

Title of Report:	Consultation Responses to Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme 3 (NICCAP3)
Committee Report Submitted To:	Environmental Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	9th September 2025
For Decision or For Information	For Decision
To be discussed In Committee YES/NO	Not in Committee

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-25)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and Enhancing Our Environments & Assets
Outcome	Our natural assets will be carefully managed to generate economic and social returns without compromising their sustainability for future generations.
Lead Officer	Head of Capital Works, Energy and Infrastructure

Estimated Timescale for Completion	
Date to be Completed	

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£variable
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO – N/A
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Legal Considerations	
Input of Legal Services Required	NO
Legal Opinion Obtained	NO

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/ No	Date: N/A
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes /No	Date: N/A
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/ No	Date: N/A
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A
	Screening Completed:	Yes /No	Date: N/A

Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)			
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date: N/A

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** To inform members of the consultation being undertaken by NICCAP3 on their climate action plan, and to seek endorsement of council's officer led draft responses.

2.0 Background

- 2.1** NICCAP3 consultation is to provide feedback on the public consultation for the third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme. This was released by Climate NI who have a working partnership with DAERA. A copy of this consultation is attached for ease of reference (appendix 1)

3.0 Proposal

- 3.1** For members to review and approve the draft responses (Appendix 2).

4.0 Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the consultation process and approve the draft responses for submission to NICCAP3. If there are any changes required to send these onto NICCAP3.



Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3)

Public Consultation



“Working towards a climate resilient Northern Ireland”



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

This pack is also available on the DAERA website at:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/public-consultation-on-the-draft-niccap3>

On request, we can arrange to provide other formats of this document, such as:

- Paper Copy
- Large Print
- Braille
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To request an alternative format, please contact us:

Email: NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 028 9037 8558 and talk to one of the Consultation Team.

If you have a hearing difficulty, you can contact DAERA via **Text Relay**.

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Post: NICCAP3 Consultation

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Pack Contents

Thank you for your interest in responding to this consultation on the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3).

This consultation pack contains the following documentation to assist you with your response:

- This Consultation document which includes the consultation details and the consultation questions.
- Annex I - Draft Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3)
- Annex II - Draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment
- Annex III - Draft Equality & Disability Duties Screening Assessment
- Annex IV - Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
- Annex V - Draft Child's Rights Impact Assessment
- Annex VI - Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment
- Appendix I - Natural Capital - Key Area Consultation Booklet
- Appendix II - Food Security - Key Area Consultation Booklet
- Appendix III - Infrastructure Services - Key Area Consultation Booklet
- Appendix IV - People and the Built Environment - Key Area Consultation Booklet
- Appendix V - Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains - Key Area Consultation Booklet

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Executive Summary

The Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) places a statutory duty on Northern Ireland Executive Departments to lay programmes before the Northern Ireland Assembly, which set out their objectives, policies, proposals and timelines for introducing those policies and proposals in response to the most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). To fulfil this legal requirement the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has led on the development of a series of single coordinated adaptation programmes, which are known as the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP), since the 2008 Act came into effect. This consultation document seeks the views of stakeholders on the draft third iteration of these programmes (NICCAP3) which has been developed, with input from all Departments and a range of key stakeholders, in response to the latest Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3)¹.

A brief overview of the content of the parts within this consultation document and its supporting appendices and annexes is provided as follows:

Part 1 provides information on the legislative context for NICCAP3 and details on the consultation itself including how to respond as well as a short introduction to the two main responses to climate change:

- **Mitigation**

Climate change mitigation refers to actions or activities that limit emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from entering the atmosphere and/or reduce their levels in the atmosphere.

- **Adaptation**

Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.

Part 2 covers NICCAP3 itself including how DAERA has chosen to structure it and why. It provides detail on each of the Key Areas within NICCAP3 which cover the sectorial thematic areas of Natural Capital; Food Security; Infrastructure Services; People and the Built Environment; and Disruption to Business and Supply Chains. This chapter also provides details on the statutory and best practice impact assessments which were carried out on the draft NICCAP3.

Part 3 provides details on the next steps, following the close of the consultation, including information on the confidentiality of responses to the consultation, as well as on Data Protection and Freedom of Information consideration.

