

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Dover, showing a dense urban grid with a large, prominent green park area in the center. The city is surrounded by more developed areas and infrastructure.

Planning for climate justice

Local Plan Climate Change Workshop, Dover, 28 Nov 2019

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RTPI
Royal Town Planning Institute

Climate change at the RTPI

- Consultation responses and working with government
 - Across a range of departments and topics
- The two guides produced in partnership with the TCPA
- Cross-overs with almost all of our research
- Will be a central part of the emerging Corporate Strategy and next year's research programme
- Strategic planning for Climate Resilience



POSITION
PAPER

NOVEMBER
2019

FIVE ARGUMENTS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE IN SPATIAL PLANNING

rtpi.org.uk

'Climate justice'

- Frames climate change as more than a technical and scientific challenge
- Promotes a 'people-orientated' understanding
- Concerns adaptation and mitigation
- Concerns both 'distributive' and 'procedural' justice

Disadvantaged communities will suffer climate change's impacts most acutely, but have contributed to it the least, and often have least say in adaptation and mitigation policy (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2014).

Four considerations:

Causes: Inequities in responsibilities for carbon emissions

Consequences: Inequities in the social impacts of climate change

Responses: Inequities in how the costs and benefits of responses are shared

Governance: Procedural injustice

Knox (2019)

Five reasons why planners need to think about climate justice:

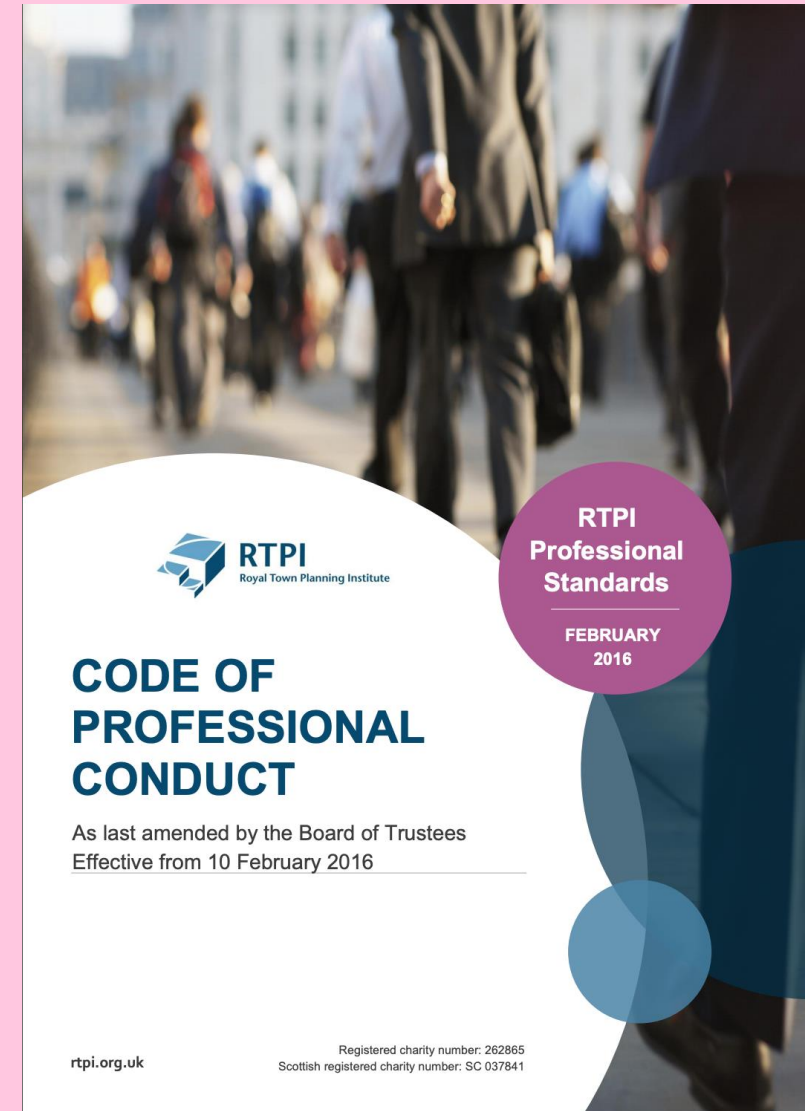
- 1 It reinforces the importance of **diversity and equality** when planning for climate change
- 2 It makes the value of **real engagement** clear, even from a purely technical point of view
- 3 It focuses attention on the **wider social costs and benefits** of adaptation and mitigation measures
- 4 It **opens up deeper, critical, questions** about governance, resourcing, and institutional capacity
- 5 It reinforces the need to tell **compelling stories** that spur climate action

Diversity and equality

Equality and respect, p4

21. Members must not discriminate on grounds including, but not limited to; race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability or age.

