Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 - 2030
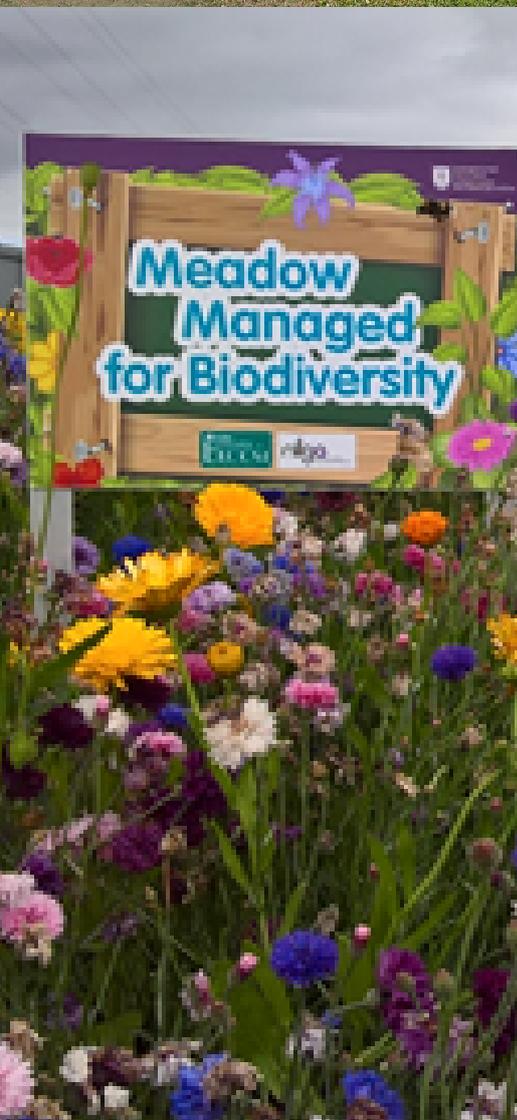
Restore, Revive, Thrive - Our Environment

July 2020

Contents

What is Climate Change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world. Since the mid-1800s, humans have contributed to the release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air causing global temperatures to rise, resulting in long-term changes to the climate.

What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is the overarching paradigm of the United Nations. The concept of sustainable development was described by the 1987 Brundtland Commission Report as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Foreword

Climate change has been recognised internationally as the most important environmental challenge that we currently face. We know that our local climate is changing, it is becoming less stable and on balance, the evidence suggests that human actions are responsible.

The significant rate of climate change is influenced by the gases which we release into the atmosphere. Carbon gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, are a particular problem. They are produced every time we turn on an appliance, heat our homes, travel or buy manufactured or imported goods, bearing in mind the transportation implications.

We have all witnessed and experienced the extreme weather events of recent years and have stories to tell about how these events have affected us. The media have graphically shown the effects of major flooding in some communities, traffic chaos in heavy snows or empty reservoirs in summer droughts.

Over the coming years extreme weather events are going to happen more frequently unless we proactively address the issue. How we prepare, adapt and respond is going to be a real challenge for all of us.

We need to put in place a range of actions to not only minimise the impacts on our communities in the future but to combat and reverse the damage already done. We need to do all we can to reduce and reverse the effect that our current and future actions will have on the climate. We also need to adapt to the climate changes that are already happening. The climate is changing, to what extent, depends on what we do now.

Recognising that we are facing climate breakdown and a biodiversity crisis which are impacting here and now, and will affect all aspects of our lives in coming years Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has resolved to formally declare a Climate Emergency.

This Strategy sets out the practical steps we can take over the coming years to minimise climate change impacts on our day to day lives, but also to suggest, ways in which we can try to counter the severity of this Climate Emergency. It also sets out how we will work towards the achievement of the United Nations' 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals by moving closer to building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for our people, our environment and our economy. The effects of climate change can add significant stress to the development and growth of the economy, society, and a healthy environment. Developing sustainably can also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help to prepare for the effects of a changing climate.

The Strategy recognises that our local contribution is part of a complex challenge that involves all of us both nationally and internationally. The Council will work towards achieving, and going beyond, the statutory targets which will be in place for achieving net zero carbon emissions.

Foreword

To date, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has achieved CO2e savings of an estimated 58% against the status-quo using a 1990 benchmark. This has been achieved through the decision by the Council to procure only renewable electricity for use in Council buildings.

This Climate Change and Sustainable Development Strategy is consistent with our over-arching corporate pledge and identifies the strategic priority areas below for the period through to 2030.

To support the delivery of the Strategy, the following three themes have been identified:

Sustainable Communities

Our citizens and businesses will be more aware of how they can adapt to, mitigate against and attempt to reverse the impacts of Climate Change.

Sustainable Council

Council has access to information and tools to successfully develop and implement adaptation & mitigation measures and actions that seek to combat Climate Change.

Sustainable Environment

Environmental resources will be protected and maintained for future generations.

Raising Awareness and Promoting Sustainability

Climate change is a collective issue and we can all make changes to our lifestyles to reduce our impact on the environment. Together, these contributions will influence the extent to which this climate emergency unfolds. We recognise the key role that the Council has in supporting and promoting these local actions and supporting local people and businesses in the move to a low carbon future.

Using the principles of Sustainable Development, we can provide improved local services at the same time as ensuring the resilience of our environment, economy and local communities.

Councillor Chris Smyth
Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

1.1 The Paris Agreement 2015 is a protocol set within the context of the UNFCCC (ratified by the UK on 17 November 2016). The Agreement is a landmark deal aimed at tackling climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and keeping global temperatures well below below 2 °C.

Ratification of the Paris Agreement shows that the UK is committed to play its part in global action on climate change, but this also signals a commitment on a more domestic level.

The goals set out in The Paris Agreement are intrinsically linked to all 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1.2 Climate Change Act 2008. The UK Government is required under the 2008 Climate Change Act to publish a UK-wide climate change risk assessment every five years. The Act stipulates that the Government must assess 'the risks for the United Kingdom from the current and predicted impacts of climate change'. Reports must be prepared and be submitted to the UK Parliament by the UK Government and the devolved administrations of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

1.3 The **Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme** was first published in 2014 and set out actions to tackle the risks identified by the first UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) in 2012. The Climate Change Act makes provision for the NI Executive to publish an updated Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme as soon as reasonably practicable after the publication of each UK CCRA. As such, the CCRA2 Evidence Report will feed into the next Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

MORE THAN 80%
of natural disasters are
climate related.

**80%**

1. Strategic Context

1.4 The Fermanagh and Omagh 2030 Community Plan was adopted in April 2017; it is the overarching plan for the Fermanagh and Omagh District, covering the social, economic and environmental pillars. The 2030 Community Plan establishes a shared vision, shared values / principles and shared outcomes.

