

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: To seek approval to adopt the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Plan
Service Area: Highways and Drainage Services (HADS) - Drainage
Directorate: Environment
Strategic Decision: Yes

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	X	
Staff		X
Wider community	X	
Internal administrative process only		X

3. Evidence used in the Assessment

Below is a list of relevant legislation, guidance and data sources that was reviewed and used in order to make sure that compliance was met.

- National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales
- Natural Resources Wales Flood Risk Management Plan: South West Wales Place
- Neath Port Talbot Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013
- Neath Port Talbot Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2015
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (revoked)
- FRAW Mapping
- Property Gazetteer LLPG

4. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L/D	Reasons for your decision and details of the impact
Age		X				
Disability		X				
Gender Reassignment		X				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X				
Pregnancy/Maternity		X				
Race		X				
Religion/Belief		X				
Sex		X				
Sexual orientation		X				

5. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		X				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			X			Strategy and Plan will be available in both Welsh & English

6. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	X				L	The Strategy and plan considers The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced the sustainable management of natural resources approach and duties to enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions, promote natural measures and catchment approaches. This is one of the acts which is at the core of the document and any individual flood risk activity considers these effects. NPTCBC has a legal duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and in so doing, promote the resilience of ecosystems. Already biodiversity enhancement has become embedded in FCERM Project development within NPTCBC and examples of this can be seen at Varteg Road FAS and Glynneath FAS in recent years. Objectives 9, 13 and & 14 of the strategy and Measures 4, 5, 6 identifies our commitment to biodiversity.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	X				L	A SEA, HRA and WFD assessment has been completed to support the Strategy and Plan, these can be seen in Appendix B. Chapter 10 of the main document summarises these findings and recommendations. All of the Objectives and Measures in the FRM Strategy and Plan support the wider environment in some way as Flood Risk Management functions in a holistic approach to environmental betterment.

7. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		The Strategy and plan aims to provide a basis on how the council will address the immediate flood risk but also enhance resilience, safety and sustainability for future generations. These include; Protection of lives and communities; Economic stability; Environmental sustainability; Health and well-being; Adaptation to climate change; and Safeguarding heritage.
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	X		The new Strategy and Plan aligns with Wales' 7 well-being objectives which have been linked to the Measures in chapter 6. Furthermore the document aligns with the council objectives through consideration of Infrastructure and land use planning, emergency planning and responses, environmental management, public health and well-being, financial sustainability, public engagement and education.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	X		The council's officers and flood risk engineers have reviewed and developed the Strategy and Plan. All relevant corporate policies, plans and strategies have been considered throughout the process in order to ensure that implementation of the Measures and Actions will benefit the wider authority and work towards the council's overall objectives and goals.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	X		The Strategy and Plan focuses on working with other Risk Management Authority's (RMAs) to reduce flood risk through collaboration and partnership working. This will be implemented under measures 4, 13, 16, 18 & 19 of the document. Consultation with organisations such as WG, NRW, DCWW, neighbouring councils, the Highway and Planning Authority ensures collaborations and input from those who have a duty to protect the public from flooding.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	X		The strategy and plan will prevent flooding from getting worse by using a proactive and sustainable approach to FRM that includes carrying out such tasks flood risk assessments, infrastructure development, asset management, and promoting natural flood risk management. It focuses on early warning systems, effective use of new technology, resilient land use planning, and collaboration between organisations to ensure coordinated

	Yes	No	Details
			and effective responses to flooding. Measures such as implementing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), and improving flood defences help manage water flow, while community engagement and education build preparedness and community resilience. The document also highlights how we will adapt to future climate change risks and ensuring long-term flood prevention and resilience.

8. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
No specific impact on protected characteristics or welsh language.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
N/A	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Richard Colman	Drainage Manager	<i>RDColman</i>	16.10.2024
Signed off by		Head of Service/Director		