

National Indicator 188 (LAA)		Adapting to Climate Change						
What is this indicator measuring?		The process of delivery and integration of adaptation into a local authority's full range of work, in the light of increasing frequency and severity of certain weather patterns.						
Countywide Strategic Partnership:		Environmental Sustainability						
South Cambridgeshire Lead Partnership / Organisation:		Climate Change Working Group (South Cambridgeshire District Council Elected Member Committee)						
Area	Baseline	Target			Actual 2008/09			
		08/09	09/10	10/11	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
South Cambs	Level 0	Level 1	Level 1	Level 2				Level 0
LAA Target	Level 0	Level 1	Level 1	Level 2				Level 1
<p>Comments on performance data:</p> <p>NI 188 is a 'process' indicator, which means that performance is not measured by outcomes or measureable data, but by evidence of progress against the five levels of achievement. The rationale behind this is that understanding of the adaptation agenda is not considered sufficient to specify outcomes, but also that climate impacts vary between UK localities, and so any generic outcome indicator could not be applicable to all areas.</p> <p>Because progress against the levels of achievement set for NI 188 is dependent on activity within each separate local authority, each organisation has set its own aspirational target to work towards. The overall LAA target represents the minimum level of performance that all local authorities in the county should have reached.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that baselines and targets were initially established on the basis of the NI 188 technical definition in Spring 2008. NI 188 Guidance Notes were then published in December 2008 with considerable additional information on what is to be expected from local authorities in delivering against NI188. In particular this suggested that working with LSP/LAA partners in the adaptation agenda should be incorporated at much earlier stages of the process.</p> <p>There is no clear self-assessment process for reporting progress on NI 188. Clarity on self-assessment is awaited from United Kingdom Climate Impacts Programme and Defra later during 2009.</p>								
Analysis of current performance								
<p>Level 1 is essentially about securing engagement in the adaptation process and assembling an evidence base to support this. Although a standard self-assessment procedure has not yet been established for this new indicator, the guidance suggests examples of evidence of performance at Level 1 should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a leadership role within the authority, working with LSP partners. • Understand current vulnerability, with initial list of significant threats and opportunities in priority policy/service areas. • Identify significant potential impacts from future weather and climate e.g. through a Local Climate Impacts Profile. • Ensure relevant managers / members are aware of potential impacts and are preparing to address them. 								

A Level 0 (Baseline) was submitted for SCDC for 2008/09. This falls short of the target set for the year but progress has been made in moving to Level 1 and this will be achieved by the end of 2009/10, keeping the Council on track to achieve the LAA Level 2 status for 2010/11.

The criteria for Level 1 is set out below and states where evidence is in existence for South Cambs:

a) The Authority has begun the process of assessing the potential threats and opportunities across its estate and services

- High level stock-take of if / how climate change impacts are considered within council policies, programmes and risk registers has started (EVIDENCE PROVIDED)
- Relevant documents have been located/listed/reviewed (EVIDENCE PROVIDED)
- Executive or senior management team aware of cross-council structure for work on adaptation

Other/Additional Evidence

- Issue identified and committed to via Nottingham Declaration and associated Climate Plan
- Local Climate Change Impact Profile assessment completed for district as part of countywide partnership project.
- Countywide Resilience Forum includes consideration of ameliorating weather-related vulnerabilities and impacts

b) has identified and agreed the next steps to build on that assessment in a systematic and coordinated way

- Initial project plan in place for the next stage (EVIDENCE PROVIDED)
- Resources determined (EVIDENCE PROVIDED)

Other or Additional Evidence:

- Adaptation measures will be brought forward through drafting of the Climate Change Action Plan (reviewing and updating Climate Plan)
- Being introduced as a specific new element within the Council's Strategic and Service Area Risk Registers.

Proposed action to improve performance

Evidence in one area remains incomplete: executive or senior management team aware of cross-council structure for work on adaptation.

Planned actions are:

- A report to the Council's Executive Management Team is planned for Autumn 2009.
- Evidence of outcomes to be collated through the Service Planning process.

Partnership working with the City is also in place and includes areas joint procurement. The District Council will also be receiving some one to one support from the Energy Saving Trust.

For further information please contact Richard Hales, Strategic Sustainability Officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council on 01954 713135