect coastal communities in Dorset; and iii) Flood and Water management Act. Also working with West Dorset on their climate change strategy. (March 2011)
Gloucestershire County Council	1	2	3	Plan to meet Level 3 by March 2011 with sign off by Cabinet. Still using NI188 framework and

				undertaking work on return periods i.e. probability and frequency of certain weather events happening. (March 2011)
North Somerset Council	1	2	3	Adaptation delivery group in N. Somerset overseeing NI188, with a draft action plan being developed. Following the NI188 process but in a more flexible way. (January 2011)
Poole Borough Council	1	2	3	Working on risk management and embedding activity – including introduction of new risk management process and software and incorporating future climate risk into this. (March 2011)
Somerset County Council	1	2	3	Climate change adaptation work continues where it already features at a service level i.e. in Local Transport Plans and business continuity. (March 2011)
South Gloucestershire Council	1	2	3	Building on Level 2, aim to continue the comprehensive risk assessment with priority areas and partners. Adaptation policies are embedded in the Local Development Framework and Green Infrastructure strategy. (January 2011)
Wiltshire Council	0	1	3	Aim to reach Level 3 by March 2011. Loosely following the NI188 framework and reporting to an internal climate change board. Focus on priority areas and putting risks and actions into department action plans. (January 2011)
Council of the Isles of Scilly	1	2	3	Completed a review of the climate change action plan. Actions being developed, with a focus on coastal erosion and flooding. (March 2011)
<b>Non Designated</b>				
Bath & NE Somerset Council	0	1	2	LCLIP linked to 38 departments/service areas; with climate change part of service risk registers. Still plan to use NI188 as methodology for reporting. Risk Manager leading on development of a

				Community Resilience Strategy and creation of a network of 'Community Emergency Resource Advisors'. (January 2011)
Bristol City Council	1	2	2	Working towards Level 3. Adaptation risk added in to corporate risk register; and working at a strategic level to get adaptation into the Local Development Framework, Transport Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan. (January 2011)
Cornwall Council	0	1	2	Although not focused on NI188 framework, action on adaptation continues including the Public Sector Leadership Group doing some work on adaptation. (March 2011)
Devon County Council	1	1	2	Reviewing Devon Climate Change Strategy and planning to outline scenarios where proactive adaptation is necessary and to demonstrate what measures have been put in place. Climate Change will be embedded into Integrated Impact Assessment Tool, which applies to all decisions. Links have been made to the Devon and Cornwall resilience forum. (January 2011)
Plymouth City Council	0	2	2	Climate change action plan being replaced by Local Carbon Framework and deals with risks from extreme weather. Climate risk and risks from extreme weather dealt with in other documents e.g. emergency plans, Local Development Frameworks. Climate change now part of risk management and on the risk register. (January 2011)
Swindon Borough Council	1	1	2	Although not formally following NI188 still delivering adaptation across the council i.e. integrated into planning policy and highways. Can demonstrate good practice in creating green infrastructure through partnership working. (January 2011)

Torbay Council	1	1	2	Will continue to use NI188 as a local indicator as a benchmark for self assessment, and anticipate Level 2 by March 2011. Completed LCLIP and now looking to add more detail to individual business units. Climate Change Adaptation now part of risk management framework - to aid service planning. Adaptation also part of SPAR performance management system. (January 2011)
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### 3.2. Anecdotal evidence

In addition to monitoring the local authority NI188 self assessment returns to Defra to ensure that the project was on track to meet its aims, evaluation of the project was also conducted throughout the project to ensure that the NI188 Coordinator was continuing to deliver support and outputs responsive to local needs. Both mid and end of project questionnaires, and evaluation following workshops has enabled Climate SouthWest to gather a wealth of feedback and anecdotal evidence to highlight what progress has been made locally on adaptation as a result of the project.

Feedback from the end of project questionnaire highlighted that, from the responses received, over half found the workshops useful or very useful. With most also deriving benefit from the regular email communication and 1:1 support. In addition, half acknowledged that the project had helped to increase officer confidence and knowledge on adaptation; and that the project had contributed to increasing the pace of action on NI188/adaptation.

Positive feedback in relation to local authority progress in the South West was also been received from Defra, Government Office for the South West and South West Councils, a snapshot of which is given below.

