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Climate**Ready**Clyde

# Glasgow City Region Climate Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

## Social Impact Assessment to support Just and Inclusive Adaptation

Funded and produced on behalf of the following organisations:



Produced by:



# Background

Climate change in Glasgow City Region (GCR) will be most felt by those already disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather, and by those from future generations. There is also evidence that some policies to address climate impacts can deepen inequalities<sup>1</sup>. To better understand the social impacts of climate change and the Strategy Interventions, the Climate Ready Clyde (CRC) Secretariat developed and undertook a Social Impact Assessment (SIA). This voluntary assessment was designed to reflect duties under the Equality Act 2010, but also to consider broader social issues associated with climate change in GCR.

## Purpose

This document summarises the SIA process undertaken, recommendations made to strengthen the Strategy interventions and how these have been incorporated in the final Strategy.

## The Social Impact Assessment process

A voluntary Social Impact Assessment was undertaken between November 2020 and January 2021 with the aims to:

- Ensure as far as possible that the Strategy Interventions do not worsen inequalities associated with climate change in GCR.
- Inform content of the final Strategy by providing recommendations so that the Interventions help build a more just, inclusive City Region.
- Provide an approach to considering the Strategy Interventions that is transparent, participatory and inclusive, with the intention of opening up a process to strengthen opportunities for wider voices to be heard in adaptation in GCR.

It is important to acknowledge some limitations of this process. There are wider systemic and structural inequalities associated with climate change which should be addressed as part of adaptation responses, but which are currently beyond the scope of the Strategy or CRC alone to address. Social justice issues in relation to climate change in the UK are generally not well understood, and evidence on climate change impacts on specific populations in GCR is limited, particularly in relation to cumulative impacts of climate hazards/risks and adaptation responses on those with protected characteristics.

Engaging on the SIA at a regional level also presented significant challenges, particularly in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, and time restrictions linked to funding mechanisms meant there was not sufficient time during the finalisation of the Strategy to bring SIA participants back into the process to review the extent and manner in which their recommendations had been incorporated.

Given the above, a best-endeavour approach was undertaken. This involved a two-stage online workshop with participants including equalities professionals, representative organisations and those involved in the Strategy's development/delivery (see Appendix 1):

<sup>1</sup> [Climate change and social justice: an evidence review, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014](#)

- Briefing materials were issued to participants in advance, including background information on GCR demographics and climate change (Appendix 2) and an overview of how social justice issues were currently considered within each of the 11 draft Strategy Interventions.
- Workshop Session 1 (25 Nov 2020) provided an overview of the draft Strategy/interventions and just/inclusive adaptation issues in GCR, including the importance of considering intersectionality (the ways different social identities and categorisations can interconnect and overlap, creating unique experiences of privilege and discrimination). Participants were then asked to prioritise four of the draft Strategy Interventions for further discussion in Session 2 (as it was established that detailed discussion of all 11 Interventions in an online setting was not feasible).
- In Session 2 (26 Nov 2020) participants discussed the potential social impacts of the draft Interventions, and made recommendations to maximise positive outcomes, or minimise negative ones. For each of the four Interventions prioritised for discussion, participants were asked:
  - Looking at the proposed Intervention and deliverables from a social justice and inclusivity perspective, what are your immediate thoughts/concerns about their impacts?
  - Is there anything which needs to change about this Intervention? What recommendations would you like to make to address any negative impacts, or maximise positive ones?
- An event report was circulated back to participants summarising the recommendations made, with an opportunity to comment on these. A follow up survey also allowed participants to offer further thoughts and acted as a mechanism to provide feedback on those Interventions not prioritised for discussion at the workshop.
- Recommendations from the SIA process and the resulting revisions made to the Strategy Interventions are set out in Table 1.

## Next steps

Feedback at the workshop reinforced the importance of meaningful and sustained engagement, and of using this deeper exploration to empower a more diverse range of partners to help implement the final Strategy and ultimately create a more just and inclusive adaptation process. Climate Ready Clyde will continue to explore opportunities to work with new partners to build on the process we have begun here, to find mechanisms to further develop just and inclusive adaptation planning and implementation, and to understand how this intersects with other social issues in the Region. A follow up workshop will be held with participants to reflect on this initial SIA process and progress with the Strategy, and explore further opportunities for its delivery.



# Table 1: Final Strategy Interventions, SIA recommendations and actions taken

NOTE: Revisions to draft versions of the Interventions made as a result of the SIA process are shown in red. For additional detail on Intervention background, challenge and sub-interventions ('What needs to happen'), see final Strategy. As part of the final Strategy's development a number of Flagship Actions were included. These are referenced below where relevant but did not form part of the scope of the SIA.

