



## **ANNEX C**

# SSAC Virtual Roundtable

Place based approaches to  
adaptation

# SSAC – Who are we?



- SSAC was created in 2002
- **Council** – currently chaired by Maggie Gill; along with 12 members plus 2 associate members and *ex officio* CSA; Chief Scientist, Health; CSA ENRA; Chief Social Policy Adviser
- **Secretariat** – Science Advice and Engagement team within SG Industrial Transformation and Office of the Chief Scientific Adviser Division

# Distinctive features of SSAC



- a remit that cuts across all sectors and policy areas;
- we provide independent science advice at “arm’s length” to SG ;
- we have no disciplinary or sectoral “agenda”;
- we operate as a “collective” (i.e. Members have a responsibility to provide checks and balances within the Council);
- our combined knowledge of Scottish science skills and context enables us to ensure that advice commissioned from outside Scotland is appropriate to the Scottish context

# Principles of engagement:



- Our focus is on *science* advice, where science includes social and economic disciplines;
- We need to be thinking of future needs and highlighting the potential value of science;
- We can be both reactive (responding to requests from within SG) and proactive (identifying topics we think are opportunities or risks for Scotland);
- In developing Terms of Reference for specific pieces of work we take into account the broader landscape of advice available (e.g. Centres of Expertise, other advisory committees and organisations, the RSE etc)

# Recent reports

[Publications | The Scottish Science  
Advisory Council](#)



scottish  
science  
advisory  
council

- Use of Science and Evidence in Aquaculture Consenting
- Opportunities and Challenges associated with hydrogen's role in the delivery of future energy systems in the context of a Just Transition
- Quantum Technology: Opportunities for Scotland
- Building on the Science Legacy of Covid-19 in Scotland
- Future Landscapes: Report on Geospatial Knowledge
- Technical Briefing Note - Sustainable Chemicals
- Environmental Impacts of the Scottish Manufacturing Industry



The SSAC is hosting this roundtable to gather evidence on on approaches, emerging thinking, and how to engage practically with current and developing place based adaptation in Scotland.

The roundtable is part of a study which has included seeking evidence from the community of stakeholders and which will contribute to an SSAC report.

# Scotland's national approach to adaptation

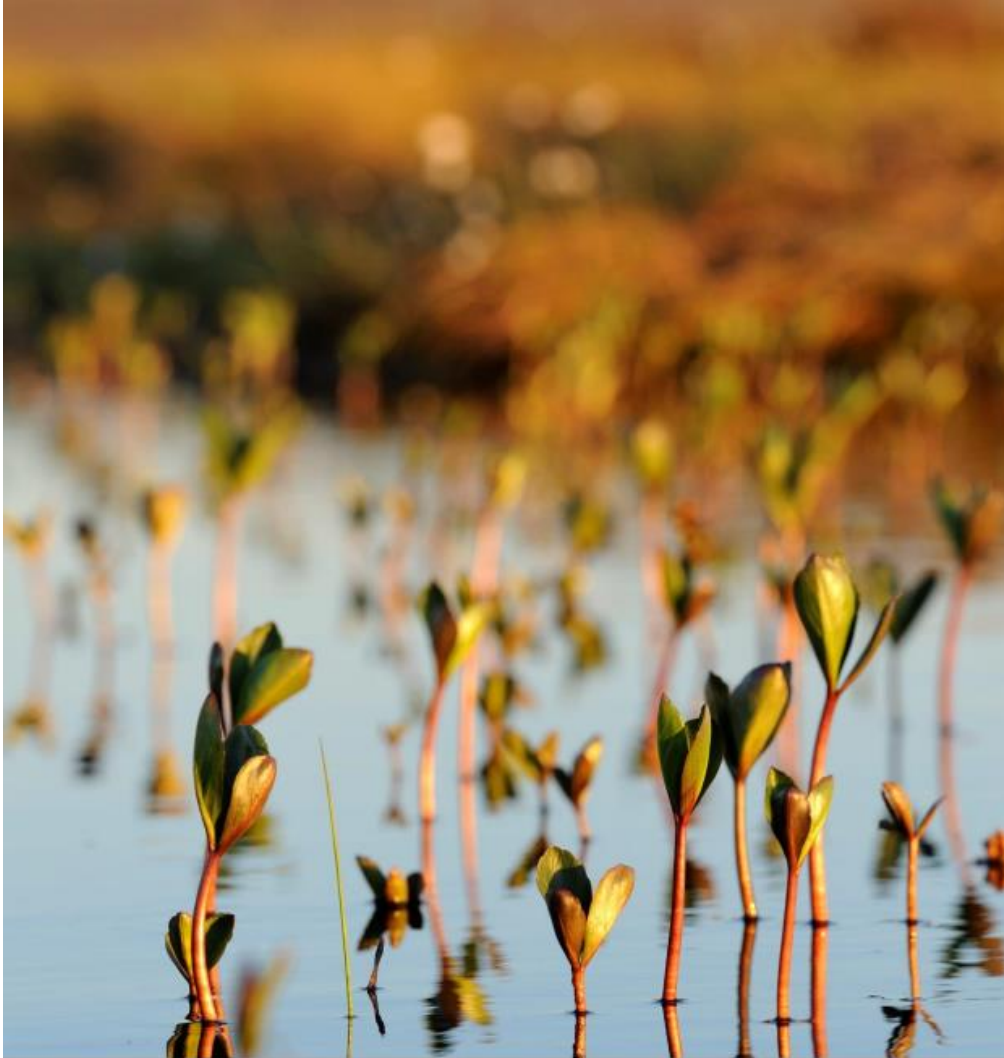
- The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009** requires a programme for climate change adaptation to be set out every 5 years. This must address risks identified in the statutory UK Climate Change Risk Assessments (UK CCRA, which are also independently updated every five years).
- The current programme, SCCAP2, covers the period 2019 – 2024. It is **outcomes-based (aligned to the UN SDGs)**, with a focus on **people-centric and place-based approaches**.
- It contains around **170 policies and proposals** plus a supporting research programme.



- The Scottish Government funds **Adaptation Scotland** to support capacity building and adaptation action by the public sector, businesses and communities in Scotland.
- **Regional adaptation partnerships** are a key vehicle for action and innovation.

**Adaptation Scotland**  
supporting climate change resilience

# Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (CCRA3)



*“Action to improve the nation’s resilience is failing to keep pace with the impacts of a warming planet and increasing climate risks facing the UK.”*

- 61 specific climate-related risk areas identified.
- Scottish Government is now developing Scotland's next statutory climate change adaptation programme in response.
- Mitigate for 1.5, plan for 2 degrees of warming, assess the risks for 4 degrees.



