



Cavan County Council

Climate Change Risk Assessment



LACAP
Final Report
30th June 2023



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



KPMG
Sustainable
Futures



Future Analytics

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An aerial photograph of a large lake with a stone tower on a small island. The sky is cloudy, and a white lightning bolt graphic is visible on the right side. A purple semi-transparent box is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text '01 Executive Summary'.

01

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Context and Scope of this Report

Climate change poses a critical challenge for Cavan County Council. It will result in a wide range of impacts across Cavan, from damaging infrastructure such as roads and bridges, to increased pressure on biodiversity, and restrictions on water supply. These bring substantial implications for Cavan County Council.

Internationally, national and local governments are increasingly compelled to take ambitious action to increase resilience to climate change within their organisations and their functional areas through adaptation and mitigation measures.

Ireland's Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021 highlights the role of the Local Authority in meeting national emission reductions targets and achieving climate resilience. The Act stipulates that local authorities need to prepare a Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) that will drive local response to the challenges posed by climate change, translating the national climate policy to the local level.

This report provides an assessment of potential climate change risks for Cavan and the impacts of these for the delivery of services by Cavan County Council. The aim of the report is to provide the evidence base and inform the development of the LACAP for Cavan County Council.

Key Results and Findings

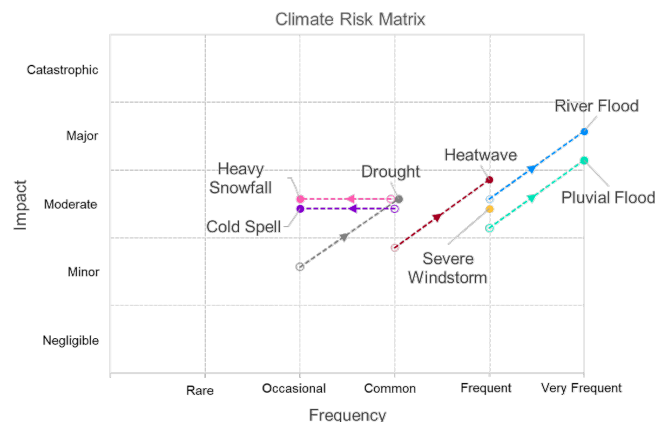
As illustrated in the climate risk matrix on the right

the level of risk posed by some hazards (e.g., river and pluvial flooding, heatwaves and drought) will increase while others will remain the same (e.g., severe windstorms). Some hazards are expected to decrease in frequency, such as cold spells and heavy snowfalls.

- Recent experiences of **river and pluvial flooding** events in 2019, 2020, and 2022 resulted in the closure of businesses and buildings due to water inundation, damage to residential properties, and disruption to transport networks (e.g. flooding of the N3). Projected increases in the frequency of extreme precipitation events will result in increased surface water and riverine flood risk for Cavan.
- County Cavan experienced both **heatwave** and **drought** in 2018, while heatwaves were also recorded in 2021 and 2022. These events contributed to uncontrolled fires, imposition of restrictions on water supply, and have placed an increased strain on biodiversity across County Cavan (e.g. Lough Oughter). Projected increases in the frequency of heatwaves and drought conditions will mean that events currently experienced on an infrequent basis will become more frequent.
- Severe windstorms** are currently experienced on a frequent basis in Cavan and result in wide-ranging impacts, including disruption to energy supply and communications networks. Projections indicate no significant change to this frequency.

- Recent experiences of **cold spells and heavy snowfall** events in 2018 demonstrated the wide range of impacts for County Cavan. These included, amongst others, disruption to public transport, road closures, and damage to built heritage. Projected increases in average temperature and decreases in the frequency of snowfall indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells, heavy snowfall, and their associated impacts.

To increase resilience, Cavan County Council will need to proactively plan for and adapt to the **current and future climate change risks** identified through this report.



The risk matrix above shows the current and future level of risk associated with climate hazards for Cavan. The hollow marker showing the current level of risk and the solid marker the future level of risk. The dotted line shows the change between the current and future risk.

02

Introduction

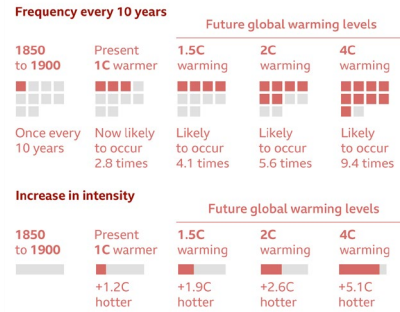


Global Response to the Challenge of Climate Change

Global Climate Change Challenge

Extreme heat becomes more frequent

Projected increase in frequency and intensity of high temperatures which only occurred once in every 10 years on average in a climate without human influence



Source: IPCC, 2021: Summary for Policymakers

BBC

It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, land and ocean since pre-industrial times, affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. Each of the last four decades has been successively warmer than any decade that preceded it since instrumental records began in 1850.

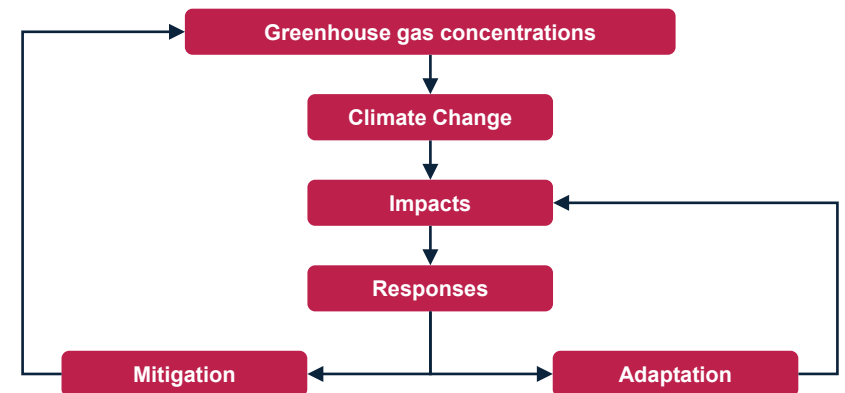
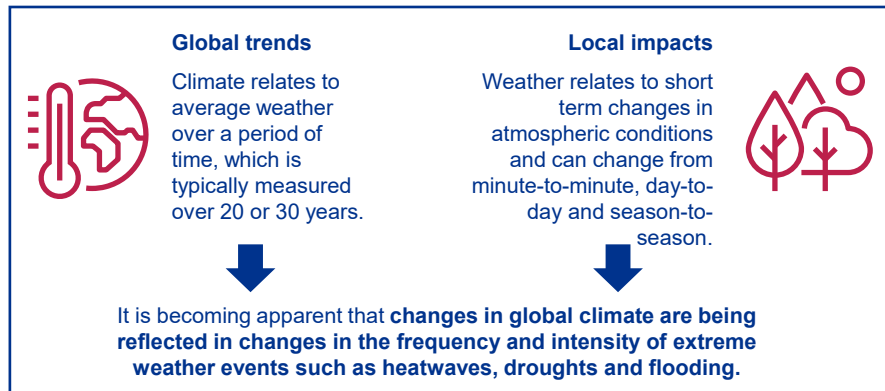
Since 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have published a series of assessment reports which provide a synthesis of the most up-to-date science and evidence of climate change. The most recent assessment report shows that the global average temperature has increased by 1.1°C when compared with pre-industrial conditions (1850-1900).

Global Climate Change Response Framework

In response to the challenges posed by climate change, two complementary approaches are being adopted.

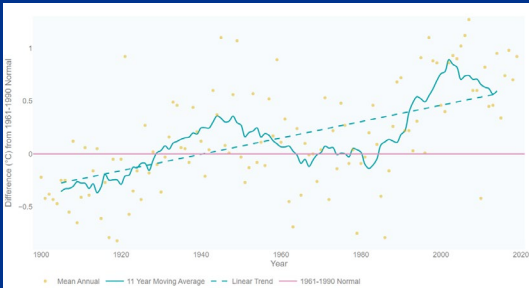
Mitigation: Making the impacts of climate change less severe by preventing or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) into the atmosphere. Mitigation is achieved either by reducing the sources of these gases (e.g. by increasing the share of renewable energies, or establishing a cleaner mobility system) or by enhancing the storage of these gases (e.g. by increasing levels of afforestation). In short, mitigation is a human intervention that reduces the sources of GHG emissions and/or enhances GHG sinks.

Adaptation: Anticipating the adverse impacts of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. Examples of adaptation measures include large-scale infrastructure changes, such as building defences to protect against sea-level rise, as well as behavioural shifts, such as individuals reducing their food waste. In essence, adaptation can be understood as the process of adjusting to the current and future effects of climate change.



Ireland's Challenge of Climate Change

Observed Impacts of Climate Change on Ireland



The mean annual observed temperature for Ireland (1900-2019) (Source: Cámaro García and Dwyer, 2021)

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Ireland's climate is changing in line with global trends, with an increase in annual average temperature of 0.9 °C between 1900 and 2018. Ireland has seen an increase in annual average rainfall of approx. 6% for the period 1989-2018 when compared to 1961-1990. Global sea level is rising at an increasing rate with the average global rate of sea level rise for the period 2006-2015 being about 2.5 times the rate for the period 1901-1990.



- Surface air temperature has increased, on average, by 0.9 °C during the past 120 years.



- Yearly precipitation was, on average, 6% higher in the 30 years from 1989-2018 as compared to 1961-1990.
- The period 2006 to 2015 was shown to be the wettest in Ireland since records began.



- Due to limited analysis, no long-term change in windiness have been observed.



- For the seas around Ireland, there has been a rise in sea level of approximately 2-3 mm per annum since 1990.
- Sea surface temperature at Malin Head has been, on average, 0.47 °C higher over the period 2009 to 2018 when compared to the average for the period 1981 to 2010.

Projected Impacts of Climate Change on Ireland

Climate projections indicate that observed changes in Ireland's climate will continue and likely intensify into the future. It is expected that Ireland's climate will become warmer and drier, sea levels will continue to increase at a faster rate and that extreme weather events will occur more frequently. Even if mitigation actions are taken over the next 30 years, a level of projected changes are locked in for the foreseeable future as a result of historical GHG emissions. As a result, temperatures will continue to increase globally until at least 2050, even under low emissions scenarios.



- By 2050, average annual temperatures are expected to increase by up to 1.6°C under a high emissions scenario.

- The frequency and intensity of heatwave events are projected to increase.



- By 2050, Levels of summer precipitation are expected to decrease by up to 17% under a high emissions scenario.

- During winter and autumn months, there is expected to be an increase of up to 19% in the occurrence of heavy precipitation events.

- By 2050, Projections indicate a small reduction in overall wind speed (10m) by up to -3.3% under a high emissions scenario.



- Projections of severe windstorms show a high degree of uncertainty with some projections indicating an increase in very severe windstorms. However, more work is required to increase confidence in these projections.

- Global sea level is expected to continue to and by up to 1m by 2100.



- Projections indicate that the Irish Sea could warm by a further 1.9 °C before the end of the 21st Century

Source: Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, pages 26-29.

National and Local Response

Paris Agreement, 2015

The Paris Agreement, adopted in 2015 provides an internationally accepted and legally binding global framework to address climate change challenges. It has two clearly defined goals aimed at supporting progressive and ambitious climate action to avoid dangerous climate change:

- I. holding global average temperature increase to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (i.e., **mitigation**);
- II. increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience (i.e., **adaptation**).

European Climate Law, 2021

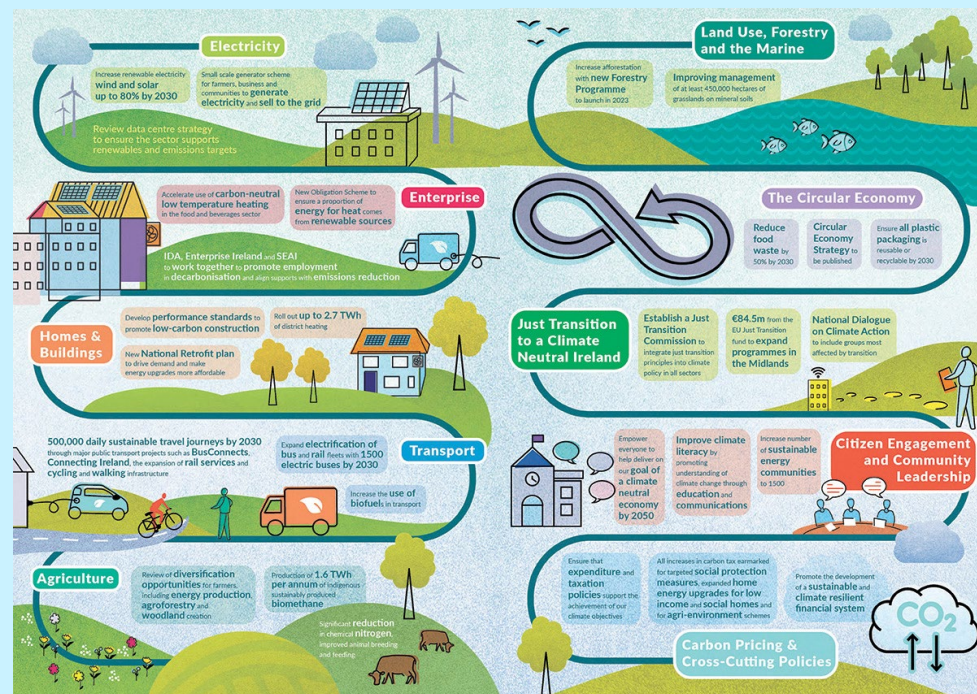
The EU adopted a legislative proposal for the European Climate Law in June 2021 to frame the climate neutrality objective by 2050 across the EU with an intermediate target of **reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030**. The European Commission (EC) is clear in the commitment required by all Member States, and the use of all policy levers and instruments, to fight against the urgent challenge of climate change and to activate leadership efforts to reach climate neutrality by 2050.