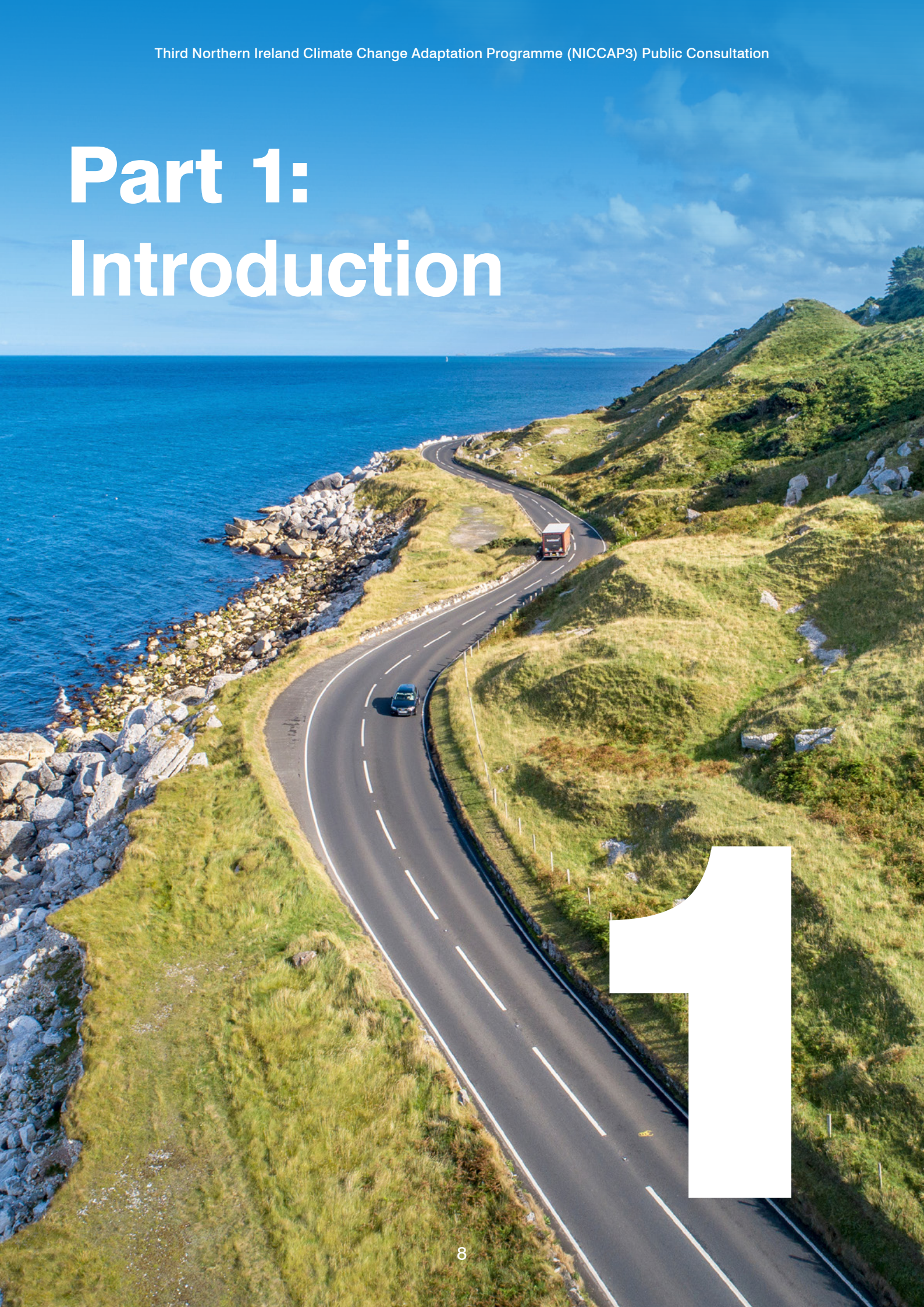
¹ [CCRA-Evidence-Report-Northern-Ireland-Summary-Final.pdf \(ukclimaterisk.org\)](#)

Part 4 provides a list of the acronyms and abbreviations used in this consultation document.

The **Annexes** contain the draft NICCAP3, and the Impact Assessment screening templates that have been carried out.

The **Appendices** contain the Key Area booklets which break the overall NICCAP3 parts and chapters into sectoral areas. These have been designed to allow for consultees to focus on areas of the NICCAP3 consultation of particular interest.

Part 1: Introduction



Part 1: Introduction

1.1. Why we are Consulting

Climate change is an issue that affects every one of us, from national to local government; international supply chains to local businesses; wider society to communities and individuals.

DAERA recognises that in creating a Northern Ireland that is well adapted and resilient to the impacts of climate change it needs to be informed by the views of all who live here. This consultation seeks your views on the draft third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3), so that you may play a role in shaping a resilient Northern Ireland that is well adapted to the impacts of climate change for today, and for the future.

1.2. Duration

This consultation will run for an 8-week period from **9 June 2025 to 4 August 2025**. We encourage early responses, and responses should be no later than **11:59pm on 4 August 2025**. All responses should be received by then to help ensure they can be fully considered. Responses received after the closing deadline will not be able to be considered.

1.3. How to Respond to this Consultation

The full draft NICCAP3 is available as Annex I to this document and includes detail on climate adaptation policy and action both within Government and across wider society. It also includes an assessment of progress made in the previous Adaptation Programme as required by the 2008 Act.

We recognise that the full draft NICCAP3 is a substantial document covering a wide range of sectors, not all of which will be of interest to every reader. While you are welcome to respond to all areas of the NICCAP3 consultation, in anticipation that you may only wish to respond to some areas of interest, we have prepared a series of Appendices to this consultation document which break the draft NICCAP3 into 5 key areas of sectoral impact as follows:

- **Appendix I** – Natural Capital
- **Appendix II** – Food Security
- **Appendix III** – Infrastructure Services
- **Appendix IV** – People and the Built Environment
- **Appendix V** – Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains

These provide information on the climate impacts on each key area, as well as the policies, plans, and proposals which relate to them, and will assist you in responding to the relevant questions from 8 to 27 depending on your specific area(s) of interest.

In addition to responding to your key area(s) of interest, we would please ask that some non-theme specific questions are responded to by all. The information required for these questions is contained within this consultation document for questions 1 to 7, and in the annexes containing the draft impact assessments for which question 28 relates.

We would be grateful if responses could be provided for all the questions within a key area.

An overview of the questions, where the supporting information may be found, and the level of requested engagement in responding is detailed below:

Questions 1 to 7 - Response requested from all

Information is contained within this consultation document and, if required, also the draft NICCAP3 at Annex I.

