East Sussex

Addressing the Health Effects and Impacts of Climate Change

Addressing Environment, Climate and Health
A Systemwide Health Impact Assessment for East Sussex (ECH-HIA)

Taking a Whole Systems Approach for Integrating and Advancing Population and Planetary Health in All of Our Approaches

Main Technical Report

Part 3F: Win-Wins, Co-Benefits and Asset Based Resilience and Protection



East Sussex
County Council

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1. Considerations and Opportunities for delivering Systemwide Win-Wins and Co-Benefits for Addressing the Health Effects of a Changing Climate

This HIA highlights the importance of identifying and maximising the co-benefits of environmental, climate and health action. Awareness of how climate action can simultaneously address other societal priorities—including health, housing, transport, education, economic prosperity, cost of living pressures and social justice—is critical to tackling both the climate and health crises. Too often these agendas are pursued separately, creating duplication, competition for resources and missed opportunities.

Awareness of the co-benefits of environmental, climate and health action is critical to addressing the environmental, climate and health crises. Climate action should not be viewed as a competing priority. Many interventions designed to address the environment and changing climate can also improve health, reduce inequalities, strengthen communities, support economic development and improve quality of life. Many environment, climate and health interventions have the potential to deliver multiple benefits simultaneously. Improving the energy

efficiency of homes can reduce emissions, lower fuel bills, improve thermal comfort and reduce respiratory illness. Active travel infrastructure can reduce carbon emissions whilst increasing physical activity, improving mental wellbeing and reducing congestion. Nature-based solutions can support climate adaptation whilst improving biodiversity, mental health, flood resilience and community wellbeing.

These "win-wins" or co-benefits are particularly important in a context of finite resources and increasing pressures on public services. By identifying opportunities where climate and health objectives align, East Sussex can avoid duplication of effort, maximise value for money and deliver greater collective impact.

The concept of co-benefits is particularly important because it helps connect climate action to issues that matter most to residents. Research consistently demonstrates that people are often motivated less by abstract discussions about carbon emissions and more by tangible improvements to their daily lives, including healthier homes, lower energy bills, cleaner air, safer streets, access to nature and improved health outcomes.

The HIA therefore reinforces the need for all organisations to routinely identify, communicate and evaluate the co-benefits of climate and health action. This should become a standard component of policy development, business cases, investment decisions, public engagement and communications activity. Co-benefits should not be viewed as secondary outcomes; they should be recognised as a central mechanism through which climate action delivers population health improvement and reduces inequalities.

Collective actions across the environment, climate and health spheres can generate a wide range of co-benefits, including for example:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Cost savings
- Improved physical and mental health
- Reduced health inequalities
- Improved air quality
- Warmer, healthier and more affordable homes
- Reduced fuel poverty
- Increased physical activity
- Enhanced biodiversity and access to nature
- Greater community resilience
- Improved energy security
- Reduced healthcare demand
- Economic opportunities through green jobs and skills development
- Stronger local food systems

- Improved quality of life and wellbeing

Importantly, many of these benefits resonate strongly with the public because they relate directly to issues affecting people's day-to-day lives, including the cost-of-living crisis, housing affordability, community safety, access to green space, transport and personal health. These immediate and tangible benefits can often be more meaningful to people than discussions about long-term carbon reduction alone.

The **co-benefits approach** therefore provides an important opportunity to improve communication and engagement. Understanding which co-benefits resonate with different communities can help shape messaging, increase public support and encourage behaviour change. It can also help ensure that climate policies are designed in ways that align with local priorities and address issues of greatest concern to residents.

High-Level Strategic Opportunity:

Embed Population and Planetary Health in All Policies and Approaches by ensuring that climate action, health improvement, nature recovery and social equity are planned and delivered together. Systematically identify, maximise and communicate the environmental, health, social and economic co-benefits of climate action, strengthen nature-based solutions and ecological resilience, and adopt integrated climate–health communication and engagement approaches that inspire collective action, improve wellbeing and build healthier, more resilient and sustainable communities across East Sussex.

Further Considerations, Opportunities and Actions Steps

Opportunity 1. Systematically identify and communicate co-benefits

All organisations should routinely identify, assess and communicate the health, environmental, social and economic co-benefits associated with climate action when developing policies, programmes, strategies and projects. Co-benefits should become a standard component of business cases, decision-making processes and public communications.