# Highest Priority Risk Areas (CCC + SG)

Risks to people and the economy from climate-related failure of the power system

Risks to supply of food, goods and vital services due to climate-related collapse of supply chains and distribution networks

Risks to soil health from increased flooding and drought

Risks to natural carbon stores and sequestration from multiple hazards leading to increased emissions

Risks to the viability and diversity of terrestrial and freshwater habitats and species from multiple hazards

Risks to crops, livestock and commercial trees from multiple hazards

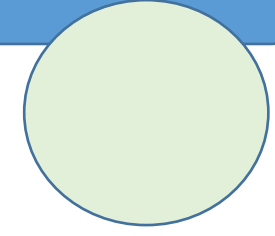
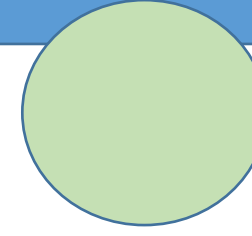
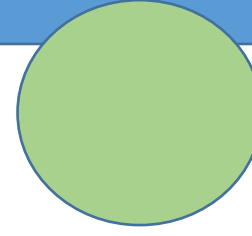
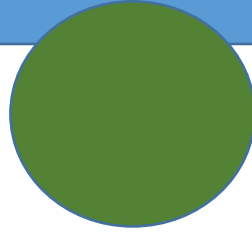
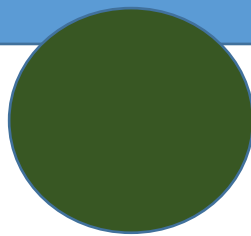
Risks to human health, wellbeing and productivity from increased exposure to heat in homes and other buildings

Risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure associated with flooding and coastal change

# Logic Model for next Adaptation Programme



**Vision for a just and climate ready Scotland set out through 5 adaptation outcomes: the 'sectors' for the next programme**



**~20 programme objectives addressing 61 CCRA risks (over 5-year period)  
+ measurable indicators**

**Policies/actions grouped under each objective + corresponding  
CCRA risks**

# National adaptation programme for 2024

We envisage a stronger role for **place-based initiatives** driving effective, inclusive adaptation action across cities, regions and localities engaging a broader range of delivery partners.

## Nature connects

across our land, settlements, coasts and seas

## Communities

are shaping places and co-creating climate resilience solutions

## Public Services

are person-centred, prepared and building resilience with leadership and collaboration

## Businesses and industries

are adapting, realising opportunities and securing supply of food, goods and vital services.

## Scotland international role

supports climate justice and enhanced global action on adaptation

# Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threat (SWOT) Analysis of Place-based adaptation in Scotland

Presented by : Ashrika Sharma, Intern SSAC

8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

# Aims

- Inform Scottish Government in preparation for the next Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP)
- A review of recent research-driven development projects on place-based adaptation
- Evidences of successes, lessons learnt and challenges of place-based adaptation is faced is limited
- Draw from different projects to provide evidences from individuals and groups working in place-based adaptation

# Background

## Place based adaptation- Concepts

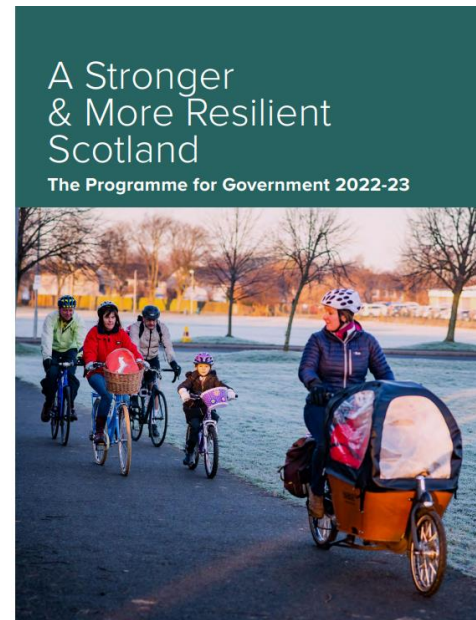


- Differential impacts of climate, the need for a tailored approach
- Focusing on **‘place’** as a scale for implementing climate actions
  - location, locale, and sense of place
  - a relative measure applies where we can only aim to understand what constitutes as place
  - and engaging individuals and communities in the process
- Adaptation actions are by necessity based in place, but place also affects both the need for adaptation and the ability to adapt.
  - **Place-based values** could be a point of convergence for diverse stakeholders

# The Scottish policy landscape



- Key principles of place-based working, such as collaboration and partnership, cross-sectoral thinking, and the emphasis on 'place' are reflected in Scotland's National Performance Network
- 'Place,' 'place-based approach' as one of central themes in the Scottish Government's Programmes for Government.



# Methods:

## 1) Outline the theoretical rationale for place-based adaptation

- Literature review was expanded to understand the theoretical rationale of place-based planning and place-based policies.
- Six broad themes were identified.

## 2) Identify adaptation projects with place-based approach in Scotland

- Scoping exercise
- [UKRI \(UK Research and Innovation\) database](#), university web pages, [Sniffer](#) to help identify relevant projects and practitioners

## 3) Identify strengths, weaknesses, barriers, and threats across the place-based adaptation projects

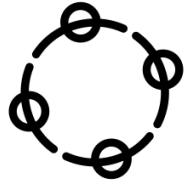
- Online questionnaire for the SWOT analysis.
- Semi structured interviews



# SWOT Analysis- Results

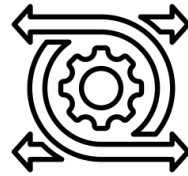


# SWOT Analysis : Strengths



## **Collaboration and partnership**

Viewed as outcome that the place-based adaptation has helped foster, as well as opportunities of promising alliance that could influence how adaptation initiatives evolve in the future



## **Flexibility associated with place-based approaches**

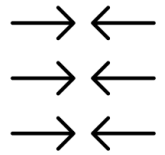
Flexibility to determine the specific geography for adaptation, providing workable framework for addressing climate change impacts in a context-specific and locally relevant manner



## **Addressing issues of inclusion, ensuring effective means to participate**

The processes are broadly participatory and aim to be representative of diverse interests.

# SWOT Analysis : Weakness



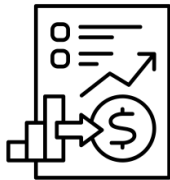
## Communicating Adaptation

Climate risks information appeals to reason, which is most often not the primary motivator for human behaviour.



## Ensuring representation

Engaging representatives from every local group involved or willing to participate, leading to engagement of only a handful of active groups in such processes.



## Difficulty in capturing long term impact, legacy and reach

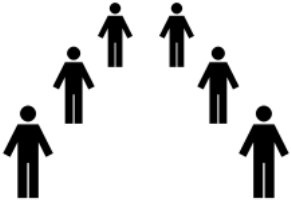
Lack of effective monitoring and evaluation and lack of funding allocated for that purpose.



## Addressing Social Justice

Limited guidance on how normative criteria on justice can be integrated into adaptation planning.

# SWOT Analysis : Opportunities



## **Strengthening adaptation discourse in resilience policy framing**

To instigate more direct action rather than indirect.



## **Capitalizing on community assets**

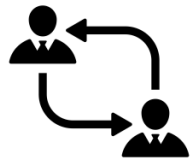
Community assets as not only the physical structures or places, but also importantly community leaders, groups, services, and businesses.



## **Diverse leadership**

Diverse leadership can play a crucial role in promoting shared power by distribution of decision-making authority, balancing multiple interests.