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021

Climate policy in Ireland reflects the ambition of the EU and that required to confront the challenges of climate change. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act, 2021 frames Ireland's legally binding climate ambition to delivering a **reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of 51% by 2030**, and to achieve climate neutrality by the end of 2050.

Through progressive economy-wide carbon budgets, sectoral ceilings, a suite of strategies devised to promote a **combination of adaptation and mitigation measures**, and robust oversight and reporting arrangements, climate policy is working to scale up efforts across all of society and deliver a step change on ambitious and transformative climate action to 2030 and beyond to 2050.

Climate Action Plan 2021 - Infographic



Project Overview



Legislative context

Climate Policy in Ireland is aligned with the EU's ambitions to combat Climate Change. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 enshrines the National Climate Objective to "pursue and achieve, by no later than the end of 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy."

The importance of place-based approaches and the role of the Local Authority is highlighted in the Act, which stipulates that "each local authority shall prepare and make a plan relating to a period of five years (in this section referred to as a 'local authority climate action plan') which shall specify the **mitigation measures** and the **adaptation measures** to be adopted by the local authority."

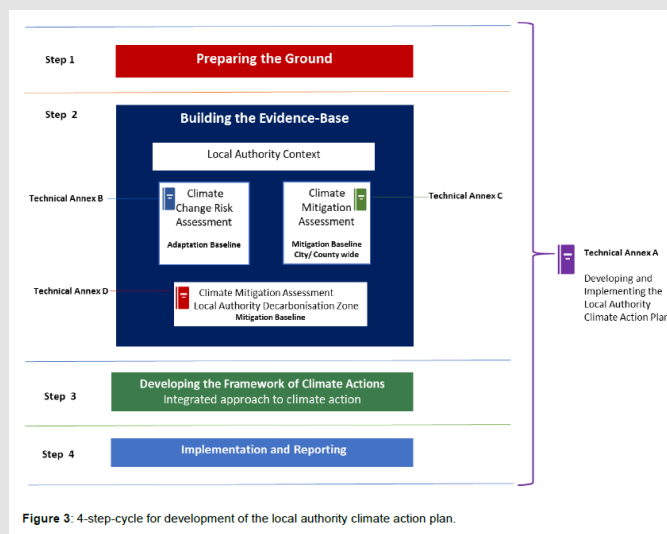
These plans will drive the mitigation and adaptation measures at the local level and see local authorities translate national climate policy to local circumstances and to support the delivery of the National Climate Objective at local and community levels.



Preparing local authorities' climate action plans

To support local authorities in meeting their legislative requirements, the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) developed the draft Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) Guidelines.

These guidelines structure the development and implementation of LACAP around a 4-step cycle, which is supported by four technical annexes¹:



¹ Source: *Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines*, page 5.



Scope of this report

Per Cavan County Council's request, the KPMG team is supporting the council in Step 2 to build the adaptation baseline and develop a climate change risk assessment (CCRA) following **Technical Annex B of the LACAP Guidelines** in order to understand current and future risks posed by climate change for County Cavan and the implications of these for Cavan County Council.



03

Climate Change Risk Assessment Methodology

3.1 Introduction, Scope and Methodology

Understanding of Climate Change Risk Assessment

Purpose of Climate Change Risk Assessment

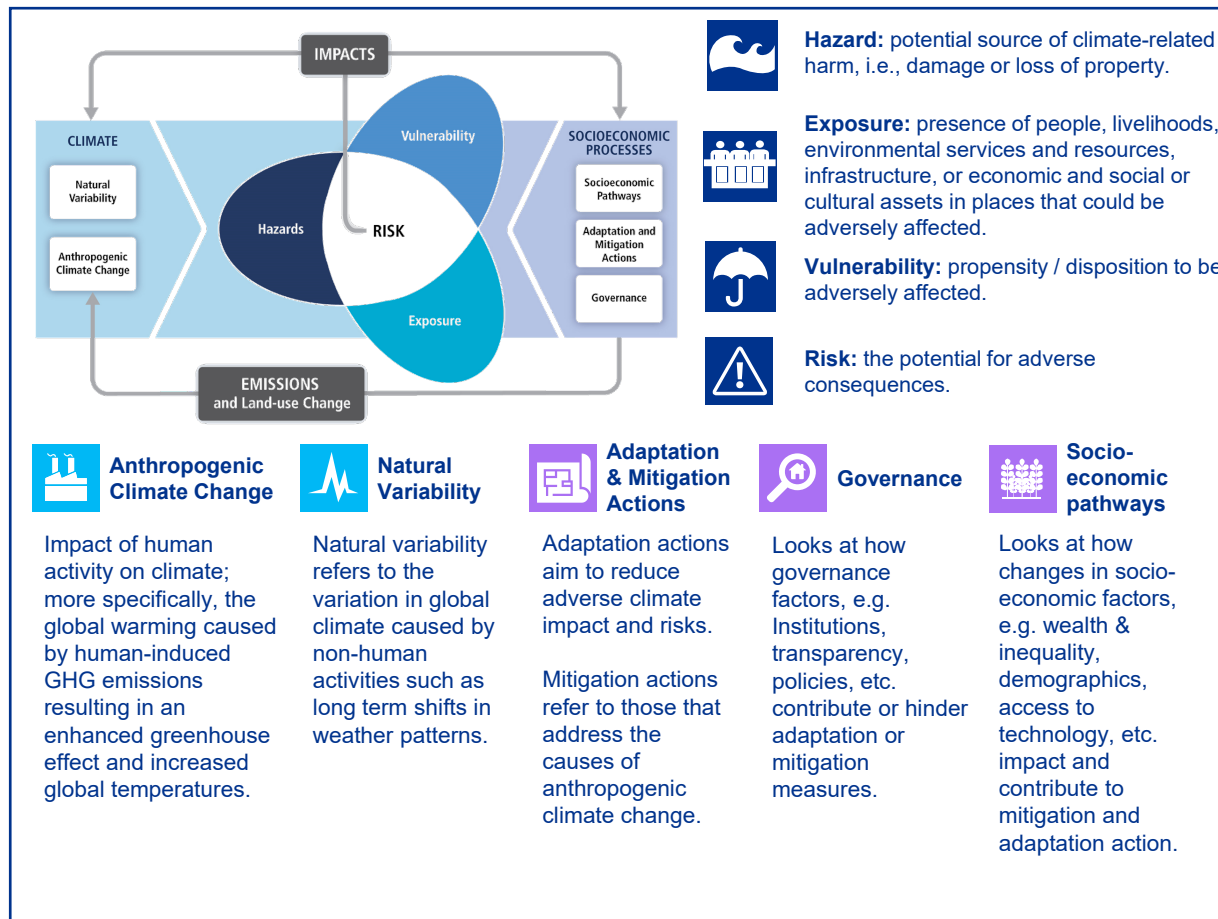
Responding to climate change impacts involves taking adaptation actions to reduce the adverse risks posed by current and projected climate change.

Climate change risk assessments identify the likelihood of future climate hazards and their potential impacts. This is fundamental for informing the prioritisation of climate action and investment in climate action.

Nature of Climate Change Risk Assessment

Conventional 'predict and act' approaches to risk assessment are challenged by the inherent uncertainty associated with climate change, the spatial and temporal dynamics of climate change, the amplification of risk through societal preferences and values and through the interaction of multiple risk factors.

In assessing climate change risk for Cavan County Council, the risk assessment framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been adopted. This framework identifies three key components of climate risk: hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Details of the framework are provided to the right.



Source: Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, Technical Annex B, Figure 1. (page 5)

Methodology Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA)

Qualitative Assessment

This Climate Change Risk Assessment has been undertaken in accordance with *Technical Annex B Climate Change Risk Assessment* of the Local Authorities Climate Action Plan Guidelines and provides a qualitative assessment of climate risk for County Cavan.

A qualitative risk assessment provides the evidence base to identify potential climate risks for the administrative area of Cavan County Council and for the delivery of services by Cavan County Council.

The Technical Annex B provides a stepped approach to carrying out a climate change risk assessment:

1. Assess the climate impact baseline, identifying, assessing and characterising the climate and weather-related impacts already being experienced by the authority, and
2. Identify and assess potential future climate impacts and risks.

In assessing climate change risk, we employ climate information derived from *Nolan and Flanagan (2020)* and *Climate Ireland* for two climate scenarios, RCP4.5 and RCP 8.5.

- RCP4.5 represents an 'intermediate emissions' scenario with an average global warming of 1.4°C for the 2046-2065 period.
- RCP8.5 represents a 'very high emissions' scenario with an average global warming of 2°C for the 2046-2065 period.

The RCP8.5 scenario was used as it represents a 'worst-case' scenario which allows for a conservative risk assessment approach.

Qualitative

- A qualitative assessment is developed based on readily available information and provides for a screening of climate change related hazards and risks.
- This type of assessment helps to:
 - Identify the full range of climate-related risks;
 - Communicate identified risks to relevant stakeholders;
 - Prioritise risks for further more detailed analysis; and
 - Provide a broad understanding of where adaptation actions could be required.

Semi-quantitative

- A semi-quantitative risk assessment builds upon a qualitative screening assessment and provides a more detailed assessment of climate change risks. Semi-quantitative risk assessments use national and regional information and data along with expert judgement to explore potential risks in further detail.
- This type of assessment helps to:
 - Provide semi-quantitative risk analysis insights;
 - Identify on a spatial basis climate risk hotspots;
 - Identify where adaptation measures may be required.

Quantitative

- A quantitative risk assessment uses site-specific data and expert knowledge to establish a detailed understanding of risks and identify the point in time in the future when the risk will pass the tolerable limit and when implementation of action will be necessary.
- This type of assessment helps to:
 - Detail an estimation of rate of change (when the risk will cross the limit and need action); and
 - Identify the extent of impact (how badly it will affect the system).

Methodology Overview

As detailed below, **Technical Annex B Climate Change Risk Assessment** provides for a proportionate and stepped approach for undertaking a Tier 1 Climate Change Risk Assessment. An assessment of the current climate hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities and impacts leads to the '**Current Climate Risks and Impacts**'. This is followed by an assessment of future climate risks and impacts, resulting in the '**Future Climate Risks and Impacts**'. The detailed steps for both current and future climate risk and impacts are discussed in further pages.

Step 1. Current Climate Risks and Impacts

- Develop Profile of Climate Hazards
- Characterise Climate Hazards Frequency
- Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts for County Cavan
- Impact Assessment (Service Delivery)
- Current Climate Risk Matrix

Step 2. Future Climate Risks and Impacts

- Assess Future Changes in Climate Hazards Frequency and Intensity
- Assess Future Change in Exposure and Vulnerability
- Assess Emerging Hazards and Potential Future Climate Risks
- Future Climate Risk Matrix
- Uncertainty Assessment

Step 1: Assess Current Climate Risks and Impacts

In assessing current climate risks and impacts, developing an understanding of the range of climate and weather related events currently impacting County Cavan and the consequence of these for Cavan County Council is essential. To achieve this, a number of steps have been undertaken as detailed below:

1.1

Develop Profile of Climate Hazards

The climate hazard profile provides an overview of climate and weather-related hazards to have impacted the County Cavan.

We have updated the climate hazard profile developed through the existing Cavan County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy (2019) in accordance with recent experiences of extreme weather and climate variability.

Section 3.2.1

1.2

Characterise Climate Hazards-Frequency

On the basis of the most up-to-date information on extreme weather events and observed climate changes for Ireland, the frequency of occurrence of the climate hazards identified through the climate hazard profile has been assessed according to the criteria provided through **Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment**.

Section 3.2.1

1.3

Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts for County Cavan

For each of the climate hazards identified through the climate hazard profile, an assessment of the local-scale impacts, exposure, and vulnerability has been performed based on reported impacts and in discussion with the local authority.

Section 3.2.2

1.4

Impact Assessment (Service Delivery)

The level of disruption to the delivery of services by the council has been assessed for each of the identified climate hazards following the criteria provided through **Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment**.

Section 3.2.3

1.5

Current Climate Risk Matrix

The overall impact of the identified climate hazards has been assessed according to the following categories of exposure: Asset Damage, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Social, Financial, Reputation and Cultural Heritage. A summary of current climate impacts has been provided through a current climate risk matrix.

Section 3.2.4

Step 2: Assess Future Climate Risks and Impacts

Building on the assessment of current climate impacts, assessing future climate risks and impacts is concerned with understanding and characterising how projected changes in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards may exacerbate existing climate impacts and risks for County Cavan. To achieve this, a number of steps have been undertaken and as detailed below:

2.1

Assess Future Changes in Climate Hazards-Frequency and Intensity

The most up- to-date climate change projections have been employed to assess the changes in frequency and intensity of climate hazards identified through our assessment of current climate impacts.

Section 3.3.1

2.2

Assess Future Change in Exposure and Vulnerability

To identify and assess the potential future changes in exposure and vulnerability, projections of potential changes in non-climatic factors (e.g. *County Development Plans, Regional Social and Economic Strategies*) have been examined. The assessment of the projected future impacts have been provided.

Section 3.3.2

2.3

Assess Emerging Hazards and potential Future Climate Risks

In addition to those hazards and impacts identified through the current climate impact and risk assessment, projected climate change may result in new or emerging risks. Emerging risks for County Cavan have been identified and considered as part of the CCRA.

Section 3.3.2

2.4

Future Climate Risk Matrix

Accounting for projected changes in hazard, exposure and vulnerability, future climate risk has been assessed according to the following categories of exposure: Asset Damage, Health and Wellbeing, Environment, Social, Financial, Reputation and Cultural Heritage. A summary of potential future climate impacts is provided through a future climate risk matrix.

Section 3.3.3

2.5

Uncertainty Assessment

In assessing future climate risks, there will be uncertainty in how hazards, exposure, and vulnerability will change. The level of uncertainty in projected changes in climate hazards, exposure, and vulnerability is assessed.

