



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GWŶS I GYFARFOD O'R CYNGOR**

C. Hanagan  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf  
Y Pafiliynau  
Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian  
Cwm Clydach CF40 2XX

Dolen gyswllt: Ms J Nicholls - Swyddog Gwasanaethau Democrataidd (01443 424098)

**DYMA WŶS I CHI** i gyfarfod rhithwir o **PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU** yn cael ei gynnal ar **DYDD MAWRTH, 21AIN MEDI, 2021** am **5.00 PM.**

Caiff Aelodau nad ydyn nhw'n aelodau o'r pwyllgor ac aelodau o'r cyhoedd gyfrannu yn y cyfarfod ar faterion y cyfarfod er bydd y cais yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd. Gofynnwn i chi roi gwybod i Wasanaethau Democrataidd erbyn Dydd Gwener, 17 Medi 2021 trwy ddefnyddio'r manylion cyswllt uchod, gan gynnwys rhoi gwybod a fyddwch chi'n siarad Cymraeg neu Saesneg.

**AGENDA**

**Tudalennau**

**YMCHWIL A CHRAFFU**

Mae cyfleuster ymchwil craffu ar gael yn Uned Busnes y Cyngor i gynorthwyo Aelodau â'u cyfrifoldebau craffu a'u rolau'n Aelodau Etholedig. Mae ymchwil o'r fath y n cryfhau rhaglenni gwaith y Pwyllgorau er mwyn sicrhau bod pynciau sy'n seiliedig ar ganlyniadau yn cael eu nodi. Os oes gyda chi unrhyw ymholiadau ynghylch gwaith ymchwil, e-bostiwch: [Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Craffu@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**1. DATGANIAD O FUDDIANT**

Derbyn datganiadau o fuddiannau personol gan Gynghorwyr, yn unol â gofynion Cod Ymddygiad y Cyngor.

Nodwch:

1. Mae gofyn i Aelodau ddatgan rhif a phwnc yr agendwm mae eu buddiant yn ymwneud ag ef a mynegi natur y buddiant personol hwnnw; a

2. Lle bo Aelodau'n ymneilltuo o'r cyfarfod o ganlyniad i ddatgelu buddiant sy'n rhagfarnu, rhaid iddyn nhw roi gwybod i'r Cadeirydd pan fyddan nhw'n gadael.

## **2. COFNODION**

Cymeradwyo cofnodion o gyfarfodydd canlynol y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn adlewyrchiad cywir o'r cyfarfodydd canlynol:-

- Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd ar 5 Gorffennaf, 2021;
- Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd ar 16 Gorffennaf, 2021.

**5 - 18**

## **3. DOLENNI YMGYNGHORI**

Gwybodaeth mewn perthynas ag [ymgyngoriadau](#) perthnasol i'w hystyried gan y Pwyllgor.

## **ADRODDIADAU Y CYFARWYDDWR GWASANAETH - GWASANAETHAU DEMOCRATAIDD A CHYFATHREBU.**

## **4. YMATEB Y GWEINIDOG NEWID HINSAWDD**

Trafod ymateb Julie James AS, y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd, i'r hyn a gyflwynodd y Pwyllgor i'r ymgynghoriad ar 'Reoleiddio Diogelwch Tomenni Glo yng Nghymru'.

**19 - 20**

## **5. CYNLLUN ADBORTH CWSMERIAID - RHOI SYLWADAU, CANMOL A CHWYNO - ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL 2020/21**

Derbyn adroddiad ar y cyd Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Cymuned a Gwasanaethau i Blant a'r Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu

**21 - 36**

## **6. CYDBWYLLGORAU CORFFOREDIG - CANLLAWIAU STATUDOL DRAFFT AR GYFER SEFYDLU CYDBWYLLGORAU CORFFOREDIG**

Derbyn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu.