Action Steps:

- Embed co-benefits into governance by requiring health, environmental, social and economic co-benefits to be explicitly considered within all policies, strategies, programmes, projects and major investment decisions.

- Develop a standard co-benefits assessment framework that provides a consistent methodology for identifying, assessing, quantifying and reporting co-benefits across organisations and sectors.

- Include co-benefits within business cases by making the assessment of climate-health co-benefits a mandatory component of investment appraisals, options appraisals, equality impact assessments and decision-making reports.

- Quantify co-benefits wherever possible using recognised metrics to demonstrate impacts such as improved health outcomes, carbon reduction, financial savings, productivity gains, biodiversity enhancement and reduced inequalities.

- Strengthen workforce capability by providing training and practical guidance to policy makers, planners, commissioners and project managers on identifying and communicating climate-health co-benefits.

- Integrate co-benefits into monitoring and evaluation by developing indicators and reporting mechanisms that measure the health, environmental, social and economic outcomes of climate action over time.

- Promote cross-sector collaboration to identify opportunities where joint action can maximise shared co-benefits across health, transport, housing, planning, education, environment, business and the voluntary sector.

- Communicate co-benefits consistently through public communications, consultation materials, funding applications and organisational reporting to improve understanding, build support and encourage behaviour change.

- Share evidence and best practice by developing a repository of local case studies, evaluations and examples demonstrating how climate action has delivered multiple benefits for people, communities, the economy and the environment.

- Use co-benefits to inform prioritisation by favouring policies, programmes and investments that deliver the greatest combined health, environmental, social and economic value while reducing inequalities and supporting long-term climate resilience.

Opportunity 2. Tailor co-benefit messaging to different communities

Different population groups are likely to be motivated by different outcomes. For some communities, cost savings, energy security and housing quality may resonate most strongly; for others, improvements in health, wellbeing, active travel, community safety or access to nature may be more compelling. Tailored approaches should therefore be used to ensure messaging reflects the priorities and lived experiences of different communities and vulnerable groups.

Action Steps:

Undertake audience segmentation to identify the motivations, priorities, barriers and communication preferences of different population groups, communities and vulnerable residents.

Develop tailored climate-health messages that emphasise the benefits most relevant to specific audiences, such as cost savings, warmer homes, energy security, improved health, safer neighbourhoods, cleaner air, active travel, access to nature or employment opportunities.

Co-design communications and interventions with local communities, voluntary organisations and people with lived experience to ensure messaging is relevant, trusted, culturally appropriate and inclusive.

Target priority population groups by developing bespoke engagement approaches for children and young people, older adults, people with disabilities, ethnic minority communities, Gypsy and Traveller communities, low-income households, rural and coastal communities, and other groups at greater risk of climate-related health impacts.

Use trusted local voices and community champions to communicate climate-health messages through existing community networks, faith groups, schools, employers, healthcare providers and voluntary organisations.

Provide communications in accessible and inclusive formats, using plain language, multiple languages, Easy Read, British Sign Language, digital and non-digital channels, and culturally appropriate materials to maximise reach and understanding.

Frame climate action around everyday benefits, demonstrating how actions can improve daily life through lower household costs, healthier homes, improved wellbeing, stronger communities, safer environments and enhanced quality of life, rather than focusing solely on a changing climate.

Apply behavioural insight approaches to design interventions that encourage positive behaviour change by addressing local motivations, values, social norms and practical barriers.

Monitor engagement and effectiveness by evaluating how different groups respond to messages and interventions, using feedback to continually refine communication strategies and ensure equitable reach and impact.

Embed tailored engagement within policy development so that all climate, health and sustainability policies, programmes and projects consider the differing needs, priorities and lived experiences of diverse communities from the outset.

Opportunity 3. Adopt climate-health framing across communications and engagement

Climate and health should increasingly be framed together. Integrating climate and health narratives can reduce communication fatigue, avoid duplication of campaigns and strengthen public understanding of the links between environmental sustainability and personal wellbeing. A climate-health framing can make feel more immediate, relevant and actionable by connecting it directly to issues people experience in their everyday lives.

Action Steps:

Develop a shared climate–health communication framework that consistently presents a changing climate and health as interconnected issues across all organisations, policies, programmes and public campaigns.

Embed climate–health messaging into existing communications by integrating climate and health narratives into public health campaigns, sustainability initiatives, service communications and community engagement activities.