Our vision is of a welcoming, shared and inclusive Fermanagh and Omagh, where people and places are healthy, safe, connected and prosperous, and where our outstanding natural, built and cultural heritage is cherished, and sustainably managed.

Shared values:

i) Openness, accountability and transparency;

ii) Equality, inclusivity and diversity;

iii) Addressing deprivation;

iv) Prevention and early intervention;

v) Sustainability;

vi) Evidence led approach;

vii) Effective engagement;

viii) Continuous improvement; and

ix) Working collaboratively.
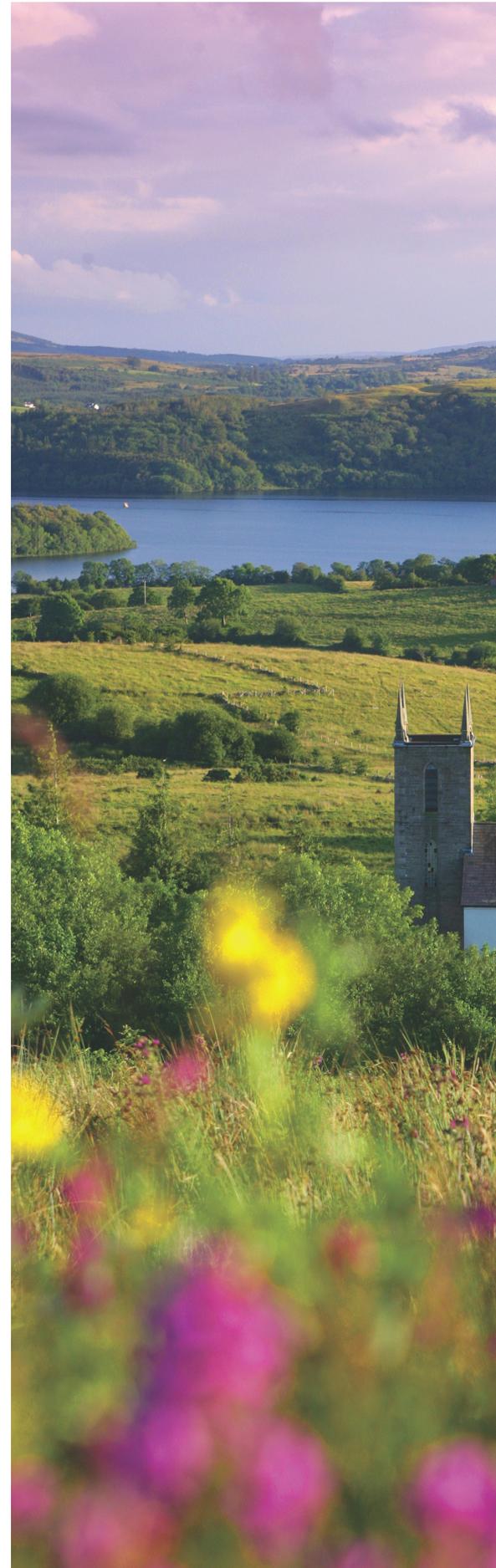
1.5 Fermanagh and Omagh District Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Corporate Plan is the guiding strategy for the activity of the Council. It is closely aligned to the 2030 Community Plan and builds on the vision, values and outcomes of the Community Plan, setting out the actions the Council will undertake to help deliver the 2030 Community Plan.

The Council has worked to align its Values, Outcomes and Actions to the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and, with reference to this Strategy, particularly in relation to the increasing risks presented by climate change, Goal No. 13, which threaten the way we live and the future of our planet.

1.6 Performance Improvement Plan

Improvement for Councils is defined as more than just quantifiable gains in service output or efficiency, or the internal effectiveness of an organisation; it is activity that enhances the sustainable quality of life and environment for ratepayers and communities.

Priority: Commit to a Climate Change Agenda - Our improvement objectives will set out what the Council aims to achieve towards its Climate Change Agenda and circular economy ethos, including how it will provide the strong leadership and example that our citizens expect as we all face the growing climate emergency. This will be progressed directly through **Outcome 7: Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced.**

Council Corporate Plan 2020 - 2024

Individual or Team Plans (Annual)

Fermanagh and Omagh 2030 Community Plan

Service Delivery and Improvement Plans (Annual)

Performance Improvement Plan Annual - sets out Improvement Objectives

The Performance Improvement Plan sits within a framework of plans

Population Level Indicators: These will be monitored through the Community Plan for the District and updates will be published every two years in a Performance Statement:

7a: % of municipal waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting

7b: Biodiversity levels

7c: Usage of quality listed walkways and cycle paths in District

7d: The number of buildings on the Buildings at Risk (NI) Register

7e: The number of people having a positive impact on the environment

1.7 Local Development Plan

Sustainable development is at the heart of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement and the planning system. A central challenge in furthering sustainable development is mitigating and adapting to climate change and the Council has aimed to do this through the policies, objectives and supporting text within the Local Development Plan Strategy.

The planning system should therefore help to mitigate and adapt to climate change by:

- Shaping new and existing developments in ways that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and positively build community resilience to problems such as extreme heat or flood risk;
- Promoting sustainable patterns of development, including the sustainable re-use of historic buildings where appropriate, which reduces the need for motorised transport, encourages active travel, and facilitates travel by public transport in preference to the private car;
- Requiring the siting, design and layout of all new development to limit likely greenhouse gas emissions and minimise resource and energy requirements;
- Avoiding development in areas with increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change, particularly areas at significant risk from flooding, landslip and coastal erosion and highly exposed sites at significant risk from impacts of storms;
- Considering the energy and heat requirements of new developments when designating land for new residential, commercial and industrial development and making use of opportunities for energy and power sharing, or for decentralised or low carbon sources of heat and power wherever possible;
- Promoting the use of energy efficient, micro-generating and decentralised renewable energy systems; and
- Working with natural environmental processes, for example through promoting the development of green infrastructure and the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) to reduce flood risk and improve water quality.
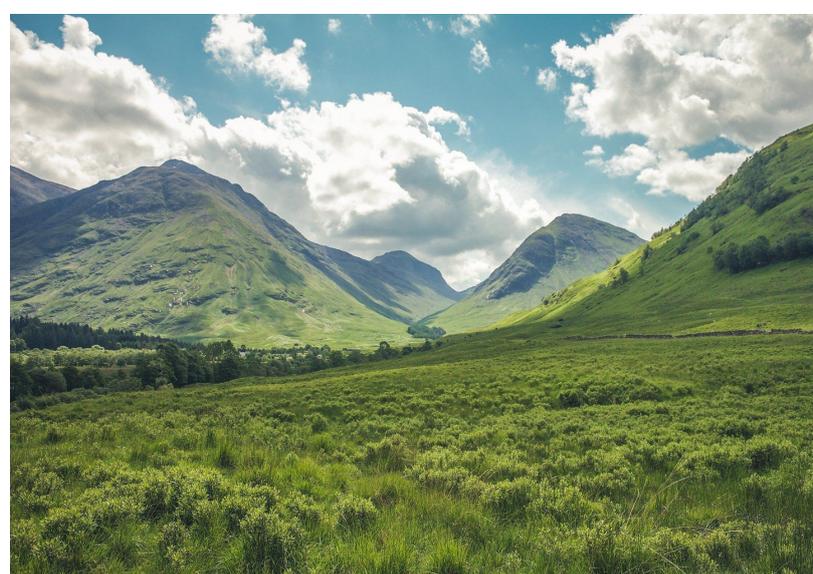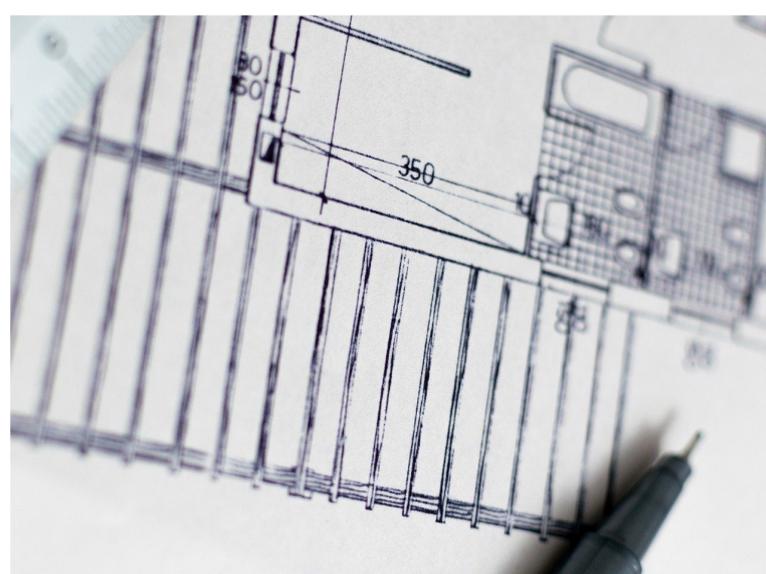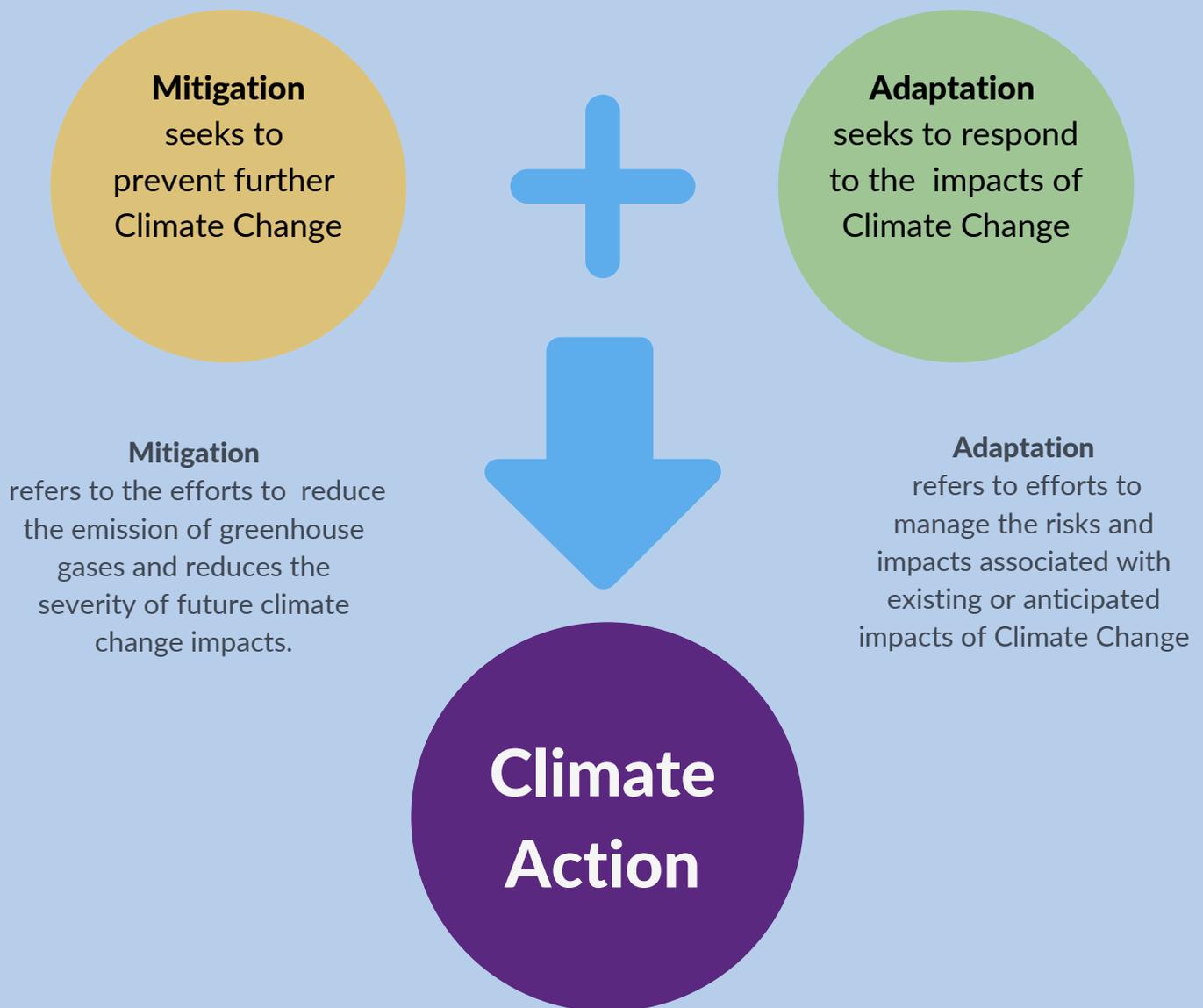
The Earth's climate is changing with global temperatures rising at a rate far greater than experienced in recent history. Changes in weather patterns have been observed around the world including changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Our climate is changing in line with global trends with temperatures expected to rise even further intensifying the changes already experienced at a local level. This in turn will have impacts on an environmental, economical and societal level.