The information to respond to the following Optional Key Areas can be found in the full draft NICCAP3 document found at Annex I, and also in the Appendices indicated below.

Questions 8 to 11 - Optional Key Area

Appendix I - Natural Capital

- i. Nature
- ii. Working Lands & Seas

Questions 12 to 15 - Optional Key Area

Appendix II - Food Security

- i. UK Food Security

Questions 16 to 19 - Optional Key Area

Appendix III - Infrastructure Services

- i. Water Supply
- ii. Energy
- iii. Telecommunications & ICT
- iv. Transport

Questions 20 to 23 - Optional Key Area

Appendix IV - People and the Built Environment

- i. Towns & Cities
- ii. Health
- iii. Buildings
- iv. Community Preparedness & Response

Questions 24 to 27 - Optional Key Area

Appendix V - Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains

- i. Business
- ii. Finance

Question 28 - Response requested from all

Information within Annexes II - VI, which relate to the NICCAP3 Impact Screening Assessments.

Submitting your response

There are several ways in which you can provide your response, and these are outlined in the bullet points below. However, as there is a need to publish NICCAP3 in a timely manner, the preferable method of response is **through the online survey where it is possible to do so**. This approach allows for the most efficient analysis of responses and by limiting the use of paper and printing, minimising the environmental impact.

However, we understand that a paper-based response will be the preference for some. If this is the case, you are encouraged to respond as early as possible as our challenging timeline could be impacted by postage delivery times and the additional analytical processing required.

- **Online Survey**

The primary response method for this consultation is through the online survey on the **Citizen Space Hub**. You can also access the online survey from the DAERA consultation webpage - <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/public-consultation-on-the-draft-niccap3>

- **By Email**

You can obtain an electronic copy of the response template by emailing the consultation team at: NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk

You can email your response to this email address, or alternatively by hard copy to the postal address below.

Similarly to responses by post, email responses will involve additional analytical processing when compared to online responses and so we encourage you to use the **Citizen Space Hub**.

- **By Post**

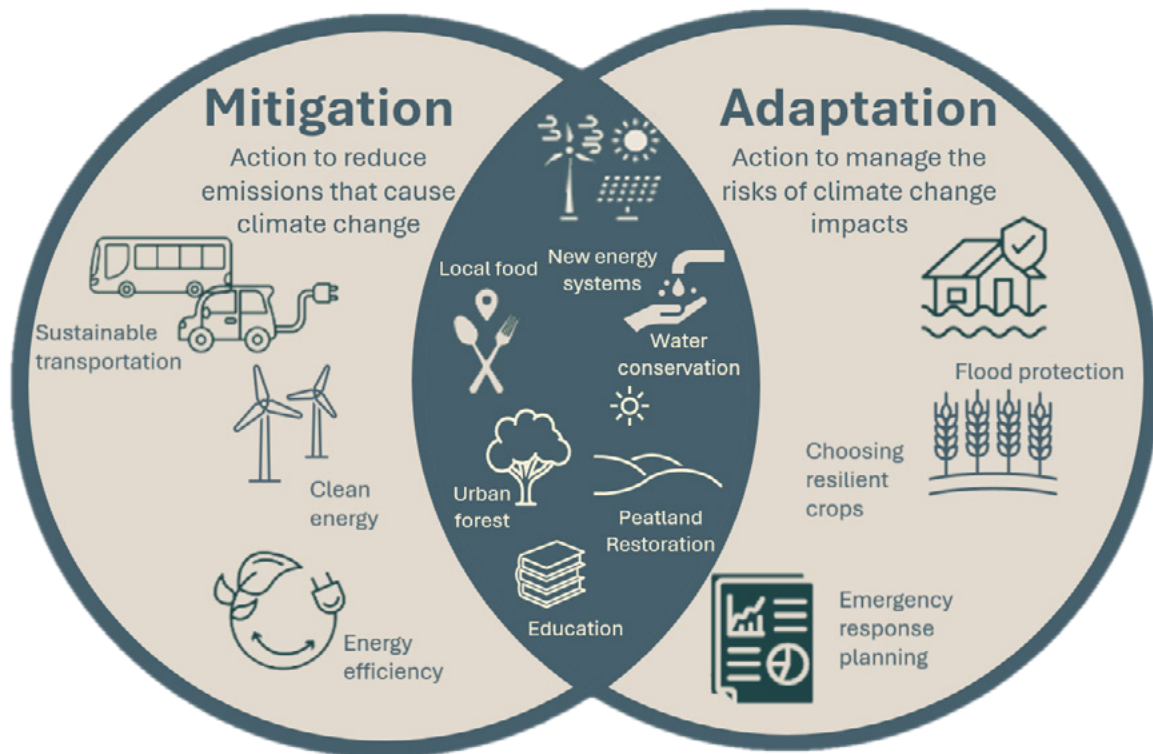
Please be aware that postal responses may take longer to process.

Responses can be posted to:

NICCAP3 Consultation
Climate Change Legislation and Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
1st Floor, Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Guidance is provided on the 'Confidentiality' of responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, at Part 3: Next Steps for your reference. Also, if you require any further information, please contact a member of the consultation team on 028 9037 8558.

1.4. Climate Mitigation vs Climate Adaptation



When it comes to the challenge of climate change, we instinctively think of the things that are causing it, and what must be done to stop and prevent worsening impacts. Things like reducing emissions by transitioning to renewable energy sources, to adopting more sustainable lifestyles and business practices. This approach is **Climate Change Mitigation** and is defined below by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change² (IPCC) as:

‘Climate change mitigation refers to actions or activities that limit emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from entering the atmosphere and/or reduce their levels in the atmosphere’.

