



Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment Services
Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group
20 February 2018

Report Title: Update on Flood Risk Management in the City and County of Swansea

Purpose	To provide an update on the policy/ service area
Content	Progress on the delivery of Flood Risk Management for Swansea Council
Councillors are being asked to	To consider doing further work on this issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give their views... • Consider doing further work on this issue • Make recommendations to Cabinet Member / Council
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Services
Lead Officer(s)	Stuart Davies, Head of Service Highways and Transportation
Report Author	Mike Sweeney, Principal Engineer

1. General Description

- 1.1 The Drainage team is part of the Highways and Transportation service. It covers a wide range of services within Flood Risk Management with the main role for overseeing compliance to the Statutory Duties and National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. This report will focus on the current work which is currently ongoing to comply with the requirements to the national objectives which include;
- Reducing the consequences to individuals
 - Raising awareness of and engaging people in the response to flood and coastal erosion risk
 - Providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events
 - Prioritising investment in the most 'at risk' communities

1.2 To implement these objectives will be the responsibility of everyone involved in or affected by Flood and Coastal erosion risk management. From Welsh Government to the Welsh risk management Authorities in Wales, including Natural Resources Wales, Swansea Council as Lead Local Flood Authority and Welsh Water. The Authority continues to work closely with these organisations to ensure that best practice is achieved with opportunities to share information and joint funding is continuously ongoing.

1.3 The key activities which are ongoing include:-

Undertaking the actions and measures as set out in the Flood Risk Management Plan. The Authority has produced the FRMP for the cycle 2015 to 2021 which outlines the actions and measures for reducing flood risk in our most at risk communities. Appendix A shows the action plan set out to the year 2021.

Progress to date has involved further investigations to the prioritised areas identified in years 16/17 and 17/18 of the plan.

The investigations have involved asset inspections to the critical watercourses which are on the Authority's Red and High risk list. The condition assessment of the flood defence asset was undertaken to categorise the asset. This has been fed into a National programme for identifying those assets which are considered significant to flood risk.

In addition to this work, the Authority has continued its investigation on five critical sites as prioritised in the plan to undertake hydrology studies to ascertain options to reduce flood risk at these locations.

The locations which have been subject to historical flooding and prioritised in the plan are:-

- 330 Birchgrove Road
- 400 Birchgrove Road
- Killay Square
- Waun Gron/Pentre Road
- Swansea Road Pontlliw

Further studies are proposed in the plan and these will continue to be undertaken subject to available funding.

Asset Data Collection – The Authority will continue to undertake asset surveys involving CCTV work, and in the last year approximately 15km of drainage assets have been surveyed with the data held on a GIS Mapping database. The work also coincides with investigations following flood events in order to understand the cause of such flooding.

1.4 Close working practices between operational and client staff has resulted in a number of interventions being implemented this year to critical watercourses which have included works to provide new safer access and grid arrangements to facilitate maintenance activities. This work will be ongoing but subject to available resource.

1.5 In terms of planning and the potential impacts of new developments, there is close and good collaborative work being undertaken between internal departments and external risk management authorities. This is to ensure that flood risk is not exacerbated as the result of new development proposals. Compliance to the requirements of Planning Policy Wales and Tan15 ensures that national guidance is adhered to. Across the 2017 financial year we were consulted by the Planning department 277 times over a range of differently sized sites. These vary from large strategic sites where 1000's of units are proposed, to small windfall sites that comprised of no more than 3 or 4 units. We have provided assessments in relation to local flood risk from all sources and the management of surface water arising from additional impermeable areas.

2. Why We Do This

2.1 There are a number of statutory requirements and policies relating directly to this service area. The main ones are:

Flood and Water Management Act 2010 - to assert and protect the rights of the public for the use and enjoyment of any highway

Flood Risk Regulations 2009 - Selecting and reviewing Flood Risk Areas

Land Drainage Act 1991 – Ordinary water course consents and permissive powers to ensure flows in watercourses are maintained

Coastal Protection Act 1949 – To manage coastal flood and erosion risks

Highways Act 1980 - To assert and protect the rights of the public for the use and enjoyment of any highway

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Strategy to reduce risk of flooding with Swansea

Shoreline Management Plan 2 – Policies to manage the threat of Coastal change

2.2 Three of the five corporate priorities are particularly relevant:-.

Safeguarding people from harm

Transforming and Future Council development - Building sustainable communities

Transforming our economy and infrastructure – sustainable maintenance of council owned Drainage and Coastal assets.

