

Public & voluntary services

Sectoral workshop comments summary

Schools

- Energy use and heating/cooling of buildings will become a critically important issue – vital that LAs seize the importance and act accordingly. Energy prices will continue to rise;
- Change to school hours may help to reduce impacts of rising temperatures and rising energy demand of schools;
- Damage and other impacts from flood events – becoming more frequent.

Emergency Services

- Possibility of being overwhelmed during extreme weather events – widespread flooding or heat wave. Will budget cuts impact responsiveness/resilience of services?
- Increased number and severity of moorland fires.

Parkland Management

- Longer growing season – extended season of maintenance for local authority grounds and grass maintenance teams;
- Impacts of pests and diseases upon plants and trees under the care of local authorities; not only in parks but also in streets and city centres;
- Impact upon outdoor events – increased disruption and costs as extreme weather events become more frequent;
- Strategic approach by LAs needed in planning urban centres - greenspaces, green infrastructure for the future impacts of climate change.

Refuse

- Rising temperatures; increased odour and pests/infestations. Increased frequency of refuse collection possibly needed.

General/other

- Organisations need to build in long term resilience, ensuring adequate insurance cover. Approach needs to be proactive. LAs must take the role of a community leader in tackling climate change, not just as a service provider or a reactive organisation;
- Education and community care – two vital services provided by local authorities – major resource/impact areas;
- Flooding – the ongoing & long-term costs of extreme events. Increased variability and intensity of extreme events will have greater impacts. Clean up costs will be greater and will be needed more frequently;
- Impact on services due to coastal erosion and lowland floods. Potential for local refugees;
- LA budgets & resilience to climate change. Approach must be strategic;

- Who is responsible for instigating the changes – EA, LA, both, others? Urgent need to clarify and coordinate responsibilities between LA, Utility Company, EA, drainage boards and private landowners; Communication and coordination required;
- Importance of being able to see the full picture at all times – need to try to avoid looking at issues singularly. Cross sectoral impacts and regional approach required?
- Must not treat LAs as individual units – connected coordinated approach is vital. How will LAs lead adaptation towards climate change?
- Tackling inequalities will help build resilience to climate change; need to build resilience amongst communities;
- Not enough medium and long-term funding for adequate energy efficiency and renewable schemes, or for control of pests and other impacts /adaptation impacts of climate change;
- Increases in pests and invasive species affecting amenity and maintenance;
- Increasing use of pesticides and the knock-on effects of run-off, local air quality reductions, etc;
- Need to improve the efficiency of the existing housing stock.