**37 - 90**

## **7. ADRODDIAD ARCHWILIO LLIFOGYDD ADRAN 19**

Derbyn Adroddiad Archwilio Llifogydd Adran 19 y Cyngor yn unol â Deddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010.

**91 - 258**

## **8. MATERION BRYN**

Trafod unrhyw faterion sydd, yn ôl doethineb y Cadeirydd, yn faterion brys yng ngoleuni amgylchiadau arbennig.

## **9. ADOLYGIAD Y CADEIRYDD A DOD Â'R CYFARFOD I BEN**

Adlewyrchu ar y cyfarfod a'r camau gweithredu i'w dwyn ymlaen.

### **Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu**

#### **Cylchreliad:-**

Cadeirydd ac is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu  
(Y Cynghorydd M Adams a Y Cynghorydd W Lewis)

#### **Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol:**

Y Cynghorydd J Bonetto, Y Cynghorydd J Brencher, Y Cynghorydd G Caple,  
Y Cynghorydd A Cox, Y Cynghorydd M Griffiths, Y Cynghorydd G Hughes,  
Y Cynghorydd J James, Y Cynghorydd P Jarman, Y Cynghorydd Owen-Jones,  
Y Cynghorydd W Jones, Y Cynghorydd S Rees and Y Cynghorydd E Stephens

Christian Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a  
Chyfathrebu

#### **Aelodau Cyfetholedig Addysg er gwybodaeth-**

Mr M Cleverley, Cynrychiolydd Cymdeithas Genedlaethol yr Ysgolfeistri ac Undeb yr  
Athrawesau a'r Panel Athrawon

Ms A Jones, Cynrychiolydd UNITE

Mr C Jones, Cynrychiolydd GMB

Mrs C Jones, Cynrychiolydd Undeb Cenedlaethol yr Athrawon a'r Panel Athrawon

Mr D Price, Cynrychiolydd UNSAIN/UNISON

Mr J Fish, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Mr A Ricketts, Cynrychiolydd Awdurdodau Esgobaethol â'r hawl i bleidlais

Mrs R Nicholls, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Mr L Patterson, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

Y Cynghorydd M Webber

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Llywodraethu ac Archwilio, Mr C B Jones

Tudalen wag





## **Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF**

Cofnodion o gyfarfod ar-lein o'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd ddydd Llun 5 Gorffennaf 2021 am 5.00pm.

### **Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol – Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu oedd yn bresennol:**

Y Cynghorydd M Adams (Cadeirydd)

Y Cynghorydd W Lewis	Y Cynghorydd J. Bonetto
Y Cynghorydd G. Caple	Y Cynghorydd M. Griffiths
Y Cynghorydd G. Hughes	Y Cynghorydd P. Jarman
Y Cynghorydd D Owen-Jones	Y Cynghorydd W Jones
Y Cynghorydd S. Rees	Y Cynghorydd E. Stephens

### **Swyddogion yn bresennol:-**

Mr C Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Mr R Waters, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen

### **Comisiwn y Gyfraith Cymru a Lloegr**

Mr Nicholas Paines QC,  
Rheolwr y Garfan, Henni Ouahes,  
Cyfreithiwr, Carfan y Gyfraith Gyhoeddus, Lisa Smith

### **Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol oedd yn bresennol:-**

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol T. Williams - Pwyllgor Craffu - Cynnal Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus, Cymunedau a Ffyniant

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Edwards, Is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Craffu - Plant a Phobl Ifainc  
Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol R. Yeo - Pwyllgor Craffu Iechyd a Lles

## **9 Ymddiheuriadau**

Daeth ymddiheuriad am absenoldeb gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Brencher, J James ac A Cox. Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriad hefyd gan Mr J Fish - Cynrychiolydd Rhieni/Llywodraethwyr â Phleidlais

## **10 Cyfleuster Ymchwil Craffu**

Dywedodd y cadeirydd wrth yr Aelodau am y cyfleuster ymchwil craffu ar gael yn Uned Busnes y Cyngor i gynorthwyo Aelodau â'u cyfrifoldebau craffu a'u rolau'n Aelodau Etholedig. Dylid anfon unrhyw geisiadau i'r cyfeiriad e-bost craffu.