Climate Change Mitigation is extremely important if we are to prevent the very worst-case projections of climate change becoming a reality.

But action on climate change involves more than just mitigation efforts to reduce our emissions and the other side of addressing the climate change challenge in ensuring that we are well adapted to and resilient to its impacts is equally important. This other arm of climate action recognises the climate change impacts we are already experiencing, and those that are projected to occur which require action to future proof and adjust (adapt) current infrastructure to ensure that it is resilient to both the current and projected impacts of climate change. This aspect of addressing climate change is **Climate Change Adaptation**, and is defined below by the Global Centre on Adaptation³ as:

² <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

³ <https://gca.org/>

‘Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change’

In Northern Ireland, Climate Adaptation is concerned with preparing for the real-world impacts of changing weather patterns, hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters along with increasing severe and more frequent weather events resulting in flooding and storm damage as well as the impacts of rising sea levels to ensure that we are resilient.

We would be grateful if the following Questions 1 to 7 could be responded to by all consultees.

Question 1

Were you aware of the two arms of climate change action before reading this introduction?

Yes No

Question 2

How aware are you of **climate mitigation actions** being taken forward by government in NI?

Not aware					Very aware
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 3

How aware are you of **climate adaptation actions** being taken forward by government in NI?

Not aware					Very aware
1	2	3	4	5	

1.5. Legislative Context

The need for climate action was recognised by the UK Parliament in 2008 when it passed the Climate Change Act 2008⁴. This Act was a landmark piece of legislation for the UK containing a number of provisions on climate mitigation and adaptation including the first legally binding climate mitigation targets set by a country.

A fundamental part of the Act was the establishment of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) with a remit to advise government on matters relating to climate change. As part of this advisory role, the CCC are obligated under section 57 of the Act to produce an Independent Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA-IA) on a five yearly cycle, which is used to inform the development of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which must be laid in Parliament every five years under section 56.

Section 60 of the Act provides for Northern Ireland Departments to respond to each CCRA through an adaptation programme setting out:

- the objectives of the department in relation to adaptation to climate change,
- the department's proposals and policies for meeting those objectives, and
- the timescales for introducing those proposals and policies.

The department is defined in section 96 of the 2008 Act as the 'department with responsibility for the matter to which the provision relates'. In this context this means that each Government Department is responsible for setting out their proposals and policies which address the climate risks which impact on their areas of responsibility through an adaptation programme.

Effective climate change adaptation action requires a collaborative approach and so in recognition of this, DAERA has led on the development of a coordinated Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP) with the input of adaption responses from across each of the NI Executive Departments. However, we also recognise the important role that key stakeholders including Local Government, academia, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and businesses can play in creating a climate resilient Northern Ireland, and in acknowledgement of this we have also included an extensive range of actions from outside of Departments in the NICCAP3 Adaptation Delivery Plan.

The most recent CCRA was the third iteration of this five-year cycle and was laid in Parliament in January 2022 and endorsed the CCC's earlier independent advice (CCRA3-IA). This independent assessment by the CCC identified 61 areas of risk and opportunity for the UK, as a result of climate change, and as part of the development of the risk assessment, national summaries were prepared for each of the administrations within the UK⁵.

The CCC have had further obligations, in relation to climate change adaptation, placed upon

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

⁵ <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/publications/type/national-summaries/>

them under section 48 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022⁶. This requires the CCC to provide a report to the Assembly within 3 years of each NICCAP being published detailing their assessment of the progress made towards implementing the objectives, proposals and policies set out in the NICCAP, as well as their recommendations for the following NICCAP.

The CCC has similar reporting duties across each of the regions of the UK. To assist with the assessment process the CCC has developed an adaptation monitoring framework⁷ which enables them to assess climate adaptation progress around 13 thematic areas. These themes use monitoring maps which describe good adaptation for the theme using measures such as the required outcomes, enabling factors to support delivery and policies and plans, and contextual factors such as global changes. This new monitoring framework will enable the CCC to assess adaptation across these themes in terms of underlying policies and enabling factors as well as how these are being delivered and implemented.

1.6. About You

Question 4

Are you representing an organisation, or are these your personal views

Personal Views

Organisation

Please tell us the name of your organisation if applicable.

⁶ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nia/2022/31/contents/enacted>

⁷ <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/ccc-adaptation-monitoring-framework/#intuction>

Part 2: The third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

2

Part 2: The third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

2.1. An Aligned Approach

DAERA recognises that the risks from climate change can impact sectors differently and that the Climate Change Committees (CCC's) approach to monitoring adaptation across a range of themes reflects and captures these differences. It is our view that these differences should be reflected in the NICCAP itself, and so we have structured NICCAP3 to align to the 13 thematic areas used by the CCC in their adaptation monitoring framework which will also assist with future assessments to be undertaken by the CCC.

To provide a level of consistency from NICCAP2, these 13 thematic areas have been grouped into 5 key areas using the broad areas used to structure NICCAP2. The 61 risks and opportunities identified in the CCRA3 apply across the thematic areas and so are addressed within NICCAP3 in the structure outlined in figure 1.

