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# Climate Change Adaptation for local councils: innovations, developments and practical actions

ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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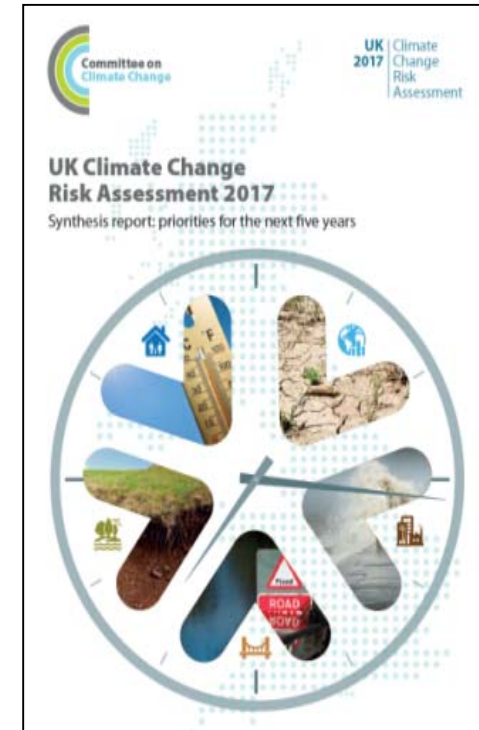




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## Role of Government

- BEIS lead policy on reducing emissions to mitigate climate change. The *Clean Growth Strategy (2017)* includes ambitious proposals on housing, business, transport and the natural environment.
- Defra lead Government policy on building domestic resilience to climate change, delivering statutory adaptation requirements set out in the Climate Change Act.
- Adaptation policy is mainstreamed across government – policies and programmes should be taking climate change into account.
- Action is also undertaken by local government, communities, businesses, councils, civil society and academia.





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## Setting the scene: Defra's climate change responsibilities and interests

- Defra is the Government lead for climate change adaptation domestically
- Climate mitigation responsibilities for emissions from agriculture, waste, F-gases, forestry and land use sectors
- Key policies and programmes include net zero; waste; food strategy; flood defences; farming regulation; ELM, land use and forestry, NBS, agri-food
- Importance of managing the trade-offs and exploit the synergies and co-benefits between climate mitigation and adaptation





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## Climate Change Act (2008)

- set out an 80% carbon reduction target by 2050 and a series of 5 yearly carbon budgets.
- amended in June 2019 to set a legally binding target to achieve **Net Zero** greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- process for emission reductions involves setting a rolling sequence of 5 successively smaller 'carbon budgets'.
- requires a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment every 5 years followed by a National Adaptation Programme
- created an independent Committee on Climate Change and Adaptation Sub-Committee.
- created an Adaptation Reporting Power.

