



REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 27TH OCTOBER 2015

SUBJECT: FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update and seek comment from members regarding the progress of the preparation of the Council's Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and to gain Cabinet approval for the draft FRMP.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) has been designated as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). As such CCBC has responsibility to produce a FRMP. The draft FRMP must be submitted to Natural Resource Wales (NRW) on the 28th Oct 2015. NRW may approve the draft plan, with or without modification, or reject it. However, it must be noted that as part of the statutory consultation process in developing the plan an informal draft was forwarded to NRW during the public consultation period and they responded back with positive feedback which has been taken into account. If any significant further comments are received from NRW a further report to Cabinet will be provided.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 To make Caerphilly a safer place to live by increasing public confidence in the services we deliver as noted in the Single Integrated Plan – **Safer Caerphilly - A Safer Caerphilly** is one in which all residents: Are safe and feel safe inside their homes and out in the community.
- 3.2 To contribute to improving sustainability by utilising appropriate sustainable options within design and construction. As noted in the Single Integrated Plan - **A Greener Caerphilly** aims to: safeguard and, where necessary, enhance the living environment in the Caerphilly county borough for its own sake.
- 3.3 To manage, protect and enhance the quality and quantity of the water environment and reduce water consumption in line with objective 15 of the Caerphilly County Borough Local Development Plan up to 2021.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Following the significant flooding in England and Wales in 2007, the UK government appointed Sir Michael Pitt to undertake an independent and detailed review of flood risk management in England. Pitt's recommendations (also accepted by the Welsh Government) were wide ranging and recognised that the public did not understand nor particularly care

what type of flooding they were suffering and which organisation would take the lead in dealing with this issue. There needed to be a co-ordinated response and surface water flooding, in particular, needed a lead agency.

- 4.2 Following the report and the need to transpose the EU Floods Directive, the UK Government published two key pieces of legislation - the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (transposing the EU directive) and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (taking forward the Pitt's key recommendations).
- 4.3 The purpose of the regulations is to transpose the European Commission (EC) Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), on the assessment and management of local flood risk, into domestic law in England and Wales and to implement its provisions.

In particular, it places duties on the LLFA to prepare a number of documents including: -

1. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report – Published June 2011.
2. Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps – Published in 2013
3. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) – Approved April 2013

- 4.4 In addition the LLFA must prepare a FRMP. The FRMP gives an overview of the flood risk in CCBC and our high level objective for the 6 years which states that we will:

“To Reduce Flood Risk in every area where significant flood risk has been identified”

- 4.5 Detailed objectives are given within the FRMP together with a series of measures, which will ensure flood risk in the CCBC area will be addressed and reduced during the 6 year period before the plan is reviewed.
- 4.6 Flooding remains a key threat to communities across Wales, and managing this risk through careful planning is important to minimise the risk to communities. Flood risk management planning allows Lead Local Flood Authorities to develop a better understand of risk from all sources of flooding and agree priorities to manage that risk.
- 4.7 The FRMP has been developed with this in mind and sets out how CCBC will over the next 6 years, manage flooding so that the communities most at risk and the environment benefit the most. In doing so, this Flood Risk Management Plan takes forward the objectives and actions set out in our LFRMS.

The FRMP also aims to achieve some of the objectives set out in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, which provides the national framework for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales through four overarching objectives.

- **Reducing the consequences** for individual, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;
- **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.

- 4.8 The information contained in the FRMP includes the components set out in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (see Appendix A). Most of this information has been gathered and updated through this first cycle, and has been drawn from the findings of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and the measures that have been identified and set out in our LFRMS.
- 4.9 The FRMP sets out appropriate objectives for the management of flood risk within areas covered by the plan. The objectives focus on reducing the adverse consequences of flooding for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity.

- 4.10 Consequently, the FRMP highlights the areas most at risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in the CCBC area. It draws on the conclusions from these risks and sets out measures that could be taken over the next 6 years to mitigate these risks and make communities more resilient. However, these actions are subject to appropriate funding from Welsh Government.
- 4.11 Due to the nature of flooding and current funding situation, we have also looked at measures to reduce the likelihood of flooding using non-physical measures including raising awareness of flooding and better understanding of local flooding issues.
- 4.12 The Council is currently in the first round of the regulations and the FRMP represents the final output of this cycle and must be published by December 2015.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The following consultations have taken place in order to develop the FRMP. A good practice approach was discussed with the South and East Wales Flood Risk Management Group and this is the method adopted by CCBC.