## **Intervention 1: Reform, reshape and expand governance mechanisms to respond to adaptation needs, nurture new leadership, and create expectations in society**

**Aim:** To create societal expectations for transformative adaptation and ensure governance mechanisms, institutional structures and leadership involves **new actors**. Such approaches will **create the space to explore and reconcile differences of opinion on the way forward**, and will explicitly consider **differing cultural identities, power structures and decision-making processes of institutions, groups and individuals across the region**.

### **What needs to happen (headline statement – for detail see final strategy):**

- 1.1 A detailed review of the institutional landscape needed for adaptation
- 1.2 A broader coalition of actors mobilised to deliver the strategy
- 1.3 Adaptation leadership **at all levels** that is nurtured and developed
- 1.4 News, arts, media and cultural organisations telling stories about the climate crisis and opportunities to adapt

| Recommendations from SIA<br>(workshop/follow up survey)   | Action taken  |
|---|---|
| <b>Strengthening engagement and communication</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meaningful and genuine engagement will be necessary to make the intervention a reality. New types of engagement are required to move beyond targeting the 'usual suspects', but must be carefully scoped, given the breadth of the intervention.</li> <li>The right communication/language tools must be used, tailored to specific groups, to help people understand the benefits of adaptation, and to acknowledge differences in opinion e.g. between generations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim updated to explicitly reflect the involvement of new actors and the need for space for exploring and reconciling differences of opinion.</li> <li>Challenge section updated to reflect the need for meaningful and genuine engagement.</li> <li>Points about communication and language important and apply across all interventions.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Understanding diversity in the City Region</b>   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The intervention needs to enable better understanding of the nuances of cultural identities and diversity in the region, in order for the strategy to really allow intersectionality to inform adaptation governance/practice.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim updated to recognise the need for space to reconcile differences of opinion, and to recognise that cultural identities, decision making processes and power structures vary across the region.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Improving minority representation and empowering communities</b>   |   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New leadership opportunities for communities could empower all levels of society to participate in/challenge decisions and avoid top-down approaches.</li> <li>• Minority representation could be sought at all levels of decision making/governance, not just at 'community level', with support targeted at those who may struggle most to engage due to competing priorities/disadvantage. Adaptation 'gatekeepers' could be identified who are able to open up access to a greater range of people.</li> <li>• This intervention can help generate understanding/raise awareness about who really pays for adaptation policy and action.</li> <li>• Leadership needs to come from all levels of society and needs to be supported and facilitated for those who struggle to engage because of other priorities and the impact of socio-economic disadvantage</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1. updated to include a review of opportunities for community leadership, and to improve minority representation.</li> <li>• 1.2 updated to recognise the concept of Keystone actors, in relation to gatekeepers.</li> <li>• 1.3 updated to reflect the need for leadership at all levels.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Developing Local Authority leadership</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptation leadership could be embedded across Local Authority functions, and be coordinated across Glasgow City Region Local Authorities.</li> <li>• Adaptation governance could also be considered within general social justice practices in Local Authorities, with joint equalities/human rights impact assessments conducted. Greater clarity is required on the resources necessary to conduct/finance recommendations arising from impact assessments.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The particular role of Local Government is included as a flagship action (Flagship Action 1) in the action plan, as well as in the intervention-specific actions, which include a focus on equalities practices in partnership with the Improvement Service.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <b>Telling stories</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the news, arts, media and cultural organisations (1.4) can help communicate stories about climate change in ways which illustrate diversity in Scotland, but clarity is required as to whether these organisations would tell their own stories, or relay other people's.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.4 updated to clarify that there is need to both mainstream awareness in the media, but also provide avenues for people to tell more of their own stories for local communities.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Clarifying the new institutional landscape</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More clarity is required on whether the new institutional landscape (1.1) includes the enhancement of existing institutions, and/or the creation of new ones.</li> <li>• Recognise that governance takes different forms in society from organisational to cultural.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1 updated to clarify that such a review needs to think about governance, within and between existing and institutions, as well as whether new ones are needed.</li> <li>• Recognition of forms of governance included in Intervention 1.</li> </ul>   |

## Intervention 2: Develop the ability of organisations, businesses and communities to adapt

**Aim:** For businesses and organisations and communities to increasingly contribute to making adaptation happen. By considering and addressing climate risks in all strategies, plans, programmes, projects and operations, as well as capability building across public institutions, businesses and community groups to systematically consider the positive and negative implications of a changing climate on their operations.