# SWOT Analysis : Threats



Information flow



Lack of coherent policy



Scale of governance can be a challenge in carrying out regional adaptation



Dealing with uncertainty



Financial, short -term, piecemeal and current budget cuts

# Conclusion

- A demand for improvement and more opportunities to invest in place-based adaptation, particularly through more research & collaboration with education institutions
- Emphasis on the significance of climate justice, shared power and capacity building.
- Further work in improvement should also focus on aspects such as making policy and funding information accessible to local community groups.

# **Place based adaptation - insights from practice**

**Anna Beswick**  
**Head of Climate Leadership, Sniffer**

# Overview

- Introducing Sniffer
- Climate Ready Placemaking – Sniffer’s approach
- Place based adaptation examples and insights
- Research and practice collaboration



# A flourishing and fairer future for all

We act as a catalyst, fostering collaboration across sectors and places to support transformation towards a flourishing and fairer future for all in a changing climate.

- bringing communities and different organisations together so they can better understand what climate change means for their place, and what can be done about it.
- building local leadership and catalysing change through our expertise, tools and networks, fostering innovation and collaboration.

Taking a place-based approach means working collaboratively across sectors and organisations, and understanding the systems and relations that shape where we live. It also means paying attention to people's identities, local knowledge, histories and values.

*Climate ready placemaking Sniffer's approach to creating flourishing and fairer places in a changing climate*

<https://www.sniffer.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=29da73bb-9df1-4172-97f8-2886986fe6fb>




# Cities, regions, Islands



# OH CPP Climate Change Working Group & Climate Beacon

Compàirteachas Plana  
Coimhearsnachd  
**Innse Gall**



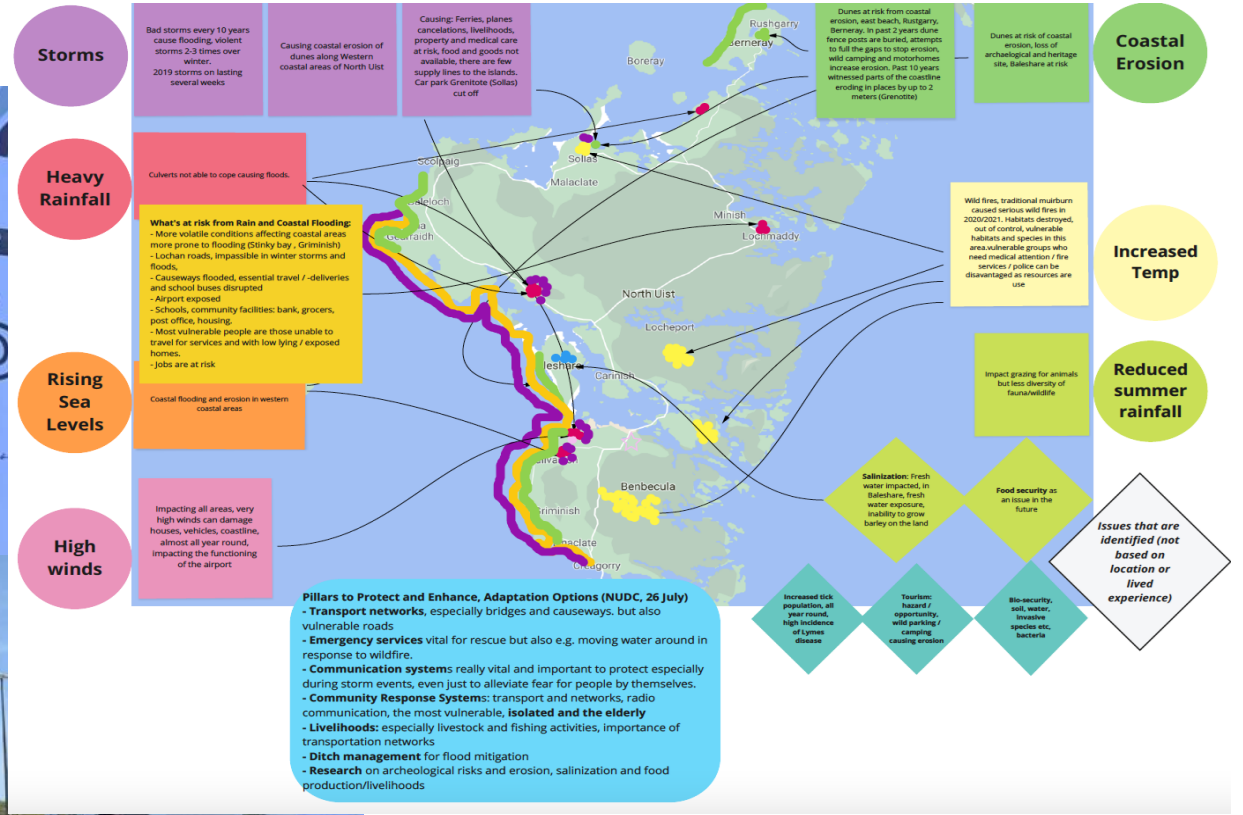
**Outer Hebrides  
Community Planning  
Partnership**