Climate change is now accepted as a global challenge and requires policy responses in both:

Mitigation & Adaptation

Mitigation
seeks to
prevent further
Climate Change

Adaptation
seeks to respond
to the impacts of
Climate Change

Mitigation
refers to the efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and reduces the severity of future climate change impacts.

Adaptation
refers to efforts to manage the risks and impacts associated with existing or anticipated impacts of Climate Change

Climate Action

3.1 Observed changes in Northern Ireland

Annual average temperatures in Northern Ireland are similar to the UK average. Average temperatures over land have warmed in recent decades. The 2005 - 2014 decade was 0.7°C warmer than the 1961-1990 average.

There are no significant recorded changes in the number of days of air frost in Northern Ireland (Met Office, State of UK Climate 2014). At the UK level (as no separate data sets are available for Northern Ireland) the daily maximum and minimum temperature extremes have increased by just over 1°C since the 1950s (Brown et al.,2008), and heavy seasonal and annual rainfall events have also increased (Jones et al., 2013).

Local sea level trends for Northern Ireland alone are difficult to break down. A UK sea level index, computed using data from five stations (Aberdeen, North Shields, Sheerness, Newlyn and Liverpool), provides a UK-scale best estimate of 1.4 ± 0.2 mm/yr for sea level rise since 1901 (Woodworth et al., 2009), corrected for vertical land movement.

Extreme Weather Events are becoming more frequent

85 out of a total of **118** extreme weather events recorded in Northern Ireland since 2000 have taken place from 2014 to date
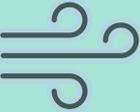
3.2 Observed changes Internationally

Global temperatures have risen and are projected to rise further bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels as well as increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Such changes in weather patterns have been acutely evident in recent years, giving rise to devastating wildfires, flooding, hurricanes, storms and extreme snow and ice events. Carbon emissions from human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels (IPCC, 2018). The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, the amounts of snow and ice at the Poles have diminished, sea levels have risen, and the concentration of greenhouse gases has increased (IPCC, 2013).

Our climate is changing, bringing about significant weather events which have wide ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.
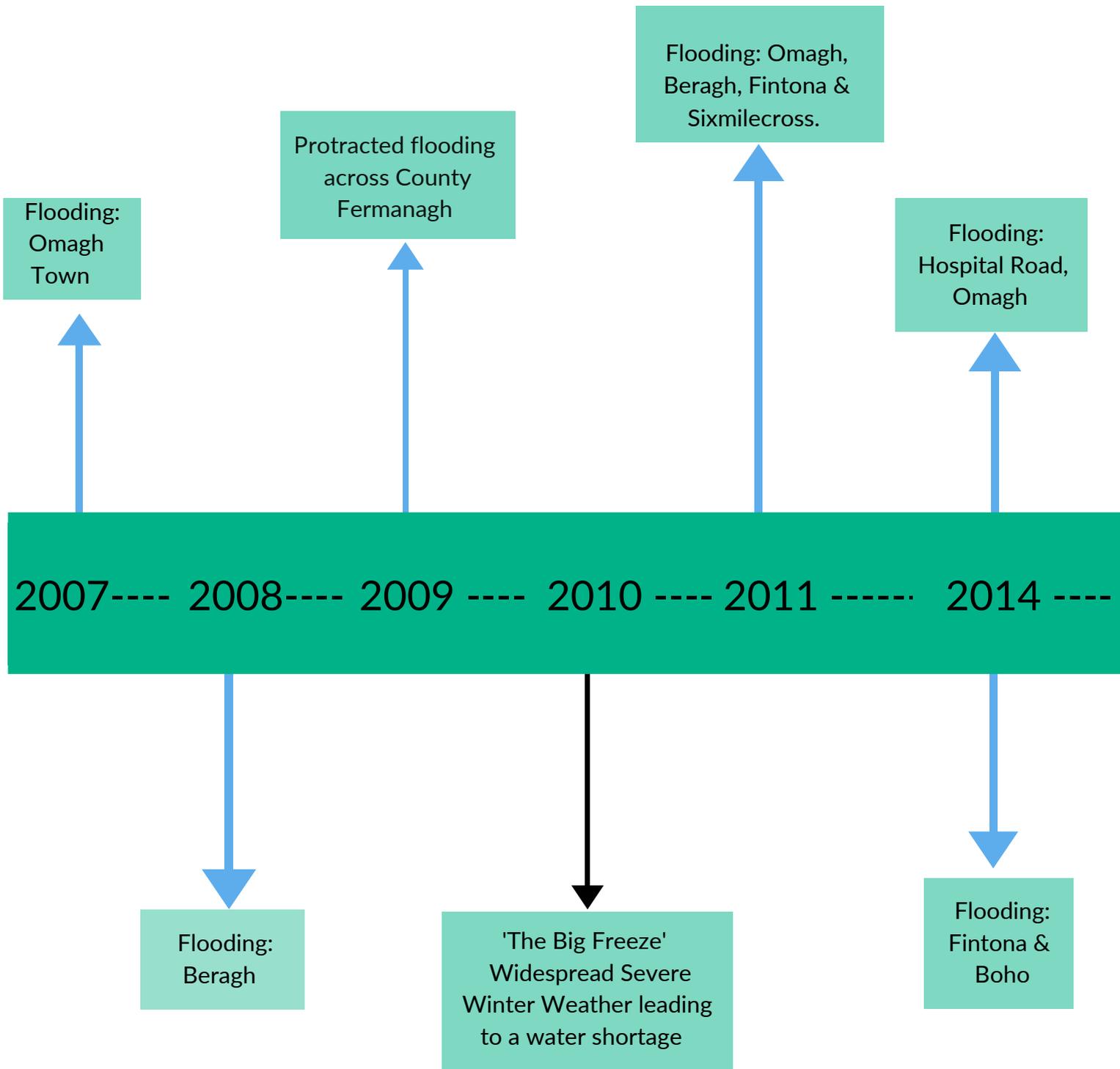
3. Observed Changes

Parameter	Observed
Temperature	• All the top 10 warmest years for the UK in the series from 1884 have occurred since 2002. • The average temperature of the decade 2009-2018 was 0.9 °C warmer than the 1961-1990 average. • The temperature of hot summer days, by the 2070s, show increases of 3.7 °C to 6.8 °C, along with an increase in the frequency of hot spells. The chance of a summer heatwave like 2018 is around 50% by 2050. • Cold snaps like -18.7 °C at Castlederg in 2010 will still occur but are projected to be less frequent as winters become warmer on average.
Precipitation	• The amount of rain from extremely wet days has increased by 17% when comparing the decade of 2008-2017 with the period 1961-1990. • Average Winter rainfall is projected to increase by 10% by mid-century, with some days being much wetter. • Flooding can have a significant impact on infrastructure, public safety, mental health, biodiversity and business disruption as has been experienced in previous years.
Wind Speed and Storms	• The frequency and intensity of extreme weather events is changing. • UK projections anticipate increases in extreme weather events with higher intensity rainfall events, storm events and increased flood risk. • Extreme events impact on our society, communities, economy and natural environment.
Sea Level and Sea Surface Temperatures	• Mean sea level around the UK has risen by about 17 cm since the start of the 20th century (when corrected for land movement). • Northern Ireland is locked in to at least 11cm sea-level rise by 2100, but unless global emissions decline, that number could be as much as 94cm. This will have a significant impact on flood defences, urban centres, agricultural land and infrastructure.