**11 Datganiadau o Fuddiant**

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, doedd dim datganiadau o fuddiant ynglŷn â'r agenda.

**12 Cofnodion**

**PENDERFYNWYD** cymeradwyo cofnodion cyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Mehefin 2021 yn rhai cywir.

**13 Dolenni Ymgynghori**

Penderfynodd yr Aelodau gydnabod yr wybodaeth oedd wedi'i darparu trwy'r dolenni ymgynghori mewn perthynas ag ymgynghoriadau agored, ymgynghoriadau Llywodraeth Cymru a'r materion hynny y mae'r awdurdod lleol yn cynnal ymgynghoriadau ynglŷn â nhw.

**14 RHAGLENNI GWAITH DRAFFT Y CABINET A'R PWYLLGORAU CRAFFU 2021-22**

Gyda chytundeb y Cadeirydd, cafodd yr agenda ei thrafod mewn trefn wahanol o ganlyniad i broblem dechnegol, a hynny er mwyn rhoi mwy o amser i'r rhanddeiliad allanol ymuno â'r cyfarfod.

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad a oedd yn gofyn i'r Aelodau gymeradwyo Rhaglen Waith ddrafft y Pwyllgor ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2021/22 a nodi unrhyw bynciau ar Raglen Waith y Cabinet y gall y Pwyllgor yma graffu arnyn nhw ymlaen llaw. Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau bod sesiynau ymgysylltu Cabinet/Craffu wedi'u cynnal yn ddiweddar

Cyfeiriodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth at y cyfarwyddyd a nodwyd yn Neddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru), sy'n trafod dull gweithredu mwy penodol o ran craffu. Mae hyn wedi bod yn bwnc trafod yn ystod y sesiynau ymgysylltu diweddar rhwng Aelodau'r Cabinet a Chadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau Craffu perthnasol. Codwyd ychydig o bwyntiau gan y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth megis rhag-graffu ar y Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol (MIM) cyn i'r Cabinet ei drafod mewn Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Arbennig yn ddiweddarach ym mis Gorffennaf.

Ar ôl ystyried yr adroddiad, awgrymwyd y dylai'r Pwyllgor lunio ei ymateb ffurfiol i ymgynghoriad Comisiwn y Gyfraith ar Reoleiddio Diogelwch Tomenni Glo yng Nghymru yn y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Arbennig ar 16 Gorffennaf, yn dilyn trafodaethau cychwynnol gyda Chomisiwn y Gyfraith Cymru a Lloegr yn y cyfarfod heddiw. Byddai'r dull hwn yn caniatáu cyfle pellach i ystyried ymateb y Pwyllgor a'i roi ar waith yn ffurfiol.

Codwyd ymholiad mewn perthynas ag amseriad yr adroddiadau Adran 19 statudol, a gaiff eu trafod gan y Pwyllgor ym mis Medi 2021. Yn dilyn yr ymchwiliadau parhaus y mae'r Cyngor yn eu cynnal i'r Llifogydd ym mis Chwefror, ag yntau'n Awdurdod Llifogydd Lleol Arweiniol (LLFA) o dan

Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010. Dywedodd y Cadeirydd y byddai'r adroddiadau yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor ar ôl eu cwblhau, ac y bydden nhw'n cael eu trafod

mewn setiau, gyda'r cyntaf i gael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor ar 21 Medi 2021.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y byddai adroddiadau terfynol o ran 'Moderneiddio Gofal Preswyl a Gofal Oriau Dydd i Bobl Hŷn' yn cael eu dwyn gerbron y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu cyn diwedd y flwyddyn galendr.

Dywedodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y byddai'n gofyn, gyda chytundeb y Pwyllgor, i'r Cyfarwyddwr AD gyflwyno'r Adroddiad Cydraddoldeb Blynyddol i'r Pwyllgor ac iddo gael ei ychwanegu at y Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer y Dyfodol.

Ar ôl trafod yr adroddiad, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

1. Cytuno ar y Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer y Dyfodol ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2021/22 yn amodol ar y diwygiadau/ychwanegiadau canlynol:
  - Y byddai'r ymateb ffurfiol i ymgynghoriad Comisiwn y Gyfraith ar Reoleiddio Diogelwch Tomenni Glo yng Nghymru yn cael ei lunio yn y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Arbennig ar 16 Gorffennaf 2021 yn dilyn trafodaethau cychwynnol gyda chynrychiolwyr Comisiwn y Gyfraith;
  - Bod yr Adroddiad Cydraddoldeb Blynyddol yn cael ei gynnwys yn Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer y Dyfodol y Pwyllgor, ar gyfer Blwyddyn y Cyngor 2021/22.

## **15 Comisiwn Cyfraith Cymru a Lloegr - Cynigion i wella diogelwch tomenni glo yng Nghymru**

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad gan ddweud wrth y Pwyllgor fod cynrychiolwyr o Gomisiwn y Gyfraith Cymru a Lloegr yn bresennol yn y cyfarfod i amlinellu'r cynigion o ran ymgynghori ar y drefn ddiogelwch newydd ar gyfer tomenni glo yng Nghymru.

Cyflwynwyd y cyflwyniad Power Point 'Rheoleiddio Diogelwch Tomenni Glo yng Nghymru' o dan y penawdau canlynol:

- Y gyfraith gyfredol a phroblemau gyda'r gyfraith gyfredol
- Cynigion Arfaethedig
- Cwestiynau enghreifftiol ar gyfer Rhanddeiliaid
- Ymgynghori

Ymatebodd cynrychiolwyr o Gomisiwn y Gyfraith, Mr Nicholas Paines QC a Lisa Smith, Cyfreithiwr, i nifer o gwestiynau:

- A fydd y ddeddfwriaeth newydd arfaethedig, i ddisodli deddfwriaeth 1969, yn Ddeddfwriaeth Sylfaenol sy'n ddeddfwriaeth ledled y DU neu'n ddeddfwriaeth eilaidd, gan ychwanegu at Ddeddf 1969;
- A yw'r briff yn cynnwys ystyried atebolrwydd o ran tomenni glo neu a fydd hyn yn aros y tu allan i'r briff?
- A yw'r ddeddfwriaeth bresennol yn Ddeddfwriaeth Sylfaenol o fewn y DU?
- Beth sy'n digwydd gyda Thirfeddianwyr absennol?

Dywedwyd wrth yr Aelodau fod Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwahodd Comisiwn y Gyfraith i gynnal adolygiad annibynnol o ddeddfwriaeth diogelwch tomenni glo, gyda diogelwch yn dod o dan fesurau datganoledig. Mae gan y Senedd y grym i lunio cyfundrefn newydd a'i phasio fel

Deddfwriaeth Sylfaenol, byddai'n fater i Lywodraeth y DU pe byddai'n dymuno efelychu cyfundrefn Cymru.

Dywedodd Comisiwn y Gyfraith nad oes ganddo awdurdodaeth i argymhell i ba raddau y dylai Llywodraeth y DU ryddhau cyllid pellach. Byddai angen i'r Senedd wneud penderfyniad polisi ynghylch a yw cost adfer tomenni yn deillio o arian cyhoeddus neu gan dirfeddianwyr unigol. Mae'r cynllun deddfwriaeth cyfredol yn golygu mai'r tirfeddianwr sy'n gyfrifol, ond bydd Comisiwn y Gyfraith yn argymhell strwythur eang sy'n sicrhau cyllid o arian cyhoeddus pan fydd ar gael, ac yn rhoi cyfle i godi tâl ar dirfeddianwyr am ddarnau unigol o waith neu drwy ffi flynyddol.

Rhoddodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen drosolwg o'r cyfundrefnau arolygu a gaiff eu dilyn yn RhCT. Ar hyn o bryd mae'r Tasglu Diogelwch Tomenni, a sefydlwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru mewn partneriaeth â'r Awdurdod Glo, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC) a'r Awdurdodau Lleol yn adolygu'r tomenni ledled y wlad. Mae'r Awdurdod Lleol yn parhau i gynnal asesiadau risg ac archwilio ei domenni, ac mae'r Awdurdod Glo yn cefnogi'r gwaith yma.

Amlinellodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y gwaith hyd yma yn dilyn y tirlithriad a ddigwyddodd ar ochr bryn Llanwynno, Tylorstown, yn ogystal â thrafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth y DU, Llywodraeth Cymru a'r awdurdod lleol ynghylch cyllido cam dau a thri (amcangyfrifir mai cost hyn fydd oddeutu £2.5 miliwn). Mae'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf yn cael ei rhannu ar wefan y Cyngor (a chaiff yr Aelodau Lleol eu hysbysu) sy'n cynnwys trosolwg o Gam 4 a gweledigaeth y Cyngor ar gyfer yr ardal yma yn y dyfodol.

Cododd rhai Aelodau bryder ynghylch y diffyg gwybodaeth o ran yr angen i roi sylw ar unwaith i unrhyw domenni yn yr awdurdod lleol. Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth fod dros £1 miliwn wedi'i wario ar gynnal a chadw tomennydd yn rheolaidd yn ystod blwyddyn ariannol 2021/22. Nod hyn oedd lliniaru risgiau ac mae ymchwiliadau pellach yn parhau ar nifer o safleoedd a allai arwain at waith mwy sylweddol. Mae'r Awdurdod Glo yn bwriadu gwneud rhywfaint o waith ar Domen Wattstown Standard (dan berchnogaeth breifat) ac mae mesurau monitro o bell wedi'u gosod ar y cyd â'r Awdurdod Glo yn Nhomen Wattstown National, sy'n eiddo i Gyngor RhCT. Mae'r gwaith archwilio rheolaidd yn dal i fynd rhagddo ar bob safle er mwyn nodi problemau a'u rheoli. Caiff trafodaethau â'r Aelodau Lleol eu cynnal cyn i unrhyw waith sylweddol gael ei gyflawni, ac mae'r wybodaeth hefyd yn cael ei rhannu â'r cyhoedd ymlaen llaw.

Cododd yr Aelodau bryder y gallai tomenni glo losgi'n ddigymell o ganlyniad i danau mynydd. Trafodwyd y mater hwn ymhellach gan gyfeirio at safle Craig Y Dyffryn, a arferai fod yn eiddo i'r Arglwydd Aberdâr, a losgodd yn ddigymell ym 1969. Roedd hyn yn ddigwyddiad difrifol ar y pryd. Holodd yr Aelodau a fyddai'r ddeddfwriaeth newydd yn ystyrlon o ran yr etifeddiaeth lofaol. Dywedodd Mr Paines QC y cyfeirir at dân digymell o fewn briff ymgyngori Comisiwn y Gyfraith a dywedodd y dylid ymestyn cylch gorchwyl yr Awdurdod Lleol i'r awdurdod goruchwyllo sengl i gwmpasu tân digymell. Er bod hyn yn ddigwyddiad prin, mae modd iddo ddigwydd ar unrhyw adeg.