Frame communications around everyday experiences, highlighting how climate action can improve health, wellbeing, homes, transport, food, air quality, mental health, community resilience and quality of life.

Promote co-benefits consistently by demonstrating how actions that address a changing climate also deliver immediate health, social, environmental and economic benefits for individuals and communities.

Develop shared communication resources, including common messages, branding, case studies, infographics and campaign materials that can be used consistently across partner organisations.

Coordinate communication campaigns across sectors to reduce duplication, improve consistency and maximise the reach and impact of climate–health messaging.

Train staff and community leaders to communicate confidently about the links between a changing climate and health, ensuring messages are evidence-based, accessible and solution-focused.

Use positive, action-oriented messaging that emphasises practical solutions, local success stories and achievable actions, helping to build hope, trust and public engagement while reducing communication fatigue.

Tailor climate–health communications to reflect the priorities, values and lived experiences of different communities, ensuring messages are relevant, culturally appropriate and inclusive.

Monitor and evaluate communication effectiveness by assessing public understanding, engagement and behaviour change, using feedback and insights to continuously improve climate–health communication strategies.

Opportunity 4. Strengthen nature-based approaches and ecological resilience

All organisations should work collaboratively to secure the healthiest ecological system possible, recognising that healthy ecosystems are fundamental to healthy populations. This includes supporting the work of the Sussex Local Nature Partnership and wider efforts to deliver nature-based solutions, biodiversity recovery and ecosystem resilience.

Nature-based solutions involve working with natural processes to address societal challenges while delivering environmental, social and health benefits. These approaches can support flood management, improve air quality, reduce urban heat, strengthen biodiversity, improve mental wellbeing, create opportunities for physical activity and contribute to carbon sequestration.

Similarly, Biodiversity Net Gain provides an opportunity to ensure that development contributes positively to ecological recovery and environmental resilience. Beyond environmental benefits alone, biodiversity enhancement can support population health through improved access to nature, stronger community wellbeing and healthier places.

The HIA has reinforced the importance of recognising biodiversity, nature recovery and ecological resilience as health interventions in their own right. Protecting and restoring the natural environment should therefore be viewed as an integral component of climate adaptation, health improvement and inequality reduction.

Ultimately, this HIA demonstrates that climate action should not be viewed as an environmental agenda operating separately from health, wellbeing, economic prosperity or social justice. Instead, it provides an opportunity to deliver multiple outcomes simultaneously, creating healthier people, healthier places and a healthier environment. By systematically identifying, embedding and communicating the co-benefits of climate and health action, organisations can maximise the return on investment from limited resources, strengthen public support, reduce inequalities and build resilience across communities. The challenge moving forward is to ensure that these co-benefits are not treated as incidental or secondary outcomes, but are actively designed into policies, programmes and decision-making processes from the outset. Through adopting a Population and Planetary Health in All Approaches model, East Sussex has an opportunity to become a leading example of how climate action can be used as a catalyst for improving health, reducing inequalities, supporting nature recovery, strengthening communities and creating a more sustainable, resilient and prosperous future for current and future generations.

Action Steps:

Embed nature recovery as a health intervention by recognising biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and access to nature as fundamental determinants of population health, health equity and climate resilience across all policies, plans and investment decisions.

Strengthen cross-sector collaboration by supporting the Sussex Local Nature Partnership and other strategic partnerships to deliver coordinated action on nature recovery, biodiversity enhancement, climate adaptation and health improvement.

Integrate nature-based solutions into decision-making by ensuring policies, programmes, projects and developments systematically consider opportunities to use natural processes to reduce climate risks, improve health and enhance environmental resilience.

Deliver Biodiversity Net Gain for people and nature by maximising opportunities for development to contribute to biodiversity recovery, healthier places, improved access to green and blue spaces, and enhanced community wellbeing.

Protect and restore natural assets by safeguarding ecosystems, green infrastructure, water environments, soils and habitats that provide essential ecosystem services, climate regulation and health benefits.

Embed Population and Planetary Health in All Policies and Approaches (PAP-HiAPA) by integrating health, climate, nature, sustainability and equity considerations across organisational strategies, governance, planning and investment.

Design for multiple co-benefits by ensuring climate adaptation, mitigation, nature recovery and public health interventions are planned and delivered together to maximise environmental, health, social and economic outcomes.

