



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Cabinet

11th December 2024

Report of the Head of Streetcare Michael Roberts

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All Wards

Report Title: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan (LFRMSP)

Purpose of the Report:

To approve the Borough's second Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan for publication as a working document, so that consultation with key stakeholders and the public can be undertaken.

Executive Summary:

Under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, NPTCBC is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. Under this legislation, NPTCBC is required to “develop, maintain, apply and monitor” a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Local flood risk is defined as flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

We published our first Local Strategy in 2013, setting out our overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside our Local Strategy, we published a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) in 2015. Our FRMP developed the objectives, measures and actions outlined in our Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities, based on political wards.

This document is our second Local Strategy and whilst we previously published our Local Strategy and FRMP separately, this new Local Strategy and Plan integrates the two documents into one, reducing complexity and duplication. This document will work alongside other strategic plans for shoreline management, infrastructure and planning to set out the council's intentions and statutory duties.

The LFRMS and Plan presents NPTCBC's proposals for managing local flood risk across the county over the next 6-7 years.

Objectives and measures identified within the strategy document have been deduced and included within the plan, along with the addition of new measures to ensure the objectives are accomplished. The authority's Drainage Engineers have reviewed the flood risk illustrated by the Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) Maps for each Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) within the borough and have proposed measures at a local level that will help to reduce flood risk in the most at risk locations.

A Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this project does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Background:

In the document we explain how flooding will be managed across our Local Authority area, consistent with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy.

Across the last 10 years the council has successfully implemented the measures and actions outlined in the 2013 Strategy and the 2015 Plan. The council have invested over £3 million on capital projects and £1.18 million on revenue projects and essential maintenance, benefitting hundreds of properties. Additionally, Welsh Government have grant funded £1.4m into revenue works and £7.7m into Capital Works, which represents a significant investment.

Improvements in preparation, response, and recovery performance to flood risk incidents have been realised by; adopting the latest technology; investing in personnel; and streamlining processes and procedures, ensuring risks and consequences of flooding are managed effectively. This new combined Strategy and Plan builds on these previous successes and identifies how the council will manage flood risk over the next 6-7 Years.

It is our intention that this Strategy and Plan will be reviewed every two (2) years and the Action Plan updated accordingly.

Financial Impacts:

The Drainage team will continue to receive £225k from the RSG fund which has been ring-fenced for the foreseeable future. This allows the team to carry out vital flood risk activities and tasks identified within the Strategy and Plan.

Further to the above the council will continue to provide a 15% contribution to construction costs for Flood Alleviation Schemes and Small Scale Works, and a 25% contribution for the construction of any Coastal Projects. Business case development of SOC's, OBC's and BJC's are currently 100% grant funded through the Welsh Governments FCERM Programme. The development of FBC and Detailed design will require 15% funding from 1st April 2024.

It is envisaged that after the approval of the new FRMSP the only change from current practices will be the requirement from WG to provide a 15% contribution towards FBC and Detailed Design of Projects.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment as provided in Appendix C has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is **not** required. The proposal is directly related to all communities and people who suffer from flood risk and has no adverse impact on people with protected characteristics.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No change to current practices and processes

Workforce Impacts:

Reducing flood risk will lead to less call outs to incidents of flooding, including property, highway, land, and infrastructure. Furthermore, by adopting new technology and working systems the workforce will be able to act quicker and action a response more effectively during times of significant rainfall.

Legal Impacts:

No change to current practices and processes

Risk Management Impacts:

Adopting the Measures and Action Plan items will minimise the risk to public safety and associated issues posed by Flood Risk from Surface Water, Ordinary Watercourses and Ground Water, in a priority driven process.

Consultation:

There is requirement for external consultation by both statutory consultees and the public. An environmental screening report has already been out to consultation, with all statutory consultees responding, namely CADW, NRW and NPT Planning (Biodiversity).

Scrutiny Committee Observations

It was noted that the flood risk projects in the 10-year pipeline were all deliverable if WG continued to make funding available. Furthermore, it was noted that more information about the damages costs because of flooding should be included in the report. These figures are included in each individual project business case and cannot be included in the FRMSP.

The 10-year pipeline highlighting the funding requirements was requested to be included as an appendix. This cannot be included in the public document as some of the figures are Market sensitive and based off framework contractors' evaluations. A separate document can be viewed upon request to the Head of Service.

In general, Cllrs and Officers are pleased that the authority has a robust plan with everything in place ready to apply for the funding and stated that the only restriction on the works in the authority to protect the area and the borough is Welsh Government funding

Further details can be found in the Minutes 19.07.2024 Environment Regeneration and Streetscene Services Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment, it is recommended that Members:

- *Consent to the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan set out in Appendix A, which will enable full public and statutory consultation to take place.*
- *Consent to the supporting Environmental Plans (Appendix B)*

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To ensure the Council fulfils its duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in relation to Flood Risk Management, to minimise associated risks to communities, and to appropriately mitigate flood risk.

Implementation of Decision:

Immediate Implementation

Appendices:

Appendix A – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan (LFRMSP)

Appendix B – Environmental Reports, SEA, HRA and WFD

Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment

List of Background Papers:

National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales

<https://www.gov.wales/national-strategy-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-wales>

Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: South West Wales Place

<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/research-and-reports/flooding-reports-evidence-and-data/flood-risk-management-plans/?lang=en>

Neath Port Talbot Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013

<https://beta.npt.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/flood-and-coastal-defence/flood-risk-management-strategy/#:~:text=The%20LFRMS%20determines%20the%20locally,with%20main%20rivers%20and%20sewers.>

Neath Port Talbot Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2015

<https://beta.npt.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/flood-and-coastal-defence/flood-management-plan/>

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (revoked)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents>

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