22. Members must seek to eliminate discrimination by others and promote equality of opportunity throughout their professional activities.



RTPI
Professional
Standards

FEBRUARY
2016

CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

As last amended by the Board of Trustees
Effective from 10 February 2016

Key points

- 1. Planning's legitimacy stems from its public interest rationale**
- 2. The RTPI's Code of Conduct supports this by requiring all planners to take into account representation and diversity**
- 3. The climate change imperative will amplify existing issues of inequality and representation in an increasingly diverse society; business as usual is not enough**

Effective public engagement

Politics-as-usual can't fix the climate crisis.
Maybe it's time to try a citizens' assembly

David Farrell

Extinction Rebellion is calling for the
Ireland's abortion deadlock to be u



Commons Select Committee Select Committees announce plans for Citizens' Assembly



2018

An Tionól
Saoránach  The Citizens'
Assembly

Third Report and
Recommendations of
the Citizens' Assembly

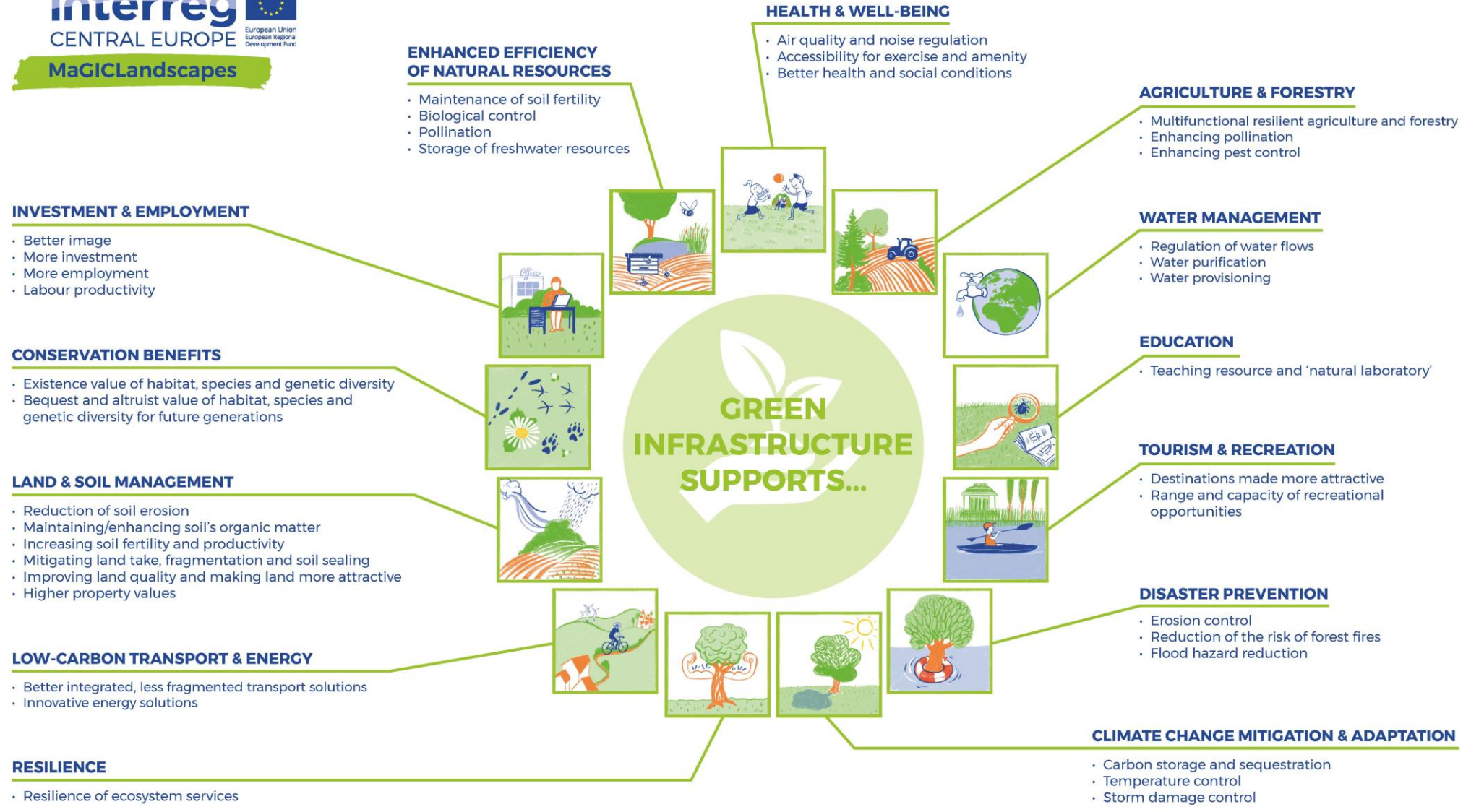
HOW THE STATE CAN MAKE IRELAND
A LEADER IN TACKLING CLIMATE
CHANGE

18 APRIL 2018

Key points

- 1. Climate justice's interest in procedural justice focuses attention on how decisions are made, not just their outcomes**
- 2. This a practical concern; it is hard to seriously improve an area's resilience without data from those communities most vulnerable to climate change**
- 3. The scale of the changes, trade-offs, and sacrifices required makes building legitimacy through engagement crucial.**