Gofynnodd yr Aelodau am sicrwydd bod peirianwyr cymwys sydd ag arbenigedd yn y diwydiant glofaol yn cymryd rhan yn y broses arolygu yn dilyn cyfeiriad at ddiffyg peirianwyr cymwys yn y maes hwn. Manylodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Rheng Flaen, ar y buddion o ran cael un awdurdod goruchwyllo gyda dyletswydd i oruchwyllo rheolaeth yr holl domenni segur, gan nodi y byddai sgiliau'n cael eu cynnal ar draws corff arbenigol gyda'r cyfle i ddatblygu sgiliau trwy raglenni Graddedigion / Prentisiaethau ac i sefydlu'r arbenigedd a'r wybodaeth briodol o ran y ddeddfwriaeth.

I gloi, cyhoeddodd cynrychiolwyr o Gomisiwn y Gyfraith ddigwyddiad cyhoeddus ar 20 Gorffennaf 2021 lle bydd gwybodaeth bellach yn cael ei darparu am yr ymgynghoriad. Nodwyd fod croeso i'r holl Aelodau gymryd rhan a bod y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd eisoes wedi rhannu'r manylion.

Yn dilyn trafodaethau, **PENDERFYNWYD** y byddai'r ymatebion ymgynghori drafft a nodwyd yn sylwadau ac adborth yr Aelodau yn cael eu trafod a'u ffurfioli yng nghyfarfod arbennig y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu ar 16 Gorffennaf 2021 am 2pm.

## **16 Adolygiad y Cadeirydd a dod â'r cyfarfod i ben**

Crynhodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu y pwyntiau allweddol a godwyd o'r trafodaethau cynharach o ran y Rhaglen Waith ar gyfer y Dyfodol, a gafodd ei chytuno gan yr Aelodau yn amodol ar gynnwys yr Adroddiad Cydraddoldebau. Ychwanegodd hefyd y byddai ymateb ffurfiol yn cael ei lunio ar gyfer y cynigion i wella diogelwch tomenni glo yng Nghymru yng nghyfarfod dilynol y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu ar 16 Gorffennaf 2021.

I gloi, diolchodd y Cadeirydd i'r Aelodau am eu cyfraniadau, a diolchodd i Gomisiwn y Gyfraith am eu presenoldeb.

**Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 6.10pm**

**Y CYNG M. ADAMS  
CADEIRYDD.**

Tudalen wag

**PWYLLGOR CABINET CYNGOR RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**PWYLLGOR TROSOLWG A CHRAFFU**

Cofnodion rhithwir o gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a gynhaliwyd Dydd Gwener, 16 Gorffennaf 2021 am 2.00 pm.

**Y Cynghorwyr Bwrdeistref Sirol - Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Aelodau oedd yn bresennol:-:-**

Y Cyngorydd M Adams (Cadeirydd)

Y Cyngorydd W Lewis    Y Cyngorydd G Caple  
Y Cyngorydd A Cox    Y Cyngorydd M Griffiths  
Y Cyngorydd G Hughes    Y Cyngorydd P Jarman  
Y Cyngorydd S Rees

**Aelodau cyfetholedig a oedd yn bresennol**

Mr J Fish, Cynrychiolydd Rhiant-Lywodraethwr wedi'i ethol

**Cynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol oedd yn bresennol:-**

Y Cyngorydd Shelley Rees-Owen, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Craffu – Plant a Phobl Ifainc

**Swyddogion oedd yn bresennol**

Mr C. Hanagan, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Mr A Griffiths, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth - Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd a Thrafnidiaeth  
Ms A Richards, Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif a Thrawsnewid  
Ms Nicola Goodman, Uwch Swyddog Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif

**17 Ymddiheuriadau**

Derbyniwyd ymddiheuriad am absenoldeb gan Gynghorwyr y Fwrdeistref Sirol J Bonetto, J Brencher, J James, W Jones, D Owen-Jones ac E Stephens.