Section 3.3.4

Data and Information Sources

As detailed below, a wide range of qualitative and quantitative and information was employed to inform the development of the CCRA for Cavan County Council. The Cavan Council Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 was reviewed and updated using a range of national and local data sources. Climate Ireland was employed to access data and information on projected changes in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards accessed while the National Planning Framework, Cavan County Council Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region were employed to assess future development patterns. In addition, a stakeholder workshop was held to garner further insights from Cavan County Council.

Report Section	Sources
Introduction and scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, Technical Annex
Step 1: Current Climate Risks and Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Catchments.ie (EPA) Climate Status Report 2020 (Cámaro García and Dwyer, 2021) Floodinfo.ie (Office of Public Works) Data.gov.ie Department of Transport Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Department of transport, Sport and Tourism National Directorate for Fire and Emergency Management Teagasc Cavan County Council Website Cavan County Council Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 Sectoral Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (2018) Stakeholder Workshop Met Éireann RTE News Irish Independent Irish Examiner The Irish Times The Journal The Farmers Journal Inside Ireland The Anglo-Celt
Step 2: Future Climate Risks and Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-resolution Climate Projections for Ireland – A Multi-model Ensemble Approach (Nolan and Flanagan, 2020) accessed via Climate Ireland Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region

3.2 Current Climate Risks and Impacts

3.2.1 Profile of Climate Hazards (incl. Frequency)

Characteristics of County Cavan

Cavan County Council is located within the Eastern and Midlands Climate Action Region (CARO) and serves **81,201** people (2022 Census). County Cavan is characterised by a drumlin landscape dotted with many lakes and small hills, though the north-west of the County is mountainous with several highly scenic areas. Agriculture is the largest industry in the county, especially dairy milk processing as well as pig and beef farming.

Physical & Environmental Characteristics

County Cavan is approximately 1932km² making it the 19th largest of Ireland's thirty-two counties. Cavan is bounded by counties Monaghan, Leitrim, Meath, Westmeath, Longford and Fermanagh.

The county is characterised by drumlin countryside dotted with many lakes and hills. Cavan is known as the 'Lakeland County' and reputed to contain 365 lakes. However, there are a number of landscape types all of which contribute to the uniqueness and local distinctiveness of the county, from the Cuilcagh-Anierin Uplands of West Cavan to the Highlands of East Cavan.

County Cavan's natural heritage forms the rich tapestry of landscape bogs, drumlins, lakes, wetlands, farmland and mature hedgerow networks. This natural heritage is valuable for the social, educational and recreational benefits it provides. There are a number of designated sites within the county and the three SPAs are Lough Oughter, Lough Kinale and Derragh Lough, and Lough Sheelin.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

County Cavan benefits from its strategic location, acting as a fulcrum between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and functions as the main urban area within the subregion (Cavan/Monaghan). It is positioned to act as the principle town in the subregion in terms of housing, job and education delivery. Cavan town is almost unique in the history of Irish urbanism in that its existence as a recorded market town dates from the fourteenth century and was independent of Norman or Tudor influences.

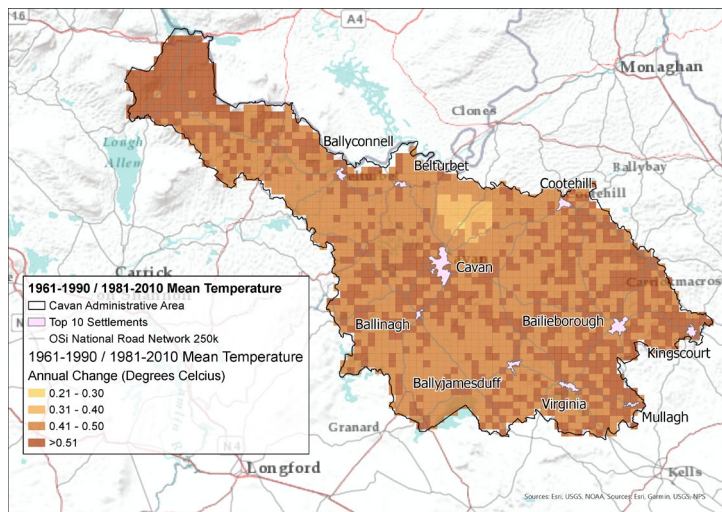
In addition to being the largest population centre in the region, it contains strategic facilities such as a hospital, Cavan Institute, Cathedral and Sports Stadium, essential for sustainable growth. Cavan has a total population of approximately 81,201 and agriculture is the largest industry in the county especially dairy milk processing as well as pig and beef farming. There is a total farmed area of 144,269 hectares in the county.

The county comprises of 3 municipal districts namely Cavan-Belturbet MD, Ballyjamesduff MD and Cootehill-Bailieboro MD.

There are 9 larger towns in the county -Cavan Town, Bailieboro, Ballyjamesduff, Cootehill, Kingscourt, Virginia, Mullagh, Belturbet and Ballyconnell and there are 6 smaller towns - Killeshandra, Arva, Kilnaleck, Shercock, Ballyhaise and Ballinagh. The 2 largest employment sections in County Cavan are 'Commerce and Trade' and 'Professional Services'. Reflective of the county's rural nature, 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' industry is particularly strong employing 11.32% of people.

Cavan's Central location within the border region and the location of the county town as well as a number of other towns on national routes mean that the county links most places within the border region. The county also acts as a linkage between the border and other areas nationally as well as linking Northern Ireland with many parts of the south of the Country. Such a strategic location has attracted businesses and industry to the County providing employment. The west has maintained much of its rural character and with its higher concentration of natural amenities has seen a smaller population growth and correspondingly slower development.

Observed Changes in Cavan's Climate



To assess changes in climatic conditions across County Cavan, we have employed data from Met Éireann's network of meteorological and climatological stations. To establish a long-term climatology, a 30-year period of data is required. Due to no designated long-term weather stations being located in County Cavan, the Clones station situated in Co, Monaghan was used for long-term data points.

In line with global trends, the climate of Ireland and Cavan is changing, temperatures are increasing and patterns of precipitation are changing. A summary of key climate and weather-related changes already observed for Cavan are detailed below.

Highlights of Observed Climate Change for Ireland and Cavan

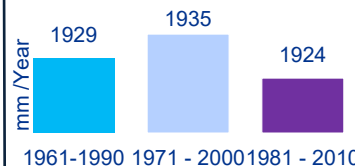
Droughts



During the 2018 Drought, summer precipitation levels were down an average 43.3% across all weather stations in Cavan compared to the 1961-1990 baseline**

Rainfall

Average annual rainfall at Cuilcagh Mountains decreased by 0.3% for the most recent period (1981-2010) compared to the 1961-1990.**

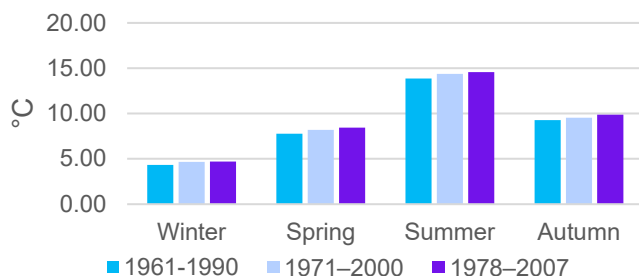


0.5°C

Average temperature increase for the period 1981-2010 when compared to the 1961-1990 baseline.**

4 of the driest Aprils (Historically driest month) were recorded in the last 10 years based on records extending back to 1961***

Mean Seasonal Temperatures*



30.8°C

Highest temperature on record recorded on Jul 18th 2022 at Ballyhaise

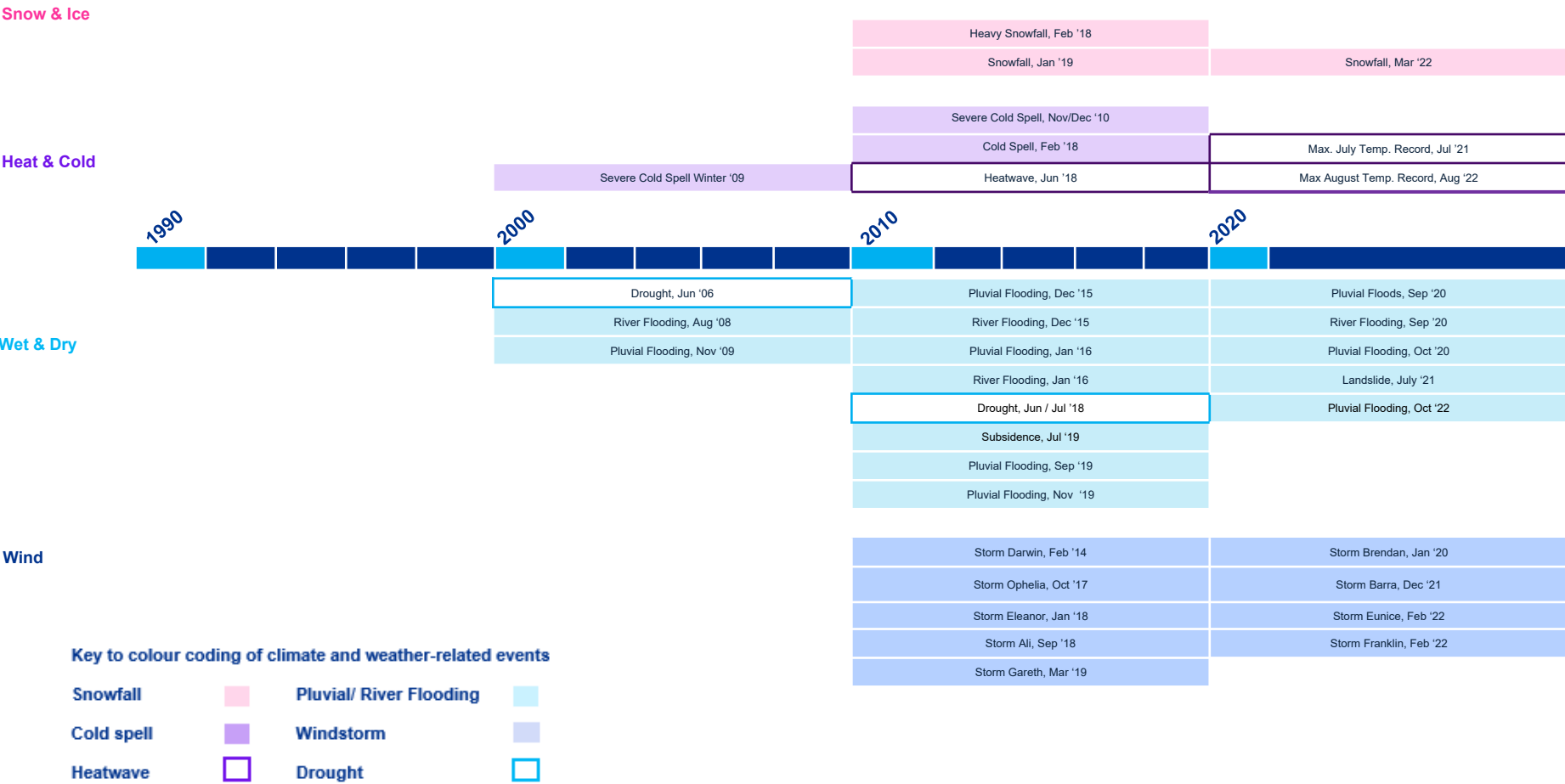
*Source: Met Éireann Long term weather station : Clones (Closed in 2007)
 **Source: Met Éireann weather station data: Cuilcagh Mtns
 ***Source: interpolation from Long term Met Éireann mean temperature 1x1 Grid data
 ****Source:



Heavy rainfall In July 2021 led to a landslide on Benbrack mountain in West Cavan, causing an area of peatland 6ft deep and 50m wide to 'slip' down the mountainside****

Climate Hazard Profile

In addition to observed changes in Cavan's climate, we have identified significant climate and weather-related events to have impacted on County Cavan over the period 2006-2022. To do this, we have further developed the existing climate hazard profile developed through the existing Cavan County Council Adaptation Strategy (2019) and expanded the analysis to cover the period 2018-2022.



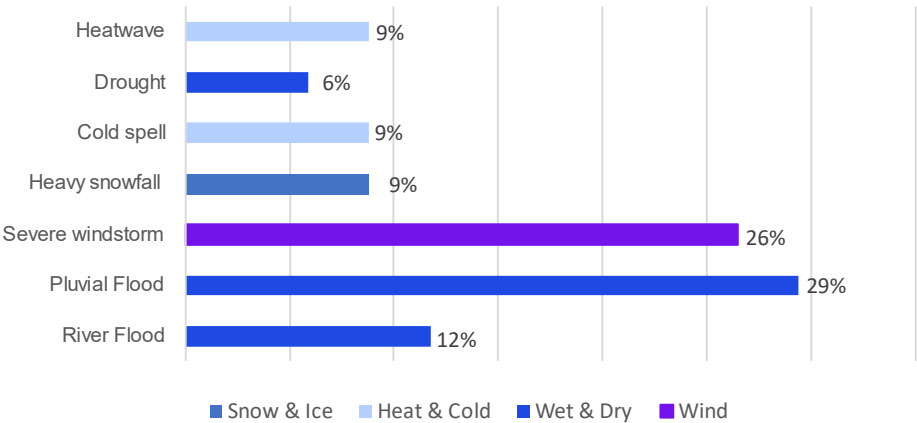
Frequency of Climate Hazards

For each of the climate hazards that have been identified through the climate hazard profile, an assessment of their frequency of occurrence has been conducted. Each hazard was assigned a frequency category according to Table 2 of the **Technical Annex B Climate Change Risk Assessment Guidelines** (top right).

Based on the climate hazard baseline, severe windstorm events have impacted upon County Cavan most frequently over the period 2006-2022, with pluvial* flooding also affecting the County on a number of occasions. River flooding, cold spells, heavy snowfall, heatwaves and droughts have also impacted County Cavan, but less frequently.

The hazard frequency for each hazard is shown in the bottom right table, informed by past event occurrence and information received from Cavan County Council.

