

Section 8 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (“the Act”) requires Welsh Government to ‘*develop, maintain and apply a strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales*’.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Act, the strategy must specify—

- the Welsh risk management authorities,
- the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities in relation to Wales,
- the objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk,
- the measures proposed to achieve those objectives,
- how and when the measures are to be implemented,
- the costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for,
- the assessment of flood and coastal erosion risk for the purpose of the strategy,
- how and when the strategy is to be reviewed,
- the current and predicted impact of climate change on flood and coastal erosion risk management, and
- how the strategy contributes towards the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

In 2011, Welsh Government published National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (“the Strategy”). It remains the only one published to date. However, Welsh Government consulted on its replacement last Summer. The consultation closed in September 2019, but there have been no developments since. Therefore this briefing note is based on the current 2011 Strategy.

The Strategy provides a framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales. It does this by setting four overarching objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk. The responsibility for achieving these objectives rests with Welsh Government and the Welsh Risk Management Authorities, of which Cardiff is one.

The four objectives are:

- 1. Reducing the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;**
- 2. Raising awareness of and engaging people on flood and coastal erosion risk;**
- 3. Providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and**
- 4. Prioritising investment in the most at risk communities.**

Therefore, any work carried out by Cardiff, or its contractors, in fulfilling its obligation as a Risk Management Authority will need to meet one or more of those objectives.

In implementing these objectives, Welsh Government has set out within the Strategy that it expects Risk Management Authorities to act in a way 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 focused 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 exacerbate poverty;
- 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; and
- takes account of the requirement of relevant European and domestic legislation including the Flood Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive

In 2017 Welsh Government, under new powers granted to it by the Environment Act 2016, abolished the old Flood Risk Management Wales Committee, and replaced it with new body which has a wider advisory and co-ordinating role between the various bodies involved in the implementing the Strategy.