“The Climate SouthWest - GOSW - EA - SW RIEP support package for SW local authorities including the employment of a dedicated NI188 Coordinator (Fiona Swan), regular workshops, dedicated web page and provision of bespoke advice and guidance including one-to-one support has been an extremely effective means of helping SW local authorities raise their performance in this new area of activity for them. Feedback from local authorities has been extremely appreciative and positive and the fact that many local authorities that did not even designate NI188 as a performance target in their LAAs responded so well is proof of how effective the programme has been to date. It would be a great shame to lose this momentum.

This is a useful model that could usefully be replicated in other regions; either by Climate SouthWest providing a consultancy/training service or by Climate SouthWest assisting Defra in its support programme for adaptation support to local authorities post March 2011. It is also sufficiently flexible in its delivery to be used as the main means for assisting local authorities in this increasingly important area of the climate change agenda as it affects the resilience of localities.”

Phil Harding  
Senior Policy Adviser; Government Office for the South West

"It's clear that the SW NI188 support network has provided considerable benefit to those local authorities who have responsibility for these issues. Learning about best practice and being connected to colleagues who are dealing with similar tasks and issues, is invaluable to local authority officers who's time to evaluate how best to tackle these new and emerging areas of work is very limited. I would strongly support the continued deployment of a network to support the South West's local authorities in their climate change adaptation activity."

Clare Brewster  
SWIEP Climate Change Programme Manager, South West Councils

The following local authority quotes, taken from the mid project review and final questionnaire, also demonstrate the project benefits.

*"...I found the project excellent as a whole – particularly through the workshops with a combination of external speakers and peer support and discussion with neighbouring authorities in the SW."*

*Caroline Rigby (Somerset County Council)*

*"Without the support, I have no doubt that action on NI188 would not have been as driven or successful, therefore it was very welcome."*

*Jessica Harper (North Somerset Council)*

*"The SW network meetings have been helpful for us to debate NI188 issues. Email communications have also been really useful."*

*Jane Antrobus (South Gloucestershire Council)*

*"Has been very useful, especially to get in touch with other NI188 officers from across the region." Nicola Hughes (Gloucestershire County Council).*

*"Found the NI188 workshops to be highly useful both in developing good practice, identifying ways to move forward to our goals and valuable networking forums. Keep up the good work!"*

*David Senior (Isles of Scilly.)*

*"Fiona has been excellent- signposting useful resources and being able to help when need be."*

*Sara Grimes (Bath & North East Somerset Council)*

*"I believe that the progress Bournemouth has made in planning for climate change adaptation would not have happened without the LAA commitment firmly backed with the quality of regional support provided, and the people involved in providing that support – Phil Harding, Fiona Swan, Alex Webb and the Climate South West Team."*

*Lee Green (Bournemouth Borough Council)*

### **3.3. Outcomes**

The overall longer term outcomes of the project can be broadly categorised as follows:

- **Improved progress in terms of climate change adaptation** – Further to NI188 and the NI188 project, South West upper tier local authorities have made significant progress in gaining commitment to integrate extreme weather and future climate risk into council policy and decision making. Even with the removal of NI188, there is a

legacy of work that will remain, which will help to inform future thinking and decision making.

- **Improved information and communication** – Through the project, good working relationships have been reinforced and there is ongoing commitment, with support from Climate SouthWest, to share learning and to continue to work in partnership into the future.
- **National influence** – South West local authorities have developed some excellent good practice that has formed the basis of case studies (coordinated by this project), that will be disseminated to relevant national organisations, such as UKCIP, Defra's Adapting to Climate Change (ACC) team and the Local Adaptation Advisory Partnership (LAAP).

#### **4. Conclusion and Recommendations**

This project has shown that the provision of coordinated support has helped to advance local authority progress on climate change adaptation in the South West. This is demonstrated by both the Defra NI188 annual report, which showed that South West authorities were making more consistent progress against the indicator compared to other regions; and the strong positive feedback from the participating local authorities.

The UKCP09 Observed Trends report shows that the climate has already started to change in the South West. Based on scientific evidence and current levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), it is likely that the climate will continue to change over the next decade (and beyond) and extreme weather events are likely to happen more often. The LCLIP work and comprehensive risk assessments have enabled South West local authorities to clearly identify their current vulnerabilities, along with the social, economic and environmental consequences of severe weather events.