**What needs to happen (headline statement – for detail see final strategy):**

2.1 An enhanced programme to increase awareness of the potential impacts of climate change on organisations and communities and opportunities to adapt

2.2 Establishment of a City Region working group/forum and mentoring programme

2.3 Targeted community capacity building for adaptation

| Recommendations from SIA<br>(workshop/follow up survey)  | Action taken   |
|--|--|
| <b>Strengthening engagement and communication</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing awareness of impacts/opportunities (2.1) requires accessible, targeted engagement, utilising both digital and physical spaces.</li> <li>Engagement needs to appeal to people's everyday needs and concerns and move beyond 'awareness raising' to enabling a response to that awareness.</li> <li>Use of language must include an understanding of barriers e.g. British Sign Language and literacy.</li> <li>Use of creative/digital methods and storytelling has the potential to engage more young people and move towards intergenerational justice.</li> <li>The understanding of 'legitimate knowledge' needs to be expanded to include people's lived experiences.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whilst some amendments have been made, the strategy interventions are cross cutting and not mutually exclusive, and so some points are covered in other interventions.</li> <li>Intervention 2.1 updated to reference more targeted engagement.</li> <li>Intervention 4 amended to reference barriers to participation, and the use of creative and digital practices.</li> <li>Intervention 5 updated to reflect different types of legitimate knowledge.</li> <li>Flagship Action 2 includes important additions to reflect local experiences.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Widening involvement</b>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The working group forum/mentoring programme (2.2) membership needs to be broadened to include the third/voluntary sector.</li> <li>Identifying and working with community/opinion leaders and existing networks could create an iterative learning process, with a two-way flow of information and ideas.</li> <li>Particular groups to involve: young people, the elderly, those living on flood plains, refugees (including Syrian refugee groups), Elected Members.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.2 amended to merely reflect a City Region working group/forum (previously public/private sector forum).</li> <li>1.1 has been amended to state the review of the institutional landscape needs to consider how to improve leadership opportunities and representation for communities and minorities.</li> <li>1.3 updated to refer to reflect need for leadership at all levels, including community leaders as part of the participation in City Region governance.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Framing 'communities'</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid generalising 'communities', and acknowledge the word means different things in different contexts.</li> <li>Care needs to be taken to ensure community interests are not equated/conflated with private/financial ones within the intervention.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Points about interests and power structures are addressed in Intervention 1 which has been updated to be explicit about recognising these – and so have not been addressed in this Intervention specifically.</li> <li>'Challenge' section updated to reflect framing of 'communities'.</li> </ul>  |

### Intervention 4: Enable and equip **individuals and communities** to participate in adaptation, **focusing on the most vulnerable**

**Aim:** Increased desire of individuals and communities to shape their places so they are climate ready and an increase in resources for equipping them to do so, **effectively building cohesion and social capital between intersecting communities of interest and geography**. This should increase the pace and scale of community and local level action on adaptation.

**What needs to happen (headline statement – for detail see final strategy):**

4.1 A shared understanding of how current community engagement and empowerment activity is structured for adaptation

4.2 Increased community involvement in the region's adaptation governance, decision-making, planning and delivery

4.3 Resources, training and education for communities and young people to shape their places

4.4 Collaborations between organisations, communities, artists and cultural practitioners to stimulate creative and relevant adaptation responses

| Recommendations from SIA<br>(workshop/follow up survey)  | Action taken  |
|--|---|
| <b>Strengthening engagement and empowerment</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This intervention needs to move beyond engagement to empower people to shape their involvement and provide the resources for them to do so.</li> <li>It could enable greater bridging social capital across and between communities (of geography/interest) as well as bonding social capital within them.</li> <li>Developing a shared understanding of how current community engagement is structured and where it does/does not work (e.g. mapping via equality forums) will help to design approaches to engage those who are not usually involved in shaping their places.</li> <li>Just because communities may be 'hard to reach' does not mean they do not want to engage. Time, resource and appropriate mechanisms are required to involve them.</li> <li>Both digital and physical spaces for engagement should be used.</li> <li>Connecting people with a sense of history/place via creativity and culture is a powerful way to get people to engage on a difficult subject across and between different communities.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge section updated to reflect that communities may be hard to reach and need appropriate time, resources and mechanisms in order to be involved.</li> <li>4.1 added on mapping existing community engagement approaches (e.g. via equality forums) to reflect the need to develop a shared understanding of engagement/empowerment activities and where these do/do not work.</li> <li>4.3 updated to reflect the need to draw on the region's history and sense of place.</li> </ul> |