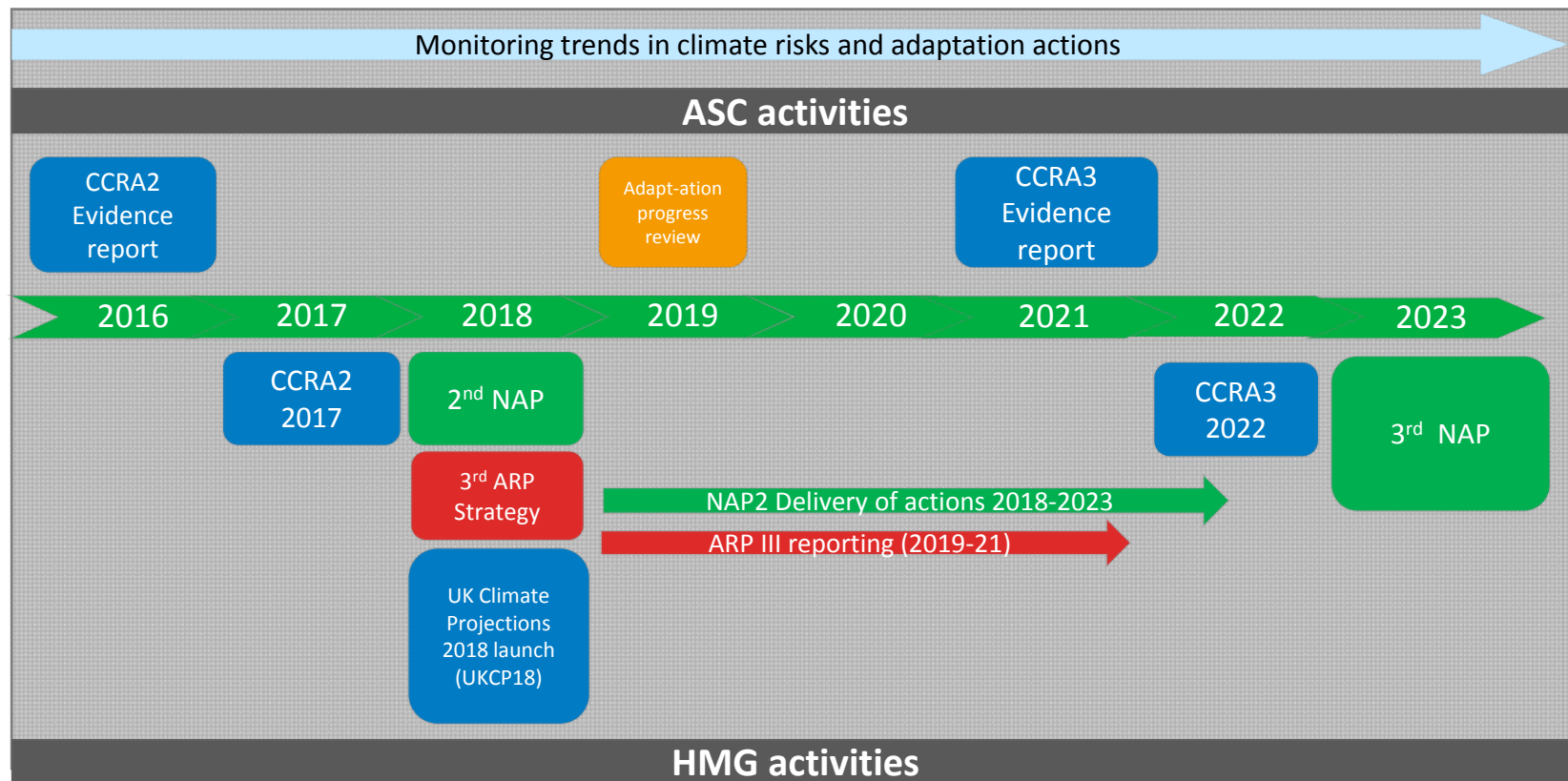


Climate Change Act 2008



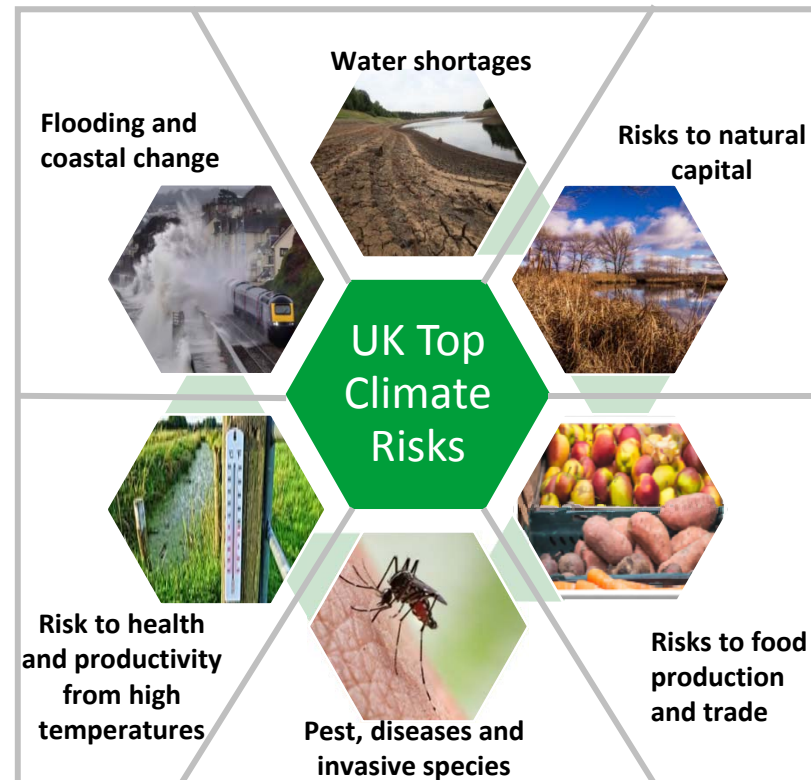


# Climate Change Act (2008)





## UK CCRA 2017: Priority Climate Risk Areas





## New Climate Projections: UKCP18

- Updated observations and climate change projections out to 2100 in the UK and globally.
- Provides government, business and others with the tools to assess climate impacts and risks (including inform CCRA3).
- Provides new innovative tools, **such as global and high resolution projections up to 2.2km resolution** (on a par with weather forecasting for first time).
- Headline result – ***increased chance of warmer, wetter winters and hotter drier summers, along with an increase in frequency and intensity of extremes.***





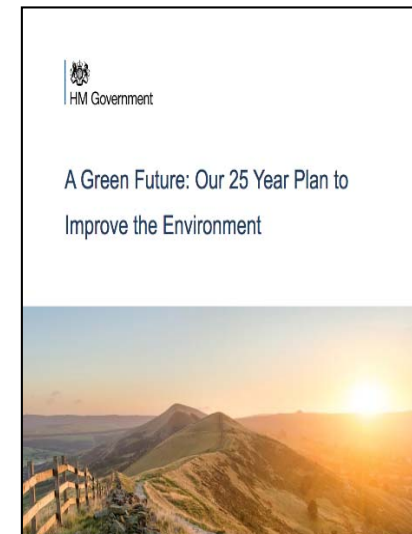
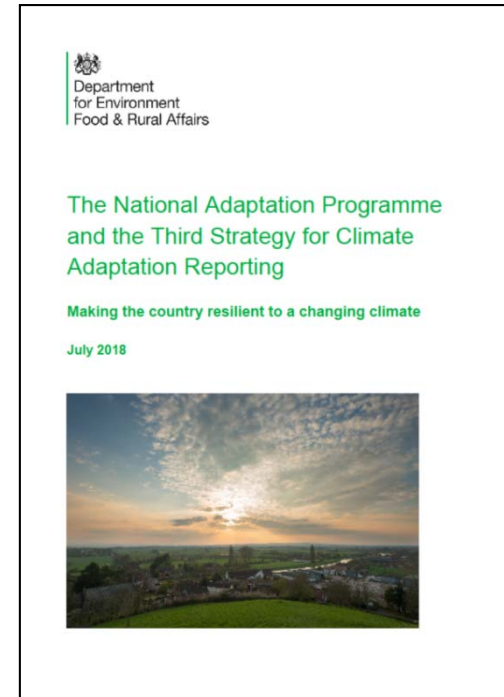
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## National Adaptation Programme (NAP) 2018

- Building on the good work started in the first NAP (2013)
- Links with the 25 Year Environment Plan which sets out government's plan for improving the environment in a generation
- Co-ordinated through stakeholder workshops and the "Domestic Adaptation Board"

### Highlights from 2018/19:

- Supporting the vital role of nature based solutions
- Continued investment in managing floods and coastal erosion.
- Greening our financial sector
- Resilience set out in transport and water plans
- Action by Local Resilience Forums







## Collaborative working

- recognise the need to take adaptation action to minimise these risks to services they provide and are already taking actions.



- Local government as community leaders, working with a wide range of infrastructure and other local delivery partners, are at the forefront of local action to protect communities and businesses and safeguard growth from climate risks



