

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES

REPORT TO CABINET

29 NOVEMBER 2016

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the Council's drafting of its Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), its implications, and to seek authorisation to consult the public on the draft FRMP.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The FRMP is linked to helping people to be more self-reliant by identifying those areas of potential flooding and assisting in their knowledge of prevention, protection, preparedness and recovery.
- 2.2 The FRMP also identifies actions that can be taken by the Council for flood situations which allows a more targeted response to matters, hence a smarter use of resources.
- 2.3 The FRMP will assist the local economy by identifying actions that can be undertaken to reduce the impact of flooding incidences and assist in the recovery to ensure that, following such flooding, disruption is minimised and that the local infrastructure and properties return to normal as quickly as possible.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 received Royal Assent in April 2010 in England and Wales. It was intended to implement Sir Michael Pitt's recommendations following the widespread flooding of 2007. The Act was also intended to clarify roles and responsibilities between Risk Management Authorities (RMA).
- 3.2 Under the Act, the Welsh Government was required to produce a National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, and Bridgend County Borough Council to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) which was completed in 2011.
- 3.3 LFRMS's were created to define who the Risk Management Authorities are, what their function is and what their responsibilities are. The LFRMS were developed to be consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Management.
- 3.4 Flooding remains a key threat to communities across Wales and managing this risk through careful planning is important to minimise the risks to communities. Flood

risk management planning allows the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) to better understand the risks from all sources of flooding and agree priorities to manage that risk as it will never be possible to remove all risk.

3.5 Throughout Wales an assessment was undertaken by Welsh Government, based on the flood maps produced by Natural Resources Wales, using criteria for a 1km area (Blue Squares) as follows:

- A minimum of 200 people affected.
- A minimum 20 Businesses affected
- 2 or more critical resources

4. Current Situation / Proposal

4.1 Within Bridgend County Borough Council there are currently no “Blue Squares” that identify Flood risk areas as set out in the above criteria, but the importance of each Lead Local Flood Authority producing a FRMP was identified by Welsh Government. Funding was provided to all local authorities to produce a FRMP

4.2 It has also been recognised that as these plans develop and are reviewed within the next 6 years, the criteria for identification of Flood Risk Areas is likely to change with the potential for lower thresholds to be applied and, as a consequence, areas that meet the flood risk thresholds in the future may change.

4.3 The draft FRMP identifies a number of locations within Bridgend that are likely to be highlighted in a future review of Flood Risk Areas and as such the Plan proposed is not only of importance for the future, but identifies best practice for departments currently responsible for flood risk at this time.

4.4 The guidance for the production of a FRMP indicates that it should be presented for public scrutiny and as such it is proposed to publish this on the BCBC website under its consultation web pages and a Welsh version of the document will also be produced.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules

5.1 There is no effect upon Policy Framework or Procedure Rules.

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

6.1 The EIA screening process has not identified any adverse impact.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 The funding for the creation of the plan, including Welsh translation, was covered in full by the Welsh Government Environment and Sustainable Development Directorate Revenue Grant.

7.2 The actions identified can be met within the current budgets allocated to the departments concerned.

.8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That Cabinet note the update on the draft Flood Risk Management Plan and approves the undertaking of public consultation on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan.

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Background documents:

Draft Flood Risk Management Plan

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

A copy will be available in the Members Room