| Clarifying responsibilities  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to be clear where responsibilities lie for providing resources and training – what is the local authority's responsibility and what is the community's?</li> <li>• How will cross-border collaboration be managed at a regional level?</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsibilities for resources and delivering are out of scope of the strategy, but included as part of the action plan development.</li> <li>• Section 3.3 (Making it happen) updated to clarify the role of CRC in facilitating cross border coordination</li> </ul>  |
| Developing skills  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a skills gap around effective community involvement, which needs to be addressed.</li> <li>• Training on adaptation for elected members could help them represent better and differently.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills gap on community engagement is recognised here, but there is a separate intervention on training for leaders.</li> <li>• 1.3 updated to reflect training for politicians, and Challenge section updated to acknowledge a skills gap for effective community involvement</li> </ul>                     |
| Widening involvement   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater consideration of geography, diversity and intersectionality in the City Region is required – particularly the needs of those in rural areas.</li> <li>• Particular groups/networks to involve in delivery; equality councils, disability and carers forums, ethnic minorities, COSLA, Elected Members, BSL users, community anchor organisations.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative in the intervention updated to reflect points on geography, diversity and intersectionality.</li> <li>• Intervention updated to recognise the barriers to participation of communities.</li> </ul>  |
| Framing  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make space in the narrative and interventions for Glasgow's history of oppression and resistance to demonstrate the exploitation that has already taken place in the City Region, and how that links to future inequalities in the context of climate change.</li> <li>• Acknowledge the importance of different kinds of "evidence": oral histories, lived experiences to ensure this is understood and drawn on.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue of wider evidence is accepted but has been expanded in intervention 5 around monitoring, evaluation and learning.</li> <li>• Narrative in the 'Background' and 'Challenge' sections updated to reference the need to learn from past failures where transformation has widened inequalities.</li> </ul> |

## Intervention 8: Ensure **everyone's** homes, offices, buildings, and infrastructure are climate resilient **to future climate impacts**

**Aim:** To implement a set of **activities** which ensure climate resilience for **new and existing** homes, offices and **energy, water, transport and communications infrastructure**, and to begin planning new infrastructure required for **long-term** resilience **in the city region**. Where possible, such approaches should be linked to **broader community wealth building and activity to enhance adaptive capacity**.

### **What needs to happen (headline statement – for detail see final strategy):**

- 8.1 Adaptation embedded in Glasgow City Region's net zero transition
- 8.2 Creation of an adaptation forum for City Region infrastructure
- 8.3 Adaptation of existing infrastructure, with policies and regulation to require all new investment to be climate resilient
- 8.4 Strengthening of adaptation requirements in the planning system
- 8.5 Creation of a regional retrofit framework for climate resilience
- 8.6 Creation of a framework for adapting cultural heritage assets
- 8.7 Lobby UK and Scottish Governments to reform infrastructure investment frameworks
- 8.8 Evaluation of future adaptation infrastructure needs

| Recommendations from SIA<br>(workshop/follow up survey)   | Action taken  |
|---|---|
| <b>Funding/finance/resources</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding funding/resources is particularly key for this intervention – need to draw out more strongly who needs to pay for adaptation action, and how.</li> <li>Linking to the City Region Deals and Community Wealth Building approaches could help build on existing research, analysis and recommendations (e.g. employment opportunities for women, BAME and disabled people).</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong opportunity to link to Community Wealth Building and skills, but there is a separate Intervention 3 which sets out the need for all interventions to be appropriately funded and financed.</li> <li>Aim updated to clarify a need to both reduce exposure to hazards and build adaptive capacity, and link to broader community wealth building.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Clarifying responsibilities</b>  |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An improved understanding of where responsibilities for adapting infrastructure sit is required. Who has greater/lesser abilities to adapt, particularly in relation to housing?</li> <li>Being aware of gaps will help to target specific groups e.g. renters and marginalised/more deprived private home owners who don't have responsibility/financial means to adapt their homes.</li> <li>Adaptation actions for private and social housing need to acknowledge that BAME lifestyles do not always 'fit' with mainstream lifestyles (e.g. greater levels of intergenerational living).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.2 and 8.5 (on infrastructure and housing) updated to reflect these issues, with a particular focus on responsibility for infrastructure and the gaps /considerations of wider cultural and social factors in housing retrofit.</li> </ul>  |

| Strengthening engagement and communication   |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Empowering and mobilising communities in decision making/placemaking requires overcoming language/cultural barriers to participation. Finding the right community representatives and partnership projects is vital to broadening the narrative.</li> <li>• Important to share experiences/learning across different communities/projects, such as bringing infrastructure together with projects on green spaces, food justice etc.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These issues are relevant here, but they extend beyond this specific intervention to apply across all in the Strategy – therefore have been used to update Intervention 4 – 4.1 extended to cover delivery, and to clarify that to increased involvement requires not just activities, but a focus on engaging those who can help overcome cultural barriers.</li> <li>• Intervention 5 already has a sub-intervention (5.1) specifically focused on learning by doing and sharing learning across the region.</li> </ul>   |
| Widening involvement   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are generally missing from this intervention – add ‘for all’ at the end of the intervention.</li> <li>• Private landlords are a particular concern – difficult group to engage, but many marginalised people are living in privately owned housing.</li> <li>• Private developers and building standards are key to engage in terms of investment and knowledge sharing.</li> <li>• At community level, focus on: women's and youth groups, faith groups, schools, nature groups and land rights activists.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst some amendments have been made, the strategy interventions are cross cutting and so not mutually exclusive, and so some points are covered in other interventions.</li> <li>• Intervention title updated to read ‘Ensure everyone's...’.</li> <li>• Challenge updated to reference the mixture of actors (including landlords) and their impact on the most vulnerable.</li> <li>• 8.4 already recognised building standards but has been amended to reflect the need to engage developers.</li> <li>• Intervention 4 has been updated to reflect involvement and participation and engagement with communities, including the diverse range of actors named.</li> </ul> |