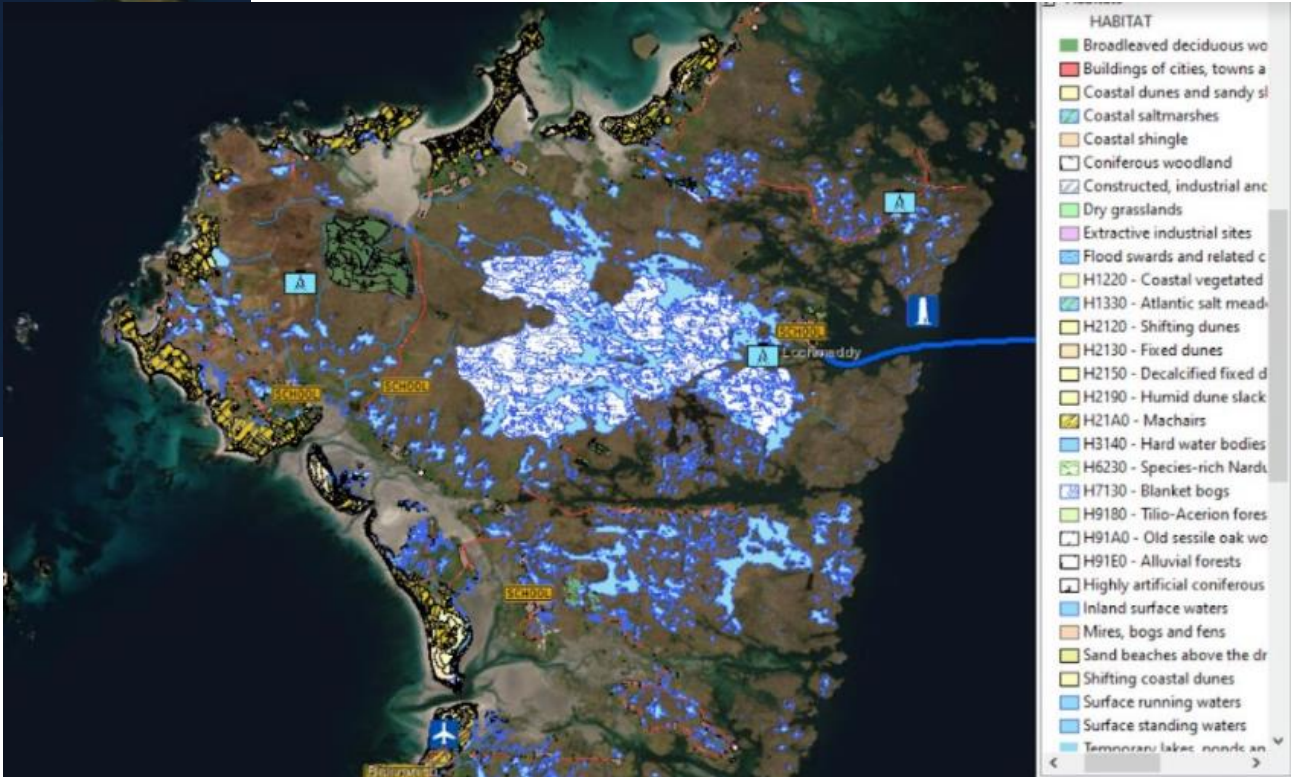
ceòlas



# North Uist pilot: Community mapping



# North Uist pilot: Combined scientific & community map



# Insights from PBA at locality scale

Climate adaptation must be **framed sensitively** – impacts are deeply personal.

**Collaboration and interdisciplinary perspectives** crucial to creating honest and hopeful engagement.

**Opening up dialogue** on climate risks and connections to livelihoods is part of a process of building understanding and paving the way for locally led adaptation in the years ahead. This process connects to social dimensions of system change and transformation.

**Cultural and creative practice** helped people connect and share how climate impacts affect the islands and their hopes and concerns for the years ahead.



# Insights from PBA at locality scale

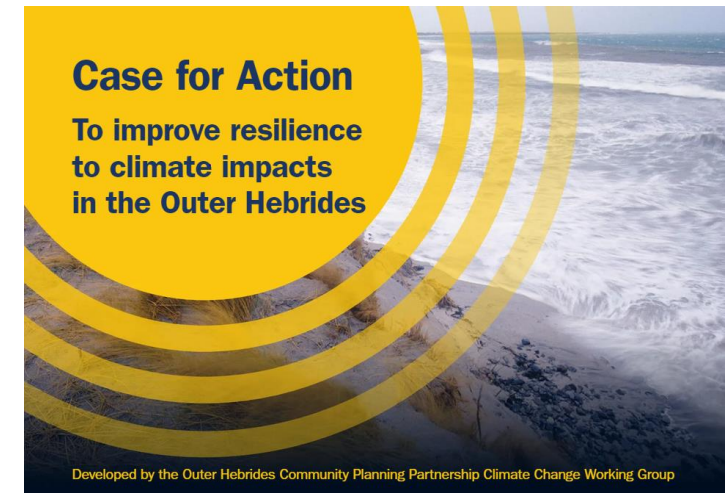
**Local leaders will emerge.** Address imbalances in power, build capacity for shared leadership and support new mechanism that enable community involvement beyond traditional public sector leadership spaces.

Climate adaptation is not a stand alone challenge, it should be addressed **as part of wider efforts for resilient communities.**

Support provided through the Adaptation Scotland programme has built the capacity and the **confidence** of local partners to lead adaptation work in the Outer Hebrides

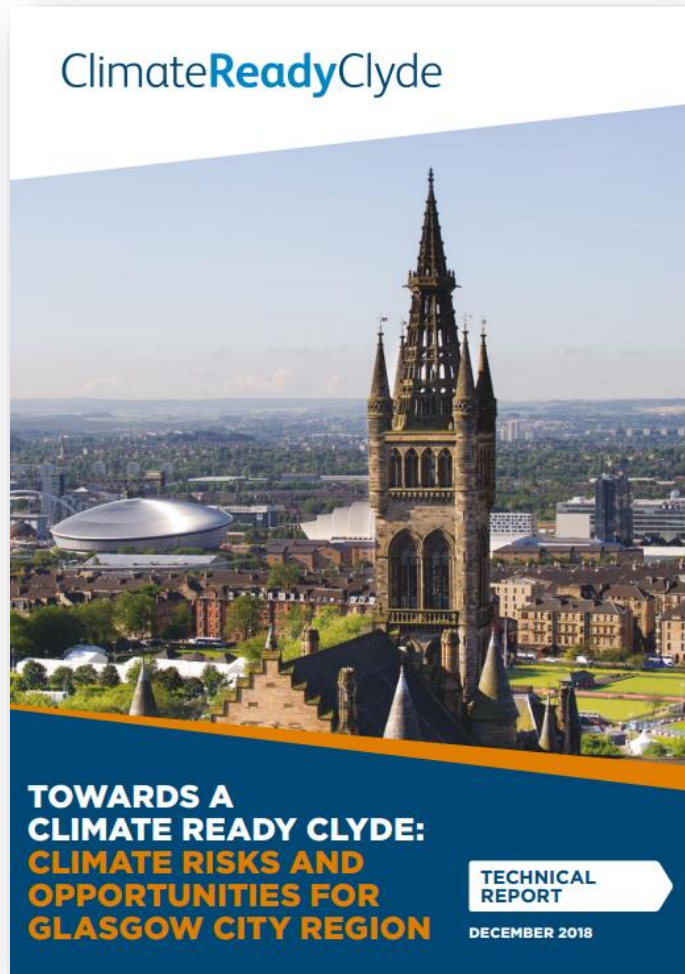
*“ Putting it simply – we would not be in the position we are in today without the advice and support we have received from Sniffer through the Adaptation Scotland programme”.*

