

# Climate Change Resilience Plan

London Borough of Hounslow

Industry: Local Government



**London Borough  
of Hounslow**

## Benefits achieved

A borough-wide Climate Change Resilience Plan bringing together adaptation, flood risk, emergency planning and resilience into one coordinated framework. Delivered a prioritised register of **65 resilience actions**, assessed climate risks under current, +2°C and +4°C warming scenarios, and provided the Council with a practical roadmap for protecting residents, services, infrastructure and vulnerable communities.

## Summary

The London Borough of Hounslow is home to almost 300,000 residents and stretches from the edge of Central London to the M25, encompassing Chiswick, Brentford, Isleworth, Hounslow and Feltham. As one of London's largest and most diverse boroughs, it faces a wide range of climate-related challenges, from increasing flood risk to rising temperatures and extreme weather.

JRP was appointed to develop a borough-wide **Climate Change Resilience Plan (CCRP)** that would bring together climate adaptation, flood risk management, emergency planning and resilience into a single strategic framework.

The project assessed Hounslow's most significant climate risks, reviewed existing resilience activities across Council services, identified gaps in current provision and developed a prioritised programme of actions to strengthen long-term resilience for people, places, infrastructure and essential services.

## Client challenge

Hounslow already had numerous plans and strategies that contributed towards climate resilience, including flood risk management, planning policy, emergency planning, public health initiatives and climate emergency programmes.

However, these activities were spread across multiple departments and documents,

making it difficult to understand:

- whether all significant climate risks were being addressed
- where duplication or gaps existed
- whether vulnerable communities were sufficiently protected
- which actions should be prioritised for future investment.

## The Council needed a practical framework that would:

- consolidate existing resilience activities
- assess the borough's priority climate risks
- evaluate whether existing actions provided sufficient coverage
- identify gaps across hazards, locations, services and vulnerable groups
- develop new actions where required
- provide a transparent method for prioritising future delivery.

Importantly, the plan needed to focus on **climate adaptation** rather than emissions reduction, ensuring actions delivered practical resilience benefits such as flood protection, heat management, service continuity and asset resilience.



## Scope

The CCRP focused on the main climate risks affecting Hounslow:



Surface Water  
Flooding



High Temperatures  
& Heatwaves



Drought &  
Water Scarcity



Wildfire



Severe Storms &  
Extreme Weather



River and Tidal  
Flooding

The work considered how these risks affect residents, vulnerable groups, Council services, public buildings, infrastructure, green spaces and community assets.

The plan reviewed existing Council strategies, including the Climate Emergency Action Plan, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Surface Water Management Plan, Green and Blue Infrastructure

Strategy, Nature Recovery Action Plan, Air Quality Action Plan and relevant corporate resilience arrangements. The CCRP did not replace these strategies. Its role was to test whether existing activity was sufficient, identify gaps and create a clearer framework for coordinated resilience delivery.

## Approach

JRP developed the Climate Change Resilience Plan through a structured four stage methodology.

**First**, the main climate risks facing Hounslow were identified using local evidence, spatial analysis, climate risk information and officer insight. This established the priority hazards for the borough and helped identify which people, places and services are most exposed.

**Second**, existing actions were reviewed across Council plans and programmes. Actions were screened to confirm whether they had a clear climate resilience benefit and were then mapped against climate risks, receptors and delivery approaches.

**Third**, a gap analysis was completed to test whether the existing action set provided sufficient coverage. Where gaps were identified, new actions were developed to strengthen the portfolio, particularly where risks, vulnerable groups or delivery routes were under represented.

**Fourth**, actions were prioritised for delivery using a consistent scoring framework. This assessed risk of inaction, scale of benefit, cost of inaction, cost of delivery and ease of

implementation. The scoring helped identify which actions offered strong resilience value and which required further coordination, investment or enabling work.

