



# CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

Dinas A Sir Abertawe

## BY EMAIL

Councillor David Hopkins  
Cabinet Member for Environment &  
Transportation

*Please ask for:  
Gofynnwch am:*

**Scrutiny**

*Direct Line:  
Llinell  
Uniongyrochol:*

**01792 637256**

*e-Mail  
e-Bost:*

**scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk**

*Date  
Dyddiad:*

**07 March 2017**

**Summary:** This is a letter from the Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transportation, following the meeting of the Working Group on 1 March 2017. It is about the Local Flood Risk Management Plan Management.

Dear Councillor Hopkins,

### **Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group 1 March 2017**

Thank you for attending our meeting along with Mike Sweeney to present the annual update and to answer our questions.

The Working Group heard that the City and County of Swansea as the Lead Local Flood Authority had successfully delivered the Flood Risk Management Plan for the cycle 2015 to 2021. We were pleased to hear that partnership working with Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Government was now working very well and is the best that it has ever been.

We learnt that work on the Flood Risk Management Plan has progressed to the development of a list of potential risks that have been prioritised with an associated programme of maintenance and works. We heard that the programme of work has been developed based upon conclusions made from both nationally supplied Flood Maps and local knowledge.

We were interested to hear that the flood risk in Swansea is mostly linked to ordinary small watercourses and the entry headwall to culverts and that the Authority has given priority to examining these critical watercourses in terms of the degree of flood risk and consequences of flooding should overspill occur.

We were pleased to hear that the Authority currently has a regular maintenance programme of inspecting and clearing grids on watercourses and highway culverts under council ownership. We heard that each is classified as a Red, High or Low priority location and that inspections are carried out prior to or during adverse weather conditions.

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City and County of Swansea / Dinas a Sir Abertawe  
Civic Centre, Swansea, SA1 3SN / Canolfan Ddinesig, Abertawe, SA1 3SN

We asked how accurate the modelling produced by Natural Resources Wales was at a local level. We heard that it was not done at a local level but nationally so there are some aspects missing, for example underground water courses and issues relating to many culverts. We noted that the Authority is not involved in the production of this model and it is not exact but should be used as an indicator which is then developed and built upon using local knowledge and factors.

We were told that over the course of the six year programme the 80 issues prioritised will be looked at, some hotspots will require regular maintenance while others will need assessing for alternative options or works

We heard that there is a programme for gullies that involves cleaning/emptying gullies once every three years. We were also interested to find that a number of hotspots have been identified for more regular maintenance.

We wanted to find out more about how we inform the public and councillors about works that are on the plan and more general information about flood risk. We heard that there is a leaflet that is available on the Councils website that gives information about who to contact etc. but that it is in need of updating. You said that you will arrange for the leaflet to be reviewed, updated and made available in council public buildings as well as on the website.

We also thought it would be useful to include some more information in this leaflet about what the public can do for themselves to help protect their properties from flooding especially in areas of potential flood risk. You agreed that this would be a good idea and you would also look at getting it more widely distributed in such areas.

## **Recommendations**

In your response we would appreciate your comments on any of the issues raised in this letter. We would however be grateful if you could specifically refer to the points and recommendations below:

1. Look at whether there is an issue to consider in relation to full underground watercourses
2. Make the prioritised programme of works list available to local ward members and the public
3. Review and update the leaflet that is available to the public on flood risk and include links to appropriate further information and advice on ways that the public can help protect their property from flooding.

Please provide your response by 29 March 2017.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Susan Jones**  
**Convener of the Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group**  
[cllr.susan.jones@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.susan.jones@swansea.gov.uk)