

Date: 24 February 2022

Item: Climate Change Adaptation Update

This paper will be considered in public

1 Purpose

- 1.1 This paper provides the Panel with an update on TfL's progress on climate change adaptation since the last paper in November 2020. It summarises where action is required as a priority to reduce and avoid safety, financial, legal and reputational impacts from future extreme weather events.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Panel discuss the actions set out in this paper and accompanying slide deck (Appendix 1).**

3 Executive Summary

- 3.1 This paper sets out TfL's existing climate change related risks; the work already underway to mitigate them; activity still to be commissioned or completed on climate change adaptation; and the risk posed to TfL's future work on adaptation if our decision-making processes do not account for the longer term safety and other benefits it brings.

4 Background

- 4.1 The July 2021 flooding events in London shone a spotlight on TfL's climate readiness. They showed that it is good at responding to severe weather events and resuming services quickly after disruption (climate resilience). However, they also showed the critical importance of climate adaptation, i.e. reducing or avoiding those disruptions in the first place.

Climate term	Definition
Mitigation	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
Resilience	The ability of a system to recover from the effect of extreme weather that may have caused harm
Adaptation	Improvements to the built environment, assets or processes that lead to a reduction in harm or risk of harm, or realisation of benefits associated with climate variability and climate change

5 Key actions

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out proposed key actions on adaptation over the next 12-18 months. In summary:

- (a) Short-term: continued collaboration with the Mayoral roundtables and associated Task & Finish Group following the July 2021 flooding events; identification of the improvements needed to quantify the impacts of weather events;
- (b) Medium-term: development and agreement of the pan-TfL adaptation strategy; enhanced external reporting on climate change adaptation, including as part of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures; and
- (c) Long-term: implementation of the adaptation strategy, incorporation of adaptation considerations in business processes, and monitoring of progress.

6 Conclusions

6.1 TfL has made progress in the last year to understand its current, and plan its future, work on adaptation. However, work remains to be done to match the progress of Network Rail, complete our Adaptation Reporting Power submission to Defra, and to embed adaptation within investment decisions in the context of our current financial position and avoiding higher longer term costs.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: TfL Climate Change Adaptation Update presentation

List of background papers:

Previous SSHR Panel update on climate change adaptation 4 November 2020

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