

Case study: Developing a climate change adaptation framework for Liverpool City Council

In November 2008, CAG Consultants were commissioned by Liverpool City Council, on behalf of 'Liverpool First' (the LSP), to develop a 'climate impacts and vulnerabilities' framework. A risk-based adaptation framework has been developed through a process involving a wide range of stakeholders within the Council and partner organizations.

This project arose from Liverpool First and Liverpool City Council's commitment to National Indicator 188 in the city's Local Area Agreement. At the outset, CAG undertook a 'mini-LCLIP', analysis of UKCIP02 and future flood risk scenarios, research on Liverpool City Council's current approach to climate change and risk management, a review of good practice and a benchmarking process on adaptation work by other local authorities. This desk research, and CAG's own service-based 'climate change performance benchmark', were used to prepare briefings for key service areas across the City Council in January 2009. A series of 5 interactive workshops were held, involving a wide cross-section of council officers and representatives from partner organizations. At these workshops, the stakeholders assessed and prioritised climate change risks for their service area, using the Council's own 'risk management' matrix. They also identified existing and potential responses to reduce these risks.

The outputs from these workshops formed the basis of CAG's analysis of climate change impacts, risks, vulnerabilities and potential responses, as presented in a draft report in March 2009. The draft report identifies priority risks and sets out a 'framework for action' to meet successive levels of NI 188 over the next few years. Stakeholders and senior decision-makers have been consulted on the draft report, through presentations and a further stakeholder workshop. The report will be finalized during May 2009.

The study has already enabled Liverpool City Council to reach 'Level 1' on NI 188, and has set out a framework for reaching Levels 2-4 in future years. The stakeholder workshops have served multiple roles in raising awareness of the issues within and outside the Council, bringing in local, service-based expertise, and generating ownership of the emerging framework for action. Strong commitment from the Chief Executive of the City Council has contributed to their success.

"Liverpool City Council and Liverpool First partners have enjoyed working in partnership with CAG to develop this piece of work. The process we have been through has been comprehensive and effective and has generated a high level interest and positive feedback from other public sector bodies" Christine Darbyshire, Team Leader – Urban Environment Regeneration.

Client: Christine Darbyshire, Team Leader – Urban Environment Regeneration, Liverpool City Council, 0151 233 8260, christine.darbyshire@liverpool.gov.uk

CAG project manager: Mary Anderson, 01892 619070, ma@cagconsult.co.uk

