



Report of the Convener

Natural Environment Scrutiny Performance Panel – 1 September 2020

Local Flood Risk Management – Annual Update

Purpose	To consider progress with Local Flood Risk Management plans and actions.
Content	This report outlines the objective of the discussion. The Panel will hear from relevant Cabinet Member and officers about activities and achievements, and the experience over the past year or so (since the last annual update), issues / challenges, and current assessment.
Councillors are being asked to	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask questions and discuss issues around Local Flood Risk Management• Make comments and recommendations as necessary
Lead Councillor(s)	Councillor Peter Jones (convener)
Lead Officer & Report Author	Brij Madahar, Scrutiny Team Leader Tel: 01792 637257 E-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Work Programme includes an annual discussion on Local Flood Risk Management plans and actions. In previous years, a standalone Working Group has met to discuss this issue of concern. Since the establishment of a dedicated Performance Panel for the Natural Environment this work can now be carried out by this Panel.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management, Councillor Mark Thomas, and lead officers (Bob Fenwick, Group Leader Highways Maintenance, and Mike Sweeney, Team Leader Highways) will attend the meeting to provide information and answer questions.
- 1.3 The Panel will be able to ask about activities and achievements, and the experience over the past year or so (since the last annual update to scrutiny), issues / challenges, and current assessment.

- 1.4 The last annual update was provided to scrutiny in April 2019. A Scrutiny Working Group met to consider progress. The report provided to the Working Group meeting is **appended** for background information, as is the correspondence between the Working Group and Cabinet Member following the meeting. As a result of that meeting and correspondence the Cabinet Member confirmed the action that will be taken, including the following:
- Providing opportunity for members to visit the natural flood risk management site in Neath Port Talbot.
 - Updating scrutiny on the Green Infrastructure project.
 - Improving information available by providing general advice on the Council's website to minimize effects of flooding and to promote good practice and prevention.
 - Co-ordinating with national media e.g. Wales Online, so that live updates on flooding can be made available, in addition to Council's own social media, particularly when incidents are out of usual working hours.
 - Amending flooding advice pages to reflect that Swansea Council Advice is given priority.
 - Commitment to providing scrutiny with a comprehensive annual update on progress with both the Sustainable Drainage and Flood Risk Management Plan.
- 1.5 The Panel can follow up on any issues arising from the previous update.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure Management – 4 April 2019 (Update On Flood Risk Management In The City And County Of Swansea)

Appendix 2 – Letter to Cabinet Member dated 24 April 2019

Appendix 3 – Cabinet Member Response Letter dated 16 May 2019