## Collaborative working

- As well our relationship with ADEPT on environmental and energy policy issues, Government works with networks within and outside the local government community, on adaptation. These include:
  - Local Adaptation Advisory Panel
  - Core Cities
  - Local Government Association
  - Infrastructure Operators Adaptation
- This collaborative approach supports implementation of adaptation practices locally. Relationships are already bearing fruit.
- Looking to develop stronger relationships with others, inc. SOLACE, LEDNET/London Councils





## LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES

- range of duties and reporting requirements on flood risk management, planning, emergency planning, and biodiversity
- Impacts arising from climate change will affect local authorities communities, infrastructure and assets, and provision of services
- range of duties and reporting requirements on flood risk management, planning, emergency preparedness and biodiversity
- involved in significant investment, service delivery, procurement and business continuity activities.
- Involving local government in national climate change strategy early on is valuable in supplying local insight to national policy
- Specific obligations





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## LOCAL ADAPTATION ADVISORY PANEL

- forum on climate change adaptation, brings together central and local government for dialogue on promoting and delivery of adaptation actions in the LG sector
- formed in 2011 by Defra, who are secretariat. Current membership is 8 city/county councils, government departments/ agencies/partners
- provides strategic and policy focused advice on how policy and government work programmes can support LG sector in
- quarterly meetings
- Work with ADEPT and Local Govt Association.





