

Climate Adaptation

**North Tyneside Strategy & Action Plan
2025 – 2029**



North
Tyneside
Council



North Tyneside Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2025 – 2029

Foreword Cllr Sandra Graham, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and the Climate Emergency

It is important that North Tyneside council has set out its ambitions to reduce carbon emissions, it is however not sufficient. Even if we could immediately reduce our emissions to zero, the climate would still change.

As a result of climate change, we are seeing an increase in extreme weather events, such as storms, flooding, and heatwaves. These changing weather patterns impact on the services we deliver and the infrastructure we rely on. More importantly, they can affect our livelihoods and our health and wellbeing.

Climate adaptation is essential because it helps residents, communities, and local businesses cope with the impacts of climate change, which are already occurring and expected to intensify. Therefore, we must be prepared for, and adapt to, extreme weather events to ensure that North Tyneside is resilient to the impacts of a changing climate.

By identifying the risks, opportunities, and actions, we can better prepare ourselves. It's important to act now, and I'm confident that by working together through all of our networks we can become more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

The development of this Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan is based on our learning process in 2024, and we have identified six key themes through working with a range of stakeholders in the borough in late 2025. Our wider borough consultation and engagement process has, and will, be integral to increasing our resilience to climate change.



1. Introduction

North Tyneside's climate is changing. The hottest and the wettest years since records began have occurred within the last 10 years. This is a consequence of greenhouse gas emissions in our atmosphere that contribute to global warming. The Borough is experiencing more severe climate-related events such as storms, high temperatures, and rising sea levels. These events have impacted the lives and livelihoods of residents across North Tyneside. With global temperatures set to increase, we will continue to see wetter winters, hotter and dryer summers, and more frequent extreme weather events.

The North Tyneside Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan outline a route map to ensure North Tyneside Council services as well as its borough stakeholders are sufficiently adapting and increasingly more resilient to the significant impacts of a changing climate and extreme weather events. This Plan is needed to lessen the negative effects, make the most of any opportunities, and address the following priorities:

Strategic Objectives: Ensuring projects, plans, and processes address resilience to climate change and strengthen the ability to achieve long-term goals.

Service Impact Reduction: Adaptation allows assets and activities to function amid changing climates, reducing impact on service delivery.

Financial Savings: Early investment in adaptation delivers strong value for money, with most measures delivering £2 to £10 of net economic benefits for every £1 spent. It also helps local authorities avoid significant short-term costs incurred from extreme weather events.

Co-Benefits: Well-planned adaptation can deliver wider benefits such as improved health and wellbeing, increased property values, enhanced skills and employment, emission reduction, and support for biodiversity.

Statutory Requirements: Adaptation is a statutory requirement in some local government areas, including planning, flood risk management, public health, and environmental impact assessment.

The development of the Action Plan has been based on Borough wide stakeholder consultation and engagement. The Action Plan is made up of 6 themes which are:

1. Policy, Planning and Governance
2. Community Resilience and Public Health
3. Buildings, Assets and Infrastructure
4. Utilities – Energy, Gas, Water and Telecoms
5. Transport and Highways
6. Nature Based Solutions

2. Future Climate Scenarios and Risk

The UK Government assesses the most serious risks facing the UK via the [National Risk Register 2025](#)

The National Risk Register includes 89 risks and identifies eight extreme weather events as national risks, i.e. coastal flooding, droughts, high temperatures and heatwaves, low temperatures and snow, fluvial flooding, severe space weather, storms and surface water flooding.

The case for developing the council approach to climate adaptation is based on the evidence presented nationally, regionally and locally. This range of research active assessment has led the Council to adding a new risk to the Corporate Risk Register. This action ensures that officers will work on all aspects included in the Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan. The risk reflects the need to make certain the Authority can undertake effective adaptation measures to ensure that it is prepared for, and are able to respond to, climate change and extreme weather events. Additionally, the Local Plan is strongly influenced by climate change.