Strengthen evidence, monitoring and evaluation by developing shared indicators to measure ecosystem health, biodiversity, access to nature, climate resilience, health outcomes and inequalities, using findings to inform continuous improvement.

Increase community engagement and stewardship by supporting communities, schools, businesses and voluntary organisations to participate in nature recovery, conservation, citizen science and local climate adaptation initiatives.

Promote the value of healthy ecosystems by consistently communicating the links between biodiversity, nature recovery, climate resilience, population health, wellbeing and economic prosperity to strengthen public understanding and support for action.

Align investment and funding to prioritise projects that deliver measurable co-benefits for nature, health, climate resilience and social equity, ensuring that limited resources achieve the greatest long-term value.

2. Considerations, Opportunities and Action Steps for Delivering Assets Based Systemwide Resilience and Protection

The HIA considered what assets and protective factors mean in the context of a changing climate and health impacts. Workshop 1 (see PART 2 of the HIA – Summary of the Methods) explored a broad asset-based approach to resilience, recognising that communities, organisations and systems possess a wide range of resources that can either help protect against climate-related harms or be adversely affected by them. The subsequent data profiling workstream identified illustrative assets and protective factors associated with key climate-related health risks across East Sussex. However, the HIA also identified the need for a more systematic and comprehensive understanding of assets across the county, how they contribute

to resilience, and how they can be protected, strengthened and mobilised in response to a changing climate.

Climate adaptation is often framed in terms of risks, vulnerabilities and deficits. Whilst these remain important, an **asset-based approach** provides a complementary perspective by focusing on the strengths, capacities and resources already present within communities, organisations and places. These assets represent the foundations upon which resilience can be built. However, many of these same assets are themselves vulnerable to a changing climate and wider economic pressures. **Consequently, climate adaptation should not only seek to protect people from climate impacts but should also seek to protect and enhance the assets that underpin health, wellbeing and resilience**.

East Sussex already possesses many of the assets required to support climate resilience. These include social assets such as community networks, volunteering capacity and social cohesion; human assets such as skills, knowledge, leadership and workforce capacity; cultural assets including heritage, identity and community traditions; political assets including governance structures, partnerships and decision-making influence; natural assets such as green spaces, rivers, woodlands, biodiversity and ecosystem services; financial assets including investment, funding streams and economic capacity; and built assets including housing, healthcare facilities, schools, transport infrastructure, leisure facilities and community buildings.

