



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management

### Local Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Working Group 8 October 2018

#### UPDATE ON FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

<b>Purpose</b>	To provide an update on the policy/ service area
<b>Content</b>	To provide an update on progress since the working group meeting on the 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2018
<b>Councillors are being asked to</b>	To consider doing further work on this issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give their views...</li> <li>• Consider doing further work on this issue</li> </ul> Make recommendations to Cabinet Member / Council
<b>Lead Councillor(s)</b>	Councillor Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management
<b>Lead Officer(s)</b>	Stuart Davies, Head of Service Highways and Transportation
<b>Report Author</b>	Mike Sweeney, Principal Engineer

#### 1.0 General Description

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.

#### 2.0 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 effect 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.

**3.0 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.

#### **4.0 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.

#### **5.0 Finance**

5.1 The Budget for Drainage staff is £181k to cover the costs for 3 FTEs

5.2 Drainage Capital Budget 400K circa.

#### **6.0 Current Performance and Trends**

6.1 6 month review of actions and progress from the scrutiny working group meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 are provided below.

6.2 Programme of works list – The programme of works list has been updated to reflect high/low coding against risk level with the works priority programme devised to take into account risk assessed against a series of flooding chances in any given year.

- High – 1 in 30
- Medium – 1 in 100
- Low – 1 in 1000

The conclusions from the flood risk maps which shows the extent of flooding from these 3 return periods has been used to inform the priority of the works programme with an assessment made against risk to :-

- People
- Economic Activity
- Natural and Historical Environment

The priority programme has been developed so that over the six year plan communities which are deemed to have significant flood risk will have been assigned measures to help mitigate the risk of flooding. Each ward has been assessed with priority made against the consequences of significant flooding against the risk to people, economic activity and Natural and Historical Environment. However, the success of the plan will be dependent on available

resource and funding.

- 6.3 The flooding advice leaflet has been updated with collaborative work with the Emergency Management Section to ensure that the advice to residents is up to date with additional advice provided on flood preparation and available flood protection products. The information can also be viewed on the Emergency Management Webpage. In addition to this, the leaflet has been disseminated to all members, libraries, community councils and other public buildings.
- 6.4 Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act which underpins the introduction of the SAB approving body will come into force on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019. This will be a new statutory duty placed on the Authority with resources to be identified to undertake the function. The Highway service will control the SAB function which will require other inputs from other departments. However, it is essential that the SAB function is closely linked with the Planning department. Preparations are ongoing on how to make developers make aware of the new drainage requirements by sign posting the standards and applications forms on the Planning Website. This is will be achieved by guidance provided by WG and the WLGA to ensure that notifications on procedures to developers for SAB applications are consistent across Wales and to inform them of the impending legislation.
- 6.5 The Authority has received 25k grant support from Welsh Government to install an Advanced Warning System on the A4118 road between Llandewi Corner and Scurlage South Gower which will inform the local community in times of severe flooding. Historically, this road has frequently flooded where concerns have been raised that the road becomes impassable at times.
- 6.6 The gully programme has been circulated to members. In addition to the routine maintenance regime, extra funding has been allocated to address defective gullies in Swansea in order to reduce highway flooding in problematic areas.
- 6.7 The Highways maintenance schedule of watercourses has been forwarded to local members, to comment on whether there are any additional concerns which may exist outside of the committed works programme. The concerns and locations submitted will be investigated for ownership and if applicable can be added to the Authority's list of assets to maintain.
- 6.8 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 to ensure that flood risk is not exacerbated as the result of new development proposals. Historical or known flooding risk will be reported to the Planning Department by the Authority's Drainage section when considering applications.

- 6.9 Asset Data Collection – The Authority continues to undertake asset surveys involving CCTV work, with the data held on a GIS Mapping database.

## **7.0 Future Challenges & Opportunities**

- 7.1 From January 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, all new developments of at least 2 properties or over 100m<sup>2</sup> of construction area will require sustainable drainage to manage on-site surface water. The Surface water drainage systems must be designed and built in accordance with standards for sustainable drainage published by Welsh Ministers.

These systems must be approved by the local authority acting in its SuDS Approving Body (SAB) role before construction work begins. The SAB will have a statutory duty to adopt compliant systems. Resources will need to be identified in order to undertake this new function for the Authority.

## **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** Flooding Advice Leaflet

**Background Papers:**

Schedule 3 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010

[https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga\\_20100029\\_en.pdf](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf)

Contact: Mike Sweeney  
Date: 17/09/18