

Meeting	Full Council
Date	20 th October 2026
Report Title	Future Planning for Heatwaves, Drought Conditions & Climate Resilience.
Agenda Reference	19Aii
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1. Executive Summary

Climate change is increasingly affecting local communities through prolonged heatwaves, extended periods of drought, increased wildfire risk, pressure on water resources and the deterioration of public assets and open spaces.

This report outlines a phased three-year approach to improve the Parish Council's resilience to these challenges. It sets out immediate actions, future budget requirements and recommended investment priorities to protect Council assets, keep public spaces and reduce future financial liabilities.

The Working Party is invited to consider the recommendations contained within this report and decide whether they should be referred to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee with a recommendation to Full Council.

2. Background

Historically, much of the focus on climate adaptation has centred on flooding. However, recent weather patterns prove that heatwaves and drought conditions present equally significant risks to local authorities and parish councils.

Potential impacts include:

Trees and Landscaping

- Failure of newly planted trees during prolonged dry periods.
- Increased maintenance requirements and replacement costs.
- Loss of shade, biodiversity and visual amenity.

Parks and Open Spaces

- Deterioration of sports pitches and recreational areas.



- Dry and compacted ground requiring restoration works.
- Reduced public use during extreme weather conditions.

Infrastructure and Assets

- Ground shrinkage causing cracking of footpaths and hard surfaces.
- Increased risk of subsidence affecting buildings and structures.
- Accelerated deterioration of council-owned assets.

Public Safety and Community Wellbeing

- Increased risk of grass fires and wildfires.
- Adverse impacts on vulnerable residents during heatwaves.
- Potential disruption to community facilities and services.

3. Financial Risks of Inaction

Failure to plan and invest in resilience measures may result in significantly higher reactive expenditure.

Potential Issue	Indicative Cost
Replacement of mature trees	£500 - £2,000 per tree
Emergency tree works following severe weather	£2,000 - £10,000
Restoration of drought-damaged playing fields	£10,000 - £20,000
Footpath and infrastructure repairs	£5,000 - £25,000
Fire damage remediation works	Potentially significant

Strategic Consideration

The cost of preventative investment is expected to be substantially lower than the cost of responding to asset failure, infrastructure damage and emergency incidents.

Early intervention will:

- Protect Council assets.
- Reduce future maintenance liabilities.
- Improve environmental resilience.
- Support biodiversity and tree cover.
- Safeguard community facilities and public spaces.

4. Immediate Actions (2026/27)

The following actions are recommended for implementation during the current financial year.



Action	Estimated Cost
Parish-wide asset and tree condition survey	£2,000 - £5,000
Review and update Emergency Plan	£500 - £1,500
Climate Resilience Risk Assessment and Action Plan	£2,500 - £3,500

Total Estimated Cost

£5,000 - £10,000

Expected Outcome

- Improved understanding of climate-related risks.
- Better preparedness for extreme weather events.
- Evidence-based planning for future investment.
- Identification of priorities for future budget provision.

5. Three-Year Climate Resilience Programme

Year 1: Assessment and Preparation (2027/28)

Priority Actions

- Establish a Climate Resilience Reserve.
- Complete surveys and risk assessments.
- Introduce a young tree watering programme.
- Begin tree replacement works where required.
- Introduce drought-resistant planting schemes.
- Implement updated emergency planning arrangements.

Budget Requirements

Initiative	Proposed Budget
Climate Resilience Reserve	£15,000
Preventative Resilience Fund	£10,000
Tree Watering Programme	£3,000
Tree Replacement Programme	£7,500

Recommended Budget Allocation

£35,500

Expected Outcome



The Council will establish the foundations of a long-term resilience strategy and reduce risks to key assets.

Year 2: Adaptation and Enhancement (2028/29)

Priority Actions

- Expand tree planting and shade creation.
- Introduce wildfire risk reduction measures.
- Extend drought-resistant planting schemes.
- Improve resilience of parks, sports pitches and open spaces.
- Investigate rainwater harvesting and water conservation opportunities.

Budget Requirements

Initiative	Proposed Budget
Additional Tree and Shade Planting	£7,500
Fire Prevention Measures	£3,000
Drought-Resistant Planting	£5,000
Enhanced Resilience Maintenance	£10,000

Recommended Budget Allocation

£25,500

Expected Outcome

Parks and open spaces become increasingly resilient to prolonged periods of heat and drought.

Year 3: Long-Term Resilience Investment (2029/30)

Priority Actions

- Deliver larger-scale resilience projects where justified.
- Consider water storage and irrigation infrastructure.
- Restore open spaces affected by drought conditions.
- Address impacts arising from ground movement and subsidence.
- Review progress and update the Climate Resilience Strategy.

Budget Requirements



Initiative	Proposed Budget
Water Conservation and Storage Projects	£10,000 - £20,000
Playing Field Restoration Works	£10,000 - £20,000
Infrastructure Repairs and Asset Protection	£5,000 - £10,000

Indicative Budget Allocation

£25,000 - £50,000

Expected Outcome

Climate resilience becomes embedded within Council operations, asset management and financial planning.

6. Financial Summary

Financial Year	Budget Requirement
2026/27	£5,000 - £10,000
2027/28	£35,500
2028/29	£25,500
2029/30	£25,000 - £50,000

Total Indicative Investment

£91,000 - £121,000 over four years

7. Recommendations

The Working Party is requested to consider and recommend that the Parks & Open Spaces Committee:

1. Notes the increasing risks associated with heatwaves, drought conditions and climate change.
2. Supports the immediate actions identified within this report.
3. Recommends the establishment of a Climate Resilience Reserve of **£15,000** from 2027/28.
4. Supports the inclusion of annual climate resilience funding within future budget-setting processes.
5. Endorses the proposed Three-Year Climate Resilience Programme.

Recommends that Full Council adopts Climate Resilience as a strategic consideration within future asset management and financial planning.



8. Proposed Resolution

That the Working Party endorses the recommendations contained within this report and refers them to the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for consideration, with a recommendation that the Committee support the proposed Climate Resilience Programme and make appropriate recommendations to Full Council regarding future budget provision and implementation.

Conclusion

Climate resilience is becoming an increasingly important consideration for local councils. A proactive approach will help protect parish assets, reduce future financial liabilities, enhance biodiversity and ensure that parks, open spaces and community facilities remain fit for purpose in the face of changing climatic conditions.