5.1.1 Public Consultation

On the 13th July 2015 the draft FRMP was published on the CCBC website to allow members of the public and all Risk Partners e.g. NRW, Welsh Water, community and town councils, the emergency services and adjacent local authorities etc. to be consulted and to give their comments on the FRMP. The closing date for the consultation was 24th August 2015.

Articles were also printed in the Rhymney Valley Express on the 30th July 2015 with the heading “Residents’ views sought as council prepare its new flood risk strategy” and the Caerphilly Observer on the 6th August 2015 with a heading “Have say on flood risk plan”. It asked for people living in the county borough council area to get involved and have their say on the local Flood Risk Management Plan. Paper copies of the FRMP and questionnaires were also placed in the local libraries. Social media sites Twitter and Facebook were also used to inform the public of the flood risk consultation. In total 19 responses were received and a summary of their analysis is given in Appendix B.

The Council’s Flood Risk Management Team has reviewed all the comments received and where considered appropriate the FRMP has been amended. A table has been prepared of all comments together with the response of the team in order to feedback to respondents. The table has recently been published on the Caerphilly County Borough Council’s website.

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 An EqIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council’s Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance and no potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact have been identified, therefore a full EqIA has not been carried out. Having effective measures in place to mitigate the risks previously outlined however, will of course have a greater benefit to those vulnerable individuals in communities at risk of flooding, as they would be least able to assist themselves in such an event (e.g. people with disabilities, mobility issues, elderly residents etc.)

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 In order for the FRMP to be successful it is essential that significant funding be made available to CCBC, on top of the normal funding arrangements from Welsh Government. Failure to receive this additional funding could result in measures identified in FMRP not being implemented either in part or in full.

- 7.1.1 Section 6 of the FRMP shows the measures and objectives to mitigate flood risk within the county borough council area. Please refer to Appendix C for estimated total costs for each community within and outside of the flood risk area.
- 7.2 The current situation regarding Welsh Government Flood Risk Management funding is summarised below:
- £22,727 of WG funding has already been received and used to prepare the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PRFA) in the year 2010-2011.
 - Further sums of £90,000 per annum have been made available by the WG for the years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 to fund the preparation of the LFRMS and the provision of an Asset Register for items that have a significant effect on flood risk.
 - £100,000 was received from WG 2013-2014, £50,000 for 2014-2015 for the continued implementation of the requirements of the Act including the preparation of the Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps and Flood Risk Management Plans
 - 2015-2016 £100,000 funding from the combined Environmental and Sustainable Development Directorate Revenue Grant.
- 7.3 Funding at a much more significant level will be required in order to implement the measures as set out in Appendix C, which have been identified as part of the Flood Risk Management Plans. Further discussion with WG will be required in the future to identify additional revenue/capital funding.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Two additional members of staff are currently being recruited on a fixed term contract from funding provided by WG to continue work on the Flood and Water Management Act.
- 8.2 Dependent upon the funding made available, appropriate staff resources may have to be considered.

9. CONSULTATIONS

- 9.1 As identified at end of report.
- 9.2 External consultations were also undertaken as identified in section 5.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 That Scrutiny members comment on the document and its preparation so that this can be considered as a recommendation to Cabinet that the draft FRMP be accepted as the mechanism for the reduction of flood risk within Caerphilly County Borough Council.
- 10.2 Upon recommendation by Cabinet, officers will update NRW on Caerphilly's approach to the FRMP.

11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority has to approve the FRMP as a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

12. STATUTORY POWER

12.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009

12.2 Flood and Water Management Act 2010

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Background Papers:

Documents: The draft Flood Risk Management Plan

The FMRP can be located on the below link which will take you directly to the document:-

www.caerphilly.gov.uk/involved/consultations/flood-risk-management-plan-consultation

Appendices:

Appendix A	Components of the Flood Risk Management Plan as Detailed in the Flood Risk Regulations – Part 4
Appendix B	(Extract from Draft FRMP) Appendix 6 - Public Consultation - Survey Questions; Results and Comments Received
Appendix C	Financial Implications