4. Climate Change in Northern Ireland

4.1 Incidents of Severe Weather in the Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Area

The impacts associated with severe weather events include damage and disruption to businesses, communities, infrastructure, agriculture and the natural environment, health, water supply and daily life. A summary of severe weather events in recent years in the Fermanagh and Omagh District include:

Flooding: Omagh Town

Protracted flooding across County Fermanagh

Flooding: Omagh, Beragh, Fintona & Sixmilecross.

Flooding: Hospital Road, Omagh

2007---- 2008---- 2009 ---- 2010 ---- 2011 ------ 2014 ----

Flooding: Beragh

'The Big Freeze' Widespread Severe Winter Weather leading to a water shortage

Flooding: Fintona & Boho

4. Climate Change in Northern Ireland

Heatwave - highest temperatures experienced in NI since 1995

Nov '15 - Jan '16 Protracted flooding across the District

Flooding: Carrickmore & Sixmilecross. Slide of bog in Owenkillew Valley

Storm Ali

--- 2015 - 2016 -----2017 ------2018 ----- 2020 ------

Storm Ophelia

Flooding: Carrickmore & Garvaghy

Storm Ciara: District wide flooding

The nature of flooding in Fermanagh is such that there tends to be very few homes flooded internally however roads become submerged with the result that many communities become cut off and isolated for weeks at a time.
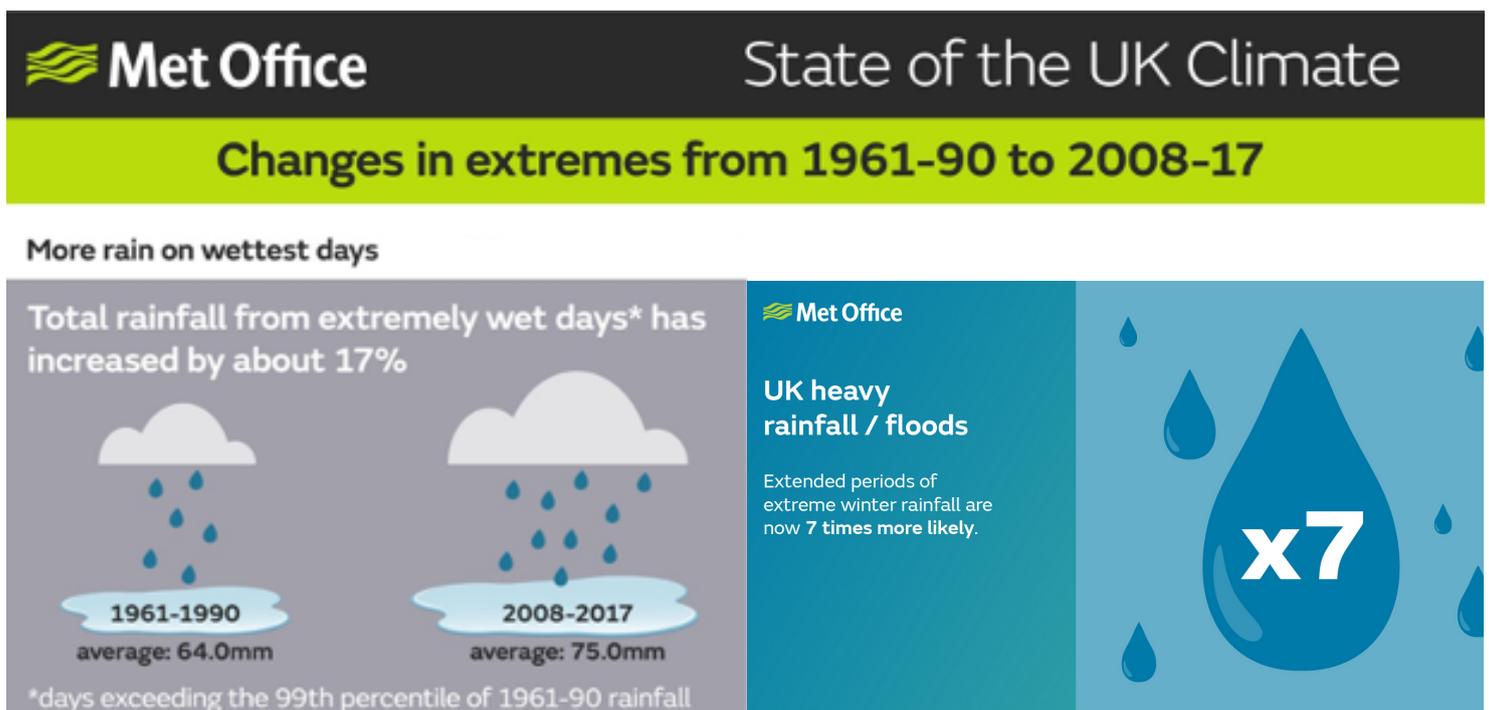
Since the introduction of the Department for Communities' Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) which is designed to aid individual householders who have suffered severe inconvenience as a result of internal flooding to their properties, a total of £207,000 has been paid out to householders in the District. In addition, as a result of protracted flooding from Nov 2015 until Jan 2016, a further £170,000 in payments was made to farm businesses and small businesses in the District.

4.2 Projected changes

The latest set of projected changes in climate for Northern Ireland comes from the 2009 UK Climate Projections. Under a medium emissions (A1B) scenario, regional summer mean temperatures are projected to increase by between 0.8 and 4°C by the 2050s compared to a 1961- 1990 baseline.

Downscaled scenarios for nine climate stations across Northern Ireland show temperature increases of between 0.8 and 4.2°C by the end of the century compared with the present day, with night-time temperatures during winter and inland stations showing more pronounced warming.