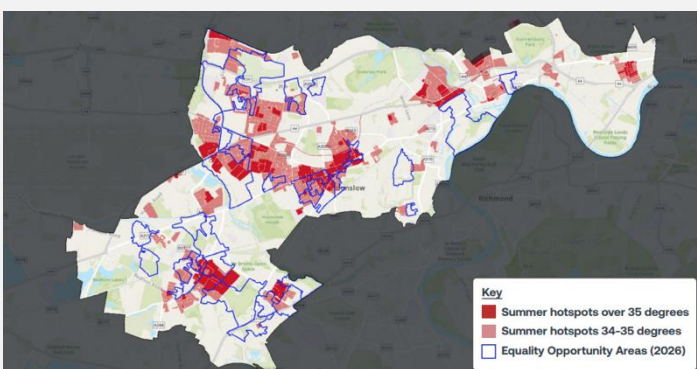
## Key outputs

The project delivered a full Climate Change Resilience Plan and supporting action register.

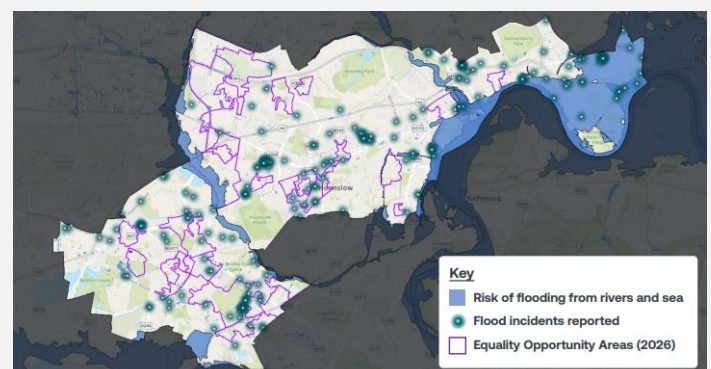
Key outputs included:

- a borough level climate risk matrix
- climate risk maps showing flood and heat exposure
- a review of existing resilience activity across Council strategies and services
- a final register of 65 existing and additional resilience actions
- priority actions for each major climate risk
- a scoring framework to support transparent prioritisation
- delivery routes covering policy, operational delivery, data, partners, community, and support and engagement
- scenario testing under current, +2°C and +4°C warming pathways
- a clear distinction between adaptation actions and wider emissions reduction activity

Summer hotspots map



Flooding risk map



## Priority action areas

The plan identified priority actions for each climate risk.

For **high temperatures**, the focus included strengthening the Hounslow Heatwave Plan, improving public heat guidance, targeting multi language heat safety messaging, reducing overheating in Council buildings, schools and social housing, and improving shading and ventilation in priority care settings and schools.

For **surface water flooding**, the focus included improved resident communication, flood preparedness for caravan residents, and targeted SuDS and green infrastructure delivery with community partnership and monitoring.

For **drought and water stress**, the focus included water conservation, guidance for high risk groups, heat and drought preparedness across critical services, and drought ready management of green and natural assets.

For **severe storms**, the focus included preparedness guidance for vulnerable residents and improved coordination around emergency services and critical assets.

For **tidal flooding**, the focus included critical service contingency planning, readiness for TE2100 and Riverside Strategy delivery, and review of local tidal defence assets.

For **wildfire**, the focus included stronger integration of parks and natural spaces into heat and wildfire planning, alignment with London Fire Brigade and targeted guidance for residents at risk from smoke and heat exposure.

| Climate Risk                    | Likelihood | Impact Severity | Overall Risk |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Surface Water Flooding          | Very High  | High            | Very High    |
| High Temperatures & Heat waves  | Very High  | High            | Very High    |
| Drought & Water Scarcity        | Medium     | Medium          | Medium       |
| Wildfire (Grass/ Heath Fires)   | High       | Medium          | High         |
| Severe Storms & Extreme Weather | Medium     | Medium          | Medium       |
| Tidal Flooding                  | Medium     | High            | High         |

## Results

JRP helped Hounslow turn climate resilience from a broad strategic issue into a practical delivery framework.

The work gave the Council a clear view of what was already in place, where resilience gaps remained, and which actions should be prioritised to protect residents, services, infrastructure and vulnerable groups.

The project also showed that effective climate resilience is not only about infrastructure. It depends on public health, emergency planning, housing, asset management, highways, parks, data, communications, community organisations, businesses and statutory partners working together.

The final plan provides Hounslow with a stronger basis for coordinated climate adaptation, future investment decisions and long term resilience planning.

**For support with climate resilience planning, give us a call, or book a call on our website.**