**18 Datganiadau o Fuddiant**

Yn unol â Chod Ymddygiad y Cyngor, cafodd y datganiadau o fuddiant personol canlynol eu gwneud mewn perthynas ag Eitem 2 ar yr Agenda - **RHAGLEN YSGOLION A CHOLEGAU'R 21AIN GANRIF - MODEL BUDDSODDI CYDFUDDIANNOL (MIM)**

Cyngorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol P Jarman - "Rydw i'n Aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu; byddaf yn cadw meddwl agored wrth ddweud yr hyn sydd gen i i'w ddweud heddiw, a byddaf i'n gwneud yr un peth pan fydd y mater yn cael ei gyflwyno i'r Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu. Byddaf yn ymdrin â'r cais cynllunio ar sail y materion cynllunio sy'n cael eu cyflwyno ar y dydd, dydw i

ddim wedi gwneud penderfyniad ynglŷn â'r cais"

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol S Rees - "Fi yw Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu"

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Caple - "Fi yw Is-gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu"

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol G Hughes - "Rwy'n aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu"

Cynghorydd y Fwrdeistref Sirol W Lewis - "Rwy'n aelod o'r Pwyllgor Cynllunio a Datblygu"

## **19 Croeso a Chyflwyniadau**

Croesawodd y Cadeirydd yr Aelodau i gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu a chafodd cyflwyniadau eu gwneud.

## **20 Rhaglen Ysgolion a Cholegau'r 21ain Ganrif - Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol**

Clywodd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu adroddiad Cyfarwyddwr y Gwasanaethau Addysg a Chynhwysiant mewn perthynas â Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol (MIM), Rhaglen Ysgolion a Cholegau'r 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif. Roedd cais i ychwanegu'r mater yma at flaenraglen waith y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu eisoes wedi'i gyflwyno a phenderfynwyd cyflwyno'r eitem pan fo'n addas.

Nododd yr Aelodau fod yr adroddiad, ar hyn o bryd, yn ceisio caniatâd i gyflwyno Achos Busnes Amlinellol i Lywodraeth Cymru i'w ystyried ym mis Gorffennaf / Awst 2021 ac i symud ymlaen i gam dau o broses y Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a'r partner sector preifat.

Yn dilyn trosolwg o'r adroddiad, gofynnodd nifer o Aelodau am eglurhad ynghylch y gwahaniaeth rhwng y Fenter Cyllid Preifat flaenorol a oedd yn cynnig pecyn gwasanaethau cynhwysol ac yn cynnwys yr holl wasanaethau rheoli cyfleusterau am gyfnod o 25 mlynedd, er enghraifft, gwasanaethau glanhau; cynnal a chadw'r tir; dodrefn; a TGCh ymhlith eraill. Mae'r Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol presennol ond yn cynnig gwasanaethau cynnal a chadw adeiladau am gyfnod o 25 mlynedd. Yn ogystal â hynny, mae gan y Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol drefniadau mwy cadarn ar waith ar lefel Llywodraeth Cymru, megis Cyfarwyddwr Prosiect penodol ar gyfer MIM, Bwrdd Partneriaeth Strategol gyda chynrychiolaeth o'r holl Awdurdodau Lleol (mae Andrea Richards a Dave Powell yn cynrychioli RhCT), contractau cyffredinol a ddatblygwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer pob Awdurdod Lleol a chyfradd ymyrraeth o 81%.

Roedd yr Aelodau'n awyddus i nodi a fyddai'r cynllun yn mynd yn ei flaen os yw'r cais yn aflwyddiannus a gofynnwyd a oes gan yr awdurdod lleol drefniadau amgen yn yr achos hwnnw, megis model cyllido mwy traddodiadol.