Regional winter precipitation totals are projected to vary between 0 and +19% for the same scenario. Downscaled scenarios for Northern Ireland show summer precipitation reducing by up to 41% and winter precipitation increasing by 27% by the end of the century.

Met Office State of the UK Climate

Changes in extremes from 1961-90 to 2008-17

More rain on wettest days

Total rainfall from extremely wet days* has increased by about 17%

1961-1990
average: 64.0mm

2008-2017
average: 75.0mm

*days exceeding the 99th percentile of 1961-90 rainfall

Met Office

UK heavy rainfall / floods

Extended periods of extreme winter rainfall are now **7 times more likely**.

x7

What do we mean by Sustainable Communities?

Sustainable Communities can be described as places in which people want to live both now but also in the future; improving the quality of life for all whilst safeguarding the environment for future generations. This theme is about the action which the Council can take to enable people in the Fermanagh and Omagh district to live within environmental limits, whilst building strong healthy communities, supported by a sustainable local economy.

There are many areas in which the Council's policies and actions can contribute to this theme including waste management, reducing fuel poverty, enhancing active travel, promotion of cycling and walking, signposting to support and funding opportunities, and minimising the impacts of climate change widening the gap in health and social inequalities.

We can all make changes to our lifestyles to reduce our impact on the environment. These collective contributions will influence the extent to which the climate changes.

How does this link into Sustainable Development?

Sustainable Development Goals:
- Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation into local development planning.
- Help to build the resilience of our communities to the effects of climate change.
- Invest in the energy efficiency of our buildings and help tackle fuel poverty.
- Promote active travel.
- Provide communities with facilities for waste management.
- Provide support to local communities to help them to reduce their environmental footprint.

Paris Agreement:
- Council policies and plans will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions.
- Council will work with communities to build resilience and decrease vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Council will collaborate with partners on climate change adaptation.

What will we do?

These are intended Strategic Outcomes and Actions for this thematic area:

Outcome 5.1: Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised.

How Can we Achieve this?

i. Work in partnership to provide advice and support to local communities to help increase energy efficiency at home and minimise fuel poverty.

ii. Increase the focus on sustainability for new and refurbished Council buildings through innovative design and delivery, using natural resources and environmentally responsible building materials, and incorporating low carbon energy solutions.

5. Sustainable Communities

Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

How Can we Achieve this?

i. Continue to divert waste from landfill by providing and encouraging the effective use of household waste management services.

ii. Work in partnership to help build resilience in local communities and mitigate against the potential increase of health and social inequalities from the impacts of climate change.

iii. Work in partnership to support and encourage sustainable travel choices for people within Fermanagh and Omagh, with emphasis on walking and cycling promoting a healthier lifestyle.

iv. Encourage sustainable production and consumption in the business community and support the growth of a low carbon industry in Fermanagh and Omagh.

v. Engage with our communities and businesses to ensure Climate Change is recognised as a corporate priority for the Council and district.

vi. Work with partnership agencies to encourage businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures by signposting to relevant services and opportunities.

Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible.

How Can we Achieve this?

i. Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change.

ii. Communicate and engage with communities on environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation issues empowering further local action.

iii. Support local communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

iv. Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.

v. Encourage the improvement of our environment by taking part in environmental initiatives such as Ulster in Bloom.

vi. Encourage people within the district to source local produce, limiting emissions caused by transport.

vii. Encourage the farming community to examine ways of reducing their carbon footprint for example by adjusting the animals' diet and/or using chemical free fertiliser products.

How can we measure this?
- Increase in recycling rate for domestic waste.
- Tonnage of domestic waste produced per household.
- Involvement in eco-schools and related programmes.
- Reduction in households in fuel poverty.
- Support given to Community Resilience Groups.
- Support given to Community Groups.

6. Sustainable Council

What do we mean by Sustainable Council?

The Sustainable Council theme is about our own environmental performance and how we can continue to improve it. The Council cares about the environment and has a legal duty to protect it. We will try to reduce our impact on the environment, and work with partners and stakeholders to protect the District's environment.

We recognise that we have a responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint and to use our resources wisely. We will ensure that the services we deliver are efficient and resilient in the face of a changing climate. We will create a culture that focuses on sustainability by embedding sustainable development into our strategies, plans and decision making processes.

How does this link into Sustainable Development?

Sustainable Development Goals:
- Use resources effectively and reduce waste.
- Promote sustainable procurement practices.
- Invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Create a culture that focuses on sustainability.

Paris Agreement:
- Reduce the Council's carbon footprint.
- Ensure service delivery is resilient to the effects of climate change.

What will we do?
These are intended Strategic Outcomes and Actions for this thematic area:

Outcome 6.1: The council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Implement a Carbon Management Plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint in line with the UK Government's targets.
ii. Implement the Council's Energy Management Policy to cut emissions across council facilities and services.
iii. Implement measures within the council's fleet to contribute to the decarbonisation of road transport.
iv. Continue to improve the efficiency of our business travel and promote more sustainable travel options for employees.
v. Work in partnership to deliver government energy efficiency programmes.
vi. Carry out condition surveys to monitor energy condition of Council assets.
vii. Update energy performance certificate records for Council assets.

Outcome 6.2: The council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.

How Can we Achieve This?
 i. Continue to develop procurement processes to improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the council's sustainable procurement duty.
 ii. Create a culture of resource efficiency in the workplace.
 iii. Maximise the use of environmentally responsible materials.

Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Ensure that sustainable development and climate change is used as a guiding principle in council plans, policies and strategies and these incorporate environmental considerations.
ii. Continue to raise awareness of sustainable development and the business impacts of climate change with our employees and develop the skills required across the council to influence and adapt to change.
iii. Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity processes.
iv. Source external funding for climate change action.

Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by a low carbon transport infrastructure.
ii. Encourage renewable sources of energy supply.
iii. Planning for Affordable Housing developments will be provided in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.
iv. Public Open Spaces for all new residential developments will be provided in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.
v. Sustainable Drainage Systems will be required for all major developments.
vi. Promote sustainable design in buildings.

Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Achieve and continuously improve the targets set out in the NI Waste Management Strategy.
ii. Work in partnership with other Councils to develop a Waste Management Strategy to include the services and infrastructure needed for collection, treatment and disposal of waste taking into account developments in legislation.
iii. Implement waste education and promotional campaigns.
iv. Phase out use of single-use plastics within Council offices and buildings.
v. Promote and Encourage the Green Your Festival initiative at Council events and Council funded events.

