

## West Midlands Regional Adaptation Network (RAN) Terms of Reference

### Background

Climate change is bringing warmer, wetter winters; hotter, drier summers; and more extreme weather to the West Midlands. This isn't what we're used to, and climate change adaptation is critical to help collectively build resilience to these changes. Climate risks transcend sectors; for adaptation action to be effective and scalable, the responsibility for managing these risks needs to be shared across organisations and local authority boundaries.

In response to these challenges, a £2m research project, [West Midlands Adapt \(WM-Adapt\)](#), is being led by the University of Birmingham, in collaboration with the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), to deliver a step change in climate adaptation across the region through three key workstreams: (1) community-scale adaptation planning, (2) Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) data enhancements and (3) ***the convening of a Regional Adaptation Network (RAN)***.

### Vision

The WM-ADAPT RAN is being convened to connect and build the adaptive capacity of key players who have a role in preparing the region for climate change. The RAN will mobilise climate risk and vulnerability knowledge across the West Midlands, alongside new research aligned to the West Midlands Combined Authority Adaption Plan, to deliver increased capacity to adapt to and reduce the impact of climate change on the region's infrastructure, communities and economy.

### Purpose

1. To inform climate resilience and adaption planning, action, reporting, and regulation through by co-creating a framework that enables place-based adaption for the West Midlands.
2. To co-create a route map for building regional adaptive capacity.
3. To contribute to the development of new capabilities for the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment tool.
4. To co-develop solutions that address barriers to collaborative adaptation delivery (e.g. data-sharing, local transport resilience).
5. To offer mentoring and peer support for climate risk management and adaptation action.
6. To establish a space for research to feed directly into regional policy and decision-making – making research outputs useful and applicable.
7. To offer a lasting vehicle that continues collaboration on climate change adaptation once the UKRI-funded WM-Adapt project comes to an end (May 2027).

## **The West Midlands Regional Adaptation Network is supported by:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position and Organisation</b>
Bethany Haskins-Vaheesan	Climate Adaptation Project Manager at WMCA
James Hodgson	WM-ADAPT Impact Fellow, University of Birmingham
Jackie Homan	Head of Environment at WMCA
Emma Ferranti	Associate Professor in Civil Engineering University of Birmingham

## **Format and Running Arrangements**

- Meetings will be held quarterly, four times per year. Initial meeting will take place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- Meetings will initially be 2 hours in duration, taking place mid-week during working hours.
- Meetings will be held online via Microsoft Teams and will be hosted by the WMCA.
- The Combined Authority will provide administrative support to the Forum including the coordination of agendas, meeting registration links, the circulation of meeting materials and improvements based on member feedback.
- Suggestions for improvements to the RAN and future meeting agendas will be accepted through Menti metre during meetings and regular RAN meeting feedback forms.
- Recurring agenda items include:
  - RAN member presentation on climate risk management/adaptation action
  - Wider WM-Adapt updates
- RAN meetings in 2025 are expected to take place in the following weeks:
  - w/c 28<sup>th</sup> April
  - w/c 24<sup>th</sup> June
  - w/c 7<sup>th</sup> October
  - w/c 8<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> December

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The role of the WMCA can be found on our website here: [What we do](#).

All members

- To contribute information, specialist knowledge, expertise, ideas and learning as required to drive forward discussion and decision-making in RAN meetings.
- Other specific roles and responsibilities to be discussed as the West Midlands Regional Adaptation Network evolves.
- Contribute to calls for evidence and provide input to climate adaptation work

- Assess their existing skills, knowledge and capacity, identifying cross-sector barriers to adaptation planning and delivery.

Bethany Haskins-Vaheesan / WMCA & James Hodgson / UoB (Co-Convenors)

- Prepare meeting agenda items and liaise with guest speakers.
- Circulate meeting registration links, agendas and materials to RAN members.
- From January 2026 onwards, manage the development of the RAN Route Map in collaboration with RAN members.

Wider WM-Adapt team

- Contribute to RAN meetings as required.
- Respond to RAN member queries and contributes to WM-Adapt workstreams.