David Maclennan, Head of Operations – West, NatureScot

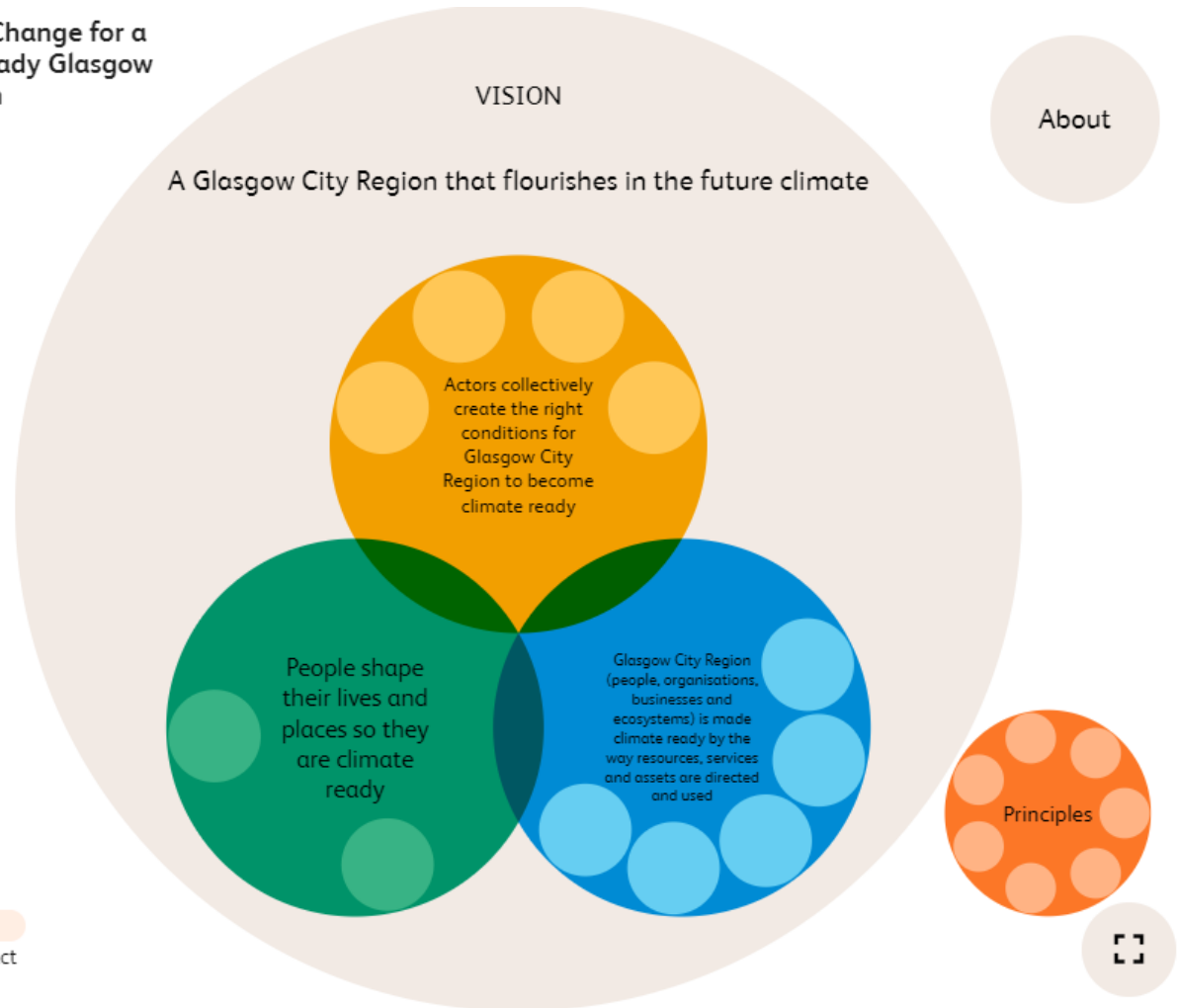


# ClimateReadyClyde

Climate Ready Clyde is a cross-sector initiative funded by 13 member organisations and supported by the Scottish Government to create a shared vision, strategy and action plan for an adapting Glasgow City Region.

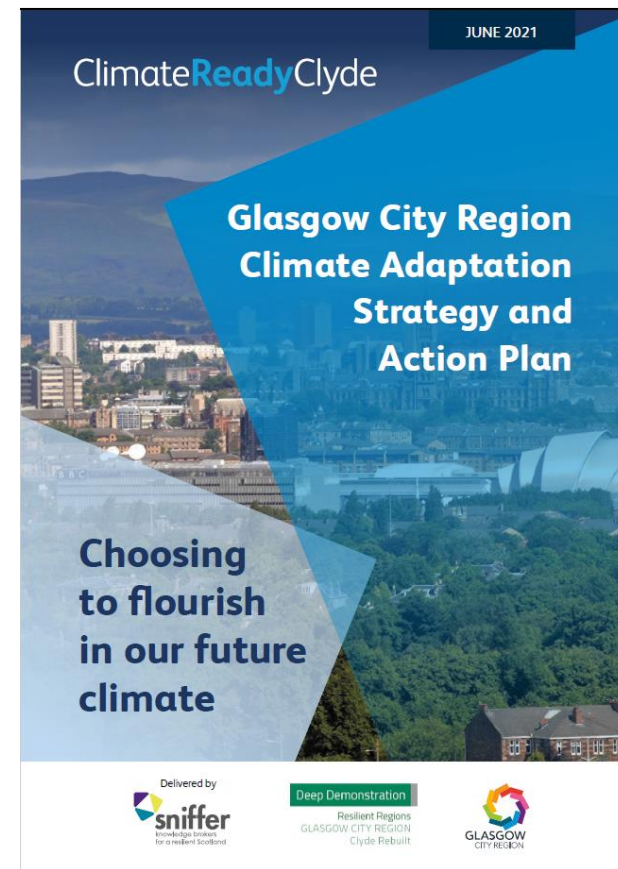
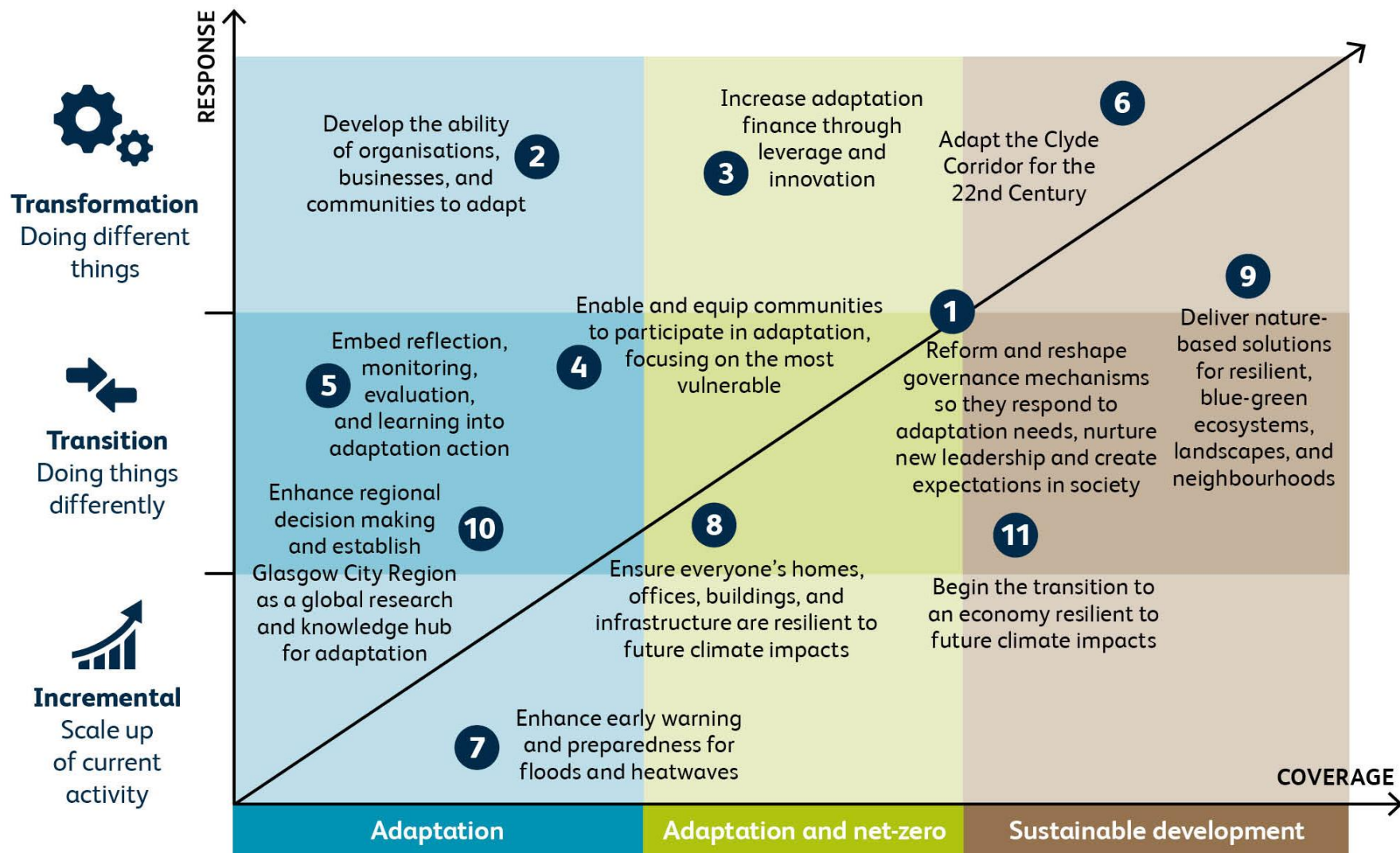


