Minutes

1st Meeting of the Adaptation Action Assessment Working Group

10.00-11.30am, 24th April 2026

Venue: MS Teams

Attendance: Jillian Mahon (Chairperson and Climate Change Advisory Council and Adaptation Committee Member), Mark Adamson (Office of Public Works), Jordan Delmar (representing Keith Lambkin), Lisa Johnson (Ecodiversity Consultant), Ina Kelly (Adaptation Committee), Sean Mckeown (Adaptation Committee), Darragh O' Neill (Adaptation Committee), Liam Scott (representing Carmel Kilcoyne), Stephen Flood, Bryn Canniffe (both Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat).

Apologies: Robert Devoy (Adaptation Committee), Gráinne Uí Thuama (Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment), Keith Lambkin (Adaptation Committee), Carmel Kilcoyne (Climate Action Regional Offices).

1. Welcoming and Introductions

Stephen Flood opened the meeting and each of the members introduced themselves.

The Chairperson provided context to the working group, noting that its main work was to examine the review of the adaptation scorecard that was undertaken by Ecodiversity with a view to developing a reporting mechanism that is suitable, acceptable and feasible. It was highlighted that some elements outlined in the terms of reference may take longer to deliver (e.g. the online dashboard) but would be considered by the working group. In terms of governance, the Chairperson requested for members to send an alternate attendee if possible when they are unavailable to allow for continuity.

2. Terms of reference for the working group

Stephen Flood provided an overview of the main elements of the terms of reference, including the main purpose and objectives of the working group, membership and the proposed approach of phased meetings to address specific issues. It was noted that the Council had agreed that the new scorecard would be known as the Adaptation Action Assessment

There were no specific comments from the members on the terms of reference.

3. Proposed Objective, Scope and Categories

Bryn Canniffe provided an overview of the proposed objective, scope and categories for the Adaptation Action Assessment.

The following comments were provided on the scope:

It was supported for there to be a disaggregated approach to assessing progress at local authority level through the CAROs and that this would increase transparency of actions. It was also noted that the questionnaire would need to be sufficiently targeted to cover the different issues and initiatives at local authority level.

Recognising that local authorities already have separate reporting requirements on climate action, including to DCEE, and that local authorities would now be reporting on two case studies per year for climate change mitigation and adaptation, it was noted that synergies should be sought within these processes.

There was then a discussion on sectors without SAPs that are not currently included in the Adaptation Action Assessment. The Working Group considered that this is a significant gap and that ways to bring other relevant departments into the assessment should be determined over time.

The following points were discussed on the categories:

There was support for the broad structure provided by the proposed categories and sub-categories but that much would depend on the specific questions that are asked and how these would address the annual and cumulative elements of progress. It was observed that the Delivering Adaptation category and its sub-categories were more suited to infrastructure-related sectors and may need to be adjusted for other sectors.

Under the category of Delivering Adaptation, it was stated that there could be relatively few actions that could be classified as hybrid solutions. It would need to be clarified how this would be handled where there were no actions undertaken and whether this would be marked zero etc. How to best handle the issue of timing of interventions was also raised.

Under the category of Delivering Adaptation, it was noted that each of the sub-categories should deliver multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits (not only the sub-category of nature-based solutions).

It was discussed how emergency management initiatives at Local Authority level would fit within the proposed categories. Depending on the nature of the intervention, it was considered that these would be best covered in the sub-categories of technical and engineered solutions (operational measures), knowledge building, training and engagement and stakeholder coordination.

Under the sub-categories of Risks and Impacts and Stakeholder Coordination, it was suggested to give greater consideration to cross-sectoral and cascading risks and avoiding policies and interventions that have negative impacts on other sectors such as health and biodiversity. It was noted that this could give sectors encouragement to better consider cross-sectoral risks.

Challenges around identifying funding and resourcing for adaptation were well-noted. The finding from the scorecard review that it may be better to focus this sub-category on funding gaps was also noted.

It was considered that data challenges were not sufficiently covered in the framework and that there was need to explicitly cover this issue in one of the sub-categories.

Action: Secretariat to share the proposed objective, scope and categories with sector and local authority representatives for further feedback.

4. Online Dashboard

Lisa Johnson introduced this item and presented some key considerations for the online dashboard component of the Adaptation Action Assessment. These were focused on issues of data collection, storage, analysis and reporting and shaping the questionnaire and its elements from an early stage.

The following points were discussed after the presentation:

- The need for the dashboard to be both a resource for the CCAC but also for cross-sectoral learning for sectors and local authorities.
- There should be consideration given to developing and including a set number of quantitative indicators across the sub-categories.
- It was considered that the CCAC website would be the most suitable hosting site for the online dashboard with signposting from other sites such as Climate Ireland and the CAROs website.
- It was noted that the CAROs have developed a dashboard of LA CAP actions that has also grouped actions into different typologies.
- The need to identify the specifications for the online dashboard early in the process was noted and it was considered that it would likely be a significant piece of work depending on the scope. The need to ensure the dashboard is designed for what we would like to see was emphasised.
- A Microsoft Access based system was mentioned as a possible good starting point for the dashboard ensuring any information gathered from 2027 could be easily moved to a developed dashboard over time

5. Meeting Schedule and Dates

It was concluded that the Secretariat would send out calendar invites for the next meetings on 4th June and 29th June and seek a date for a meeting in July through a doodle poll.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.25am.