In light of the above, and with local authorities facing overall budgets of up to 40% over the next three years, authorities now need to be more resilient to current and future weather than ever before. Local authorities need to make adapting to climate change as high a priority as possible to ensure business continuity and to guard against financial losses, environmental damage and the emotional damage severe weather events can have upon communities.

South West local authorities can demonstrate progression and good practice in ensuring that future climate risks are being embedded into local authority decision making and core business. A number of good practice case studies have been produced to share this learning and experience; and a list is given below:

##### **Case studies**

- 1) Bournemouth Borough Council – Embedding Climate Change into the Council's Corporate Risk Management System
- 2) Bournemouth Borough Council - Sustainability Impact Assessment for Cabinet Decisions and Project Management System
- 3) Devon County Council – Integrated Impacts Assessment Tool
- 4) Dorset County Council – Dorset and East Devon Coastal Change Pathfinder Project: Scenario Planning
- 5) Gloucestershire County Council – Working with Local Strategic Partnerships.
- 6) Keeping Climate Change Adaptation on the Local Authority Agenda

These case studies are accessible via the Climate SouthWest website (<http://www.oursouthwest.com/climate/casestudies.htm#lq>)

Since the removal of NI188, a number of other key areas/drivers have been identified that local authorities can potentially use to help continue, and drive forward, adaptation activity. These are briefly outlined below. More detailed information can be found in the special case study; 'Keeping Climate Change Adaptation on the Local Authority Agenda'.

### **Key Legislation/Responsibilities**

Local authorities could use the steer of the Flood and Water Risk Management Act (2010) and the European Union Flood Risk Regulations (2009) to help keep adaptation high on the agenda. The Localism Bill (2011), which provides the legislative basis for the shift of power from central Government to local communities, also provides the opportunity for influence to be made at a local level via changes to the planning system, neighbourhood planning and through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

#### **Planning**

Local authority strategic planning and the planning system can also be very useful vehicles for ensuring that impacts of future weather and climate are built into future developments. Incorporating adaptation into Core Strategies, Local Development Frameworks and Area Action Plans, along with Supplementary Planning Documents, Sustainability Checklists and Shoreline Management Plans, can be an effective way of stimulating action on adaptation.

#### **Emergency Planning and Business Continuity**

There are opportunities for local authorities to embed future climate risks into existing risk management and emergency planning processes by ensuring that future climate and severe weather risks are incorporated into strategic level decision making and service unit planning (risk assessment), as appropriate. Ideally, links should be made between the work of their Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and their own business continuity risk assessment processes.

#### **Project Management and Performance Management**

Project Management and Performance Management also provide the opportunity for embedding future climate risk considerations into decision making. This helps to ensure that all new projects and decisions consider climate risks at the start, ensuring that activity (and associated project expenditure) is more resilient to climate change in the longer term.

#### **Information and Communication**

How information about climate change, impacts, consequences and the need for adaptation is communicated, is an important consideration for local authorities. With limited budgets and varying and competing priorities, it is important to consider how the desired end outcome (i.e. local authorities are as resilient as they can be to extreme weather and future climate) is communicated to various audiences.

## **4.1 Recommendations**

Based on the learning and experiences from this project the following key recommendations will continue to be taken forward by Climate SouthWest. The recommendations also provide a useful steer to others when considering delivery of a programme of local authority support on climate change adaptation.

- Provide networking opportunities between local authorities –
  - by encouraging authorities to network directly with other authorities in the region themselves,

- by providing authorities with dedicated networking opportunities through meetings, events and teleconferences,
- by encouraging peer-to-peer learning and buddying with neighbouring or similar level authorities.
- Act as a central portal for information gathering and dissemination.
- Open up networks and support to district councils – given the Localism Bill and the Big Society Agenda, local authority engagement at all levels is essential.
- Work in partnership with other bodies active on climate change adaptation to deliver efficiencies and enable delivery of common outcomes.
- Monitor progress and share good practice locally and nationally.
- Review support and activity with those involved to ensure local needs are being met.

Although this dedicated support project ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, it facilitated the development of a strong network between local authorities in the SouthWest. Climate SouthWest will continue to provide support to local authorities on adaptation through this network.