Frequency of Identified Events According to Category (2006 -2022)



Frequency classification from Technical Annex B Climate Change Risk Assessment Guidelines

Frequency	Frequency Occurrence in a Year	Description
Very Frequent	> 100%	Occurs several times in a single year
Frequent	50 to 100%	Occurs once in a 1-to-2-year period
Common	10 to 50%	Occurs once in a 2-to-10 years period
Occasional	1 to 10%	Occurs once in a 10-to-100-year period
Rare	< 1%	Occurs once in over 100 years

Current hazard frequency for County Cavan, based upon analysis of past events and workshop feedback

Hazard Type	Current Frequency
Heatwave	Common
Drought	Occasional
Cold Spell	Common
Heavy Snowfall	Common
Severe Windstorm	Frequent
Pluvial Flood	Frequent
River Flood	Frequent

Pluvial flooding occurs when the amount of rainfall exceeds the capacity of urban storm water drainage systems or the ground to absorb it

3.2.2 Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts for County Cavan

Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts for County Cavan

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

On the basis of identified exposures, vulnerabilities and impacts for County Cavan, the impact of climate and weather-related hazards on key categories of exposure for County Cavan was assessed according to the criteria provided through Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment (catastrophic, major, moderate, minor and negligible) (Appendix 2). This assessment was undertaken on the basis of existing information on impacts and in consultation with Cavan County Council.

Below we provide a summary of impacts across the key categories of exposure for the seven climate hazards identified. The following pages provides the information that informed this assessment with additional information provided in Appendix 3.



Hazard	Current Frequency	Assets	Health and Wellbeing	Environment	Social	Cultural Heritage	Financial	Reputational	Overall Impact Score
Heatwave	Common	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	1.7
Drought	Occasional	Negligible	Negligible	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	1.6
Cold Spell	Common	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Minor	2.4
Heavy Snowfall	Common	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	2.6
Severe Windstorm	Frequent	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Minor	2.4
Pluvial Flood	Frequent	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	2.1
River Flood	Frequent	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	2.6

Impacts of Current Climate Risks– Heatwaves & Drought

Key to colour coding of impact ratings

- Catastrophic
- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- Negligible

County Cavan has been exposed to heatwave events (defined as 5 consecutive days with temperatures >25 deg. C) over the period 2006-2022 with a wide range of impacts across the county. The most notable and costly impact relates to repair and maintenance of road surfaces and responding to uncontrolled fires. In addition, County Cavan has experienced drought conditions over the period as exemplified by the drought events in 2006 and July 2018.

Hazard & Frequency	Exposure	Impact Description	Rating
 Heatwave Common	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High temperatures have resulted in localised damage to road surfaces (tar and chip) across the County. 	Moderate
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High indoor temperatures have resulted in uncomfortable working conditions for staff and public and has had impacts on for heat sensitive equipment (e.g., Council laboratories). This has resulted in the increased requirement for active/mechanical cooling. 	Minor
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat waves provide suitable conditions for the ignition of uncontrolled fires, with high temperatures in 2021 leading to 6 gorse fires reported throughout the county. High water temperatures associated with heatwave events have also had significant impacts on freshwater and marine environments. For example in July 2021, high temperatures and an algal bloom have been associated with the deaths of 5,000 fish in Barnagrow Lake. 	Moderate
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heatwaves have resulted in congestion at key recreational areas with facilities (e.g., litter collection and parking) overwhelmed. 	Negligible
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme temperatures are recognised as contributing to the increased weathering of cultural heritage sites. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of heatwaves are primarily associated with road maintenance and repair. 	Negligible
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heatwaves, associated impacts and response have the potential for a localised and temporary impact on public opinion. 	Negligible
 Drought Occasional	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought conditions (e.g. Summer 2018) resulted in the imposition of restrictions on water supply on a national and county basis with implications for building operation. 	Negligible
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water restrictions, particularly in combination with extreme heat, have the potential to result in dehydration, this is particularly the case for vulnerable populations and outdoor workers. 	Negligible
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High temperatures and dry conditions, often compounded by high levels of ignition activity, have resulted in uncontrolled fires. In 2021 this led to 6 gorse fires throughout the county. 	Moderate
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water restrictions can lead to inconvenience for local businesses and resident. 	Minor
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drought conditions results in damage to cultural heritage sites due to drying out of substrate. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of drought are limited and restricted to responding to wildfire and supporting the provision of water (e.g., tankering). 	Negligible
Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Droughts, associated impacts and response have the potential for a localised and temporary impact on public opinion. 	Negligible	

Impacts of Current Climate Risks – Cold Spells & Heavy Snowfall

Key to colour coding of impact ratings

Catastrophic

Major

Moderate

Minor

Negligible

County Cavan has experienced cold spell and heavy snowfall events over the period 2006-2022 with significant events reported for 2009, 2010, 2018 (the 'Beast from the East') and January 2019. These events have wide ranging impacts across the county including disruption of transport routes, damage to buildings, and isolation of communities.

Hazard & Frequency	Exposure	Impact Description	Rating
 Cold spell Common	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold spells have resulted in road closure, transport disruption and increased maintenance and repair costs across the county. Freeze thaw action has resulted in damage to critical infrastructure (E.g., water infrastructure) and building stock. Extreme cold conditions in combination with snowfall have resulted in the widespread closure of business (incl. LA business services). 	Moderate
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme cold has resulted in treacherous conditions and increased incidence of slips and falls. Exposure to extreme cold has had detrimental impacts for outdoor workers and vulnerable populations. 	Moderate
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cold spells have led to decreased water availability and have detrimental impacts for biodiversity and habitats, resulting in a decrease of ecosystem health. Livestock which were unable to access water at Nadrageel Lough died and required removal due to the risk to water quality. 	Minor
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road closures have resulted in social isolation for remote communities. Elderly and vulnerable populations are required to stay in place resulting in isolation. 	Minor
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze thaw has been identified as having detrimental impacted on the structural integrity of cultural heritage sites. In 2022, funding was granted to halt structural deterioration at Woteraghy Mill in Ballinagh. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of cold spells are primarily associated with maintenance and repair costs for local and regional roads, buildings and assets, and can be significant. 	Moderate
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation of communities and council response (e.g., gritting) across the county receives media attention but with limited impact on public opinion. 	Minor
 Heavy snowfall Common	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy snowfall has resulted in road closures and transport disruption as evidenced with the closure of roads across the county as a result of Storm Emma (2018), which led to snow drifts of up to 2m in County Cavan. Accumulations of snowfall on roofs results in damage to buildings. Flooding post-heavy snowfall events results in the flooding of assets (e.g., roads and infrastructure). 	Moderate
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extreme cold events have resulted in treacherous conditions and increased incidence of slips and falls amongst public and staff. 	Moderate
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flooding post-heavy snowfall event results in overland flow of pollutants to habitats and ecosystems with detrimental effects. 	Minor
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road closures can result in significant social isolation for remote communities. 	Moderate
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accumulations of heavy snowfall can result in damage to cultural heritage sites. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of cold spells are primarily associated with maintenance and repair costs for local and regional roads, buildings and assets 	Moderate
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolation of communities and council response (e.g., gritting) across the county receives media attention but with limited impact on public opinion. 	Minor

Impacts of Current Climate Risks - Windstorms

County Cavan has been frequently exposed to wind storms over the period 2006-2022, notable examples being Storms Eleanor, Barra and Franklin. Impacts have been experienced across the county and relate to disruption of transport, electricity and communication networks. Severe windstorms also result in health and safety risks, e.g. associated with treefall.

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

Hazard & Frequency	Exposure	Impact Description	Rating
Severe windstorm	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windstorms has caused direct damage to building stock and other assets. Windstorm damage to power and communication transmission infrastructure (e.g., tree fall on overhead lines) has resulted in disruption of communications and energy supply. For example, during Storm Barra in 2022, the ESB reported that 3,000 premises in County Cavan lost power. This affected communities in Derrycramph, Drumalee, Cortober, Farnham, Fair Town, Kingscourt, Mullagh and Dowra. Windstorms have caused disruption of transport routes as a result of treefall. During Storm Barra in 2021, County Cavan saw the closure of the R199, R194, R165 and R188 roads due to incidents of fallen trees. 	Moderate
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windstorms posed a health and safety risk with potential for injury. In response to and during Storm Eunice in 2022, a vaccination centre in Cavan Town was closed as a result of risks associated with severe storms. 	Moderate
Frequent	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windstorms have resulted in loss of trees and this is particularly the case for vulnerable tree species. Windstorms prevent council staff from safely taking accurate water samples from lakes, hindering monitoring of water quality. 	Minor
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe windstorms and disruption of transport and communication networks has resulted in isolation of communities. As a result of Storm Eleanor in 2018, Eir saw 50 sites affected nationally. Three and Vodafone had 71 and 30 affected sites respectively. 	Minor
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe wind storms can cause structural damage to cultural heritage sites. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial impacts of severe wind storm are associated with clean-up and repair cost. 	Moderate
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reputational damage as a result of wind storms is limited and associated with short term media reporting on council preparedness and response. 	Minor



Impacts of Current Climate Risks - Pluvial and Fluvial Flooding

Key to colour coding of impact ratings

- Catastrophic
- Major
- Moderate
- Minor
- Negligible

For County Cavan in the period 2006-2022, pluvial and fluvial flooding have occurred on a frequent basis. Areas of exposure to fluvial flooding are limited geographically but with the potential for frequent exposure. Pluvial flooding can be experienced across the county with impacts associated with inundation of transport routes while bathing water quality has been impacted due to pollutant runoff following heavy rainfall events.

Hazard & Frequency	Exposure	Impact Description	Rating
 Pluvial flood Frequent	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pluvial flooding has resulted in the temporary inundation of assets, as shown by the flooding of homes in Gortnakesh in 2022. Pluvial flooding results in damage to road surfaces. 	Minor
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy precipitation and floodwater leads to dangerous driving conditions for both council staff and public 	Minor
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pluvial flooding has resulted in the overland flow of pollutants (nutrients, sediment and pesticides) with impacts on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. Pluvial flooding can cause landslides and damage to local habitats, as in July 2022 when heavy rainfall led an area of peatland 6ft deep and 50m wide to 'slip' down Benbrack mountain in west Cavan. 	Moderate
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road closures can result in significant social isolation for communities, as evidenced by the closure of approximately 50 roads in County Cavan between December 2015-January 2016 during storms Desmond and Frank. 	Minor
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pluvial flooding puts built heritage with stone cavities at risk of soakage and leakage. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of emergency response (e.g. pumping and emergency co-ordination, clean-up and repair) can be significant. Increased budget pressure to adapt to impact of climate change, e.g. flood protection measures and upgrading of existing drainage systems. 	Minor
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pluvial flooding issues are localised but can result in short-term reputational damage to the council. 	Minor
 River flood Frequent	Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River flooding has resulted in the temporary inundation of buildings. In Cavan town, 54 homes and 56 non-residential properties are currently considered at risk of flooding. River flooding results in transport disruption and road closures. The R212/N3 east of Cavan town flooded in 2019 and 2020 when the Cavan river burst its banks. River action has damaged assets such as the Assan Bridge through hydrodynamic scour, requiring repairs costing €175k. 	Moderate
	Health and Well being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heavy precipitation and floodwater leads to dangerous driving conditions for both council staff and public Fluvial floods can carry debris which can lead to injury of residents and pedestrians 	Moderate
	Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River flooding can result in the overland flow of pollutants (nutrients, sediment and pesticides) with impacts on terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems. 	Minor
	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road closures can result in significant social isolation for communities Inhibited development of communities as a result of frequent river flooding 	Minor
	Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A number of the county's cultural heritage and archaeological sites are situated near river systems and are particularly exposed to river flooding. 	Minor
	Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial implications of fluvial flooding are associated with Increased costs associated with preparedness (e.g., sandbags and demountable defences) emergency response (e.g. pumping and emergency co-ordination), clean-up and repair. 	Moderate
	Reputational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For areas that are subject to frequent inundation, there is the potential for localised long-term reputational damage. 	Moderate

3.2.3 Impact Assessment (Service Delivery)

Summary of Service Level Impacts

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

The impacts of climate change hazards on County Cavan will have direct and indirect consequences for the delivery of services by Cavan County Council before, during and after climate and weather-related event.

On the basis of reported information and in consultation with Cavan County Council, an assessment of the impacts of identified climate change hazards and impacts on the delivery of services by Cavan County Council was undertaken in accordance with the criteria provided through Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment (Appendix 2), with each service delivery area assigned an impact category of either negligible, minor, moderate, major, or catastrophic.

Below we provide a summary of the impacts on the delivery of services of Cavan County Council as a result of the climate hazards identified within the climate hazard profile. The following pages provide the detailed information that informed this assessment.

Hazard	Business Services	Roads, footpaths, bridges: construction and maintenance	Building Stock	Community Infrastructure	Cultural Heritage	Stormwater / Sewerage	Wastewater	Water Supply	Water Quality	Biodiversity	Community Development	Emergency Response
Heatwave	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	None	None	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate
Drought	None	None	None	None	Minor	None	None	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate
Cold Spell	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Moderate
Heavy Snowfall	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	None	None	Minor	Minor	None	Minor	Moderate
Severe Windstorm	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	None	None	None	Negligible	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Pluvial Flood	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor
River Flood	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	None	None	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate

Service Level Impacts (Heatwaves & Drought)

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

Heatwaves and drought result in a range of impacts for service provision by Cavan County Council. The primary impacts of heatwave relate to increased maintenance and repair requirements of road surfaces and increased pressure on service provision for recreational areas. Decreased levels of water supply due to drought conditions put increased pressure on LA staff working under the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Irish water and increased pressure on emergency response services due to an increased frequency of uncontrolled fire. In addition, high temperatures result in staff and public discomfort and an increased requirement for mechanical and passive cooling. Heatwaves and drought put additional pressure on community infrastructure such as parks.