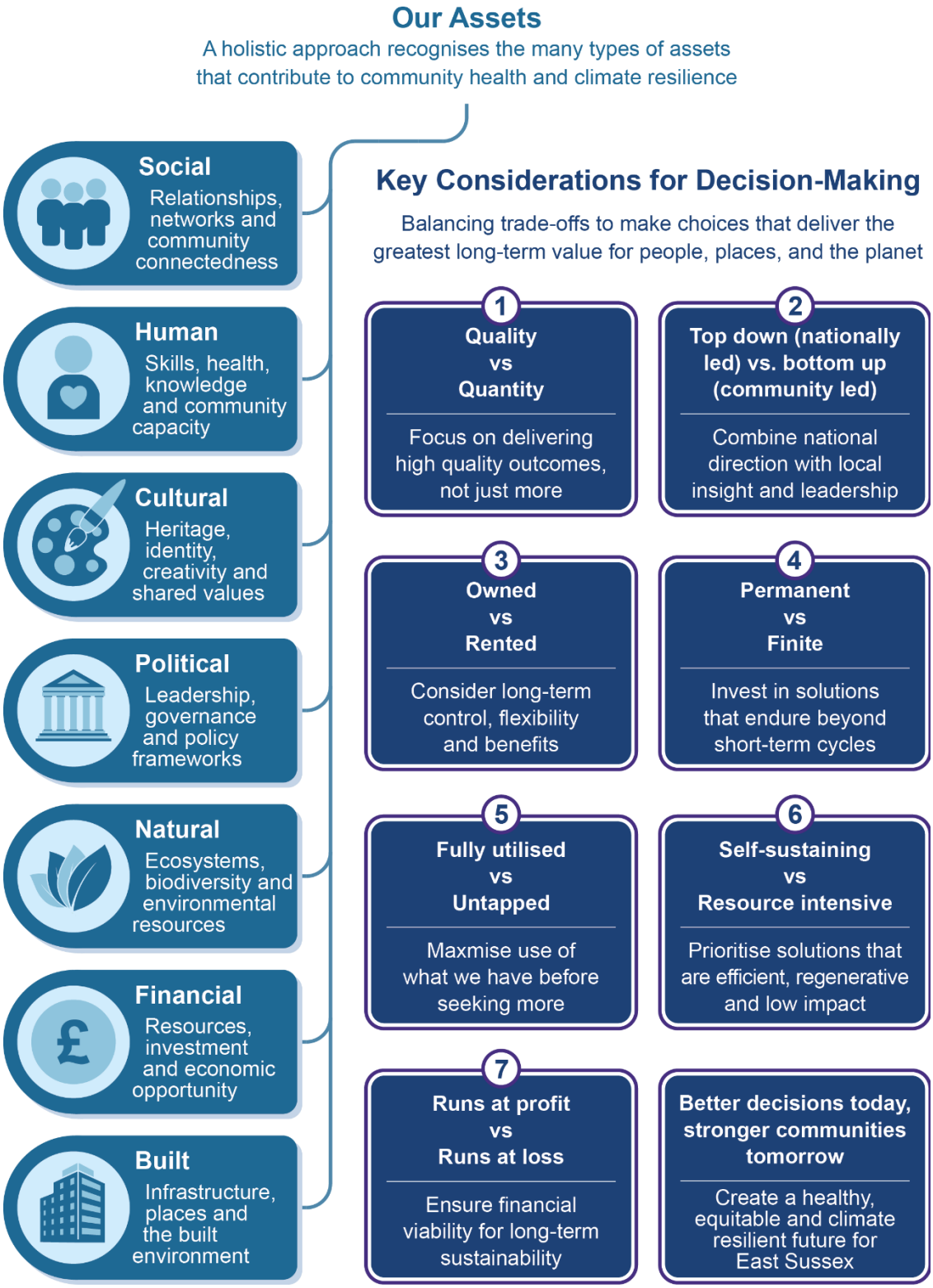
The HIA identified an important consideration that **many of these assets are simultaneously part of the solution and part of the risk profile**. Community centres may provide refuge during heatwaves, flooding events or severe weather, but may themselves be vulnerable to overheating, flooding or rising operational costs. Green infrastructure may reduce urban heat and improve mental wellbeing, but can be degraded by drought, invasive species or biodiversity loss. Health and care facilities provide essential services during climate-related events, yet may face increasing pressures from heat, flooding, workforce shortages and infrastructure disruption. Similarly, voluntary and community organisations are often critical sources of resilience and support during emergencies, but many are already operating under significant financial constraints.

Current financial pressures across public services create a further challenge. There is a risk that short-term budgetary pressures and siloed decision-making result in assets being lost, reduced or under-utilised before a changing climate itself causes harm. In many cases, the most effective climate adaptation interventions may involve protecting and maximising existing assets rather than creating entirely new ones. An asset lost through financial disinvestment may be difficult or impossible to replace, particularly where it has taken many years to develop community trust, local knowledge or social capital.

For this reason, **East Sussex organisations should consider undertaking a more comprehensive and coordinated mapping of assets across the system**. This should include an assessment of what asset registers currently exist, where they are held, and how they relate to a changing climate and health impacts. **Asset mapping should extend beyond traditional physical infrastructure and include the full range of social, human, cultural, political, natural, financial and built assets that contribute to resilience**. Understanding how these assets interact, depend upon one another and contribute to health outcomes is likely to be increasingly important as climate risks intensify.

In undertaking this work, consideration should be given to how assets are understood in terms of both vulnerability and opportunity. Some assets may be highly exposed to climate risks and require protection or adaptation. Others may offer opportunities to support wider resilience, improve health outcomes and deliver multiple co-benefits. Mapping these relationships could help identify where investments generate the greatest return across climate adaptation, health improvement and inequality reduction objectives.

The HIA also highlighted the value of understanding assets through different sectoral, management and asset-type lenses. Assets may sit within the public, private, community or individual enterprise sectors, each with differing responsibilities, resources and capacities. Likewise, some assets are primarily dependent upon public funding, while others rely on private investment, social capital or individual initiative. These distinctions are important because they influence how assets are maintained, protected and leveraged during periods of change and uncertainty.