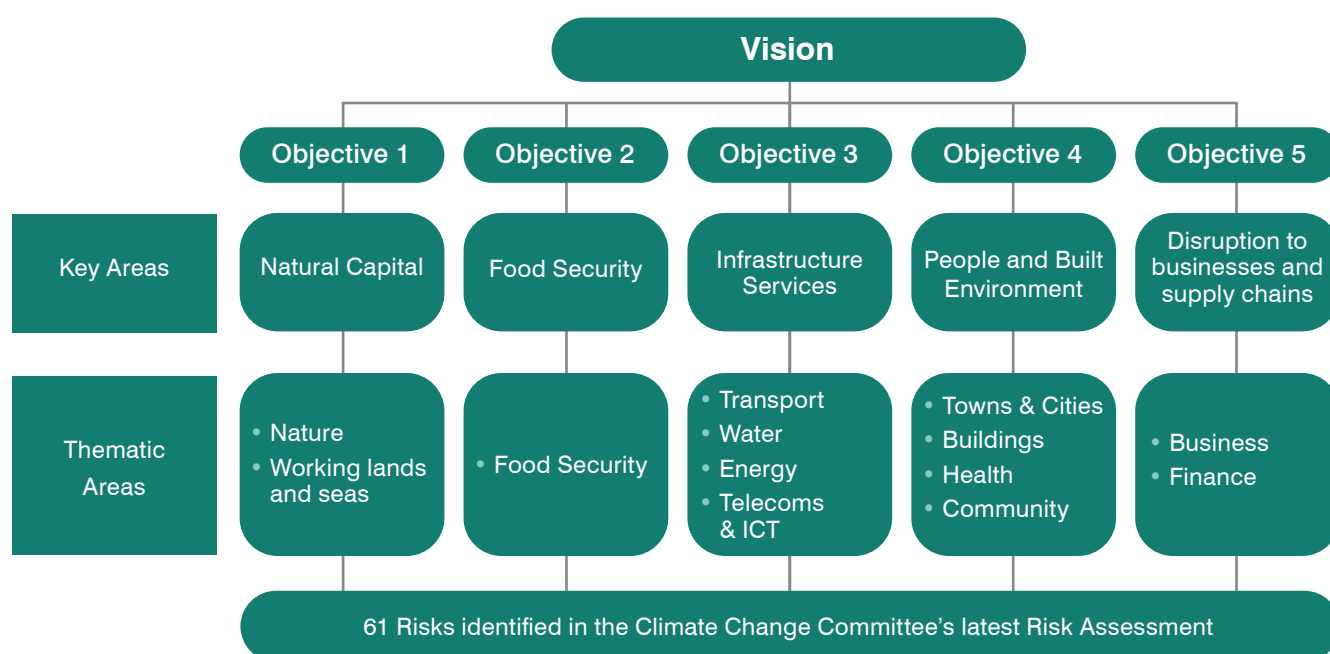


Figure 1 - Overview of thematic areas alignment to key areas

For each of the 5 key areas, we have developed an adaptation objective through a series of co-design workshops ran in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, with further development planned for during this consultation. These workshops looked at climate adaptation in terms of each of the 5 key areas and considered the projected climate impacts and those that were already being felt before designing aspirational outcomes which aimed to capture what effective climate adaptation looked like as well as the means to get there. This process was also applied to the development of an overall vision for a well-adapted Northern Ireland.

Question 5

Do you agree with the approach taken to align the structure of NICCAP3 to the 13 thematic areas (covered above) used by the CCC to assist in the future monitoring of adaptation progress in NI?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

2.2. A Vision for a Well Adapted Northern Ireland

Our vision for a well-adapted Northern Ireland seeks to pull together the objectives for NICCAP3 into an overarching vision statement that encompasses the ambition to create a society, economy and environment that is resilient to climate change by being well adapted. Our vision can be seen below and within NICCAP3 where it can be found in the introduction section.

VISION

By working with partners across all aspects of Northern Ireland's environment, economy and communities we will take action to build upon and strengthen our resilience to our changing climate as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland which is well adapted and resilient to both our current and projected future impacts of climate change to protect our environment, economy and communities for both our current and future generations.

Question 6

Do you feel that the vision, for a well-adapted NI, represents the ambition required to build a well-adapted NI?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 7

Do you agree with the inclusion of actions in NICCAP3 from key stakeholders outside of Departments?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

2.3. Key Area: Natural Capital

Objective

We will use nature-based solutions where possible and encourage sustainable practices across the land and water use sectors to build ecologically healthy, well-connected habitats which support increased species abundance and diversity, and improved soil and water quality, which in turn create a climate resilient environment rich in the ecosystem services so important for human wellbeing and sustainable agricultural, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors which are so important to the Northern Ireland economy.

The Natural Capital key area combines the thematic areas of Nature and Working Lands & Seas. These themes cover the natural environment and the role it plays in supporting life in Northern Ireland both through the habitats it provides for nature and the important role it plays in our local economy. Chapters 4 and 5 in Part 2 of the NICCAP3 provides context for these themes, as well as the co-designed objective for the Natural Capital key area. Each chapter contains the CCRA3-IA risks associated with the thematic area and the actions relating to these from both government and civil society can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

If Natural Capital is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section - Questions 8 to 11. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 25.

Question 8

Does the objective for Natural Capital provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 9

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Nature

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Working Lands & Seas

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 10

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Nature

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Working Lands & Seas

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 11

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

2.4. Key Area: Food Security

Objective

We will work with local industry stakeholders and producers to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of our local agri-food and fisheries sectors in the creation of a sustainable food system that protects and enhances our natural environment, as well as supporting the sectors to invest in systems to assess climate risks and vulnerabilities and plan adaptation throughout their supply chains to ensure we continue to supply safe and sustainable food both at home and abroad.