# Appendix 1: Workshop Participants

## – 26 November 2020

### Group 1

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Kit England        | CRC Manager  |
| Judi Kilgallon     | Improvement Service  |
| Ricardo Rea        | West Dunbartonshire Council, Performance & Strategy Officer            |
| Lesley Hinshelwood | South Lanarkshire Council, Sustainable Development Officer             |
| Wafa Shaheen       | Scottish Refugee Council, Head of Asylum, Integration and Resettlement |
| Dorothy Graham     | Galgael, Project Worker  |

### Group 2

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| James Curran   | Climate Ready Clyde Chair                         |
| Miriam Mckenna | Improvement Service                               |
| Alyson Bell    | South Lanarkshire Council                         |
| Sam Ibott      | East Renfrewshire Council, Climate Change Officer |
| Ana Maiya      | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)           |

### Group 3

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Cameron MacKay   | University of Strathclyde                              |
| Caroline Tolan   | Renfrewshire Council, Partnerships & Inequalities Team |
| Paul Murphy      | Inverclyde Council, Carbon Reduction Officer           |
| Rose Sehakizinka | ISARO Community Initiative, Project Coordinator        |
| Sharon McAulay   | Star Project, Project Manager                          |

### Group 4

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Adam Armour -Florence | West Dunbartonshire Council, Sustainability Officer              |
| Lynda Stevenson       | North Lanarkshire, Service Delivery Manager                      |
| Sonia Milne           | Glasgow City Council, Project Development Officer                |
| Zarina Ahmad          | CEMVO, Environment & Climate Change Officer                      |
| Leopold Salzenstein   | University of Lund, Sweden                                       |
| Mona Awan             | West Scotland Regional Equality Council; Cook, Grow, Sew Project |

## Appendix 2: Background information on GCR demographics and climate change (provided to SEA Workshop participants as part of briefing materials)

The following section sets out interactions in relation to climate change (where evidence exists) to allow workshop participants to consider the potential impacts of the draft Strategy interventions on populations in the GCR. Key points to note for the GCR include:

- The population of region is growing and aging.
- More women than men live in the Region.
- The ethnic makeup of the Region is more diverse than average, but levels of diversity vary significantly across the Region.
- Levels of health and overall deprivation vary significantly across the Region, with Inverclyde and Glasgow City the most deprived, and East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire the least deprived.
- There are increasing numbers of tenants, and a significant number of homes are in fuel poverty.

Climate Ready Clyde has identified at least 67 risks and opportunities as a consequence of a changing climate<sup>2</sup>. It is likely that these will disproportionately affect particular groups<sup>3</sup>, including:

- Older people, who are at greater risk of health impacts from extreme heat and cold.
- Socially or economically disadvantaged communities, as they tend to live in places which are more exposed to climate impacts, have more underlying vulnerabilities, and more limited means to respond.
- Young people, or those with disabilities who have limited capacity to adapt, or rely on others to help manage risks
- Tenants, who are less able to adapt their homes than owner-occupiers, in order to prepare for and recover from climate events<sup>3</sup>.

Climate Ready Clyde's Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment<sup>2</sup> also included a dedicated consideration of risks and opportunities to social justice and inequalities from climate change and adaptation responses. Whilst the review found some key issues, in general, there was limited evidence of social justice implications of climate change being considered in adaptation planning within Glasgow City Region beyond the flood risk management cycle.

There are a range of more specific factors that influence social vulnerability to climate impacts, such as prior experience of impacts, use of information, local knowledge, social networks<sup>4</sup>. Underlying health conditions which in turn affect vulnerability can also come about due to wider environmental and economic factors. These outcomes are often known as Health Inequalities.

<sup>2</sup> Climate Ready Clyde (2019) [Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for Glasgow City Region](#)

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2014) [Climate change and social justice: an evidence review](#)

<sup>4</sup> Sayers et al. (2017) *Present and future flood vulnerability, risk and disadvantage: a UK scale assessment*



# How climate change impacts on the populations in the GCR

Whilst research has focused on social vulnerability to flooding and heat in the Region, there is less information on other climate hazards, such as coastal erosion or extreme weather, or on the potential cumulative impacts on those with protected characteristics in Glasgow City Region.