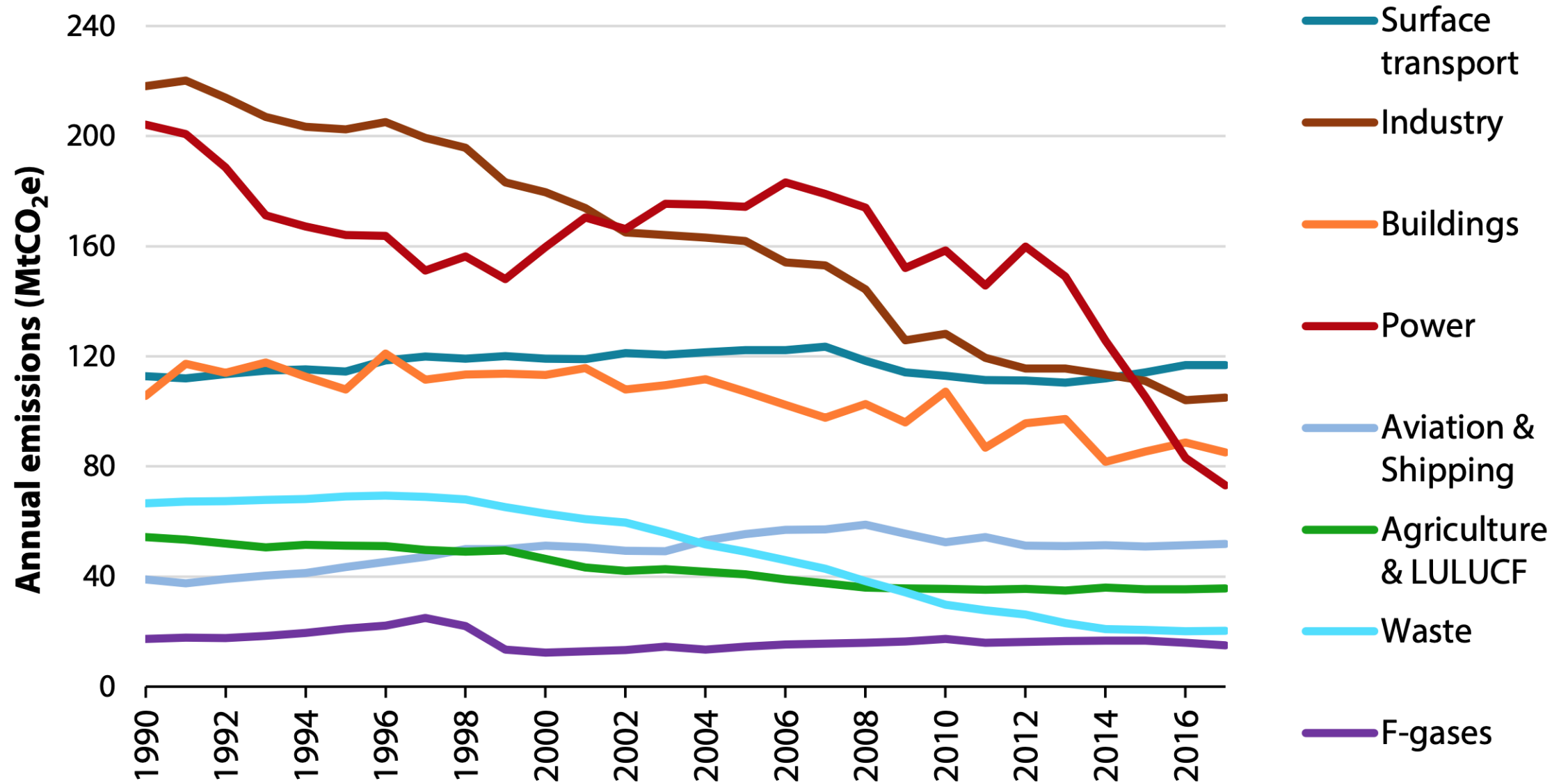
Wider social costs and benefits



Key points

- 1. Done badly, urban adaptation and mitigation measures can worsen inequality (e.g. 'low carbon gentrification')**
- 2. Done well, they can reduce inequality and bring a range of social benefits**
- 3. Climate justice is a useful lens for ensuring that these wider social costs and benefits are considered when prioritising projects, or making business cases.**

Questioning governance



Key points

