
**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN
CARDIFF**

Reason for the Report

1. To provide Members with the opportunity to review the roles and responsibilities of the Council and its statutory partners in dealing with flood risk in Cardiff.

Background

2. The risks of flooding have grown over recent years due to changing weather patterns and more localised high intensity rainfall events. Flooding can have a significant impact on our lives, property, and businesses with more and more serious incidents being recorded across the UK each year. Flooding can come from various sources; rivers, streams, the sea and more commonly in Cardiff from blocked drains or old sewers that cannot cope with the volumes of water from heavy rainfall.
3. The Council and its partners share a strong commitment to reduce the risks of flooding across Cardiff and minimise the impacts that any flood event could have on local communities, the environment and the economy. Although Cardiff has not had many significant flooding incidents there are an increasing number of local flooding issues that occur in periods of heavy rain. The numbers of localised flooding incidents are growing each year and the Council and its partners are taking action to protect the residents and businesses of Cardiff for the future.
4. The Flood and Water Management Act that was introduced in 2010, places a duty on the Council to act as the Lead Local Flood Authority and prepare a 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy' – a copy of this document that was adopted in

September 2014 has been attached to this report as **Appendix 1**. This Strategy details the roles and responsibilities of the organisations working in Cardiff that contribute to flood risk management and explains how we aim to work together to reduce the consequences of flooding.

5. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is broken into eight main sections, these include:
 - Roles & Responsibilities;
 - Local flood risk in Cardiff;
 - How is local flood risk currently managed;
 - Approach & policy for managing local flood risk in Cardiff;
 - Finance;
 - Environmental assessments;
 - Monitoring & review.

6. The Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority is responsible for surface water, streams, culverts and ground water flooding. The strategy outlines the Council's responsibilities as well as those of key partners such as Welsh Water, the Natural Resources Wales and the Internal Drainage Board. All parties must work together to prevent and prepare for flooding.

7. As well as external partners, a variety of Council service areas have a role in supporting the prevention and preparations for flooding events, these include:
 - Emergency Management – ensure resources are in place to cope with and recover from events;
 - Harbour Authority – control and maintenance of the Barrage which reduces the risk to the city;
 - Highways – in maintenance, developing preventative schemes, and coastal management;
 - Housing – preparing our housing stock and supporting residents;
 - Planning – to protect future developments;
 - Social Services – in working with residents to prepare and protect themselves against flooding;

- Street Cleansing – in keeping the road gullies and drains free from litter.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Objectives

8. The Council and its partners have built upon the national strategy objectives to develop the strategy with local objectives that will go beyond the statutory requirements. These objectives are set out in the following table and will seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- Ensure a clear understanding of the local risks of flooding and erosion, so that investment in risk management can be prioritised more effectively;
- Set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the residual risk;
- Encourage innovative management of flood and coastal erosion risks, taking account of the needs of communities and the environment;
- Form links between the local flood risk management strategy and local spatial planning;
- Ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings;
- Help communities to recover more quickly and effectively after incidents.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Priorities

9. After reviewing the current position and future requirements and risks within Cardiff the following priorities have been established:

- To build stronger links with key stakeholders and neighbouring Local Authorities;
- To continue to build on the work undertaken with regards to community resilience planning;
- To embed awareness of flooding mitigation measures across all Council functions;
- To fully understand the coastal erosion risks;

- To raise awareness across all communities of Cardiff, particularly focusing on those at highest risk of flooding and those that require more support such as low socio-economic standing and vulnerable communities;
- To reduce the consequences of flooding through hard engineering and design schemes;
- To reduce the consequences of flooding through the construction of appropriately designed sustainable defences that benefit the local environment.

10. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy identifies three main themes for local flood management in Cardiff, these are:

- Flood Forecasting & Response – For example, raising flood awareness, creating emergency response plans and developing community flood plans.
- Asset Management & Maintenance – For example, creating asset management plans, defence / structure management, channel maintenance, culvert maintenance.
- High Level Awareness & Engagement – Achieved through extensive partnership working.

Statutory Requirements

11. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 sets out what must be contained within a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (**Appendix 1**). The Welsh Government has also provided guidance on what Local Flood Risk Management Strategies should contain and how they should be developed (Welsh Government, 2011a). Cardiff's strategy must also be consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (Welsh Government, 2011b).