## What is known?

- **Flooding** – Future flooding of domestic and non-domestic buildings will have large distributional differences, with impacts higher for deprived neighbourhoods and those groups which have lower resilience<sup>5</sup>. Glasgow and the wider City Region have some of the highest levels of social vulnerability to flooding relative to the rest of the UK<sup>6</sup>, suggesting that if not addressed proactively, populations in the City Region could be more negatively affected than other groups around the UK. A number of UK studies show that women are more likely than men to experience poor mental health after flooding<sup>7</sup>.

The City Region is already beginning to make headway in considering just and inclusive adaptation issues in relation to flooding, but more needs to be done to identify distributions of vulnerable groups, ensure the involvement of communities in developing and delivering adaptation responses, and being aware of trade-offs that can arise in addressing social vulnerability<sup>8</sup>. SEPA's second National Flood Risk Assessment has explicitly considered social and economic vulnerability as part of classifying and prioritising areas of flood risk.

- **Heat** – The increased costs of mortality and morbidity from heat extremes in the longer term are more likely to affect vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with existing health conditions, and those in socially deprived areas – due to a combination of exposure and vulnerability<sup>9</sup>. The reduced costs of heating buildings will have positive distributional benefits, benefitting those on lower incomes the most, also helping to reduce fuel poverty<sup>9</sup>.

## What is less known?

Despite just and inclusive adaptation being a priority for CRC, and the attempts made to better understand the issue, focussed action is limited by the availability of data which explores the relationship between socio-economic characteristics and their interaction with climate impacts. The evidence gaps relate to a range of different aspects:

- **Availability** – Evidence on climate change impacts on specific populations in GCR is limited, particularly in relation to cumulative impacts of climate hazards/risks and adaptation responses on those with protected characteristics. This is mainly due to the high resource need to develop such data and indices, and the fact that they are not routinely collated into organisations such as National Records of Scotland or the Office for National Statistics. We have an opportunity through this Social Impact Assessment to better understand these evidence gaps, and take steps to address them.
- **Granularity** – data on impacts is often qualitative, and not available at a suitable geography to be able

5 Watkiss et al. (2016) *Climate change impacts on the future cost of living* Joseph Rowntree Foundation, York.

6 Lindley et al. (2011) *Climate change, justice and vulnerability*

7 [www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-how-climate-change-disproportionately-affects-womens-health](http://www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-how-climate-change-disproportionately-affects-womens-health)

8 Cotton, I. (2017) *Identifying the challenges of a socially just approach to flooding adaptation policy: A case study for the Glasgow City Region*

9 Watkiss et al. (2018) *Economic Implications of Climate Change for Glasgow City Region*

to understand the distribution of populations, and where they may be affected by climate change, as well as often not being broken down by the different protected characteristics.

- **Frequency** – data on the impact of climate change is not produced on a regular basis. Instead, projects tend to be undertaken on an ad-hoc basis.
- **Intersectionality** – The cumulative effects of multiple vulnerabilities or characteristics, as well as the potential for impacts to cascade is well understood in theory, but very hard to realise in practice. Given the modelling efforts required, there has been little effort, but the CRC Secretariat explicitly aware that there may be multiple intersections of hazards/risks, adaptation responses, and protected characteristics.
- **Uncertainty** – There is a high level of uncertainty as to how the strategy interventions will play out ‘in practice’. However, the Social Impact Assessment is intended to make the existing draft strategy more robust and point to other areas for consideration as we move to implementation.

## GCR demographics

### Population size/density

- Currently GCR has a total population of 1,845,020, making up just over a third (34%) of Scotland’s total population<sup>10</sup>.
- The City Region comprises of an area of 3346km<sup>2</sup>, with a population density of 551.4 people per km<sup>2</sup>, which is significantly higher than the national average of 70 people per km<sup>2</sup><sup>11</sup>.
- Glasgow city has the highest population density within the City Region with 3,624 people per km<sup>2</sup>, whilst South Lanarkshire has the lowest population density with 181 people per km<sup>2</sup><sup>12</sup>.
- By 2043 the population is anticipated to increase by 2.3%, which is slightly higher than the national average of 2%<sup>12</sup>.

### Age

- The highest proportion of people in the Region are aged between 25–29 (7.7% of the total City Region)<sup>10</sup>.
- 18.1% of the total population aged 16 or under, and 16.1% aged over 65<sup>10</sup>.
- By 2039 the proportion of the pensionable population in the City Region will increase by 10-35%<sup>13</sup>.
- Life expectancy at birth varies significantly across Glasgow City Region. On average, men live shorter lives than women – with a range of 4 years in women (78.5 in Glasgow, to 84 in East Renfrewshire) and 7 in men (from 73.6 in Glasgow to 80.54 in East Dunbartonshire)<sup>10</sup>.

### Gender

- There is a slightly higher proportion of women living in the City Region compared to men (51.5% compared to 48.5%)<sup>10</sup>.