## LAAP ACHIEVEMENTS

- contributed to NAP Local Government chapter on vision and actions for LG sector/delivery of NAP actions
- contributed to the LG sector meeting key objectives in NAP1, including raising adaptation profile
- significant input to adaptation guidance for local authorities (2019)
- provided support to developing the local business case for adaptation (2015)
- strong communication network to officers and members



### Chapter 6: Local government

#### Vision

'Local Government plays a central role in leading and supporting local places to become more resilient to a range of future risks and to be prepared for the opportunities from a changing climate'

#### 6.1 Climate change risks

Local government plays a major role in shaping local places by taking decisions and providing guidance, through the local democratic process, on the urban landscape, the built environment, green and blue natural spaces, and public health.

Many of the risks identified in CCRA2017 and set out in chapters 2-5 of this NAP and many of the impacts arising from climate change are relevant to the responsibilities and functioning of local government. Many of the impacts arising from climate change will affect their communities, infrastructure and assets, and the provision of services. Impacts are likely to vary from location to location. Insufficient local decision-making on how infrastructure funding is prioritised is a concern - this can be a barrier to an effective response to increased flood risk. And at a rural level higher temperatures, droughts and heavy rainfall aggravate the ongoing degradation of agricultural, forest and pasture ecosystems. This could have a negative effect on food security. Food supply is discussed in more detail in Chapter 5: Business and Industry.

Local government as community leaders, working with a wide range of infrastructure and other local delivery partners, are at the forefront of local action to protect communities and businesses and safeguard growth from risks posed by severe weather events and a changing climate. They recognise the need to take adaptation action to minimise climate change risks to services they provide and are already taking actions. Local councils already have a range of duties and reporting requirements on food risk management, planning, emergency planning, and biodiversity which negates the need for further adaptation reporting. They are involved in significant investment, service delivery, procurement and business continuity activities, and in relation to climate impacts and extreme weather, are central to long term planning, infrastructure management, emergency response and recovery work. Involving local government in national climate change strategy from an early stage will be valuable in supplying local granular insight to national policy, and central government climate expertise to local government.

There is a need for, and statutory obligations on, councils, to prepare for and minimise the longer term impacts of climate change. This is reinforced by expectations for community resilience and business continuity by residents and businesses. Local government can also play a valuable role in raising the public profile of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as a central and long-term government priority.

