

## Climate Change Adaptation for Severe Weather in West Yorkshire

- **Local authority area:** West Yorkshire (Leeds and Kirklees)
- **Stakeholders:** Kirklees Council, Leeds Council, Bradford Council, Calderdale Council, Wakefield Council, Environment Agency, NHS Trusts, West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service, UK Climate Impacts Programme

### Summary

The main purpose of this RIEP funded project was to develop and implement a West Yorkshire collaborative approach to climate change adaptation action planning.

### Key learning points

- Work in partnership – share expertise across the local authorities.
- Use existing resources already available.
- Do not assume that partners have the knowledge and capacity to support the action plan.

### Background

To achieve level 3 in National Indicator 188, each authority needed to have 'developed a comprehensive adaptation action plan'.

A jointly authored West Yorkshire adaptation action plan will:

- build on the risk assessment work undertaken in Leeds and Kirklees to develop a model local authority action plan for each of the five West Yorkshire Local Authorities and a shared West Yorkshire-wide action plan
- foster closer working relationships across the five authorities, including the exchange of best practice.
- provide opportunities to deliver any training identified more efficiently
- create greater parity in the capacity of the authorities involved to deliver objectives.
- enable Leeds & Kirklees to share their experience with the West Yorkshire Local Authorities.
- streamline consultation and engagement with sub-regional partners such as West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, West Yorkshire Ecology, Yorkshire Water etc.

The plan will also build upon the Regional Adaptation Study & the individual Local Area Reports.

## Method

1. Inception meetings to discuss work areas and agree on the priority areas (Leeds & Kirklees met every 4-6 weeks to discuss individual tasks, update the working group and develop an action plan)
2. Desk based exercise to develop priority sector risk assessments and action planning.
3. Monthly email updates provided to the West Yorkshire climate change officers group for consultation.

### ● **Barriers**

- It was difficult to engage with internal & external partners.

### ● **Resources**

- Local authority knowledge, existing risk assessments, academic research commissioned by Leeds, all five West Yorkshire authorities Local Climate Impact Profiles.
- The project took 6 months with officers working part time (2 to 3 days a week on it).

## Result - Key outcomes and impact

### ● **Key outputs**

- A comprehensive Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan and evidence for each Local Authority to submit to DECC for NI188.
- Joined-up, sub regional approach to adaptation ensuring parity between participating target LA's and efficiencies of scale.
- Leeds & Kirklees assisting Bradford, Calderdale & Wakefield to 'fast-track' through the various levels of NI188.

### ● **Key outcomes**

- Designed a sub-regional approach to adapting to climate change which recognised the most appropriate scale to take action to address impacts (Local Authority specific or West Yorkshire wide).
- Shared best practice including the findings of Leeds & Kirklees Local Climate Impact Profile.
- Worked with regions across the UK such as North East & East Midlands who have piloted a sub-regional approach to adaptation.
- Raised the importance of climate change adaptation within the Local Authorities and across the Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Identified opportunities for resource sharing in respect of reducing sub-regional risks.

## Key contact

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## References / Links

<http://www.yourclimate.org/system/files/documents/West%20Yorkshire%20Adaptation%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

<http://www.adaptyh.co.uk/>

<http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>