10 National Records Scotland, Mid-2019 Population Estimates

11 National Records Scotland, Land area and population density by administrative area, Mid-2019 Population Estimates

12 National Records Scotland, Population Projections for Scottish Areas (2018-based)

13 Climate Ready Clyde (2019) [Technical report: society and human health](#)

## Ethnicity

- Overall, the ethnic make-up of the City Region is more diverse than the national average, with 10.9% of the population coming from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic groups (BAME), compared to 7.9% nationally<sup>14</sup>. The population of the City Region is 94.4% white, 0.3% mixed ethnic, 4.0% Asian, 0.8% African and 0.2% Arab.
- Glasgow city is the most ethnically diverse of the eight local authority areas with 22.7% of the population identifying as BAME while Inverclyde is the least ethnically diverse with 2.5% of the population identifying as BAME<sup>15</sup>.

## Levels of deprivation

- Levels of overall deprivation across the City Region vary significantly, both between, and within Local Authority areas with six of the GCR local authority areas among the ten with the greatest share of the most deprived data zones (Fig 2)<sup>16</sup>.
- Of the eight local authority areas, Inverclyde is the most deprived (as well as the most deprived nationally), with 31.5% of its data zones amongst the top 10% nationally, which is closely followed by Glasgow at 30.4%<sup>17</sup>. East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire are the least deprived local authorities in the City Region, ranking 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively out of Scotland's 32 local authorities in terms of overall deprivation<sup>17</sup>.

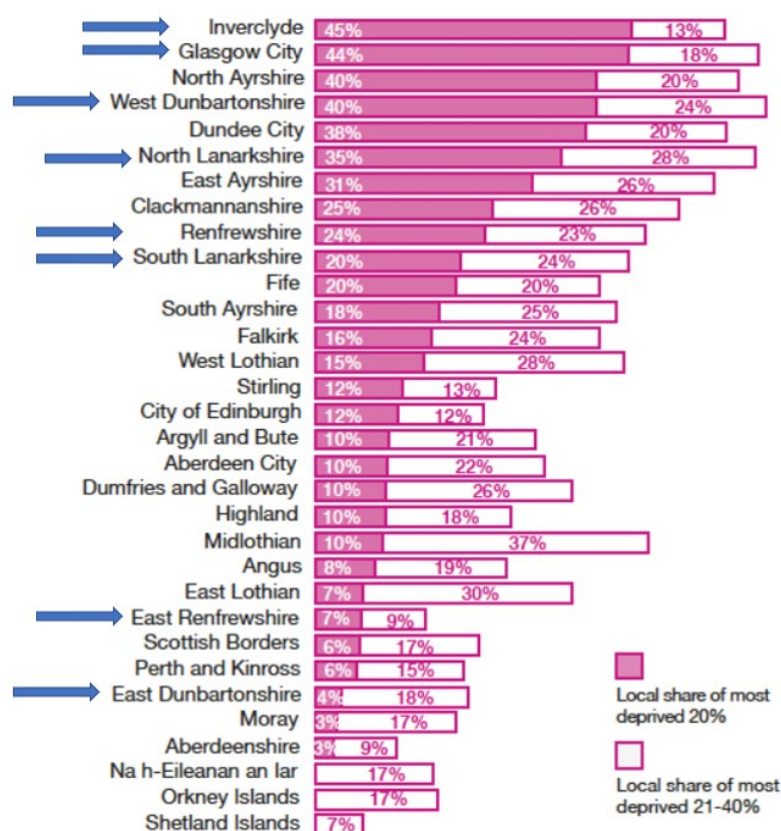


Fig 2: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) local share of most deprived data zones in Scotland<sup>16</sup>

14 Scotland's Census, Table DC2101SC – Ethnic group by sex by age, 2011

15 National Records Scotland, Age and sex structure of administrative areas, Mid-2019 Population Estimates

16 Scottish Government (2020) [The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020: Introduction](#)

17 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020, [online] available at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/scottish-index-of-multiple-deprivation-2020/>

- Levels of health deprivation are similarly varied. Inverclyde is the most deprived, with 31.5% of its data zones located amongst the top 10% of deprived areas nationally. Again, this is closely followed by Glasgow city, with 30.4% of its data zones amongst the top 10% of deprived nationally, with regards to health<sup>17</sup>.
- As for overall deprivation, East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire are significantly less deprived with regards to health deprivation, with the highest number of data zones amongst the top 20% of least deprived nationally (57.38% and 50.77% respectively), ranking them first and second nationally<sup>17</sup>.

## Health

- Health in the region is varied. In 2018, those describing their health as either good or very good was lower than the national average (73%) in both Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lanarkshire health boards at 70%. Those describing their health as bad or very bad was higher than the national average in both Greater Glasgow and Clyde and Lanarkshire, at 10% compared to the national average of 8%<sup>18</sup>.
- Levels of physical activity are significantly lower than the national average in Lanarkshire at 60% compared to 64% nationally<sup>19</sup>. Levels in Greater Glasgow and the Clyde are similar to the national average at 63%<sup>19</sup>.
- The percentage of people in both Greater Glasgow and the Clyde and Lanarkshire, who have a limiting long-term illness is slightly higher than the national average (32%) at 33% and 35% respectively<sup>20</sup>.