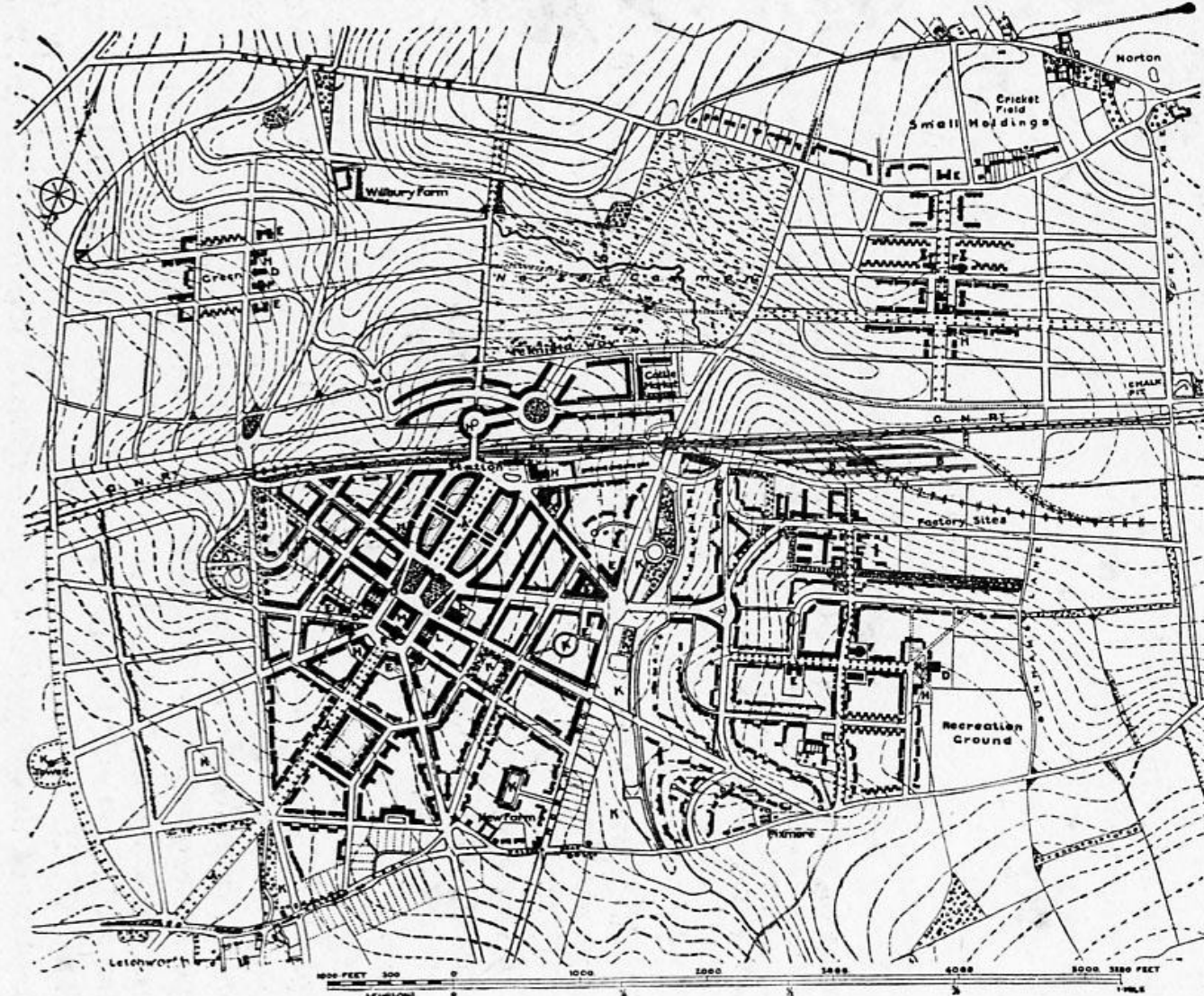
- 1. The effectiveness of local/regional government is a key determinant of communities' vulnerability. This is decided by plainly political choices.**
- 2. Under-resourcing, deregulation, centralism, overwhelming focus on housebuilding, all make already vulnerable places in the UK more vulnerable to climate change.**
- 3. Climate justice makes clear the crucial links between a functioning planning system, social justice, and our ability to respond to climate change**