## Theory of Change for a Climate Ready Glasgow City Region





# ClimateReadyClyde



# Insights from PBA at a regional scale

'First mover' – first major adaptation initiative formed in Scotland. Glasgow City Region now has one of the most advanced adaptation strategies and actions plans in Europe.

Many helpful examples but no blue print CRC is characterised **by innovation – this can be messy!**

Forming the CRC initiative took years – create **governance mechanism**, co-develop business case and agree financial arrangements. Learning has supported development of other place based initiatives in Scotland and beyond.

Governance and leadership is evolving – widening to support vision and outcomes set out in the theory of change. **Shift towards shared leadership**. Community and business involvement in the initiative needs to be strengthened.

Focus now on delivery – review progress against the action plan and stretch targets.

# Opportunities for research collaboration

Firstly – thank you!

- Much more needed and major opportunities to achieve research impact
- Sniffer is able to collaborate with you on research calls – access to our expertise and route to impact
- Huge opportunities across place based projects – established and emerging

**Thank you**

Contact [anna@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:anna@sniffer.org.uk)

# New ideas on adaptation: Lessons from the policy-practice-research interface

## Place-based Approaches to adaptation

SSAC Virtual Roundtable, Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dr Candice Howarth, Head of Local Climate Action & PCAN Co-Director  
LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment

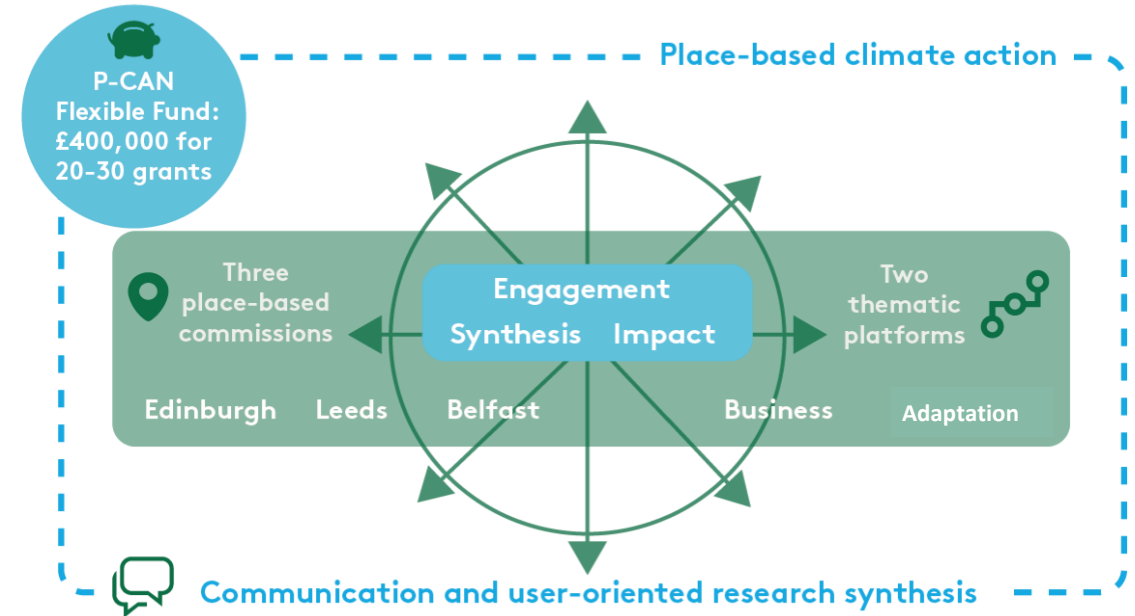
[C.Howarth@lse.ac.uk](mailto:C.Howarth@lse.ac.uk)



# Place-based Climate Action Network

PCAN is a £3.5 million network aimed at translating climate policy into action 'on the ground' in our communities.

- Three Core City Climate Commissions: Belfast, Edinburgh, Leeds
- Outer network of Climate Commissions: regional, county level, district, time-limited
- Thematic platforms on: Climate Adaptation and Finance

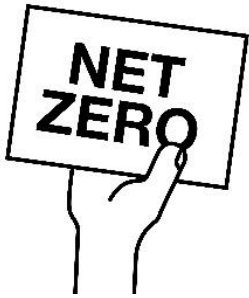


# Turning climate rhetoric into action

Dynamism from 2019 has been overshadowed by aftermath of COVID-19, cost-of-living crisis, rise in energy prices



- Resulted in a shift in local authority priorities and limited resources to deliver and advance climate action
- Support from national government has become intermittent
- However these crises have made businesses and consumers aware of the need to reduce energy consumption



New forms of climate governance (e.g. local climate commissions) play an important role in supporting effective, inclusive and fair place-based climate action

# Adaptation in local climate action

- Local climate action tends to prioritise mitigation of emissions and targets to reach net zero
- However, climate adaptation efforts are growing and are being given a larger, if not equal, seat at the table
- Climate impacts are experienced locally → place-based adaptation is essential to ensure local values, knowledge and priorities are incorporated into responses
- Local authorities are increasingly recognising the importance of addressing climate risks through adaptation strategies and plans, although impact of these is patchy

