



## TASC project: Free targeted support for Local Authorities

Unique opportunity to increase resilience to climate change and climate risks

### Introduction

Climate Ready is developing an exclusive opportunity for a local authority - or group of neighbouring authorities - to work directly with us to help improve its resilience to the impacts of climate change. This involves receiving targeted support across a range of local authority services such as health, planning, housing and transport. We want to work with a selected local authority – or group of neighbouring authorities - that has high ambition to ensure its services are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, but has so far lacked the strategic support necessary to take the next steps.

This unique project entitled TASC: **Targeted Adaptation Support for Councils** is taking place this financial year (2015/16).

**We invite local authorities to submit initial expressions of interest by 5pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July in order to take advantage of this offer.**

### About Climate Ready and the focus on Local Government

The Climate Ready Support Service, led by the Environment Agency, provides advice and support to the public, private and voluntary sector to enable them to adapt to the changing climate. Climate Ready has achieved a successful track record in developing sector-specific tools, guidance and tailored support to encourage action on adaptation in England. This has reinforced the National Adaptation Programme and the ambitions within the Climate Change Act.

Local councils have a central role in taking forward actions that will help people, services and communities adapt to the changing climate. They are the elected and accountable bodies responsible for planning and shaping local places. Localism has given greater powers and permissions to Local Government through reforms in planning law (NPPF), health (Health and Social Care Act) and the establishment of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) to help drive economic growth. Through the Flood and Water Management Act, Lead Local Flood Authorities are also now responsible for managing flood risk from local sources.

**Local Government therefore remains a key audience for our work on adaptation.**

### Benefits: the selected local authority will benefit from...

- ...an expert, independent, facilitator who will help you develop actions on adaptation to climate change across different services, resulting in an **agreed climate resilience plan for your area**;
- ...tailored advice to help protect people, services and communities from climate risks;
- ...free expert advice on increasing resilience to climate change across a range of local authority functions such as health, housing and infrastructure;
- ...supporting Climate Ready in the process of road-testing our adaptation tools in a real-life setting. This will enable us to capture valuable information about the benefits – and limitations – of our products;
- ...being able to identify barriers, opportunities, and ways of working which can facilitate climate preparedness. This will not only be useful for the selected local authority, but the process and its key messages can be shared beyond to help others adapt too;
- ...working with us to monitor the effectiveness of our overall intervention: we will revisit after a certain period of time to understand how adaptation actions have developed over time;

## Acceptance criteria

Local authorities – or groupings of local authorities - must fulfil the following acceptance criteria as part of the selection procedure:

- Demonstrate a strong appetite to raise the ambition and delivery of climate change adaptation actions across different services, directorates and geographies. Ideally this should extend beyond the delivery of essential services to the management of council estates, and to supporting local communities and businesses in times of severe weather. Our offer of support will primarily be focussed around the Climate Ready support tools which have been developed through the health, infrastructure, local government and built environment themes. We will also use products designed for officers and members, as developed through the related Climate Local initiative.
- Demonstrate willingness and senior level support for the proposed project across a range of directorates and services (Involvement of all the roles below is not an absolute requirement.) such as:
  - Director of Public Health / Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
  - Director/Head of Planning, Development and Major Projects
  - Director/ Head of housing
  - Head of Corporate Resources/Finance
  - Director/Head of Transport and Highways
  - Director/Head of People, Places & Communities
  - Director/Heads of Sustainability/Environment, environmental services
  - Councillors with a strong interest in adapting to climate change

NB We welcome suggestions and proposals from Local Authorities – or groups of local authorities - who are able to offer support from a combination of the above roles, or those working at a senior level within similar functions. It is not essential to involve all of these roles.

- Willingness from a combination of the above suggested roles to engage in a programme of training and facilitated sessions from Climate Ready and its partners (including expert facilitator), to help inform, support, and inspire action on climate change adaptation. The aim is to empower the local authority – or group of local authorities - to embed resilience to climate change into service delivery.

## How to register your interest

If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity please email [jim.hodgson@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:jim.hodgson@environment-agency.gov.uk) with 'TASC application' in the subject line header, with a paragraph explaining why adaptation to climate change is important for your local authority or the group of local authorities who you have agreed to work with. You do not have to fulfil all of the above acceptance criteria; it is merely an expression of interest at this stage. If you would like to discuss this opportunity in more detail you can also contact Jim Hodgson on **01179 344 772** or via the above email address.

You will then be sent a questionnaire to complete and return, which will provide us with more detail about how you might benefit from this opportunity.

Deadline for initial expressions of interest will be **5pm Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Deadline for completed questionnaires thereafter will be **5pm Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July**



## The climate is changing. Are you?

A support service led by the Environment Agency  
[www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change](http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/adapting-to-climate-change)