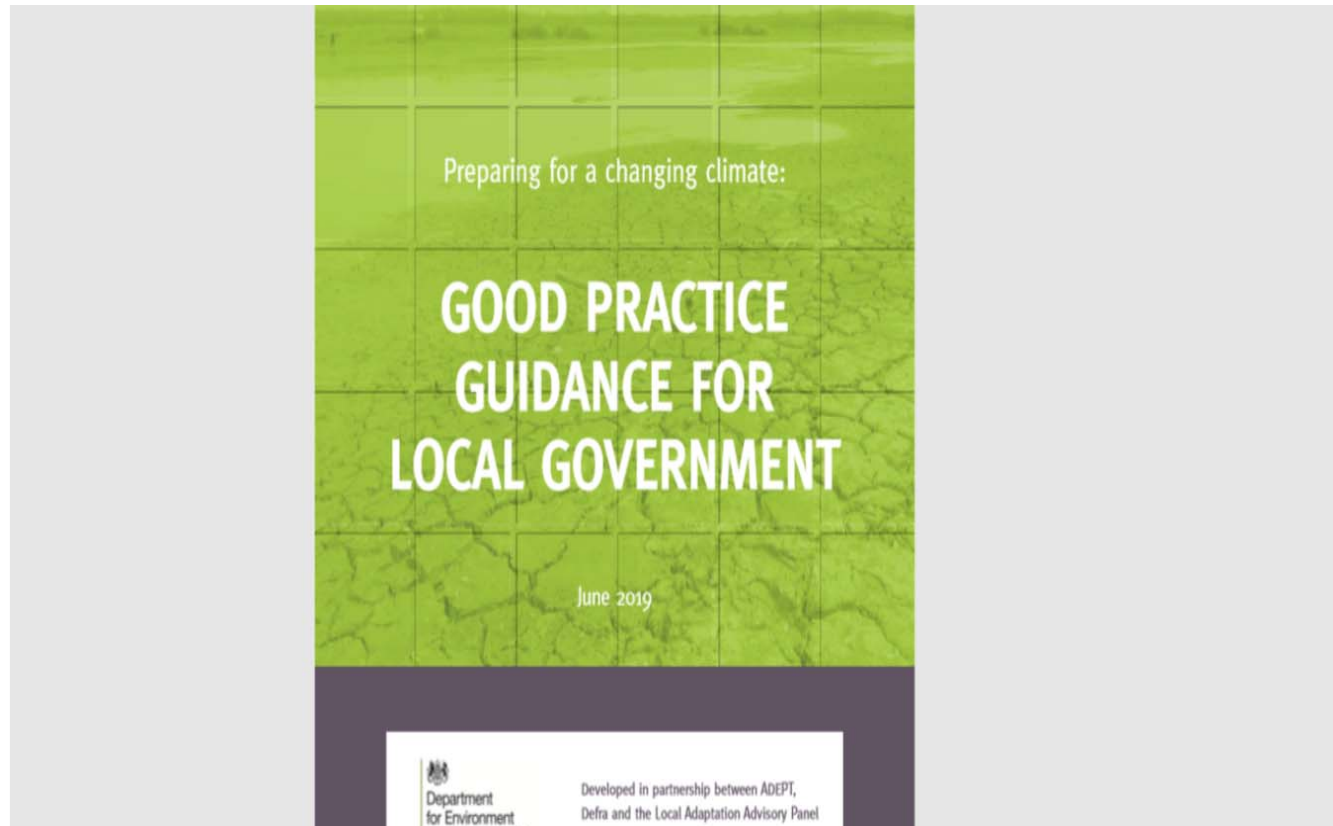
There are a wide range of legislative and policy drivers to enable local action on climate change. Local government has obligations that contribute to resilience, although not all local authorities will have the same responsibilities in an area. These include flood risk

management, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and commitments to prepare and plan for emergencies under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are also required under the Planning Act 2008 to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. They need to take full account of flood risk, coastal change, and water supply and demand considerations. There are also funding requirements to consider adaptation as part of criteria for the Local Growth Fund.



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# ADAPTATION GUIDANCE





## ADAPTATION GUIDANCE

- June 2019 – ADEPT/ LAAP published adaptation guidance for local authorities designed for a wide range of officers working to implement adaptation in local government
- Audience: those responsible for and contributing to adaptation planning, managing civil contingencies, and those who want to make their services more resilient
- sets out practical steps for those starting out on adaptation planning as well as those who are already doing it
- covers corporate plans, policies and performance, business, natural capital and green infrastructure, infrastructure, land use and public health
- <https://adeptnet.org.uk/news/preparing-changing-climate-good-practice-guide-published>.
- <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-adaptation-information-for-local-authorities>



## Adaptation actions by Local Authorities

- Aware that a significant number of local authorities have declared climate emergencies and are developing own plans
- welcome councils efforts in responding to the global challenge of climate change, and as we pursue net zero emissions across the economy.
- promotion of SuDS through Cambridge's Local Plan is projected to result in significant savings for council services, homeowners and industry
- At one specific site, based on average annual damages, a net value of £3.7m could be achieved by avoiding damages worth £5.8m through measures costing £2.1m.





## Adaptation actions by Local Authorities

- In 2018 Govt announced the OxCam Arc as an economic priority region and key UK economic asset.
- we created a cross-Whitehall portfolio structure managed within MHCLG to ensure the Arc's potential can be reached by 2050.
- Government commitments include: up to 1 million high-quality new homes by 2050, and completing East West Rail
- It presents a unique opportunity for testing local delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan including large scale environmental gains through embedding a natural capital approach to strategic planning for housing and infrastructure.
- A [Natural Capital Plan](#) for OxCam was published at the end of last year.
- NE are closely involved.