Part 3 of NICCAP3 contains the above co-designed objective for this key area and provides details on the theme of Food Security. This theme refers to the sustainable production and continued availability of food for Northern Ireland and how secure the processes for ensuring supply and demand is met. The risks to this from climate change are such that they impact both at home and abroad, and the routes and infrastructure in place to transport food and ingredients from where it is sourced and produced to where it is utilised, bought, sold and ultimately consumed. The identified risks can be seen in Chapter 6 and again, the actions relating to these can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

If Food Security is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section - Questions 12 to 15. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 28.

Question 12

Does the objective for Food Security provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 13

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapter goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of Food Security:

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 To a Great Extent

Question 14

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of Food Security:

Not at all 1 2 3 4 5 To a Great Extent

Question 15

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

2.5. Key Area: Infrastructure Services

Objective

Recognising the degree which infrastructure services rely upon each other to function effectively, we will collaborate across public sector organisations to identify vulnerabilities, manage these interdependencies and support the integration of climate adaptation into business operating models to ensure adaptation is delivered effectively and efficiently to ensure system level reliability, security and resilience across our infrastructure services and networks.

The Infrastructure Services key area combines the thematic areas of Water Supply, Energy, Telecommunications and ICT, and Transport. A key component of this area is the interconnectedness of these themes, and the co-designed objective for the area seeks to recognise this and its role in successful climate adaptation. Part 4 of NICCAP3 provides the context to this key area with chapters 7 to 10 detailing the themes and the associated risks.

It is however important to recognise that aspects of this risk area such as Telecommunications and ICT fall within UK Government reserved policy area of responsibility which means many of the levers to implement a change of policy in this area are outside of the control of the NI Departments. However, with this caveat in mind, the actions relating to these risks that are within Northern Ireland's devolved government area of responsibility, can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

If Infrastructure Services is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section - Questions 16 to 19. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 32.

Question 16

Does the objective for Infrastructure Services provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 17

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Water Supply

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Energy

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

III. Telecommunications and ICT, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

IV. Transport.

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 18

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Water Supply

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Energy

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

III. Telecommunications and ICT, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

IV. Transport

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 19

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

2.6. Key Area: People and the Built Environment

Objective

Recognising how dependent we are upon our built environment and the ability it has to shape and support our health and wellbeing, we will engage with community groups and organisations to increase community understanding of localised climate impacts, and their impact upon their health. By empowering communities to understand their risks and develop innovative solutions making use of local knowledge and resources, we will build upon their shared experiences to target and address the climate risks specific to them to improve their climate resilience.

This key area combines 4 thematic areas due to the co-dependencies between them and links the themes of Towns & Cities, Buildings, Health, and Community Preparedness & Response which are covered in Part 5 under chapters 11 to 14. This key area is concerned with the impacts of climate change on our lived experiences and so looks at how the built and urban environment we live in interacts with our health and how climate change poses risks to these. It also recognises the importance of a community's ability to prepare for and respond to emergency situations such as extreme weather events linked to climate change. The chapters each lay out the identified risks and opportunities for each theme and the actions relating to these risks which can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

If People and the Built Environment is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section - Questions 20 to 23. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 36.

Question 20

Does the objective for People and the Built Environment provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 21

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Towns & Cities

Not at all				To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5

II. Health

Not at all				To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5

III. Buildings

Not at all				To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5

IV. Community Preparedness & Response

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 22

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Towns & Cities

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Health

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

III. Buildings

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

IV. Community Preparedness & Response

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 23

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

2.7. Key Area: Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains

Objective

We will support businesses to understand and embed climate adaptation into their strategies and practices, to identify climate risks and to make the most of existing and emerging opportunities. Through encouraging cost-effective early action to strengthen operating models to the risks and impacts of Northern Ireland's changing climate, we will ensure our supply chains have the resilience needed to support our rich network of businesses for our climate today, and tomorrow.

The final key area looks to the impacts of climate change on businesses and their supply chains and encompasses the thematic areas of Business and Finance. Described in Part 6 of the NICCAP3, this area recognises the impacts of climate change on the local and wider UK economy and the role the financial sector has in supporting business and the economy in building resilience. Chapters 15 and 16 in Part 6 seek to provide context for the thematic areas within this key area as well as the specific risks and opportunities identified for each.

It is however important to recognise that aspects of this risk area, such as international finance risks, fall within UK Government reserved policy area of responsibility which means many of the levers to implement a change of policy are outside the control of NI Departments. However, with this caveat in mind, the actions relating to these risks that are within Northern Ireland's devolved government area of responsibility, can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

If Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 24 to 27. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the section on Impact Assessments beginning on page 39.