## Disabilities

- Around 9,400 people in Glasgow City Region have a learning disability, or roughly 0.6% of the total population. The majority are white, and much higher percentages live in social rented accommodation than the wider population. Similarly, a much lower percentage are in employment<sup>21</sup>.

## Housing

- In line with national trends, levels of owner occupation in the region have been decreasing, while levels of private renting have increased. Over the longer term, social renting has declined, although this is expected to increase again given local authority build programmes<sup>23</sup>. The Region has issues in relation to aging housing stock and tenement flats, with between 25-30% of homes in fuel poverty<sup>22</sup>.

18 The Scottish Health Survey, 2018 – Self-assessed general health, Very good/Good, All adults, 2015-2018

19 The Scottish Health Survey, 2018 – Physical activity, Meets recommendations, All adults, 2015-2018

20 The Scottish Health Survey, 2018 – Long-term illness, Limiting long-term illness, All adults, 2015-2018

21 Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory, 2020, based on 2011 Census

22 Climate Ready Clyde (2019) [Technical report: society and human health](#)

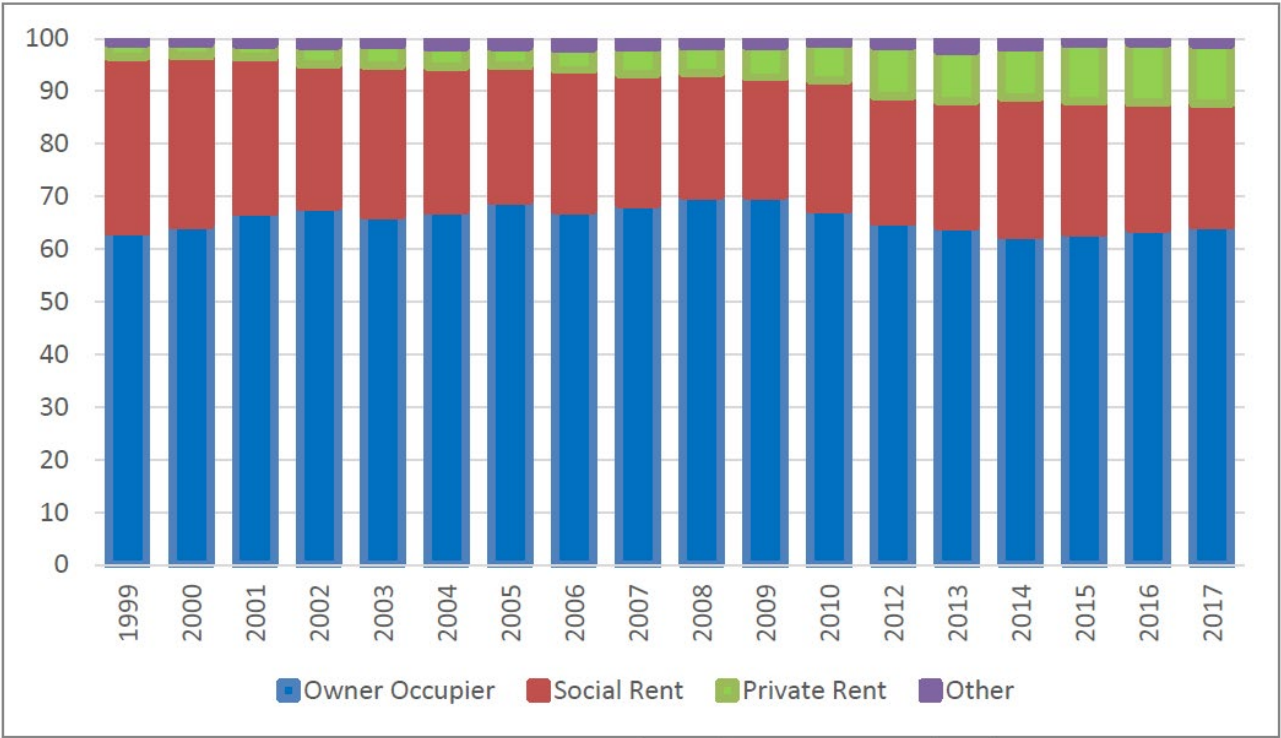


Fig 3: Glasgow City Region, housing by tenure type (%)<sup>23</sup>

23 Glasgow City Region Draft Regional Strategic Assessment 2019





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Climate**Ready**Clyde

Paul Watkiss Associates



Deep Demonstration  
Resilient Regions  
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Clyde Rebuilt



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