	Heatwaves	Drought
Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased staff productivity and increased staff and customer discomfort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Roads, footpaths, bridges, construction and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased costs associated with repair of road surfaces across the county. Increased health and safety risk for outdoor staff members across the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Building Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased requirement for cooling in council offices/buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased requirement for waste collection and traffic management at key recreational sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased requirements for monitoring and maintenance of cultural heritage sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised degradation of cultural heritage sites due to drying out. Increased requirements for monitoring and maintenance of cultural heritage sites.
Stormwater / Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased supply demand for water to cool infrastructure, communities, and livestock. Implementation of water conservation measures (e.g., hosepipe bans). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased requirement to support provision of water to communities suffering loss of water supply (e.g., Tankering).
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced water flows impacting on water quality in local areas with increased requirement for monitoring and remediation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced water flows impacting on water quality in local areas with increased requirement for monitoring and remediation.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased ecosystem health across the county with potential for loss of priority habitats resulting in increased requirement for monitoring and remediation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced water flows impacting on biodiversity with potential for loss of priority species and habitats necessitating increased monitoring and remediation.
Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased requirement for management at congested sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced grass growth causing increased supplementary feed requirement for cattle reducing farm incomes and the wider industry.
Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of wildfire call-outs across the county. Increase in number of call out to bathing areas throughout the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of uncontrolled fire call-outs across the county.
Crosscutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and Safety of Staff 	

Service Level Impacts (Cold Spell & Heavy Snowfall)

Cold spells and heavy snowfall have significant impacts across County Cavan with direct and indirect consequences for the delivery of services by Cavan County Council. Impacts are related primarily to maintenance and repair of assets and infrastructure, closure of local authority offices and services, and increased demand on emergency response.

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

	Cold Spell	Heavy Snowfall
Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of business services across the county. Health and safety risks for public and staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of business services across the county. Health and safety risks for public and staff.
Roads, footpaths, bridges, construction and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased costs associated with gritting and salting roads across the county. Increased repair and maintenance costs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport disruption and road closures Increased costs associated with gritting and salting roads and footpaths around the county.
Building Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased energy costs for buildings county wide. Increased health and safety risks for public and staff county wide. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased energy costs for buildings county wide. Increased health and safety risks for public and staff county wide.
Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased energy costs in community buildings across the county. Increased health and safety risks for public and staff working in community buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased health and safety risks for public and staff. Closure of services throughout local communities.
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased energy costs for cultural heritage sites. Increased health and safety risks for public and staff at community heritage sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased health and safety risks for public and staff. Localised closure of sites.
Stormwater / Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced capacity for drainage resulting in standing water due to post cold spell events. Damage to stormwater infrastructure with increased requirement for maintenance and repair across the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overland flows of pollutants due to post freezing events, causing contamination of water supplies necessitating increased monitoring and remediation. Damage to wastewater infrastructure with increased requirement for maintenance and repair. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County wide water supply issues due damaged water supply infrastructure (e.g., burst pipes). Increased maintenance and repair costs of water service infrastructure across the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised water supply issues due damaged water supply infrastructure (e.g., burst pipes). Increased maintenance and repair costs of water service infrastructure.
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction and disruption of water supplies across the county due to decreased water quality necessitating increased requirement on council to supply water to affected communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised reduction and disruption of water supplies due to decreased water quality necessitating increased requirement on council to supply water to affected communities.
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prolonged cold spells impacting species not protected from the frigid temperatures in local communities requiring increased monitoring and remediation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased instances of community isolation county wide. Significant impact on the county's economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased instances of local community isolation. Significant impact on the economy of local communities.
Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased pressure on emergency response units across the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased pressure on emergency response units across the county. Increase in response times due to heavy snowfall on roads around the county.
Crosscutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff redeployment 	

Service Level Impacts (Severe Windstorm)

Severe windstorms can result in the closure and/or disruption of Cavan County Council Offices and services. Primary impacts of severe windstorms are associated with disruption of services and infrastructure due to loss of power supply and communications, damage to local authority assets and infrastructure, increased pressure on emergency response and redeployment of staff to support clean-up following a severe windstorm event.

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

	Severe Windstorm
Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread closure of business services Health and safety risks for public and staff
Roads, footpaths, bridges, construction and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County wide transport disruption and road closures affecting the wider community and local authority operations Increased clean-up and repair costs after an event
Building Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of buildings and disruption of services as a result of direct damage to buildings and disruption of power
Community Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption to delivery of community services across the county Increased clean-up and repair costs after an event
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased maintenance and repair costs due to storm damage to cultural heritage sites
Stormwater / Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negligible disruption to water quality monitoring
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High winds result in damage to habitats Increased cost to protect habitats from wind damage
Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased power outages and damages to infrastructure result in an impact on local economy
Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countywide increased pressure on emergency services Increase in response times due to heavy snowfall on roads around the county
Crosscutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff redeployment

Service Level Impacts (Pluvial & River Flood)

Pluvial and river flooding have resulted in a wide range of impacts for Cavan County Council. Impacts are primarily associated with clean-up and repair costs, water quality issues due to overland flows of pollutants, damage to environmentally sensitive areas, increased pressure on emergency response services and supporting communities during and following flood events.

Key to colour coding of impact ratings
Catastrophic
Major
Moderate
Minor
Negligible

	Pluvial Flood	River Flood
Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised disruption and closure of local authority services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised disruption and closure of local authority services
Roads, footpaths, bridges, construction and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised transport disruption and road closures Increased clean-up and repair costs after an event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport disruption and road closures Increased clean-up and repair costs after an event
Building stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased maintenance and repair costs Increased requirement for flood defence measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased maintenance and repair costs Increased requirement for flood defence measures
Community infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closure of community infrastructure and services at a localised level Increased repair and maintenance costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised closure of community infrastructure and services Increased repair and maintenance costs
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to heritage sites due to pluvial flooding requiring repair work Increased maintenance and repair costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to heritage sites due to river flooding requiring repair work Increased maintenance and repair costs
Stormwater / Sewerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced capacity for drainage resulting in standing water Damage to stormwater infrastructure at a localised level Increased maintenance and repair costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Wastewater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage to wastewater treatment plants Increased maintenance and repair costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Water Supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply issues at a localised level requiring supplemental water provision (e.g., tankering) Increased water treatment costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply issues at a localised level requiring supplemental water provision (e.g., tankering)
Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deterioration of water quality due to overland flow of pollutants resulting in water supply issues and environmental degradation and an increased requirement for monitoring and remediation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deterioration of water quality due to overland flow of pollutants resulting in water supply issues and an increased requirement for monitoring and remediation
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Severe damage across the county to environmentally sensitive areas requiring monitoring and/or restoration work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Isolated and limited damage to environmentally sensitive areas requiring monitoring and/or restoration work
Community Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhibited development of communities at a localised level Damage to buildings and travel disruptions impact on local economies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inhibited development of communities at a localised level Damage to buildings and travel disruptions impact on local economies in Cavan County Council at a localised level
Emergency Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Localised increased pressure on emergency response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County wide increased pressure on emergency response
Crosscutting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff redeployment 	

3.2.4 Current Climate Risk Matrix

Current Climate Risk Matrix

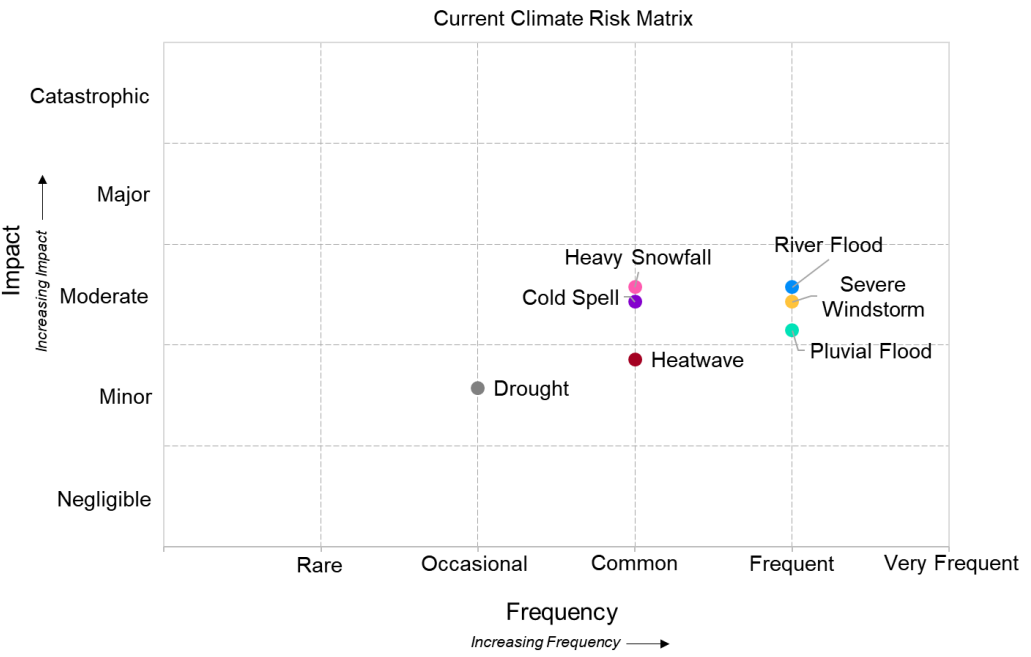
Based on reported information and in consultation with Cavan County Council, a current climate risk matrix for County Cavan has been developed based on the frequency of hazard and the associated level of impact.

The assessment identified **severe windstorm, river and pluvial flooding** as posing the highest level of risk for County Cavan with impacts of severe windstorm primarily associated with disruption and damage to energy, communication and transport networks while impacts of **river and pluvial flooding** are associated with damage to assets and infrastructure, disruption of transport networks and mobilisation of pollutants with detrimental impacts on bathing water areas.

Cold spells and heavy snowfall occur on common basis across County Cavan resulting in damages to critical energy, communication and water infrastructure while closure of transport infrastructure has the potential to result in isolation of remote communities.

Heatwaves also occur on a common basis across County Cavan; however, the overall impact is currently considered minor. The impacts of heatwaves are associated with an increase in damage to road surfaces and increased pressure on recreational sites.

During the current period, **droughts** have occurred on an occasional basis but with relatively minor impacts and are associated with increased incidence of uncontrolled fire and disruption of water supply.



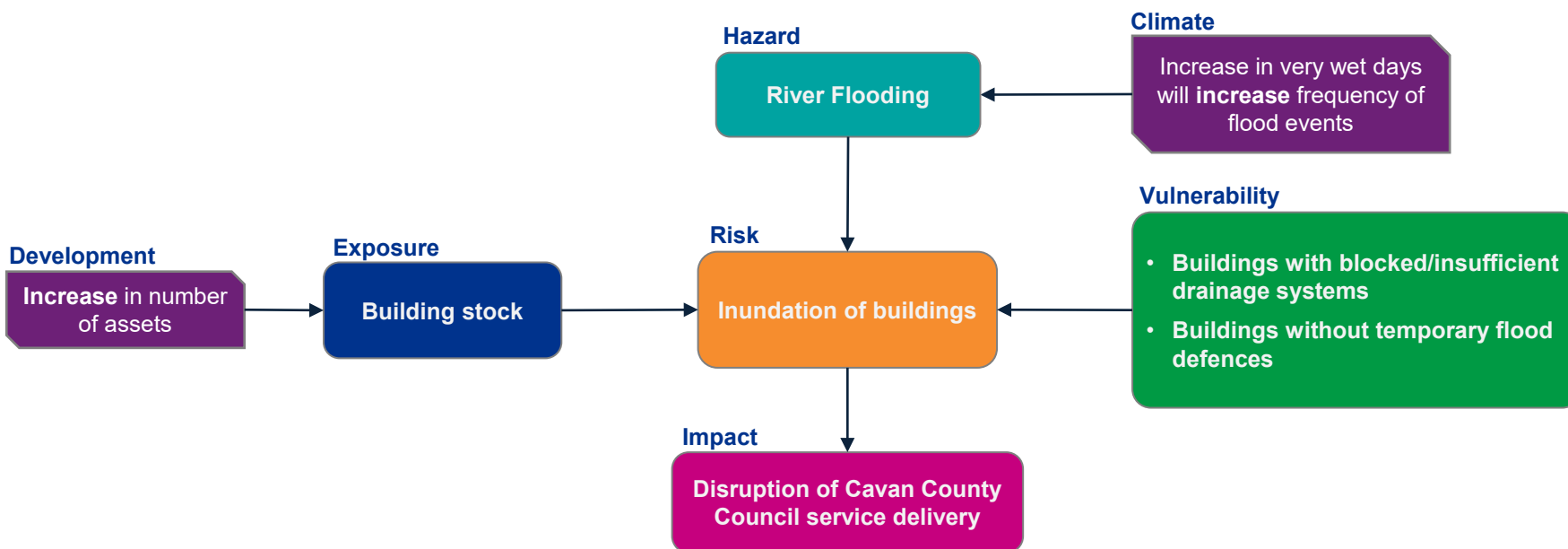
The risk matrix above shows the current risk for the identified hazards for County Cavan.

3.3 Future Climate Risks and Impact Assessment

Future Climate Risk and Impact

Climate risks may increase, decrease, or emerge in the future due to a change in either the frequency and severity of climate hazards and/or changes in exposure and vulnerability. In the example below, the risk of inundation due to river flooding will increase due to an increase in the number of very wet days (> 30 mm precipitation) leading to an increase in the frequency of river flood events. Furthermore, there is likely to be an increased population in the region, possibly resulting in new buildings being constructed. This will potentially increase the number of assets exposed to river flooding. Therefore, due to changes in both the hazard and exposure, the risk of inundation of Cavan County Council buildings will increase in the future.











In the following sections, we provide an assessment of potential future changes in the climate of Cavan County by 2050 and its effects on the frequency of hazard occurrence. An assessment of the future changes in the population and development in the region by 2050 that could affect exposure and vulnerability was also undertaken. Finally, considering all three components, the future climate risk was assessed.