Local adaptation shares many of the same challenges as local net zero efforts

Limited fit-for-purpose information

Weak governance

Siloed approaches

Lack of knowledge, skills and capacity

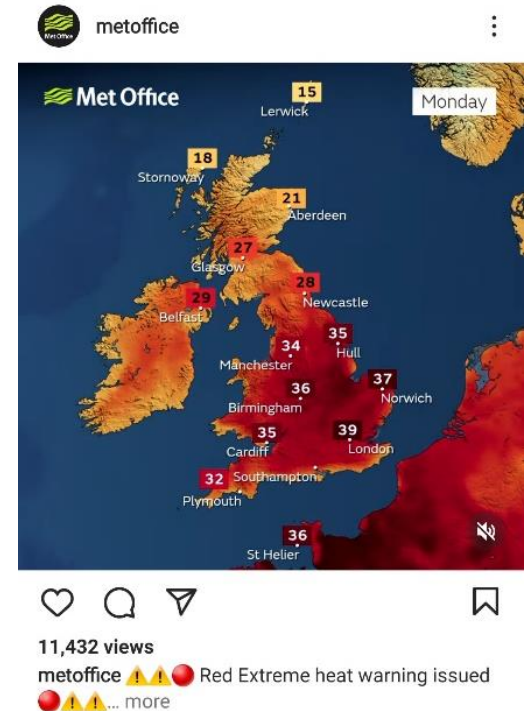
Goals

Securing finance

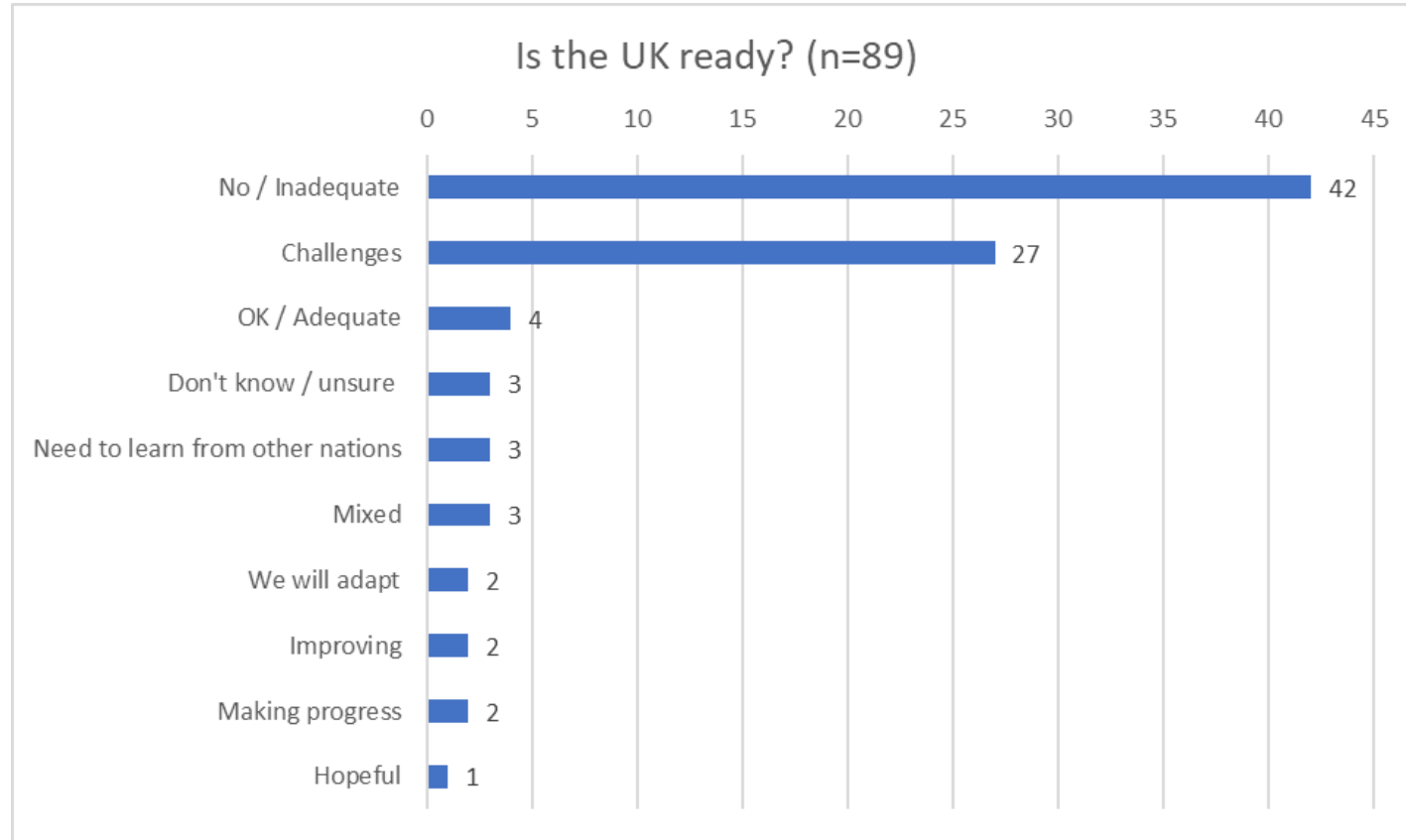


# Case study: Summer of 2022 extreme heat

- 19 July: Temperature exceeded 40°C
- 18-19 July: **level 4 heat health warning** issued for first time
- Five 'heat periods': 16–19 June, 10–25 July, 30 July–5 August, 8–17 August, 23–25 August
  - **2,803 excess deaths** recorded among those aged 65 years and over & **3,271 excess deaths** among all (excluding COVID-19 deaths)
  - the **highest excess mortality figure** during heat periods recorded since Heatwave Plan for England introduced in 2004
  - Over 17–20 July, ~1,012 excess deaths for those aged over 65 in England