Outcome 6.6: Reduction in car use for council business purposes and the promotion of sustainable travel.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Promote and encourage usage of the car pool application.
ii. Promote cycling, walking running and other physical activity to our own staff and wider community.
iii. Promote the use of the video-conferencing facilities within Council facilities to reduce the need to travel.

Outcome 6.7: We will work in partnership to improve air quality.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Monitor and review air quality across the District to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met.

How can we measure this?

- Reduction in the Carbon Footprint of the Council.
- Reduction in Energy consumption in Council buildings.
- Reductions in carbon emissions from Council fleet.
- Energy Performance ratings for Council Estate.
- Number of employees who have received Sustainable Development Training.
- Number of condition surveys of Council Buildings.

7. Sustainable Environment

What do we mean by Sustainable Environment?

A rich and diverse environment brings benefits to the people who live, work or visit the area, with a significant influence on human health and quality of life. The Council aims to develop and enhance green-space provision, monitor air quality, support biodiversity and ecosystem conservation measures, and will consider the potential impacts of climate change both by helping our natural systems to adapt and also using natural resources for mitigation.

How does this link into Sustainable Development?

Sustainable Development Goals:

- Sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.
- Robust and reliable environmental data.
- Reduce air pollution.
- Provide safe, inclusive and accessible green public spaces and foster healthy lifestyles.
- Protect and safeguard Fermanagh and Omagh's cultural and natural heritage for future generations.
- Biodiversity is an integral part of local development planning.
- Community based participation in environmental management.

Paris Agreement:

- Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems and the protection of biodiversity.
- Conservation and protection of carbon sinks.
- Help natural systems adapt to changes in the climate.
- Use of the natural environment to minimise the effects of climate change.

7. Sustainable Environment

Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected. How Can we Achieve This?

i. Review and assess air quality throughout Fermanagh and Omagh in line with our Air Quality Strategy.

ii. Ensure our planning and land use policies protect and enhance the natural environment and ecosystem services.

iii. Ensure effective implementation of the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan ensuring ecosystems are used sustainably and strengthened.

iv. Through the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, continue our involvement in cross-border landscape scale, with the aim to improve the condition of the blanket bog on Cuilcagh and to support priority species by delivering educational and outreach programmes and raising awareness of the significance of the habitats and species found on this site.

v. Work with local community groups to increase tree cover in the local area.

vi. Signpost to funding available for tree planting e.g. DAERA, Woodland Trust.

vii. Ensure sustainable access to green and open space is enhanced and maintained.

viii. Establish a policy on the management of trees with the Council estate to guide the development of park and woodland management plans that will identify trees and areas requiring condition surveys.

ix. Develop and establish a programme of native tree planting in line with available land and budget.

x. Work with other statutory authorities, particularly Forest Service NI to encourage reforestation with native species on Council managed sites where possible·

xi. Work together with partners and stakeholders to promote improving the condition of degraded soils, restore peat land habitats, better protect soils from damaging practices and, promote and educate about the importance of soil conservation

Outcome 7.2: Fermanagh and Omagh's enhanced environment provides health and well-being benefits to local communities. How Can we Achieve This?

i. Continue to educate our residents about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the negative impacts they have upon it.

ii. Provide environmental volunteering opportunities and support community groups to manage local environmental projects.

iii. Continue to provide opportunities for activities and sustainable access to the outdoors to showcase the benefits·

iv. Continue to embrace and promote the Leave No Trace principles throughout the Fermanagh and Omagh District.
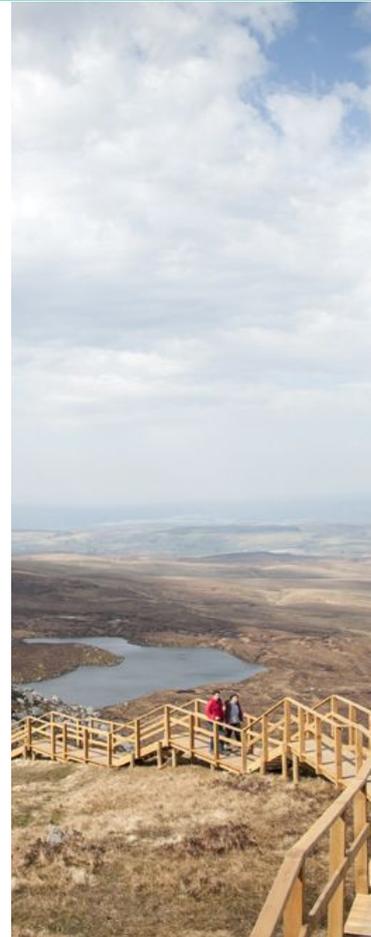
7. Sustainable Environment

Outcome 7.3: Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Participate in Multi-Agency Working Groups to increase capacity to respond to future flooding events

Outcome 7.4: Work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Promote the Flooding Incident Line.
ii. In partnership with Regional Emergency Planning Staff, advise residents on steps to increase resilience.
iii. In partnership with the Regional Community Resilience Group, support existing and future Community Resilience Groups within the District.

Outcome 7.5: When a new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value we will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures.

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Protect and enhance native species and habitats.
ii. Promote and support opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration.
iii. Promotion of climate resilient buildings through the Local Development Plan.

Outcome 7.6: We will support ethical food production practices

How Can we Achieve This?
i. Work with partners to promote and support Fairtrade in the District.

How can we measure this?
- Numbers of environmental volunteers.
- Figures from walking counters.
- Numbers of groups working with the Council to manage local green-space.
- Area of land managed specifically for Biodiversity.
- Sites managed in partnership with communities where biodiversity is part of the project e.g. community woodlands.
- Air Quality Monitoring levels.
- Participation in Community Resilience Groups.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Strategy will be supported by, and implemented through, detailed Action Plans, outlining responsibilities and timeframes for delivery.

The Council's Cross-Party Climate Change Resilience Group will monitor progress at their quarterly meetings. An overall progress report will be presented to Council on an annual basis and made available on the Council website.

The Strategy will provide a framework to guide Council actions over the next ten years and will be subject to review every three years.

Sustainable Communities

Our citizens and businesses will be more aware of how they can adapt to, mitigate against and attempt to reverse the impacts of Climate Change.

Outcome 5.1: Homes and communities are energy efficient, environmentally sustainable, and fuel poverty is minimised.

How Can we Achieve this?

- Work in partnership to provide advice and support to local communities to help increase energy efficiency at home and minimise fuel poverty.
- Increase the focus on sustainability for new and refurbished Council buildings through innovative design and delivery, using natural resources and environmentally responsible building materials, and incorporating low carbon energy solutions.

Outcome 5.2: Council's strategies, plans and policies support communities to live more sustainably, reduce carbon emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

How Can we Achieve this?