Similarly, assets can be categorised according to their characteristics:

Fixed assets: such as land, property, healthcare facilities, schools, community centres and data infrastructure often represent long-term investments that provide ongoing benefits.

Transient assets: such as funding, grants, volunteer time, goodwill and reputation may be more fluid but can be rapidly mobilised when required.

Embedded assets: include skills, expertise, local knowledge, leadership, relationships and service capacity, while enabling assets include policies, governance arrangements, standards, processes and decision-making frameworks that help unlock the value of other assets.

A key consideration for the East Sussex system is not only identifying what assets exist but understanding how valuable those assets are to other organisations, sectors and communities. Many assets generate value beyond the organisation that owns or manages them. A school may act as a community resilience hub. A healthcare facility may provide local employment, training and social value. Green infrastructure may deliver benefits across biodiversity, health, flood management and recreation. Understanding these interdependencies can help strengthen collaboration and support more strategic investment decisions.

There is also an opportunity to adopt a more explicit "**anchor institution**" approach to climate adaptation and resilience. The NHS provides a strong example of how large institutions can use their estates, workforce, procurement power, investment decisions and community influence to deliver wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Through the Greener NHS programme, the NHS has increasingly demonstrated how organisational assets can be mobilised to support both climate and health objectives. Similar principles could be explored more widely across East Sussex, involving local authorities, universities, housing providers, emergency services, schools, voluntary organisations and major employers.

An asset-based approach also supports a shift from organisational resilience towards system resilience. Rather than each organisation seeking to protect its own assets in isolation, there is an opportunity to consider how assets can be collectively stewarded, shared and leveraged to maximise community resilience. This may include joint use of facilities, shared investment approaches, collaborative governance arrangements and coordinated planning for climate adaptation.

Ultimately, the HIA recommends that East Sussex develops a more detailed and consistent approach to asset mapping and asset stewardship in relation to a changing climate and health impacts. Such an approach would help identify vulnerabilities before assets are lost, reveal opportunities for collaboration, support more efficient use of resources and strengthen resilience across communities and organisations. At a time of increasing climate risks and constrained public finances, protecting, enhancing and mobilising existing assets may represent one of the most cost-effective and sustainable approaches available

to improving health, reducing inequalities and strengthening resilience across East Sussex.

High-Level Strategic Opportunity:

Develop an asset-based approach to climate adaptation by protecting, strengthening and mobilising East Sussex's social, human, cultural, political, natural, financial and built assets to improve population health, reduce inequalities and strengthen whole-system resilience. Through collaborative stewardship, integrated planning, asset mapping and strategic investment, maximise the value of existing assets while ensuring they remain resilient to current and future climate risks.

Further Considerations, Opportunities and Actions Steps

Opportunity 1: Develop a Systemwide Climate, Health and Resilience Asset Map

Action Steps:

Develop a comprehensive countywide asset map covering social, human, cultural, political, natural, financial and built assets.

Review and integrate existing organisational asset registers into a shared systemwide framework.

Map how assets contribute to climate resilience, population health, health equity and community wellbeing.

Identify assets that are vulnerable to a changing climate, financial pressures or service disruption.

Establish a dynamic asset database that is regularly updated and shared across partner organisations.

Opportunity 2: Protect and Strengthen Critical Community Assets

Action Steps:

Prioritise investment in assets that provide multiple climate, health and social benefits.

Assess climate risks to key community assets, including healthcare facilities, schools, community centres, green infrastructure, transport networks and emergency facilities.

Develop adaptation plans to improve the resilience of critical assets to heat, flooding, drought, severe weather and infrastructure disruption.

Recognise community assets as essential resilience infrastructure within climate adaptation and emergency planning.

Ensure funding decisions consider the long-term value of protecting existing assets before investing in new infrastructure.

Opportunity 3: Embed Asset-Based Planning into Climate, Health and Investment Decisions

Action Steps:

Incorporate asset-based assessment into climate adaptation, health improvement and regeneration strategies.

Assess both the vulnerabilities and opportunities associated with community assets during policy development and investment decisions.

Evaluate how assets generate multiple environmental, health, social and economic co-benefits.

Prioritise investment where assets deliver the greatest combined value for climate resilience, health improvement and inequality reduction.

Embed asset stewardship within Population and Planetary Health in All of Our Policies and Approaches (PAP-HiAPA).