Telling stories about climate change and planning

PARKER & UNWIN'S
ORIGINAL PLAN OF
LETCHWORTH
GARDEN CITY,
AS FIRST PUBLISHED
(APRIL 1904)

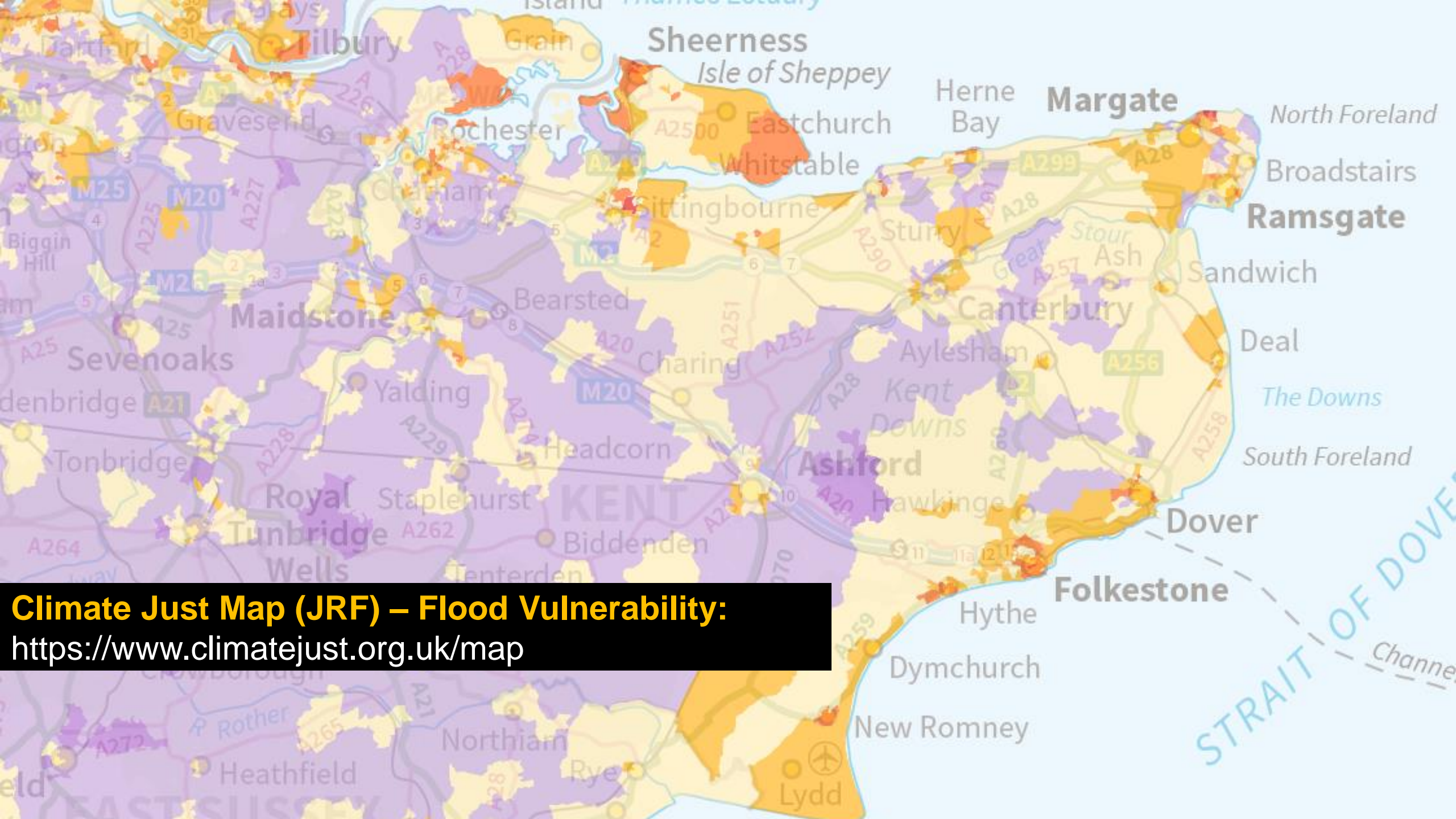
Key to Plan

- A. Main Avenue
- B. Goods Yard and Sidings
- C. Central Square
- D. Sites for Public Hall, Museum, etc.
- E. Sites for Schools
- F. Sites for Places of Worship
- H. Sites for Hotels
- K. Open Spaces, Greens, or Parks
- L. Site for Post Office
- M. Site for Municipal Buildings



Key points

- 1. Storytelling is central to much of planning practice, but particularly important for an issue as complex as climate change**
- 2. Climate justice research gives us strong evidence on the kinds of ‘ planning stories’ which we need to tell about climate change**
- 3. They need to be ‘people-focused’ and concentrate on ‘everyday’ concerns such as fairness, need, equity, and local identity.**



Climate Just Map (JRF) – Flood Vulnerability:
<https://www.climatejust.org.uk/map>

RISKS BY HAZARD

Key: Flood Storms/Lightning/Fog/High Winds Average and Extreme Temperatures Landslides/Avalanche/Rockfall/Subsidence
 Sea Level Rise/Wave Action Drought/Water Scarcity Wildfires Precipitation Insects/Micro-Organisms

THEME 1 INFRASTRUCTURE		THEME 2 BUILT ENVIRONMENT		THEME 3 SOCIETY AND HUMAN HEALTH		THEME 4 NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		THEME 5 ECONOMY, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY	
RISK / OPPORTUNITY	HAZARD	RISK / OPPORTUNITY	HAZARD	RISK / OPPORTUNITY	HAZARD	RISK / OPPORTUNITY	HAZARD	RISK / OPPORTUNITY	HAZARD
IN1: Risks of cascading failures from interdependent infrastructure networks	All	BE1: Risks to homes from flooding and sea level rise		SH1: Risks to people and communities from flooding and flood disadvantage		NE1: Risks to soil stock from changes in temperature and water regime		BI1: Risk to new and existing business sites from river, surface water and coastal flooding.	
IN2: Risk to infrastructure services from river and surface water flooding		BE2: Risks to building fabric from moisture, wind, storms and driving rain		SH2: Increase in summer temperatures and heatwaves leading to increased morbidity and mortality		NE2: Risks to soil carbon storage from temperature rises and changes in precipitation		BI2: Risks to business operations from water scarcity	