2.3 The consequences of the council not fulfilling its statutory duties may lead to :

- Damage to property or injury to people
- Claims for personal and property injury/loss
- Negative impact on the quality of life for residents
- Detrimental affect on the reputation and prosperity of Swansea

The functions and activities of the service have an impact on quality of life issues, perceptions of the city centre and the areas people live in. These have both social and economic consequences.

3. Management and Support

3.1 Flood risk management is delivered by 3 members of office staff in the Authority's Drainage team. The team works closely with the Authority's Highway operational team who are responsible for operation duties. The operational team consists of two area managers, 3 supervisors, 3 gulley crews. Additional crews can be called upon during times of severe weather for watercourse maintenance activities.

4. Stakeholders

4.1 The main key stakeholders for flood risk management include Welsh Government, WLGA, Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water who have a shared interest in complying with the FAWMA 2010 and the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales and the flood affected communities in Swansea.

5. Finance

5.1 The Budget for Drainage staff is £180k to cover the costs for 3 FTEs

5.2 Drainage Capital Budget 400k circa.

5.3 £35k Maintenance Budget for Coastal Defences

5.4 The Authority has received grant monies to support Flood risk management works:

- £40k National Database to enable works to be carried out to improve access to critical watercourses
- £25k to support culvert repairs at Enid Road, Clydach
- £55k to undertake detail design for Headwall Improvement adjacent to 330 Birchgrove Road, Birchgrove
- £52k Single revenue grant which supports revenue functions

6. Current Performance and Trends

6.1 The service has a responsibility to deliver statutory duties expected as lead local Flood Authority. Current performance is set against external directives and standards. The target has been consistently met and include:-

- To comply with the requirements of the flood risk regulations 2009, by producing the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Flood Risk Management Plan in accordance to the externally set delivery dates.

6.1 Planning consultations to be completed within 21 days or otherwise agreed with Planning officers. This is continually achieved.

6.2 Issuing of Consents to Works on ordinary watercourse to be completed within 2 months determination period. 100% success rate.

6.3 Delivery of the actions and measures as outlined in the Flood Risk Management plan will be subject to available funding. Progress of the plan is shown on the attached **Appendix A**.

7. Future Challenges & Opportunities

7.1 The Introduction of SAB (Sustainable Urban Drainage

Systems Approving Body) - Consultation with LAs currently ongoing. WG is introducing new legislation into the Assembly in May 2018 which will allow local Authorities in Wales to be operational to deliver the Suds approval body SAB function and process applications.

7.2 Introduction of Land Drainage Bylaws as recommended by Welsh Government – Public consultation to commence March for 6 weeks. Byelaws have been created to enable Lead Local Flood Authorities to adopt them in order to supplement existing powers and help flood risk management functions. **See Appendix B**

7.3 Opportunities for future funding will be continually explored. The expectation for future years is for Welsh Government to continue to support the Authority for flood alleviation schemes to the value of less than £100k. Welsh Government are also developing a 5 year programme for a pipeline of schemes which grant funding can be considered to support flood alleviation schemes above the £100k threshold.

7.4 Future challenge for the Authority will be to secure funding to continue with the actions and measure as outlined in the Flood Risk Management Plan and the need to ensure continuity of the service against a backdrop of resource pressures

8. Risks

8.1 Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Swansea Council became a lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and was given a series of new responsibilities to co-ordinate the management of local flood risk for surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Failure to fulfil this statutory duty will result in increased flood risk within the administrative boundary of Swansea Council and non-compliance to the expectations of Welsh Government.

8.2 This may lead to increased risk to life and property and critical infrastructure with the Authority being subjected to claims and public criticism

9. Assessment

9.1 The Authority has continued to deliver Flood Risk Management duties to ensure that compliance to the expectations of Welsh Government and statutory duties are met. The service will be delivered in accordance to best practice with continued collaboration with other Flood Risk Management Authorities to ensure that opportunities for joint working are explored through regional working groups.

Appendix A FRMP prioritisation of works programme
Appendix B Introduction New Byelaws

Background Papers:

Schedule 3 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf

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