Opportunity 4: Strengthen Collaborative Stewardship and Anchor Institution Leadership

Action Steps:

Adopt an anchor institution approach across the NHS, local authorities, universities, housing providers, emergency services, schools, businesses and voluntary organisations.

Promote joint stewardship of assets through shared governance, collaborative investment and coordinated climate adaptation planning.

Encourage shared use of buildings, land, facilities, equipment and community infrastructure wherever appropriate.

Develop partnership agreements that maximise the wider social, environmental and economic value of organisational assets.

Strengthen cross-sector leadership to improve coordination, resource sharing and long-term resilience.

Opportunity 5: Improve Understanding, Monitoring and Value of Community Assets

Action Steps:

Develop indicators to monitor the resilience, condition and utilisation of community assets over time.

Assess how assets interact across organisations and sectors to support system resilience.

Quantify the wider health, environmental, social and economic value generated by community assets.

Share evidence, case studies and best practice on asset-based climate adaptation across East Sussex.

Regularly review asset vulnerabilities, interdependencies and opportunities to inform future investment, adaptation and resilience planning.

3. 3F Section Conclusion

Part 3F concludes that one of the greatest opportunities for addressing the health effects of a changing climate lies in moving beyond a traditional risk-based approach towards one that systematically identifies, protects, strengthens and mobilises the assets that already exist across East Sussex. Whilst understanding climate risks and vulnerabilities remains essential, this assessment demonstrates

that long-term resilience is ultimately built upon the strength, quality and connectivity of the social, human, cultural, political, natural, financial and built assets that support individuals, communities and organisations.

A central finding of this HIA is that assets are not simply resources—they are the foundations of resilience. Healthy ecosystems regulate climate, improve air quality and reduce flooding. Community organisations provide trusted relationships, local knowledge and social support during times of crisis. Schools, healthcare facilities, community centres, transport networks and housing provide essential infrastructure that enables people and communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related events. Equally, leadership, partnerships, skills, governance arrangements and social capital are assets that determine how effectively the East Sussex system can adapt to future challenges. Protecting these assets is therefore fundamental to protecting population health itself.

The assessment also highlights that many of East Sussex's most valuable assets are themselves increasingly vulnerable to environmental challenges and a changing climate, financial pressures and wider system challenges. Climate adaptation should therefore extend beyond protecting people from hazards to protecting the assets upon which health, wellbeing, resilience and prosperity depend. Failure to invest in these assets, risks undermining the very foundations that enable communities and services to withstand future climate shocks. Conversely, strengthening existing assets offers one of the most sustainable, equitable and cost-effective approaches to long-term adaptation, often delivering greater value than creating new infrastructure alone.

Alongside asset-based resilience, this section demonstrates that climate and health action should not be viewed as a standalone environmental agenda. Many interventions simultaneously improve health, reduce inequalities, support biodiversity, strengthen local economies, reduce fuel poverty, enhance community resilience and improve quality of life. Recognising, measuring and communicating these co-benefits enables organisations to maximise the return on investment from finite resources, align strategic priorities and generate greater collective impact across multiple policy objectives. Rather than being secondary outcomes, co-benefits should become a core principle of policy development, investment decisions and public engagement.

This section of the HIA further concludes that the greatest resilience will not be achieved through individual organisations protecting their own assets in isolation, but through **collective stewardship** of assets across the whole system. This requires stronger partnerships, integrated governance, shared intelligence, collaborative investment and an understanding of how assets interact and generate value across organisational boundaries. Adopting an anchor institution approach and embedding **Population and Planetary Health in All of Our Policies and**

Approaches (PAP-HiAPA) provides a significant opportunity to strengthen climate resilience whilst simultaneously improving health, reducing inequalities, supporting nature recovery and promoting sustainable economic development.

The overarching conclusion from Part 3F is that East Sussex's greatest resilience already exists within its people, places, partnerships and natural environment. The challenge is not simply to create new assets, but to recognise their value, protect them from emerging climate risks and mobilise them more effectively through coordinated system-wide action. By placing assets, co-benefits and collaborative stewardship at the heart of climate adaptation, East Sussex can move beyond responding to climate risks towards creating healthier people, healthier places, thriving ecosystems and stronger, more resilient communities. In doing so, climate action becomes not simply an environmental necessity, but a catalyst for long-term health improvement, social equity, economic prosperity and sustainable development for current and future generations.