Question 24

Does the objective for Disruption to Businesses & Supply Chains provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Question 25

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Business

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Finance, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 26

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3-IA risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Business

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

II. Finance, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all					To a Great Extent
1	2	3	4	5	

Question 27

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

2.8. Impact Assessments

In developing NICCAP3, and in line with good practice for policy development, we have undertaken the following impact assessments:

- 1. Rural Needs Impact Assessment** - Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016⁸ places a statutory duty on the Department to have due regard to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas in the development, implementation, revision or adoption of policies, strategies and plans and in the design and delivery of public services. Where a public authority is engaged in any such activity a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) should be undertaken.
- 2. Equality & Disability Duties Screening Assessment** - Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998⁹ places a statutory requirement on Departments which requires business areas taking forward a set of measures; or introducing a new or amended strategy, policy, procedure, or legislation; to complete an Equality and Disability Screening Analysis form. Where a major impact is identified then a full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out.
- 3. Strategic Environmental Assessment** - Strategic Environmental Assessment is required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.¹⁰
- 4. Child's Rights Impact Assessment** - CRIA is an approach which embeds children's rights considerations at the outset of developing legislation, strategies and policies. Applying the CRIA Framework and Tool will help avoid / mitigate any negative impacts at the earliest possible stage. The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) are keen to see this incorporated into practice and as such, despite there not being a statutory requirement for this impact assessment, we have followed the NICCY guidance published in 2022¹¹ and have carried out a preliminary screening assessment for NICCAP3.
- 5. Regulatory Impact Assessment** - A regulatory impact assessment is used to determine the anticipated impacts of a policy or policy revision on the business, voluntary and community sectors. While not a statutory requirement to carry out such an assessment, it forms part of best practice for policy development.

Each of these assessments have been prepared in draft form and can be seen as Annexes to this consultation document. Following feedback from this consultation they will be updated as

⁸ [Rural Needs Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

⁹ [Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

¹⁰ [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

¹¹ <https://www.niccy.org/what-we-do/training/cria/>

appropriate and finalised. Currently the findings of each assessment can be summarised as follows:

While NICCAP3 contains a wide range of policies and proposals which cut across multiple sectors of society, because NICCAP3 is a high-level programme which serves as a coordination document for these policies and proposals its creation and presentation to the Assembly does not in itself impact on any of the areas covered by the listed assessments. However, as policies and proposals contained within NICCAP3 may impact on each area to varying degrees, it will be the responsibility of the owners of such policies or proposals to ensure they are individually screened or assessed as part of their development as appropriate.

As a result of this determination, in each case we have either found there to be no impact from the laying of NICCAP3 at the Assembly or have screened NICCAP3 out from a full assessment.

We would be grateful if Question 28 could be responded to by all consultees.

Question 28

Do you agree with this decision:

Yes No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Part 3: Next Steps

3

Part 3: Next Steps

3.1. Publication of Responses and Confidentiality

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances.

Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations as these provide guidance on the legal position of any information given by you in response to this consultation. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

3.2. Data Protection

Section 8(e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

3.3. Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority (the Department in this case). This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature;

- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office:

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: ni@ico.org.uk

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Part 4: Glossary & Abbreviations

A high-speed train, likely a Eurostar, is shown traveling along a coastal railway track. The train is blue and white, moving from left to right. The track is situated on a grassy embankment next to a steep, rocky cliff. The sea is visible to the left of the cliff. In the foreground, there are yellow flowers. A large white number '4' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

4

Part 4: Glossary & Abbreviations

CCC	The UK Climate Change Committee are the statutory, independent, expert advisors on climate change. Established under section 32 of the Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), they provide advice to the UK government and the governments of the UK Devolved Governments (including Northern Ireland).
CCRA-IA	Climate Change Risk Assessment - Independent Assessment. These are 5 yearly reports carried out by the CCC under section 57 of the 2008 Act to inform the UK CCRA as laid in Parliament by the UK Government. They set out and assesses the current and projected risks and impacts of climate change to the UK, with detailed specific information for each of the Devolved Governments (including Northern Ireland).
CCRA	UK Climate Change Risk Assessment – these are 5 yearly reports which set out the current and predicted risks and impacts of climate change to the UK (including Northern Ireland). These reports are required to be developed and laid in the UK Parliament by the UK Government as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and are informed by the CCC's earlier independent assessment of risk (CCRA-IA).
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.
NICCAP2 NICCAP3	Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes - this is a 5-year programme which sets out Northern Ireland Departments' response to the risks and opportunities identified for Northern Ireland in the most recent 5-year UK Climate Change Risk Assessment as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008. This consultation is on the third of these Programmes, NICCAP3.
The 2022 Act	The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.
The 2008 Act	The Climate Change Act 2008
UK	United Kingdom



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk



NICCAP3 Public consultation

Questions 1 to 7- response requested from all. The rest is optional.

Q1. Were you aware of the two arms of climate action before reading this introduction?

Yes

Q2. How aware are you of climate mitigation actions being taken forward by government in NI?

3- aware

Q3. How aware are you of climate adaptation action being taken forward by government in NI? 1-5

2- Aware

Q4. Are you representing an organisation or are these your personal views.

Organisation- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council officers.

Q5. Do you agree with the approach taken to align the structure of NICCAP3 to the 13 thematic areas (covered above) used by the CCC to assist in the future monitoring of adaptation progress in NI?

yes- Aligning with the CCC's 13 thematic areas provides consistency in monitoring progress and makes future assessments more streamlined. It reflects a mature and structured approach by reinforcing priority areas and ensuring Northern Ireland aligns with broader UK adaptation frameworks.

Q6. Do you feel that the vision, for a well-adapted NI represents the ambition required to build a well-adapted NI?

Yes- The vision sets a collaborative and forward-thinking tone. However, stronger emphasis on local government delivery financial mechanisms would reinforce practical implementation pathways particularly at community level.

Q7. Do you agree with the inclusion of actions in NICCAP3 from key stakeholders outside of departments?

Yes- Local authorities, businesses and communities all play critical roles in implementing adaptation on the ground. Their inclusion recognises the need for co-ownership of resilience planning, through clarity around roles and support structures would strengthen this further.