12. Cardiff's Local Flood Risk Management strategy must contain the following information:

- Identify Risk Management Authorities in Local Flood Risk Management area of Cardiff (Section 2);
- Set out the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions, roles and responsibilities of the various;

- Risk Management Authorities in the Local Flood Risk Management area (Section 2);
- An assessment of local flood risk (Section 3);
- Set out objectives for managing flood risk (Section 5);
- Develop measures (actions) to achieve the objectives (Section 5);
- Set out how and when the measures will be implemented (Section 5);
- The costs and benefits of the measures (Section 6);
- How the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy contributes to wider environmental and sustainability objectives (Section 7);
- How and when the LFRMS will be reviewed (Section 8) Local Flood Risk.

13. Cardiff's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy embraces the requirements of the Welsh Government expectations for the Risk Management Authorities and go further to deliver their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions in a manner that:

- Embeds sustainable development as the central organising principle informing decisions and enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations;
- Is focussed on the needs of individuals, communities and businesses and which recognises that different groups have different needs and varying capacity to deal with flood risk and that the service they receive must be tailored accordingly;
- Supports the wider economic renewal programme, ensuring investment in infrastructure is sustainable from a flood and coastal erosion risk perspective and investing in developing the skills required to implement effective and innovative risk management measures across Wales;
- Promotes equality and does not have a negative impact on poverty;
- Ensures community engagement, awareness raising and key stakeholder partnership working;
- Is based upon a holistic understanding of the risks and consequences;
- Considers the full range of risk management responses including broader potential environmental, economic or social opportunities;

- Contributes to the holistic management of our water, land and marine resources reflecting the ecosystem approach set out in the Natural Environment Framework;
 - Facilitates long term resource and investment planning;
 - Enables effective prioritisation of investment, resources and actions;
 - Maximises opportunities to adapt to climate change;
 - Takes account of the requirements of relevant European and domestic legislation including the Flood Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive.
14. This strategy also links in with the Welsh Government specific guidance for Risk Management Authorities on Adapting to Climate Change (Welsh Government, 2011c) and Sustainable Development (Welsh Government, 2011d).
15. Related Legal Drivers - Flood Risk Management is affected by a range of guidance and legislation which interlinks and has been considered during the development of this strategy, some of these include:
- The Climate Change Act (2008);
 - The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010);
 - The Civil Contingencies Act (2004);
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC);
 - The Land Drainage Act (1991);
 - The Water Framework Directive (2007);
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981);
 - Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act (2000);
 - The Public Health Act (1936).

Financial

16. The Council currently spends approximately £1 million every year on direct activities related to managing flood risk through the services provided by the Highways Drainage teams.

17. Analysis carried out for the strategy estimates that across Cardiff the following numbers of properties could be affected by local flood risk sources:
- One in 30 annual chance event - over 10,000 properties;
 - One in 200 annual chance event - over 30,000 properties.
18. If the Council was to stop carrying out the actions listed above, and allow the natural land drainage systems to cope, without maintenance, it is estimated that in any given year the potential economic impact of local flood risk to these properties will be over £13.2 million.

Flooding Related Partner Responsibilities

19. Officers from the Council, Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru have been invited to the meeting to brief the Committee on the work that they undertake to deliver local flood risk management in Cardiff. As a part of the item officers from each of the respective bodies will summarise:
- Role of the organisation that they represent in delivering local flood risk management in Cardiff;
 - The statutory responsibilities placed upon their organisation in terms of local flood risk management in Cardiff;
 - A summary of the duties undertaken by their organisation to manage the assets that they support in Cardiff;
 - The resources required by their organisation to deal with local flood risk management in Cardiff;
 - The key risks and challenges faced by their organisation when dealing with local flood risk management in Cardiff.
20. An overview of the roles and responsibilities of the 'Risk Management Authorities', i.e. the Council and its local partners is contained within table 2.1 (page 6) of **Appendix 1**.

Legal Implications

21. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

22. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the contents of the attached report;
- ii. Consider whether they wish to pass on any comments following scrutiny of the item titled 'Roles & Responsibilities for Flood Risk Management in Cardiff'.

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29 November 2017