## Adaptation actions by Local Authorities

- **Climate Ready Clyde** is a cross-sector initiative to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan for adapting Glasgow City Region.
- Collaboration with Adaptation Scotland producing a toolkit in 2019 for assessing climate risks for built environment and infrastructure projects
- economic assessment of costs/benefits of GCR's climate risks and opportunities was produced in 2019 for policymakers, managers and practitioners.





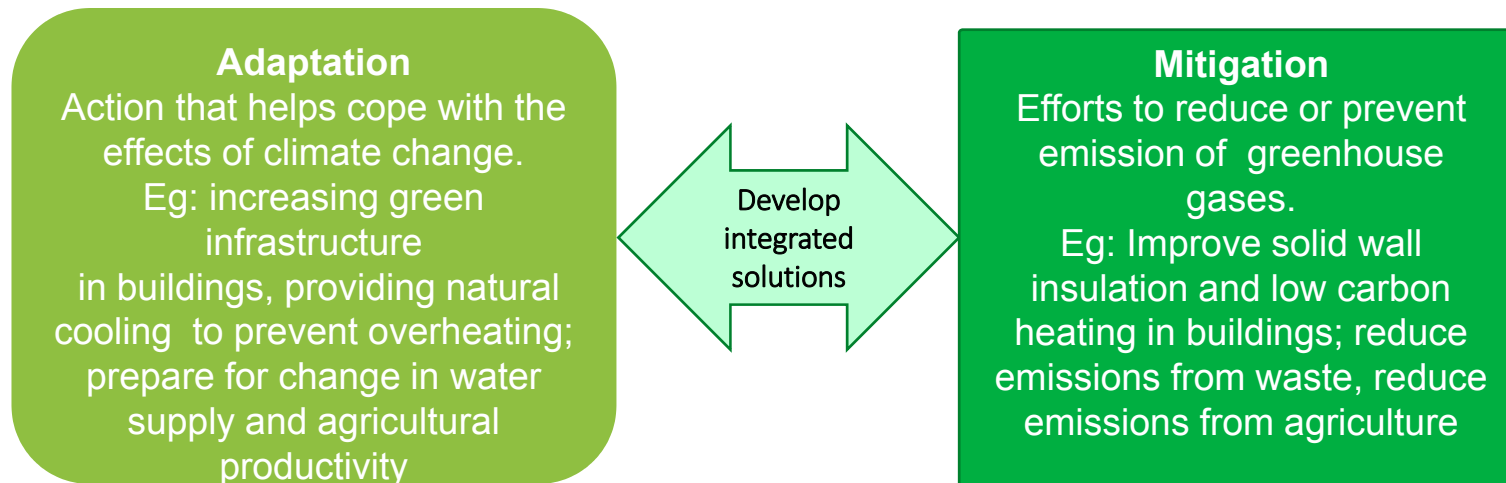
## Adaptation actions by Local Authorities

- Kent County Council are developing an adaptation catalyst tool which will help with planning an implementing adaptation
- it covers wide ranging adaptation measures, looks at asset management, how costs can be embedded
- Kent are also revising their Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System tool to make more user friendly and flexible
- decision support and business planning tool, captures data, builds robust evidence base and supports business case for adaptation action. It was developed to plan resilience to climate change



## Mitigation and Adaptation go hand in hand...

- UK is committed to net zero by 2050 - requires concerted action now to meet this target
- must go hand in hand with investment in resilience – to adapt to a world where the climate is already changing.





## And opportunities.....

- COP26 will be a milestone for ambition; for cleaner energy, a more resilient future and flourishing nature, supported by green financial systems.
- The UK, in partnership with Italy, has been nominated to host COP26. If successful, COP26 will be under a UK presidency, in partnership with Italy. UK will host COP in Glasgow, Italy will host the Pre-COP.
- COP26 will continue to drive forward global action on Adaptation & Resilience, with over 110 countries and over 70 organisations having endorsed the 'Call to Action' which was launched at the UNCAS summit last September





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And finally.....

- Looking to continue engagement and delivery on adaptation with local government sector
- Thank you
- Mailbox [climate@defra.gov.uk](mailto:climate@defra.gov.uk)