Q8. Does the objective for natural capital provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes- The objective recognises the value of nature-based solutions and ecosystem resilience. However, further clarity on how this will be delivered regionally and locally, including through planning policy and funding, would be beneficial. Clarity would be required to identify responsibilities to ensure accountability.

Q9. To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risk and opportunities in respect of: nature, working lands and sea. 1-5

3- Nature

2- Working lands and sea

Q10. To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risk and opportunities going towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of: Nature, working land and sea 1-5

2- Nature

2- Working land and sea

Q11. Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

Yes- There could be stronger emphasis on habitat restoration projects, public engagement through citizen science input, and coastal erosion planning at a regional and local scale.

Q12. Does the objective for food security provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes- It reflects the importance of secure, resilience supply chains. However, support for localised food systems and community level food security planning could be more clearly highlighted.

Q13. To what extent do you think the detail in the chapter goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risk and opportunities in respect of food security? 1-5

3

Q14. To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of food security? 1-5

3

Q15. Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the annex to NICCAP3 that might be included response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

Yes- Shorter food supply chains and community resilience planning (e.g. local food growing initiatives, community-supported agriculture) could be explored more.

Q16. Does the objective for infrastructure services provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area? Yes/No- Comment

Yes- The objective covers a broad and relevant range of infrastructure risks. Still, it would benefit from clearer links to local authority responsibilities, particularly in energy efficiency, retrofit, and transport resilience.

Q17. To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic areas and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of; water supply, energy, Telecommunications & ICT (noting that this is a reserved policy area), Transport.

4- Water Supply

3- Energy

2- Telecommunications & ICT

3- Transport

Q18. To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of, water supply, energy, telecommunications and transport. 1-5

4- Water Supply

3- Energy

2- Telecommunications

3- Transport

Q19. Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

Yes- Community-level infrastructure audits and collaboration with stakeholders on transport, renewable energy rollout, and ICT resilience are not fully addressed.

Q20. Does the objective for people and the built environment provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area. Yes/No – Comment

Yes

Q21. To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of: Towns & Cities, Health, Buildings and community preparedness & response.

3- Towns & Cities

3- Health

3- Buildings

3- Community preparedness & response

Q22. To what extent do you think the action in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of: Towns & Cities, Health, Buildings, Community preparedness & response.

3- Towns & Cities

3- Health

3- Building

3- Community preparedness & response

Q23. Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

Yes- Local climate resilience hubs, green infrastructure in urban design, and stakeholders community preparedness plans should be acknowledged.

Q24. Does the objective for disruption to businesses and supply chains provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes- It is a necessary focus area. However, more emphasis on supporting SME's and rural economies in adaptation would enhance its relevance.

Q25. To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks & opportunities in respect of: Business, finance (Noting this is a reserved policy area).

3- Business

2- Finance

Q26. To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3-IA risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of: business, finance.

3- Business

2- Finance

Q27. Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

Yes- Increased engagement with SME's and local authorities on economic resilience, low carbon innovation, and climate risk planning would strengthen this area.

The NICCAP3 document is a positive step in terms of recognising the complexity of adaptation across sectors, and it sets out a high-level vision that aligns well with the CCC's framework. But from a council perspective, it lacks operational clarity, particularly in how local authorities are expected to deliver on the ground. The objectives are broadly sound, but many of the actions feel underdeveloped or exploratory. What we really need is practical support, resource-sharing, and clear lines of responsibility across departments and central government.

Purpose: To collect views from stakeholders, such as the councils, on the draft programme and its structure, the vision and key priority areas for adaptation action.

Structure: Aligned to the 13 CCC thematic risk areas. It's grouped into 5 key areas: Natural capital, food security, infrastructure services, people and the built environment, disruption to business and supply chain.

Main focus: To create high level objectives and aspirational outcomes, for each area. Ensure future CCC assessments can monitor NI's adaptations progress effectively. Highlights actions being taken by government department and key stakeholders.

Value: Clear signal that local governments are expected to act (doesn't tell us what to do). Can quote NICCAP3 to strengthen cases for adaptation action. And reinforces the priority areas such as the key themes. The monitoring framework could shape reporting.

What its missing: No concrete actions. No funding attached. No timelines. No toolkits or templates you can use directly.

Notes

- In this context it means that each government department is responsible for setting out their proposals and policies which address the climate risk which impact on their areas of responsibility through an adaptation programme.
- DAERA has led on the development of a coordinated Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP).

- Structured NICCAP3 to align to the 13 thematic areas used by the CCC.
- The 13 thematic areas have been grouped into 5 key areas using the broad areas used to structure NICCAP2.
- Vision is to seek the objectives for NICCAP3 into an overarching vision statement that encompasses the ambition to create a society, economy and environment that is resilient to climate change by being well adapted.
- VISION
- By working with partners across all aspects of Northern Ireland's environment, economy and communities we will take action to build upon and strengthen our resilience to our changing climate as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland which is well adapted and resilient to both our current and projected future impacts of climate change to protect our environment, economy and communities for both our current and future generations.
- Natural capital- plays a supporting life in Northern Ireland both through the habitats it provides for nature and the important life in our local economy.
- Food security- strengthen the resilience, sustainability, and prosperity of our local agri-food and fisheries.
- Infrastructure services- identify vulnerabilities, manage these interdependencies and support the integration of climate adaptation into business operating models.