



Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership

Date: 17 October 2024

Subject: Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment

Report of: Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment, GMCA

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to note the development of a Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment (Annex), highlight its publication as a technical Annex alongside the forthcoming 5-Year Environment Plan and outline the next steps in publishing a GM Climate Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan.

Recommendations:

The Partnership is asked to:

1. Note and comment upon the Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment
2. Endorse the plan for publication alongside the forthcoming 5-Year Environment Plan.
3. Note the next steps in producing a Greater Manchester Climate Adaptation Strategy and Implementation Plan.

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1.0 INTRODUCTIONS

The impacts of climate change and the climate emergency are now being felt across the globe, including in the UK. Several extreme events have been attributed to climate change, including the flooding and extreme heat events experienced in Greater Manchester over recent years, such as the 2015 Boxing Day floods, and the July 2022 extreme heatwave; both of which have been found to be more likely to occur because of climate change. These events are projected to become more frequent and intense over the coming decades as the climate continues to change.

Two policy responses are required to tackle this:

- **Mitigation** – reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce the degree and severity of climate change and its impacts, and
- **Adaptation** – adjusting to actual or expected future climate change, reducing risks and aiming to benefit from any associated opportunities where possible

Both adaptation and mitigation are necessary as adaptation is needed to reduce the associated risks of climate change that are now locked in. The first step in ensuring our city-region is well-adapted to the increasing impacts of climate change is to understand the risks and opportunities that we face from a changing climate. To do this, the Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment has been developed.

2.0 GREATER MANCHESTER CLIMATE CHANGE RISK ASSESSMENT

63 climate risks and opportunities for Greater Manchester have been identified in the development of the Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment, across the following themes: Natural Environment; Business and Industry; Infrastructure; Built Environment, Health and Communities; and International Dimensions (which are international in nature but will have some impacts in Greater Manchester).

The UK's Third Climate Change Risk Assessment (UK CCRA3), developed by the Climate Change Committee, was used as the primary resource for identifying climate risks and opportunities. Using climate projection data for Greater Manchester, stakeholder workshops and expert input, these were re-assessed for Greater Manchester, including their risk magnitude scores.

Of these 63 climate risks, 14 have been classed as of High or Very High Magnitude for Greater Manchester in the present day, and 27 have been classed as of High or Very High Magnitude by the 2050s.

3.0 GREATER MANCHESTER CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A joint bid from Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Manchester City Council has been successful in securing ~£180,000 of Horizon Europe funding as part of their Pathways2Resilience Programme. The programme runs for 18-months from September 2024 and aims to increase the resilience of European regions and communities in the face of climate change by helping them to develop a Baseline Report as well as a Climate Resilience Strategy, Action Plan and Investment Plan.

The outputs will be developed at a city region scale by Greater Manchester Combined Authority with Manchester City Council helping to understand how this can be applied to a local authority level. The strategy and implementation plan will help to provide the strategic direction to realise the vision of a well-adapted, resilient and climate-ready Greater Manchester. It will include outline appraised adaptation actions and seek to integrate adaptation into relevant projects, policies and plans.

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment is due to be published in December 2024, alongside the forthcoming 5 Year Environment Plan. Following publication, the Greater Manchester Climate Change Risk Assessment can be used by GM local authorities, public and private sector to support the development of local-level or organisational-level climate change risk assessments – a key stage to increasing climate resilience and adapting to climate impacts. It can also be used by GMCA Directorates to identify relevant climate risks in Directorate risk registers and business plans, helping to embed climate resilience and adaptation action across relevant service areas.

For the Pathways2Resilience project, the Baseline Assessment is due in June 2025 and all other deliverables (Climate Resilience Strategy, Action Plan and Investment Plan) are to be delivered by February 2026.