The UK Met Office has produced climate scenario [Local Authority Climate Reports](#) for all council areas. These provide future projections for climate change impacts, such as temperature, rainfall, and sea level rise. The top figure in the illustration below shows projections for North Tyneside in which

all modelled scenarios point to hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. A rise in sea levels can also be expected, as seen in the bottom figure. This highlights the need to prepare for future changing climates, today. If local, national, and global mitigation measures are effective, a medium emissions scenario of 2°C global warming level could be achieved, meaning the risk of climate change impacts is reduced. However, if action is not taken to reduce carbon emissions, we could expect a high emissions scenario of 4°C which could result in more intense weather events.



Figure 1: Predicted climate change in North Tyneside, Local Authority Climate Explorer

3. The Development of the Strategy and Action Plan

Climate change will have impacts on all sectors and all community groups in different ways it is important that we understand the risks posed by climate change on all groups to create a comprehensive climate action plan to serve the residents of North Tyneside.

Community engagement has been a key part of creating the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan as it allows the plan to be inclusive, collaborative and well-rounded. By engaging with a wide range of stakeholder the Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan has been able to identify specific problems faced by residents in their local communities and it has also helped participating stakeholders to better understand climate change and potentially lead to a stronger sense of advocacy within local communities.

The council has endeavoured to provide a range of opportunities for its communities to participate in this Plan using the following methods:

- The design and delivery of a face-to-face workshop event at an accessible local Community Hub
- The design and delivery of an online version of the face-to-face workshop
- The design and publication of an online digital questionnaire for residents, businesses and the voluntary sector
- Promoted the range of engagement options to thirteen known borough wide business and social networks including schools and to young people who are actively engaged in local democracy

Each opportunity enabled participants to identify risks and outline possible solutions. These were used in the compilation of the Action Plan.

4. The Action Plan

Theme and Reference	Action	Description	Key Performance Indicator	Partners & Lead Council Service	Timescale
Adaptation Theme - 1 Policy, Planning and Governance					
1A	Identify and include the local climate risks and vulnerabilities in a North Tyneside Risk Register	Continue to develop a risk register for the borough and council services and work with stakeholders to identify and undertake mitigation actions	Risk Register completed and actions monitored	Environmental Sustainability Team, internal council services Businesses, Community and Voluntary Sector organisations (VODA), Residents (where applicable)	2026 and On-going
1B	Facilitate joint working across the North Tyneside on climate change adaptation issues, policies, and projects	Utilise existing governance structures such as the internal council Net Zero Carbon Board, the Borough Climate Board, the North Tyneside Strategic Partnership. Create special purpose networks where necessary	Number of collaborative process and practices recorded	Businesses, Community and Voluntary Sector organisations (VODA), Residents (where applicable)	2025 and On-going
1C	Include climate adaptation requirements in the development of the North Tyneside Local Plan	Embed climate adaptation into the development of the new North Tyneside Plan	Publication of the Local Plan	NTC Planning Service, statutory and local consultees	2027
1D	Assess the role of the council procurement process and supply chain	Ensure that the council supply chain is resilient to extreme weather events	Local policies in place	Council Procurement Team	2027

1E	Work with key stakeholders, including the EA and NWL to improve flood forecasting and warning systems where practical	Collaborative analysis of existing forecasting systems and consider alternatives	New or improved flood management process	NTC Emergency Planning Team, Local Resilience Forum	Current and on-going
1F	Ensure ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and research to inform our decision-making on climate change adaptation action.	Continue to review climate risk and vulnerability to inform the delivery of council's key services. Continue to revisit adaptation benchmarking to develop adaptation capabilities from existing baseline	Evidence reports	Environmental Sustainability Team	2025 and On-going
1G	Develop an approach to communicating climate adaptation information and the circulation of best practice to key stakeholders	An annual rolling programme communications forward plan is in place and acted upon	Completion of a plan	Strategic partners, Environmental Sustainability Team, Council Communications and Marketing Service in an advisory capacity	2026 and on-going
1H	Report on progress of the Action Plan to the Council Net Zero Board	Prepare an annual update of actions progress	Update Reports	Environmental Sustainability Team	Annually
1I	Report the progress, outputs and outcomes of the Action Plan to Cabinet	Prepare a report on performance of the actions at the	Cabinet Report	Environmental Sustainability Team	2029
Adaptation Theme - 2 Community Resilience and Public Health					
2A	Ensure climate change adaptation is incorporated into relevant council	Integration of appropriate climate resilience aspects into appropriate council activities	Number of collaborative process and practices recorded	Environmental Sustainability Team / Engagement Team/ Emergency Planning	2028

