

# 9. REDUCING RISKS

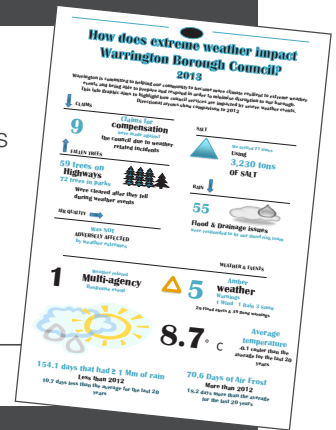
Incidents of severe weather have reached record levels in the last 10 years. The clean-up and repair costs of the 2013/14 storms and flooding is estimated at £2.5 billion, and economic losses to businesses are estimated at £14bn. 2014 was also the hottest year on record, and

this pattern of extremes is expected to continue. Local authorities have a vital role in helping to reduce the risks from severe weather, both to their own services and estates, and to the local community and businesses.

## WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL - DEMONSTRATING CLIMATE IMPACTS

Warrington Council has developed an infographic to raise awareness of the impact extreme weather had on the authority in 2013 and show the importance of being resilient. It shows, for example, that the council dealt with 59 fallen trees on roads, and 55 flood and drainage issues during the year. This is now being shared with their extreme weather task group, the sub-regional local resilience forum and other teams.

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## NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL – INVESTING IN RISK REDUCTION

In 2012, Newcastle was hit by a 1:100 year cloudburst. Over 1000 homes were flooded and the council faced a £9m repair bill for highways. Since then they have invested in reducing the potential for similar incidents to affect them so badly. They have a £2.4m flood management programme and the LEP is investing £6.6m in green and blue infrastructure to reduce flood risk. They are also training businesses on how to become more resilient to the risks.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7l\\_cqnv990&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7l_cqnv990&feature=youtu.be)



## CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON LEP - RISK ASSESSMENT FOR STRATEGIC SITES

Cheshire & Warrington LEP recognised that climate change poses a risk to their plans for economic development. In 2013/4 they carried out an assessment of their strategic development sites and major employment sites. Each site was profiled to show which risks factors affect it, what action is in place or planned to mitigate these risks, and identify sites that had opportunities for low carbon energy and improved green infrastructure to reduce the risks.

[www.claspinfo.org/cheshire-and-warrington](http://www.claspinfo.org/cheshire-and-warrington)



## FURTHER READING & SUPPORT

### Flood risk management: information for flood risk management authorities, asset owners and local authorities, Defra:

[www.gov.uk/flood-risk-management-information-for-flood-risk-management-authorities-asset-owners-and-local-authorities](http://www.gov.uk/flood-risk-management-information-for-flood-risk-management-authorities-asset-owners-and-local-authorities)

### Environment Agency:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency)  
<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2014/06/23/becoming-climate-ready-business-resilience-in-a-changing-climate/>

**Climate Local:** <http://www.local.gov.uk/floodportal>

**National Adaptation programme:** <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change/supporting-pages/national-adaptation-programme>

### Insurance Industry estimates of the impact of flooding:

<http://floodlist.com/insurance/uk/cost-of-2013-2014-floods>  
<https://www.abi.org.uk/Insurance-and-savings/Topics-and-issues/Flooding/2014-floods-in-numbers>

## COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Local authorities across the UK and abroad are proving that taking a sustainable approach to their operations and services delivers multiple benefits, such as improved performance, lower costs and better outcomes for their communities.

Climate change or sustainability themes are embedded in national policy and appear in different guises and services areas. Recent changes have threatened to push climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability off the priority list, as authorities handle the cuts agenda, tackle public sector reform and fight to deliver critical services with fewer resources. But actively addressing sustainability in corporate plans supports cost-effective service delivery – it is not just a “nice to have” that can be discarded when budgets are tight.

This series of briefings demonstrates how many local authorities are benefitting from actively considering sustainability in their operations and services:



1. Save Carbon – Save Money	6. Transport Infrastructure
2. Generating Energy and Income	7. Economic Development
3. Decent Affordable Housing, Health & Fuel Poverty	8. Supporting Communities
4. Improving Public Health	9. Reducing Risks
5. Travel Choices	

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