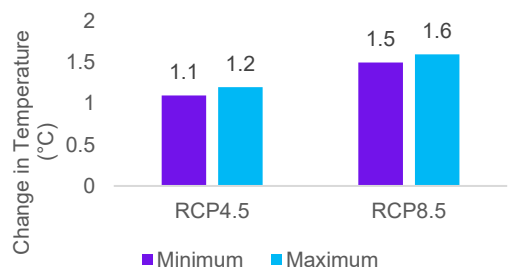


3.3.1 Future Changes in Climate Hazards

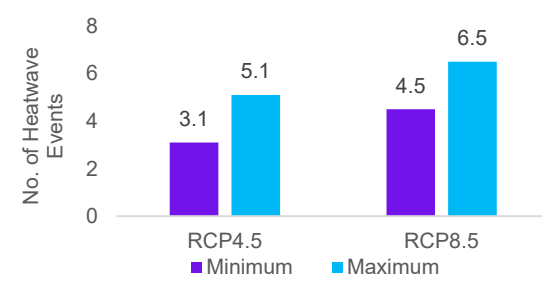
Climate Projections for County Cavan in 2050 (1/2)

Having identified and assessed the range of climate hazards and impacts already experienced by Cavan County Council, the projected changes in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards (acute and chronic) were assessed to understand how existing climate impacts and risks faced by County Cavan may change in the future. The information below summarizes the climate projections for each hazard based on Nolan and Flanagan (2020).

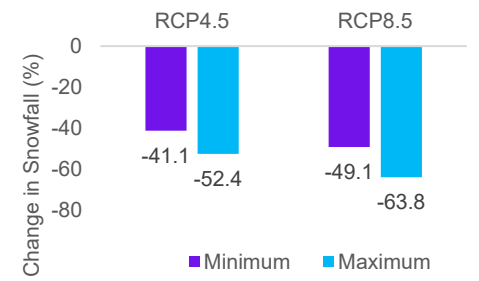
Hazard	Projected Change	Future Frequency
 Heatwaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections indicate an overall increase in average temperature (bottom left) of between 1.1 and 1.6°C for County Cavan relative to the 1981-2000 period. Under a high emission scenario, projections indicate that heatwaves will become more frequent (bottom middle) by mid-century. 	Frequent 
 Droughts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summer rainfall is expected to reduce by between 6 and 12% in the future when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, in both the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenario contributing to potential drought conditions. 	Common 
 Cold Spell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a consequence of the increasing temperatures, a decrease in the number of frost days and ice days in the 2041-2060 future period when compared with the baseline period of 1981 to 2000, is projected for both the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenario. 	Occasional 
 Heavy Snowfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual snowfall in the region is projected to decrease substantially by the middle of the century for the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios (bottom right). 	Occasional 
 Severe Windstorms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections of storms are subject to a high level of uncertainty. By mid century, projections indicate that average wind speed will remain similar to those currently experienced. There is limited evidence of a potential increase in the frequency of more intense storms which are currently rare events. However, more research is needed to confirm this increase. 	Frequent 



The projected minimum and maximum **increase in the mean annual temperature** for the area of County Cavan for the period 2041-2060 compared to 1981-2000 for the medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenario (Source: Nolan and Flanagan, 2020)







The projected minimum and maximum **number of heatwaves** for the area of County Cavan for the period 2041-2060 compared to 1981-2000 for a medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenario (Source: Nolan and Flanagan, 2020)

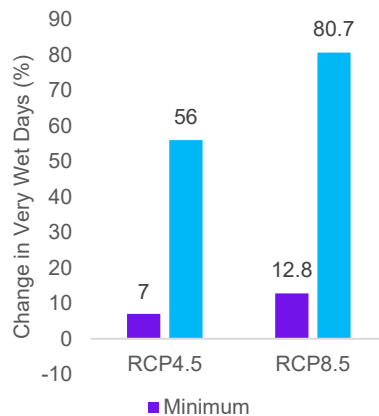


The projected **minimum and maximum change in snowfall** for the area of County Cavan for the period 2041-2060 compared to 1981-2000 for a medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenario (Source: Nolan and Flanagan, 2020)

Climate Projections for County Cavan in 2050 (2/2)

Having identified and assessed the range of climate hazards and impacts already experienced by Cavan County Council, the projected changes in the frequency and intensity of climate hazards (acute and chronic) were assessed to understand how existing climate impacts and risks faced by County Cavan may change in the future. The information below summarizes the climate projections for each hazard based on Nolan and Flanagan (2020).

Hazard	Projected Change	Future Frequency
 Pluvial Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections indicate an increase in the frequency of heavy rainfall days (days with precipitation >30mm) for County Cavan with some areas projected to see increase of up to 80% (bottom). This will likely result in an increased frequency of associated fluvial and pluvial flooding. 	Very Frequent 
 River Flooding		Very Frequent 




The projected minimum and maximum **increase in very wet days (> 30 mm)** for the area of Cavan County for the period 2041-2060 compared to 1981-2000 for a medium (RCP4.5) and high (RCP8.5) emissions scenario (Source: Nolan and Flanagan, 2020)

3.3.2 Future Changes in Exposure and Vulnerability (incl. Emerging Risk)


Projected Changes in Exposure and Vulnerability

In the future, County Cavan will change in terms of its population and developments. This will potentially affect the exposure and vulnerability of people and assets within the region. National, regional and local strategies that outlined expected and possible sociodemographic and infrastructure developments within County Cavan were reviewed to understand how exposure and vulnerability may change by 2050. A summary of the results of this review are shown below.



How is Ireland projected to change by 2040?

- Extra 1m population, 500,000 in rural areas / regional centres
- Extra 660,000 jobs
- Extra 550,000 homes
- 'Housing for All' promotes a 'town centre first' approach





How is County Cavan projected to change?

- **12,000 more people** in County Cavan between 2016 and 2031
- Cavan Town **population to increase by 30%** between 2016 and 2040.
- **3,996** new housing units required by 2028.

RSES Objectives: "at least 30% of all new homes that are targeted in settlements with a population of at least 1,500..., within the existing built-up footprints."

"Deliver at least 20% of all new housing in rural areas on brownfield sites."

Cavan County Development Plan (2022-28)

- Cross-Sectoral National Priorities:**
- Infrastructure and Services
 - Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation
 - Regeneration, Repopulation, Resilience

Planning for adaptation

Flood Defence Schemes:
The Office of Public Works-Council projects includes: Cavan Town Flood Relief Scheme (est. investment: €7m+ aims to protect 54 homes and 56 non-residential properties at risk of flooding)

Key national road infrastructure projects include focus for council:

- N3 Virginia Bypass
- N3 Dublin Road Cavan
- N55 Killydoon
- East West link



Notable renewable energy initiatives include:

- 11 X Sustainable Energy Community (SEC) (e.g. Cavan Energy Mile)
- Taghart Wind Farm
- Solar farms applications (e.g. Ballyjamesduff, Kingscourt)



Planning for mitigation



Case Study in Urban Planning: Abbeylands Regeneration Project

- **€20m** redevelopment at Masterplanning stage Incl. Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) funded and 25% from Council
- Remote Working Centre
- Community Services Hub
- New civic space and public space proposed for Abbey Street.

Future Exposure and Vulnerability (1/2)

In addition to the changes in the frequency of hazard events, future risk is also driven by the changes in exposure and vulnerability of assets. In order to estimate the potential change in risk, a number of assumptions have been made in relation to the seven impact areas, which are outlined below.

<p>Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the expected increase in County Cavan’s population, there will be an increase in the associated households and infrastructure resulting in an increase in the number of assets exposed to hazard events • Due to the expected increase in the frequency of heatwaves, road assets will be more regularly exposed to extreme temperatures and drought conditions with the potential for increased damage to roads • Pluvial and river flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. This will increase damage in the areas already exposed to these hazards and also expose new areas and therefore assets that were previously unaffected
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the expected increase in the elderly population in County Cavan there will be a greater number of vulnerable people who are more sensitive to hazards, particularly heatwaves • Pluvial and river events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, people will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels which will mean people previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed. This could impact on both physical and mental health and wellbeing
<p>Environment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential increasing occurrence of heatwaves and drought conditions within County Cavan will mean increased temperatures in water bodies and lower water levels which can decrease water quality resulting in short and long term impacts on the environment • Due to the potential increased frequency of exposure to hazards in County Cavan, there could be an increase in the impact on environmental assets as the time/ability for the habitat/environment to recover is reduced • Pluvial and river flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, environmental assets will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels will mean environmental assets previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed- resulting in short and long term damage to habitats/environment by these hazards

Future Exposure and Vulnerability (2/2)

In addition to the changes in the frequency of hazard events, future risk is also driven by the changes in exposure and vulnerability of assets. In order to estimate the potential change in risk, a number of assumptions have been made in relation to the seven impact areas, which are outlined below.

<p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the projected increase in the total and elderly population in County Cavan there will be an increase in the number of people affected by social isolation during some hazard events • In response to heatwaves, there will be an increased use of blue/green spaces by the public putting increased pressure on local amenities e.g. littering, traffic problems
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the potential increase in frequency of heatwave and drought events, degradation rates will potentially increase resulting in an increase in the impact of cultural heritage assets • Pluvial and river flooding events that were once considered extreme, will become more frequent. Consequently, cultural heritage assets will be more frequently exposed to flooding hazards, and higher flood levels will mean cultural heritage assets previously unaffected by flooding may become exposed resulting in short and long term damage to habitats/environment by these hazards
<p>Financial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the potential increase in frequency of hazard events and exposure across County Cavan, there will be an associated increase in the actions the local authority takes before, during, and after an event. • As a consequence, there will be an increase in the costs associated with dealing with the events, e.g. air conditioning, emergency service response, temporary and permanent flood defences, staff, training, and equipment purchase/maintenance
<p>Reputational</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the potential increase in frequency of hazard events and exposure across County Cavan during an event there will be an increasing demand/pressure on services/resources potentially reducing the level of service delivery and harming the reputation of the local authority • For hazards which are existing long-term issues in County Cavan, e.g. river flooding, if the response to the increased frequency and severity events is deemed insufficient by the public, this may negatively impact on the reputation of the local authority

Future Impacts

Taking into account the changes in exposure and vulnerability, the future change in impacts for each of the seven hazards was assessed. The potential future changes in impact are outlined below with the change in impact shown in bold.

Hazard	Assets		Health and Wellbeing		Environment		Social		Cultural Heritage		Financial		Reputational	
	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)	Current	Future (2050)
Heatwave	Moderate	Major	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Negligible	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor
Drought	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Major	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Negligible	Minor	Negligible	Minor
Cold Spell	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor
Heavy Snowfall	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor
Severe Windstorm	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Minor	Minor
Pluvial Flood	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate
River Flood	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Minor	Moderate	Moderate	Major	Moderate	Major

3.3.3 Future Climate Risk Matrix

Future Climate Risk Matrix

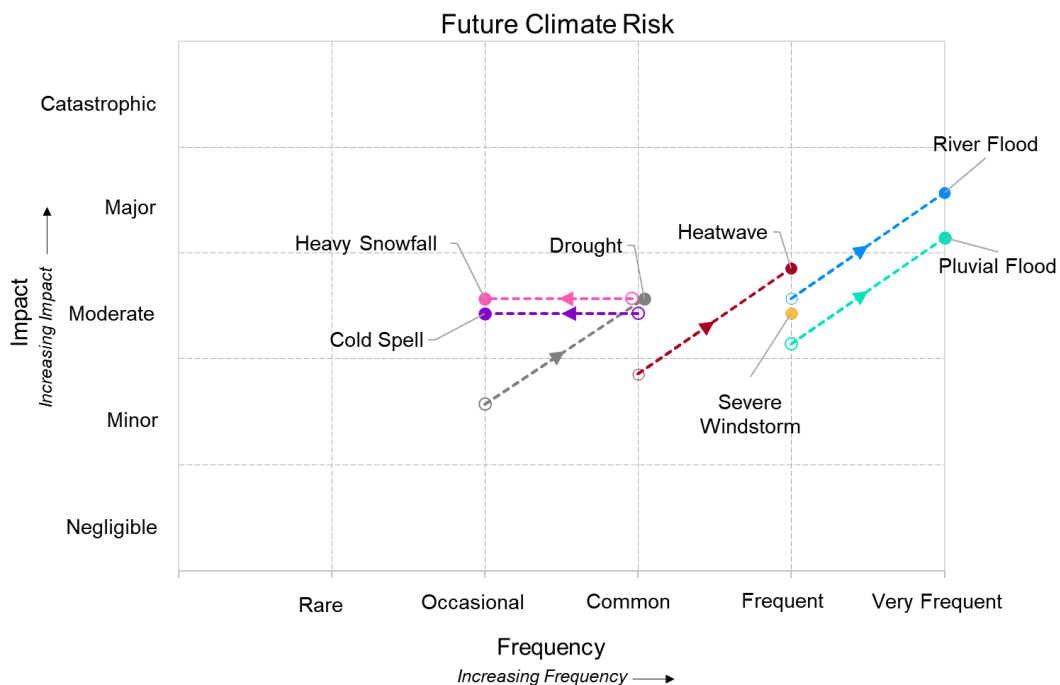
Projected changes in levels of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability, combine to form an assessment of future risks across County Cavan. The risk matrix on the right shows the future change in risk with the hollow marker showing the current risk and the solid marker the future risk. The dotted line shows the change between the current and future risk.

The **risk** of existing hazards such as **river and pluvial flooding** are projected to **increase** as a result of projected increases in the frequency of hazard events and also due to an increase in the areas, assets and populations exposed to these hazards.

Heatwaves and droughts although already experienced in County Cavan, are expected to occur more frequently due to climate change and with a greater impact on County Cavan in the future. The impact is exacerbated by not only projected changes in frequency of occurrence of heatwaves but also as a result of projected increases in population and the proportion of population considered vulnerable (those aged 65 years and over). These hazards can be therefore be considered as **emerging risks** for the region.