	community engagement processes				
2B	Ensure the threat of a rise in pests and diseases due to climate change is fully understood, and that pest and disease control services are prepared to meet potential increased demand for their services	Collaboration between internal council services to build a collective understanding of the impacts of climate change upon pests and diseases. Develop capacity to address potential additional pressures	Incidence of reported pest requests	Environmental Health/ Public Health/ Pest Control/ Environmental Services (Steet Cleansing)	2025 and on-going
2C	Ensure all relevant council services which support vulnerable communities are prepared for extreme heat	Audit key services using the UKHSA tool kit for heat and vulnerable residents	Assess services for this using the UKHSA tool kit	Public Health, Adult Social Care/ Children's Services	2026-2027
2D	Decreased food security resulting in less access to foods, particularly affordable healthy foods	Strategic plan for distributing food provision	Number of locally activated support schemes	Public Health, Adult Social Care/Children's Services/ Participation and Advocacy/ central government	2029
2E	Develop a range of support measures to reduce the psychological stress from experiencing or anticipating severe weather events	Social impacts of worsened mental health	Number of referrals	NHS Services/ Local Health Resilience Partnership	2025- On-going
2F	Develop a range of support measures to reduce the psychological stress from reduced quality of life due to climate change impacts	Social impacts of worsened mental health	Number of referrals	NHS Services/ Local Health Resilience Partnership	2025- On-going

	such as reduced food/water security				
2G	Equip people with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to benefit from and take adaptation action to make the Borough a more climate resilient place.	Incorporate this into a 3-year Communications forward plan i.e. skills to understand the risk associated with climate impacts such as flooding and increased temperatures	Publication and delivery of a communications plan	Environmental Sustainability Team, Emergency Planning Team/ Communications Team/ Community Resilience – LRF	2026
2H	Undertake community engagement events to understand and address concerns of residences of North Tyneside	Undertake suitable means to seek the views of the community (residents, businesses, Voluntary and Community Sector and other public sector organisations) in the co-production of the Action plan	Number of engagement actions.	NTC Environmental Sustainability Team	2025 and as required
Adaptation Theme – 3 Buildings, Assets and Infrastructure					
3A	Undertake an analysis of the risks posed to key strategic council buildings including social housing clusters from the impacts of climate change.	Undertake desktop surveys	Risk and Vulnerability Assessment report concluded	NTC Environmental Sustainability Team, Housing Services, Asset Management Team	2027–28
3B	Ensure that developers commit to creating communities that build climate resilience.	Work with developers and communities to incentivise the creation of climate resilient communities, including active travel connectivity, proximity to good quality open space and green infrastructure	Local Plan policies in place	NTC Planning Team	2028