IN3: Risk to infrastructure services from coastal flooding and erosion		BE3: Risks to cultural heritage from landslides, flooding or coastal erosion		SH3: Risks to health from changes in air quality		NE3: Risks to soils from pests, pathogens and invasive species		BI3: Risks to business from reduced employee productivity due to infrastructure disruption and higher temperatures in working environments	
IN4: Risk of sewer flooding due to heavy rainfall		BE4: Risks to traditional and historic buildings from moisture, wind and driving rain		SH4: Risks to health from vector-borne pathogens		NE4: Risks and opportunities for agriculture from changes in land suitability		BI4: Risks to business from disruption to supply chains and distribution networks	
IN5: Risks to bridges and pipelines from high river flows and bank erosion		BE5: Increased maintenance of green space due to rising temperatures and severe weather		SH5: Risks to NHS estates due to flooding and overheating		NE5: Risk to crops and livestock from extremes in temperature and water regime		BI5: Opportunities for products and services to	
IN6: Risks to transport networks from slope and embankment failure		BE6: Increased cooling		SH6: Risks to business		NE6: Risks to agriculture from pests and disease			
IN7: Risks to energy and ICT infrastructure from storms and high winds						NE7: Risks and opportunities to forestry and woodlands from changes in land suitability and productivity			
IN8: Risks to energy and ICT infrastructure from extreme heat		BE8: Opportunities for local food growing from warmer temperatures and increased growing season		SH8: Potential benefits to health and wellbeing from reduced cold		NE10: Risk and opportunities for biodiversity from changes in habitat suitability			
IN9: Risks to infrastructure						NE11: Risks to coastal habitats and industries			

Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for Glasgow City Region (Climate Ready Clyde): <https://www.crc-assessment.org.uk/>

Thank you!
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