Although the frequency and impact of **severe windstorms** is thought to be **unchanged in the future**, these events will remain a risk for County Cavan.

The projected level of impact for **heavy snowfall** and **cold spells** on County Cavan remains similar to the current period, however, due to the projected decreases in hazard frequency, the overall risk of these hazards is projected to **reduce** in the future.



The risk matrix above shows the future changes in risk for the identified hazards within County Cavan. For each hazard there is a solid marker, which identifies the future risk, and a hollow marker showing the current risk. The dotted line in between these markers shows the change between the current and future risk.

3.3.4 Uncertainty Assessment

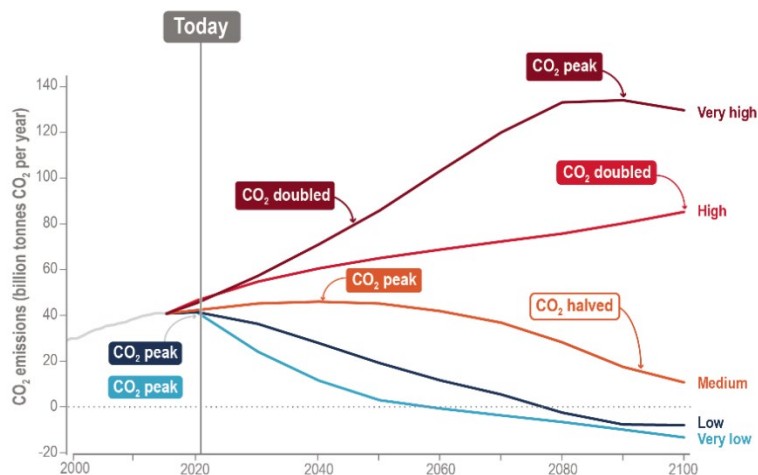
Uncertainty

In assessing future climate risks there are levels of uncertainty related to each of the three elements of risk, i.e., not only the magnitude and frequency of hazards but also the exposure and vulnerability to any given hazard.

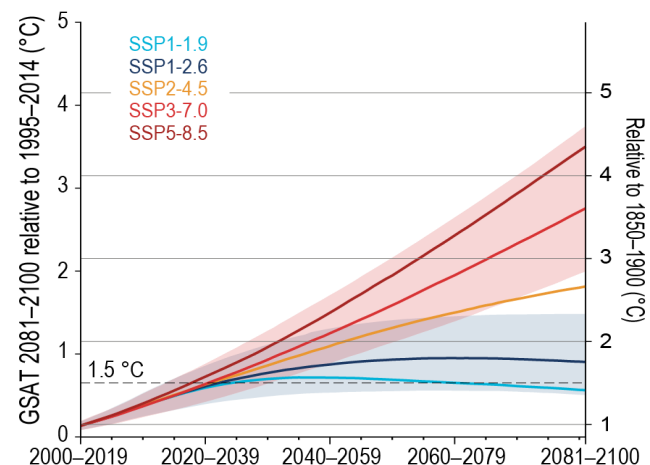
Different social and economic developments can lead to substantially different future emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (bottom left) resulting in uncertainty in what the future global climate will be. As an example of the possible future ranges in mean global surface temperature (bottom right) vary from below 1.5°C to over 4°C by 2100.

As a result of this uncertainty, climate projections include a range of scenarios, with SSP5-8.5 (AR6) or RCP8.5 (AR5) being the highest emission scenario and therefore the greatest change in future climate. When assessing climate risks with a qualitative approach, it is best practice to take a conservative or ‘worst case scenario’ to ensure that climate risks are not underestimated and dismissed as low or no risk. Climate risks identified within a qualitative risk assessment should be subsequently assessed using semi-quantitative or quantitative approaches to evaluate the risk in further detail.

Uncertainty also exists in relation to how County Cavan will develop into the future. Although, in the near-term there is relatively good understanding as a result of strategies, such as the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, developments up to 2050 are less certain. A ‘worst case scenario’ approach has been taken here also, with the potential future impact being increased according to the indicative near-term trend and the assumption that adaptation actions are not implemented.



Annual emissions of CO₂ for the five core Shared Socio-economic Pathway (SSP) scenarios (very low: SSP1-1.9, low: SSP1-2.6, intermediate: SSP2-4.5, high: SSP3-7.0, very high: SSP5-8.5) (Source: IPCC AR6 Infographic TS.1).







Assessed projected change in mean global surface temperature for five future climate scenarios. Future global temperatures can vary from below 1.5°C to over 4°C by 2100 depending on the amount of future emissions (Source: IPCC AR6 Cross-Chapter Box TS.1, Figure 1).

3.4 Summary

Summary

This CCRA detailed within this report provides an assessment of County Cavan’s climate change risks to support Cavan County Council’s efforts to prepare its LACAP. The CCRA has been carried out in line with the Local Authority Climate Action Plan Guidelines, Technical Annex B, drafted by the Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs). The key results are summarised below:

- 
 - Recent experiences of **river** and **pluvial flooding** events in 2019, 2020, and 2022 resulted in the closure of businesses and buildings due to water inundation, damage to residential properties, and disruption to transport networks (e.g. flooding of the N3). Projected increases in the frequency of extreme precipitation events will result in increased surface water and riverine flood risk for Cavan.
- 
 - County Cavan experienced both **heatwave** and **drought** in 2018, while heatwave was also recorded in 2021 and 2022. These events resulted in development of uncontrolled fires, imposition of restrictions on water supply, and have placed an increased strain on biodiversity across County Cavan (e.g. Lough Oughter). Projected increases in the frequency of heatwaves and drought conditions will mean that events currently experienced on an infrequent basis will become more frequent.
- 
 - **Severe windstorms** are currently experienced on a frequent basis in Cavan and result in wide-ranging impacts, including disruption to energy supply and communications networks. Projections indicate no significant change to this frequency.
- 
 - Recent experiences of **cold spells** and **heavy snowfall** events in 2018 demonstrated the wide range of impacts for County Cavan. These included, amongst others, disruption to public transport, road closures, and damage to built heritage. Projected increases in average temperature and decreases in the frequency of snowfall indicate a decrease in the frequency of cold spells, heavy snowfall, and their associated impacts.

To increase resilience, Cavan County Council will need to proactively plan for and adapt to the current and future climate change risks identified through this CCRA.

04

Appendices



4.1

Appendix 1

Glossary

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms from terrestrial, marine and other ecosystems. Biodiversity includes variability at the genetic, species and ecosystem levels

Climate: The long-term average weather of area, usually taken over 30 years

Climate projection: A climate projection is the simulated response of the climate system to a scenario of future emission or concentration of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and aerosols, generally derived using climate models

Coastal erosion is the breaking down of land and removal of sediment and rocks by coastal processes. Factors affecting the rate of coastal erosion include sea level rise, strong wave action, and storms

Cold Spell: A sustained period of cold weather, where extreme low temperatures are recorded

Coastal Flooding: Coastal flooding occurs when sea levels along the coast or in estuaries exceed neighbouring land levels, or overcome coastal defences where these exist, or when waves overtop over the coast

Drought: A period of abnormally dry weather long enough to cause a serious hydrological imbalance

Exposure: The presence of people, livelihoods, species or ecosystems, environmental functions, services, and resources, infrastructure, or economic, social, or cultural assets in places and settings that could be adversely affected

Extreme weather event: An extreme weather event is an event that is rare at a particular place and time of year

Fluvial flooding occurs when rivers and streams break their banks and water flows out onto the adjacent low-lying areas (the natural floodplains)

Groundwater flooding occurs when the water table rises above the land surface. It generally requires sustained rainfall over relatively longer duration than other forms of flooding, its location is discontinuous, and they can last for weeks or months

Glossary

Hazard: The potential occurrence of a natural or human-induced physical event or trend or physical impact that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, as well as damage and loss to property, infrastructure, livelihoods, service provision, ecosystems and environmental resources.

Heat wave: A period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot weather

Heavy Snowfall: A substantial prolonged snowfall event resulting in substantial accumulations of snow on the ground over a period of consecutive days

Landslide describes a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of materials under the force of gravity

Pluvial flooding occurs when the amount of rainfall exceeds the capacity of urban storm water drainage systems or the ground to absorb it

Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs): Scenarios that include time series of emissions and concentrations of the full suite of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and aerosols and chemically active gases, as well as land use/land cover

RCP4.5 and RCP6.0: Two intermediate stabilization pathways in which radiative forcing is stabilized at approximately 4.5 W/m² and 6.0 W/m² after 2100 (the corresponding ECPs assuming constant concentrations after 2150)

RCP8.5 One high pathway for which radiative forcing reaches >8.5 W/m² by 2100 and continues to rise for some amount of time (the corresponding ECP assuming constant emissions after 2100 and constant concentrations after 2250)

Risk: The potential, when the outcome is uncertain, for adverse consequences on something of value (lives, ecosystems, assets, services, etc.)

Severe Windstorm: A windstorm is a wind that can cause at least light damage to trees and buildings, typically exceeds 34 mph (55 km/h), and may or may not be accompanied by rain

Vulnerability: The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt

4.2

Appendix 2

Service Area Descriptions

Acronym	Full form
Business Services	Corporate and customer facing services.
Roads, footpaths, bridges, construction and maintenance	Road and active travel, bridges, piers and harbours.
Building Stock	Local Authority buildings and social housing stock.
Community infrastructure	Recreation (incl. libraries and parks), tourism and economic development infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	Arts and heritage protection.
Stormwater / Sewerage	Stormwater and sewerage infrastructure.
Wastewater	Foul and surface water sewers, water treatment plants and wastewater pumping stations.
Water Supply	Public water supply network (with Irish Water), public water treatment plant and pumping stations (with Irish Water) .
Water Quality	Water quality (rivers, lakes and marine).
Biodiversity	Biodiversity and habitat protection.
Community Development	Community development and co-ordination.
Emergency Response	Fire and water safety services, emergency response during severe weather response.

Acronyms

Acronym	Full form
CAPS	Climate Action Plans
CAROs	Climate Action Regional Offices
CCRA	Climate Change Risk Assessment
CDP	County Development Plan
CRA	Climate Risk Assessment
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse gases
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LA	Local Authority
NHA	National Heritage Area
RCP	Representative Concentration Pathways

Description of the levels of impact due to disruption of Local Authority Services (Source: Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment)

Impact	Description	Level of Impact
Catastrophic	Widespread service failure with services unable to cope with wide-scale impacts	5
Major	Services seen to be in danger of failing completely with severe widespread decline in service provision	4
Moderate	Service provision under severe pressure. Appreciable decline in service provision at community level	3
Minor	Isolated but noticeable examples of service decline	2
Negligible	Appearance of threat but no actual impact on service provision	1

Characterisation of the magnitude of impact across various risk areas (Source: Technical Annex B: Climate Change Risk Assessment)

Risk Area	Negligible (Score; 1)	Minor (Score: 2)	Moderate (Score: 3)	Major (Score: 4)	Catastrophic (Score:5)
Asset Damage	Impact can be absorbed through normal activity	An adverse event that can be absorbed by taking business continuity action	A serious event that requires additional emergency business continuity actions	A critical event that requires extraordinary/ emergency business continuity actions	Disaster with the potential to lead to shutdown or collapse or loss of assets/ network
Health and Wellbeing	First aid case	Minor physical injury or mental health impact, medical treatment required	Serious physical or mental health impact, or lost work	Major or multiple injuries or mental health impact, permanent or physical disability	Single or multiple fatalities
Environment	No impact on baseline environment. Localised in the source area. No recovery required	Localised within site boundaries. Recovery measurable within one month of impact	Moderate harm with possible wider effect. Recovery in one year	Significant harm with local effect. Recovery longer than one year. Failure to comply with environmental regulations/ consent	Significant harm with widespread effect. Recovery longer than year. Limited prospect of full recovery
Social	No negative social impact.	Localised, temporary social impacts	Local, long-term impact on public opinion with adverse local media coverage	Failure to protect poor or vulnerable groups. National, long-term social impacts	Loss of social licence to operate. Community protests
Financial (for single extreme event or annual average impact)	x % IRR < 2% of turnover	x % IRR 2- 10% of turnover	x % of IRR 10-25% of turnover	x % IRR 25-50% of turnover	x % IRR > 50% of turnover
Reputation	Localised, temporary impact on public opinion	Localised, short-term impact on public opinion	Local, long-term impact on public opinion with adverse local media coverage	National, short-term impact on public opinion; negative media coverage	National, long-term impact with potential to affect stability of the government
Cultural Heritage	Insignificant impact	Short term impact. Possible recovery or repair	Serious damage with wider impact to tourism industry	Significant damage with national and international impact	Permanent loss with resulting impact on society

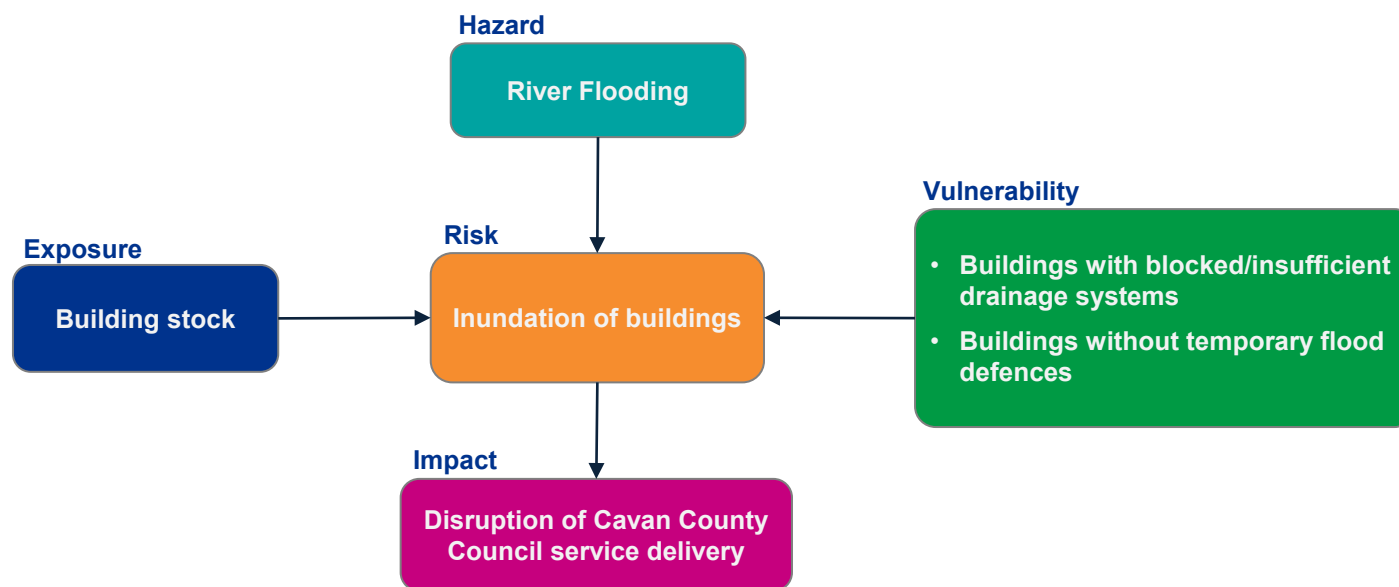
4.3

Appendix 3

Characterising Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts of Climate Hazards

For County Cavan and for each of the identified climate hazards, we characterised the exposures, vulnerabilities, and impacts associated with the relevant hazard events. For example, below shows the three risk components for a river flooding hazard which would pose an inundation risk to Cavan County Council buildings. The buildings with insufficient drainage and with no temporary flood defences would be considered more vulnerable to this hazard. Consequently, if Cavan County Council buildings were to be flooded, one of the possible impacts would be the disruption of Cavan County Council's ability to deliver its services. This process was undertaken for each hazard and a range of exposures were identified along with their associated vulnerabilities.