3C	Creating plans for community spaces that can be used during extreme weather events to protect those most vulnerable	Creating plans for community spaces that can be used by homeless people during extreme weather events such as flash flooding and heatwaves to ensure safety and security of all residents of the borough, this will include the use of leisure centres, libraries and community hubs	Emergency response plans and service specific Business Continuity Plans	Emergency Planning and Community Safety Team/ Homelessness Team	2027
3D	Seek funding to support long term adaptation maintenance in Boroughwide projects.	Assessment of life cycle costs to be incorporated into Asset Management Plans. Explore increase in ring-fenced funding for maintenance of drainage systems (pipes and open watercourses) as well as blue-green infrastructure	Proportion of projects or interventions allocating funding to long term maintenance	Highways, Asset Management, DEFRA, EA, UK Government	2026 and On-going
3E	Engage with Registered Landlords and the private developer sector in the North Tyneside area to increase awareness of the need to deliver flood and heat resilient housing and infrastructure	Work with Housing Associations, developers and registered social landlords to build capacity and guidance to implement flood and heat resilient measures	Number of landlords and Housing associations engaged	All borough social housing providers	2028
Adaptation Theme - 4 Utilities – Energy, Water, Gas and Telecoms					
4A	Developing and reviewing extreme weather plans regarding the disruption of electricity / gas	Emergency planning processes within each utility company and service providers	Number of Plans treated	Northern Power Grid, Northern Gas Networks, Telecoms providers, Local Resilience Forum, NTC Emergency Planning Team	2028

	and telecommunications infrastructure				
4B	Consider energy supplies not reliant on the main grid, preferably renewable (solar, wind, hydro) although diesel generators are also an option for emergencies	Prioritise connecting essential equipment for critical site operations to alternative energy sources. (severe weather can cause parts of the national grid to shut down; installing renewable energy can increase resilience)	Total capacity installed	Asset Management	2029
4C	Consider alternative water supplies, such as installing water tanks to store rainwater	Gray water can be used in times of drought for essential services such as toilet flushing, local grounds maintenance and vehicle washing (if necessary)	Total litres of greywater capture and storage measures equipment	Environmental Services, Asset Management, commercial businesses, householders	2029
4D	Creating resources that can detail what to do in extreme weather occurrences	Development of a utilities focussed communication plan and resources	Number of cross-service exercises	Northern Power Grid, Northern Gas Networks, Telecoms providers, Local Resilience Forum, NTC Emergency Planning Team	2027
Adaptation Theme - 5 Transport and Highways					
5A	Maintain quality of public footways to ensure safe travel for residents and pedestrians	To ensure active travel users to get to key destinations in the event of extreme weather which disrupts other forms of transport	Explore the potential to align with existing KPIs and/or condition survey data	NTC Highways Team, NTC Environmental Services, other public services providers where appropriate	2028

5B	Develop climate resilient transport systems	Ensure that services can operate in times of disruption where safe to do so	Explore the potential to use information sourced at regional/national level re disruption associated with extreme weather events	NEXUS	On-going
5C	Maintain standard of drainage on roads to prevent surface water flooding	Surface water drainage systems are maintained and cleaned to ensure excess water can drain off roads and pavements	Volumetrics around numbers of gully cleanses and maintenance schedules	NTC Highways Team	2025 and On-going
Adaptation Theme - 6 Nature Based Solutions					
6A	Increase planting of street trees and other blue-green infrastructure for their cooling effect and to reduce flooding through canopy capture and evaporation.	Utilise existing and future funding which support the North East Community Forest and Section 106 Planning agreements to integrate relevant tree planting programmes and plans across the Borough	Number of Nature Based Solution interventions in the borough	Planning, Environmental Sustainability, Housing and Construction Services, local community groups	2025 and On-going
6B	Maintain quality of green infrastructure to reduce impacts during extreme weather due to climate change	Managing species conservation priorities to take account of a changing climate. Reducing pressures on habitats vulnerable to climate change	Maintenance cycles	Environmental Services and Street Cleansing, Highways	2025 and On-going
6C	Promoting the use of residential and community gardens in local areas for their contribution to cooling urban areas and their community engagement and resilience properties.	Accelerate the delivery of land in the borough to accommodate carbon sequestration, support the Biodiversity Action Plan and act as natural assets in climate adaptation	Quantification of Biodiverse green and blue corridors (square metres)	Environmental Sustainability, Housing Services	2027

6D	Increase planting of plant species that are drought resistant	High drought tolerant plants will ensure green spaces are able to be managed efficiently in periods of water scarcest	Number of horticultural beds under transition	Council Environmental Services/ Grounds Maintenance/ Developer and local community groups	2029
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