

## Adapting to climate change - local authority case study

### Gloucestershire County Council - Working with Local Strategic Partnerships



#### Overview:

Working with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has been vital in Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC) progress towards adaptation. The main delivery method for this has been through the Adaptation Working Group (AWG), which forms part of the Gloucestershire Environment Partnership (GEP) and was formed at the beginning of 2009. Alongside this, Gloucestershire has encouraged partnership working on adaptation through holding risk management workshops in association with the

Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN). GCC recognised the importance of partnership-working in achieving adaptation to ensure that all partnerships throughout the county work together to achieve effective adaptation.

#### Adaptation measures:

- COIN workshops – engaged participants to develop a common understanding of the issues and risks of climate change mitigation and adaptation and how to manage these risks. Officers and Members from local authorities and partner representatives, for example the Environment Agency, attended
- Adaptation Working Group (AWG) meetings to discuss adaptation with all local authorities in the county
- Work with partners on engaging businesses in climate change adaptation – potential plans for a pack for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
- Communications about climate change adaptation sent to district councils to disseminate to their elected members via newsletters
- Similar communication for Parish Councils; and similar communication for general public engagement – in Autumn wastelands
- Mapping existing adaptation activities in their locality – survey sent to all Local Area Agreement (LAA)/ Local Resilience Forum/ Gloucestershire strategic partners
- Gloucestershire Food Vision and its key projects recognise the impacts of climate change to their food and water supply
- Evaluated shared community risks and prioritised these
- Disseminated a standard cabinet/ executive report with the seven Gloucestershire Councils to use in advance of National Indicator 188 (NI188) Level 3 adaptation action plans
- Climate Change Matrix – GCC sent this out to partners and GCC has integrated climate change issues into the risk management framework, which is available to all partners



### Benefits:

Engaging with LSPs allows a coordinated approach to adaptation across the county. In turn, all services that the county relies on are better prepared for extreme weather events. This allows resilience and a level of preparedness that will hopefully reduce costs during future extreme weather events. Cost avoidance will occur through both recovery claims and insurance.

Resilience to climate change also safeguards vulnerable members of the community and contributes to safeguarding the economic prosperity of the area.

As the coordinating Council in LSP engagement, this has been beneficial to GCC's reputation and has increased awareness and understanding of partner organisations.

### Challenges:

Gloucestershire County Council are working to ensure that changes to organisational structures and service delivery continue to take account of the need to ensure resilience to a changing climate and safeguard vulnerable members of the community.

Continuing to ensure a coordinated approach is a challenge due to the reporting loss of NI188 and the LAA targets, which will result in organisations now working to different levels over different time scales.

### Further thoughts:

It is important to ensure an integrated approach to the issues, rather than seeing adaptation as a separate exercise. The impacts of climate change are just another risk – they are no different to managing other risks. It is important to help managers understand what the potential changes might be (including the likelihood of extreme weather events) so they can evaluate what impacts will be on their service, thus helping them make an informed decision.

GCC recommends the COIN methodology for a common understanding of climate change risks.  
GCC recommends good engagement and interaction on issues.  
GCC recommends using the frame-work methodology to help manage the risks.

### Contact:

Name: Peter Wiggins

Email: [Peter.Wiggins@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Wiggins@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01452 425189

### Relevant links:

[http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/climate\\_change\\_glos.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/community/climate_change_glos.asp)