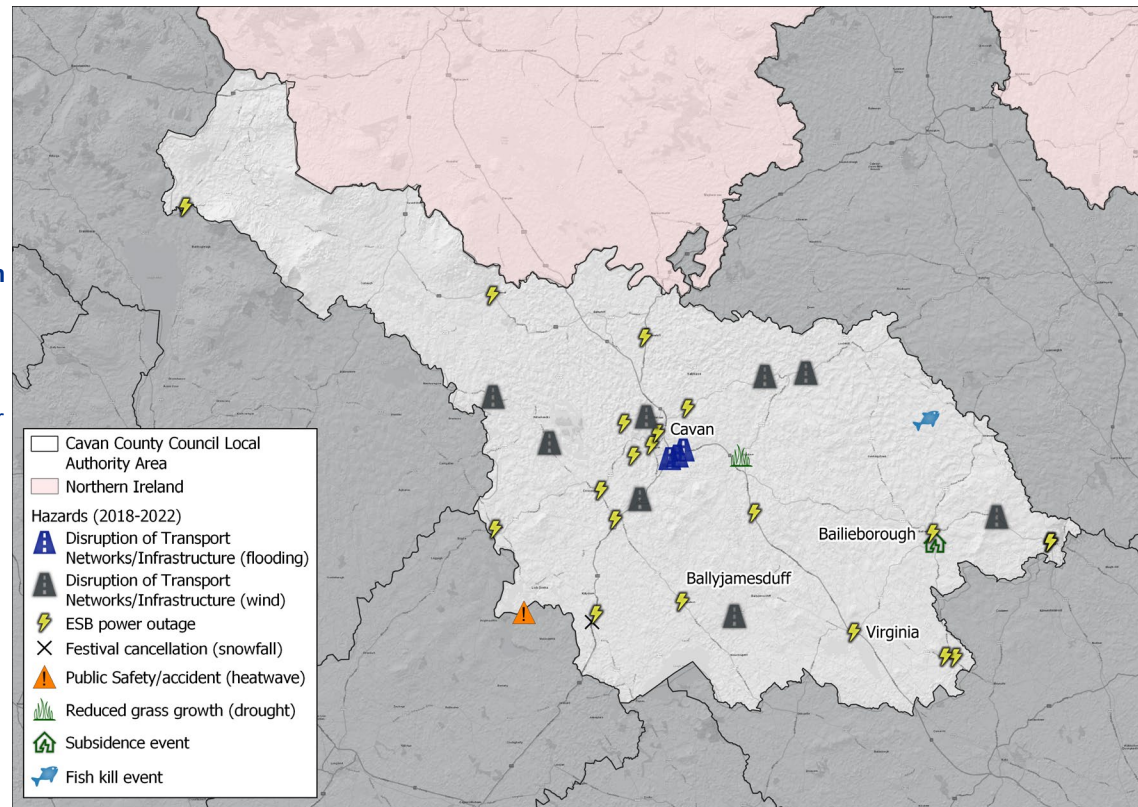
The following pages summarise the exposures, vulnerabilities and impacts for the hazards that exist within the Cavan County region.



Exposure, Vulnerability and Impacts of Climate Hazards

Employing and integrating information derived a wide range of sources, we have characterised the exposures, vulnerabilities, and impacts of the climate and weather-related hazards for County Cavan. Below and to the right we provide an example of exposures and impacts of hazard events experienced between 2018 and 2022.

- **Storm Barra** in 2021 brought power outages to over **3,000 homes** in Cavan with communities such as Derrycramph, Drumalee, Cortober, Farnham, Fair Town, Kingscourt, Mullagh and Dowra being primarily affected.
- During **Storm Franklin** 2022, the ESB reported that **1,200 houses** were left without power in Cavan.
- Due to **extreme heat** and an associated **algal bloom**, **5,000 fish** died in Barnagrow Lough in July 2021.
- In October 2022 **heavy rainfall** led to flooding on the N3 outside Cavan town, limiting transport access, making temporary diversions necessary and causing disruption to motorists. Similar levels of flooding were recorded in September 2019 and September 2020.
- In July 2021 **heavy rainfall** led to a landslide on Benbrack mountain in West Cavan, causing an area of **peatland 6ft deep and 50m wide** to 'slip' down the mountainside.
- In 2019, Cavan County fire services were called out to **9 wildfires**, followed by **34** in 2020 and 6 in 2021.



Impacts of climate hazards (1/4)

The table below shows the key impacts and exposures associated with each climate and weather-related hazard. Detailed information on exposure specific vulnerabilities (physical, social and environmental) are provided in the associated impacts and risks spreadsheet.

Hazard	Key Impacts	Key Exposures (and Key Vulnerabilities)
Heatwave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hot and uncomfortable working/living conditions Increased demand on recreational areas Damage to road surface, hazardous driving conditions and impact on road surface maintenance Heat stress for animals and livestock resulting in the adoption of unsustainable mitigation measures Increased demand on available water resources, leading to increasing pressure to share resources Detrimental impacts on freshwater quality for fish populations Increase in the frequency of uncontrolled fire Increased strain on natural biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing, buildings, care home/leisure centres/recreational facilities, laboratory services (located in high density urban areas/without mechanical cooling) Outdoor workers (elderly, with limited access to water, shade and sunscreen) Parks (with easy access to urban areas) Local roads (surface-dressed roads, located in areas of high solar radiation) Public/staff (communities with limited transports network) Livestock (farms with limited watering infrastructure, with a lack of shade) Swimming areas (heavily utilised, with low access to shade) Fish populations (in sites with poor/eutrophic water quality), forest/woodland European/Irish designated sites (wetland areas, tourist locations)
Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decreased grass growth and increased supplementary feed requirements for cattle Increased demand on available water resources, leading to increasing pressure to share resources Increase in the frequency of uncontrolled fire Increased strain on natural biodiversity Reduced river flow Increased degradation rates 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasture (in marginal areas of production) Reservoirs/lakes/groundwater supplies (already depleted/under stress) Emergency response services (areas of growing vegetation) Natural areas incl. european / irish designated sites (wetland areas) Biodiversity (water bodies, areas with diverse wildlife populations) Cultural heritage (wooden/decomposable material based assets)

Impacts of climate hazards (2/4)

The table below shows the key impacts and exposures associated with each climate and weather-related hazard. Detailed information on exposure specific vulnerabilities (physical, social and environmental) are provided in the associated impacts and risks spreadsheet.

Hazard	Key Impacts	Key Exposures (and Key Vulnerabilities)
Cold Spell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extreme cold results in increased requirement for heating and associated economic costs • Cold conditions result in increased damage to vehicles • Disruption to road networks, including increases in costs associated with gritting fuel and overtime. • Disruption to public transport networks • Cold conditions leading to damage of road surfaces (i.e., freeze thaw) • Increase in the frequency of trips and falls • Reduction in agricultural production • Difficulties in accessing land • Freeze thaw damage to critical infrastructure • Impacts on water resources • Increases in cold-related mortality and morbidity • Delay of infrastructure/development projects • Increased strain on natural biodiversity • Damage and disruption of electricity supply • Damage to built heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings (poorly insulated, with elderly residents, in isolated locations) • Public/private transport vehicles (exposed vehicles) • Road network (untreated road surfaces, near isolated communities) • Public/staff (elderly populations, people with pre-existing conditions) • Crops, livestock (cold-sensitive crops, areas with low solar radiation) • Land (marginal farms, areas of low solar radiation) • Water infrastructure/pipes (older pipes, in areas of freezing soil conditions) • Water resources (waterbodies in lower altitudes) • People at high risk of exposure to cold (people in insulated buildings, vulnerable communities) • Development projects (ongoing construction with loose materials) • European/Irish designated sites (areas with diverse wildlife populations) • Homes/businesses/local govt office (without on-site electricity generation) • Built heritage sites (structures which are more vulnerable to freeze-thaw action)
Heavy Snowfall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to buildings • Disruption of transport network and isolation of communities • Heavy snowfall and freezing conditions impacting on livestock • Snow melt resulting in increased risk of flooding • Disruption to energy supply • Disruption to waste collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings (vacant/flat roof properties, higher elevation, elderly residents) • Offices (incl. LA) (single story/flat roof, higher elevation, impervious surfaces) • Public/staff (communities with limited access, elderly and young populations) • Agricultural sites (livestock unprotected) (farms at higher elevations, marginal farms) • Power supply (energy infrastructure in need of maintenance, older infrastructure) • Low-lying areas at risk of flooding (areas prone to pooling of water, inadequate drainage) • Transport network (in terrain with a with higher propensity of snow drifts, isolated roads) • Waste collection routes (in terrain with a with higher propensity of snow drifts)

Impacts of climate hazards (3/4)

The table below shows the key impacts and exposures associated with each climate and weather-related hazard. Detailed information on exposure specific vulnerabilities (physical, social and environmental) are provided in the associated impacts and risks spreadsheet.

Hazard	Key Impacts	Key Exposures (and Key Vulnerabilities)
<p>Severe Windstorm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct wind damage to buildings and infrastructure • Disruption of communications infrastructure • Wind damage to crops and forestry • Disruption of wind energy generation • Disruption to energy supply • Disruption of transport networks. • Closure of parks and public buildings • Disruption to waste collection • Disruption to water quality monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings, development sites (buildings w. rooftop equip., vulnerable populations, high-rise structures) • Overhead communication lines (situated in upland and exposed sites) • Crops and forestry (crops which are more vulnerable to wind, arable and forestry situated in upland and /or exposed areas) • Wind turbines (turbines with lower shut-down thresholds for high winds) • Power supply (infrastructure in exposed locations, vulnerable populations, isolated communities) • Road Network (in exposed locations) • Parks, public buildings (populations requiring essential council services, exposed, locations) • Waste collection routes (terrain with a with higher propensity of snow drifts) • Waterbodies (exposed waterbodies and waterbodies in need of water quality monitoring)

Impacts of climate hazards (4/4)

The table below shows the key impacts and exposures associated with each climate and weather-related hazard. Detailed information on exposure specific vulnerabilities (physical, social and environmental) are provided in the associated impacts and risks spreadsheet.

Hazard	Key Impacts	Key Exposures (and Key Vulnerabilities)
Pluvial Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct rain and surface water damage to buildings and infrastructure • Damage to amenities and recreational areas • Disruption of transport networks/infrastructure • Surface water (run-off) pollutants • Impact on business and local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings, local authority offices, heritage sites (blocked drainage systems, high levels of impervious surfaces, etc) • Recreational amenities (low-lying parks and other amenities, locate near water bodies such as lakes and rivers) • Stormwater infrastructure • Road network (low-lying roads with no alternative access routes and which allows for the pooling of water) • Public/ staff (located in low-lying areas, near water bodies, limited surrounding drainage and low-quality signage) • Natural resources/sensitive materials (enviro. sensitive areas, heavily fertilised agric. land close to water bodies) • Employers, employees, customers, students (business in low-lying areas, lacking remote work/study options, etc.) • Wastewater infrastructure • Water treatment infrastructure • Bathing areas
River Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood damage to buildings and infrastructure • Damage to amenities and recreational areas • Disruption of transport networks/infrastructure • Surface water (run-off) pollutants • Impact on business and local economy • Damage/degradation to automobiles and public transport • Potential bridge failure • Farmland erosion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings, local authority offices, heritage sites (blocked drainage, loc. on floodplains, vulnerable residents) • Recreational amenities (low-lying parks, located near water bodies, parks and amenities in need of investment) • People, water treatment (un-reinforced waste management systems, lack of man-made/natural drainage) • Road/railways (low lying roads/railways, located near water bodies, limited drainage) • Natural resources/sensitive materials (env. sensitive areas, networks with polluting vehicles, near waterbodies) • Employers, employees, customers, students (located in at-risk areas, lack of access to early warning systems). • Council fleets, public transport, private vehicles (underground/low-lying carparks, fleets sensitive to submergence) • Bridges (older bridges, bridges in need of investment and maintenance) • Farmland situated on riverbanks (economically marginalised farmers, rivers susceptible to soil bank erosion, etc) • Wastewater infrastructure • Water infrastructure/ pipes



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