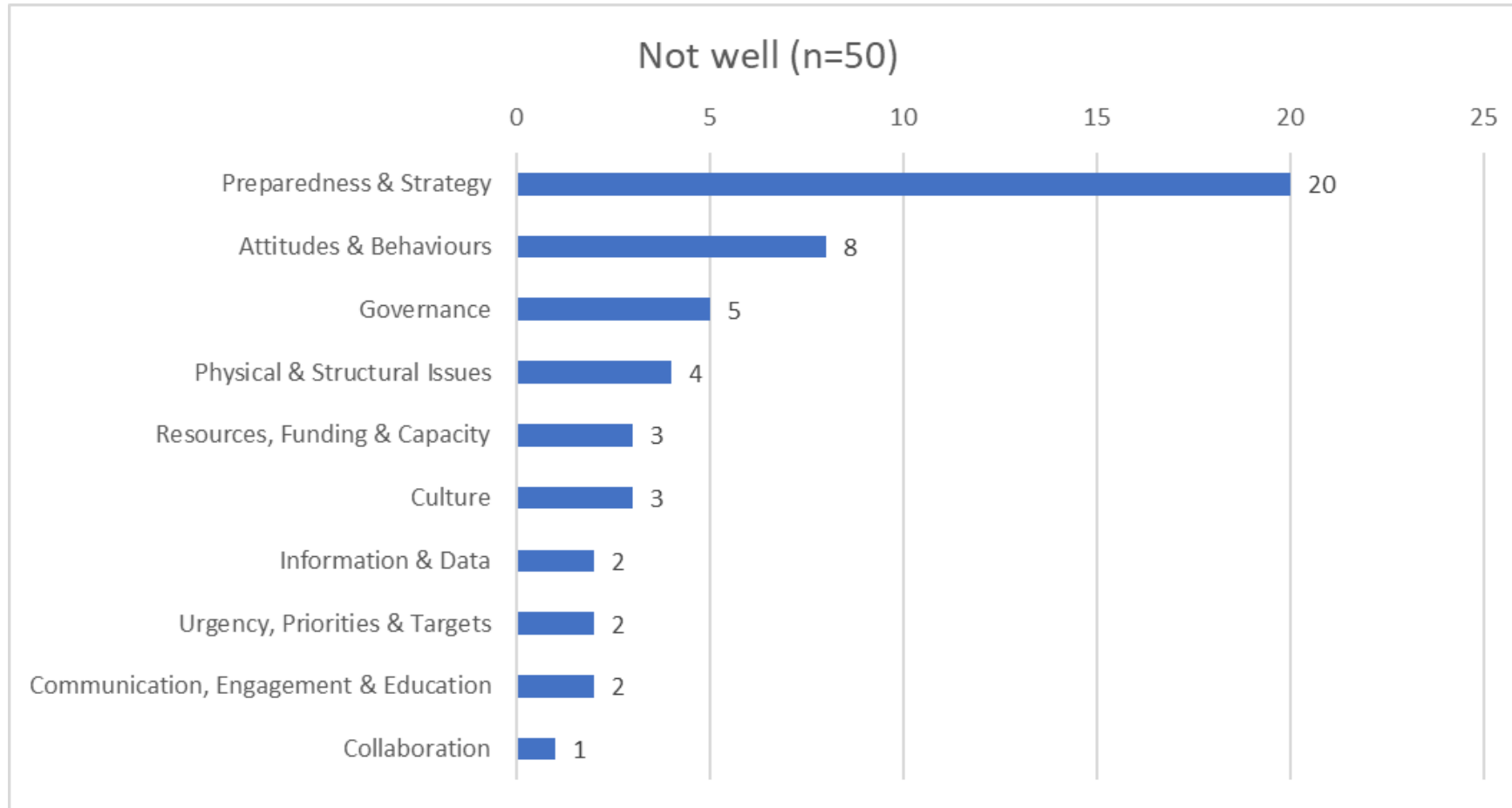


# UK preparedness to extreme heat



“No. Absolutely not. There’s just absolutely no way that this has been properly accounted for in this – it hasn’t, has it? No, it’s not been considered. People haven’t been considered. There’s been nowhere near enough investment in it. Our laws, our policies, our balances of power, are all set up completely wrongly for this. And they better look sharp and think on, because there’s – it’s a real issue. It’s a real problem.”

# 2022 heatwave responses: what didn't go well



# Barriers to responding to heatwaves

## ready? Funding & capacity

- Skills
- Manpower
- Finance
- Community networks

## Coordination

- Lack of a plan & joined up thinking
- Managing expectations
- Short term solutions & knowledge gaps
- Staff wellbeing/health
- Conflicting priorities

## Governance

- Lack of political will & not a priority
- Long time needed
- Lack of flexibility
- Disconnected solutions
- Mismatched experience

## Hazard

- Viewed positively
- Magnitude
- Silent killer
- Lack of understanding

## Behaviour

- Apprehension
- Need targeted approach
- Cascading impacts

## Communication

- Messy messaging
- Warnings overload
- More engaging
- Not tailored



PLACE-BASED  
CLIMATE ACTION  
NETWORK

In association with

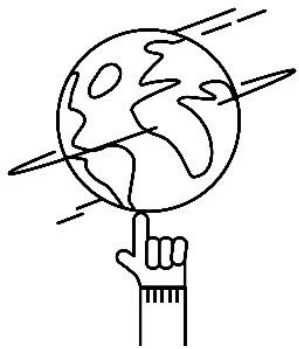


**BritishRedCross**

# Communication & engagement



**The co-benefits considered most important by the UK public are improving air quality and health, providing homes that are more affordable to heat, improving energy security, and reducing inequality”**



- **Place-based climate language** is vital in communicating with and mobilising the public. Climate assemblies & universities can help
- Place-based solutions derive from a **deep understanding** of, and engagement with, the expectations and concerns of local people and communities.
- A **transparent, local, place-based approach** is critical, with honest conversations about the potential ‘losers’ that could arise from the transition.
- **Co-benefits** may result from climate action (e.g. improving air quality and public health; reducing fuel poverty), but there is a **gap in research** on how UK public perceive such co-benefits.

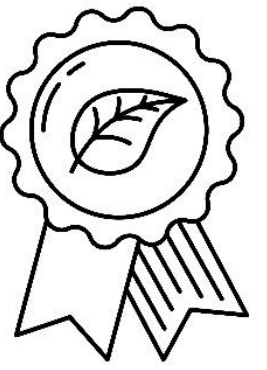
# Recommendations

Local authorities should

1. **Develop locally supported, evidence based climate action plans** that tackle both adaptation and mitigation
2. **Adopt a partnership-based approach** to local climate action
3. **Embed climate action in broader local strategies** to emphasise co-benefits of climate action and connect climate adaptation and mitigation
4. **Adopt integrated approach** to financing climate adaptation and mitigation needs

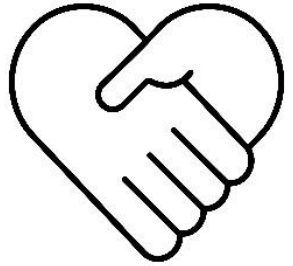


# Recommendations



Local communities and stakeholders should

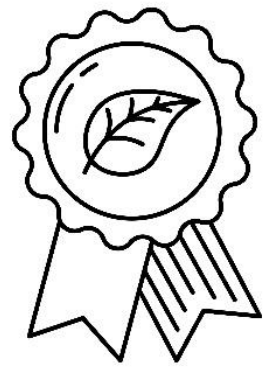
5. **Broaden the scope of climate action beyond emissions reductions** to create synergies to reduce physical climate risks, tackle wider societal challenges, and reduce social and economic inequalities
6. Utilise structures such as **climate commissions as an effective method** for delivering evidence, advice and local collaboration
7. **Collaborate with local universities / knowledge agencies** to utilise data and evidence to inform local action plans and progress reports
8. **Participate in networks and platforms** to share experiences and learn from each other



# Recommendations

Local businesses should

9. **Help support and lead place-based climate action** recognising that this cannot be delivered alone by local authorities and public investment alone
10. **Address the climate impact of their own operations** and use their local influence to reduce area-wide emissions
11. **Recognise changes to current operations and practice are necessary**, but can also present opportunities for efficiencies, improvements and long term investments
12. **Seek active collaborations with local partners** to share knowledge, skills and investments

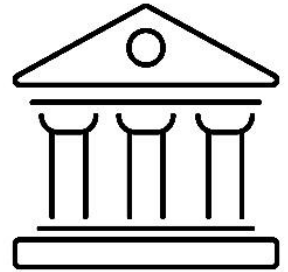




# Recommendations

National government and devolved administrations should

13. **Put in place a coherent framework** to support local climate adaptation and mitigation measures backed by appropriate funds, resources and skills
14. **Tackle institutional and policy barriers** holding back local climate action, to prevent national policy uncertainty and top-down approaches hindering local climate action ambition
15. **Leverage the agency and power of local communities** in the fight against climate action
16. **Support platforms to enable local climate action groups** to share experience, learning and resources to unlock action



# Thank you

PCAN Report being launched 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