- Continue to divert waste from landfill by providing and encouraging the effective use of household waste management services.
- Work in partnership to help build resilience in local communities and mitigate against the potential increase of health and social inequalities from the impacts of climate change.
- Work in partnership to support and encourage sustainable travel choices for people within Fermanagh and Omagh,with emphasis on walking and cycling promoting a healthier lifestyle.
- Encourage sustainable production and consumption in the business community and support the growth of a low carbon industry in Fermanagh and Omagh.
- Engage with our communities and businesses to ensure Climate Change is recognised as a corporate priority for the Council and district.
- Work with partnership agencies to encourage businesses to adopt energy efficiency measures by signposting to relevant services and opportunities.

Sustainable Communities

Our citizens and businesses will be more aware of how they can adapt to, mitigate against and attempt to reverse the impacts of Climate Change.

Outcome 5.3: Local communities are supported in taking action to be more environmentally responsible.

How Can we Achieve this?

- **Support communities to access funding for environmentally sustainable projects or action on climate change.**
- **Communicate and engage with communities on environmental and climate change mitigation and adaptation issues empowering further local action.**
- **Support local communities to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change.**
- **Devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.**
- **Encourage the improvement of our environment by taking part in environmental initiatives such as Ulster in Bloom.**
- **Encourage people within the district to source local produce, limiting emissions caused by transport.**
- **Encourage the farming community to examine ways of reducing their carbon footprint for example by adjusting the animals' diet and/or using chemical free fertiliser products.**

Sustainable Council

Council has access to information and tools to successfully develop and implement adaptation & mitigation measures and actions that seek to combat Climate Change.

Outcome 6.1: The council's carbon emissions are managed and reduced.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Implement a Carbon Management Plan to reduce the council's carbon footprint in line with the UK Government's targets.
- Implement the Council's Energy Management Policy to cut emissions across council facilities and services.
- Implement measures within the council's fleet to contribute to the decarbonisation of road transport.
- Continue to improve the efficiency of our business travel and promote more sustainable travel options for employees.
- Work in partnership to deliver government energy efficiency programmes.
- Carry out condition surveys to monitor energy condition of Council assets.
- Update energy performance certificate records for Council assets.

Outcome 6.2: The council is environmentally responsible in the procurement, use and disposal of resources.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Continue to develop procurement processes to improve environmental outcomes and ensure compliance with the council's sustainable procurement duty.
- Create a culture of resource efficiency in the workplace.
- Maximise the use of environmentally responsible materials.

Sustainable Council

Council has access to information and tools to successfully develop and implement adaptation & mitigation measures and actions that seek to combat Climate Change.

Outcome 6.3: The public sector climate change duties are further embedded in service delivery and partnership working.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Ensure that sustainable development and climate change is used as a guiding principle in council plans, policies and strategies and these incorporate environmental considerations.
- Continue to raise awareness of sustainable development and the business impacts of climate change with our employees and develop the skills required across the council to influence and adapt to change.
- Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity processes.
- Source external funding for climate change action.

Outcome 6.4: The climate impact from development will be minimised and a low carbon economy will be encouraged through the planning system.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Encourage a sustainable pattern of development supported by a low carbon transport infrastructure.
- Encourage renewable sources of energy supply.
- Planning for Affordable Housing developments will be provided in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.
- Public Open Spaces for all new residential developments will be provided in accordance with the Local Development Plan Strategy.
- Sustainable Drainage Systems will be required for all major developments.
- Promote sustainable design in buildings.

Sustainable Council

Council has access to information and tools to successfully develop and implement adaptation & mitigation measures and actions that seek to combat Climate Change.

Outcome 6.5: An increase in the proportion of reuse and recycling and a reduction in waste to landfill.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Achieve and continuously improve the targets set out in the NI Waste Management Strategy.
- Work in partnership with other Councils to develop a Waste Management Strategy to include the services and infrastructure needed for collection, treatment and disposal of waste taking into account developments in legislation.

Outcome 6.6: Reduction in car use for council business purposes and the promotion of sustainable travel.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Promote and encourage usage of the car pool application.
- Promote cycling, walking running and other physical activity to our own staff and wider community.
- Promote the use of the video-conferencing facilities within Council facilities to reduce the need to travel.

Outcome 6.7: We will work in partnership to improve air quality.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Monitor and review air quality across the District to determine whether national air quality objectives are being met.

Sustainable Environment

Environmental resources will be protected and maintained for future generations.

Outcome 7.1: Fermanagh and Omagh's natural environment is protected, enhanced and respected.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Review and assess air quality throughout Fermanagh and Omagh in line with our Air Quality Strategy.
- Ensure our planning and land use policies protect and enhance the natural environment and ecosystem services.
- Ensure effective implementation of the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan ensuring ecosystems are used sustainably and strengthened.
- Through the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, continue our involvement in the cross-border environment project, Collaborative Action for the Natura Network (CANN), which aims to improve the condition of the blanket bog on Cuilcagh and to support priority species by delivering educational and outreach programmes and raising awareness of the significance of the habitats and species found on this site.
- Work with local community groups to increase tree cover in the local area.
- Signpost to funding available for tree planting e.g. DAERA, Woodland Trust.
- Ensure access to green and open space is enhanced and maintained.
- Establish a policy on the management of trees with the Council estate to guide the development of park and woodland management plans that will identify trees and areas requiring condition surveys.
- Develop and establish a programme of native tree planting in line with available land and budget.

Outcome 7.2: Fermanagh and Omagh's enhanced environment provides health and well-being benefits to local communities.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Continue to educate our young people about the local environment in which they live and encourage them to reduce the negative impacts they have upon it.
- Provide environmental volunteering opportunities and support community groups to manage local environmental projects.

Sustainable Environment

Environmental resources will be protected and maintained for future generations.

Outcome 7.3: Work with our partners to understand the current and future risks of flooding.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Participate in Multi-Agency Working Groups to increase capacity to respond to future flooding events

Outcome 7.4: Work with communities and businesses to increase resilience to future changes in climate.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Promote the Flooding Incident Line.
- In partnership with Regional Emergency Planning Staff, advise residents on steps to increase resilience.
- In partnership with the Regional Community Resilience Group, support existing and future Community Resilience Groups within the District.

Outcome 7.5: When a new development is considered in areas with nature conservation value we will ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures.

How Can we Achieve This?

- Protect and enhance native species and habitats.
- Promote and support opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration.
- Promotion of climate resilient buildings through the Local Development Plan.

Outcome 7.6: We will support ethical food production practices

How Can we Achieve This?

- Work with partners to promote and support Fairtrade in the District.