Nododd yr Aelodau fod y cyllid cyfalaf ar gyfer rhan o Raglen Ysgolion yr 21ain Ganrif ac Addysg, Band B, wedi'i neilltuo ar gyfer Ysgolion ardal Pontypridd a bod y rhaglen gyfan ar gyfer buddsoddi cyfalaf wedi'i dyrannu. Fe'u cynghorwyd bod Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol, sef yr unig opsiwn sydd ar gael i'r Awdurdod Lleol, yn cynnig manteision, yn fforddiadwy ac yn galluogi'r awdurdod



Lleol a Llywodraeth Cymru i ddarparu rhagor o Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif gan ei fod yn ffynhonnell cyllid ychwanegol. Cafodd yr Aelodau gwybod bod RhCT yn un o ddau Awdurdod Lleol a ddewiswyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru i fwrw ymlaen gyda Phrosiect Braenaru Ysgolion - Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol. Oherwydd bod y prosiect yma'n Brosiect Braenaru a chynllun peilot Carbon Sero-Net, bydd Llywodraeth Cymru'n ariannu 100% o'r gwaith arolygu ychwanegol a'r gwaith Carbon Sero-Net technegol.

Cododd yr Aelodau yr ymholiadau canlynol mewn perthynas â'r Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol ei hun:

- Sut mae'r costau dangosol yn cymharu ag ysgolion eraill sy'n cael eu hariannu'n draddodiadol?
- Trosglwyddo risg i'r sector preifat - os bydd y cwmnïau'n cael eu diddymu, pwy sy'n talu'r costau ariannol a sut fyddai'r contract yn cael ei gynnal?

Cafodd yr Aelodau gwybod y byddai'r Cwmni Cerbydau Pwrpas Arbennig (SPV), hynny yw'r cwmni a gafodd ei bennu i gyflawni'r prosiect yma ac sydd â chontract gyda'r Awdurdod Lleol, yn talu unrhyw gostau ychwanegol - pe byddai'r contractwyr yn cael eu diddymu. Nid oes gan yr Awdurdod Lleol unrhyw gyswllt uniongyrchol â'r contractwyr, maent yn cael eu contractio a'u rheoli gan y Cwmni Cerbydau Pwrpas Arbennig sy'n gyfrifol am rwymedigaethau cytundebol gyda'r contractwyr.

Gan gyfeirio at y costau dangosol, costau cyfalaf yr awdurdod lleol (yn seiliedig ar y ffigurau amcangyfrifedig cyfredol) yw £21.9miliwn. Y swm sy'n daladwy gan yr Awdurdod Lleol, yn amodol ar fynegeio dros 25 mlynedd, ac yn seiliedig ar amcangyfrifon cost cyfredol yw tua £11.4 miliwn ar gyfer 3 ysgol newydd sbon, a gynhelir yn llawn (cynnal a chadw adeiladau) am gyfnod o 25 mlynedd. Mae hyn yn cymharu'n ffafriol â model cyfalaf lle gallai pob ysgol gostio rhwng £8miliwn a £10miliwn (gan ddibynnu ar faint yr ysgol). Mae'r gyfradd ymyrraeth o 81% yn fantais enfawr i'r awdurdod lleol ac mae'n helpu i ddarparu rhagor o ysgolion.

Cafodd y Pwyllgor wybod fod rôl 'profwr annibynnol' yn rhan o'r contract. Dyma swydd sydd wedi'i phenodi ar y cyd rhwng y cwmni a'r awdurdod lleol. Bydd deiliad y swydd yn sicrhau bod y gwiriadau priodol yn cael eu cynnal trwy gydol y cyfnod adeiladu a throsglwyddo. Mae gwiriadau a phrosesau rheoli mecanyddol a thechnegol ar waith hefyd. Mae Adran Eiddo'r Cyngor wedi bod yn rhan o'r broses a bydd yn parhau i fod yn rhan o'r broses, bydd modd i'r awdurdod lleol gynnal archwiliadau rheolaidd mewn perthynas â'r gwaith.

Codwyd ymholiad ynghylch y goblygiadau ariannol, gan nodi bod cyllid yn ddarostyngedig i '*gymeradwyaeth y Cabinet a Llywodraeth Cymru ar ôl cyflwyno'r Achosion Busnes perthnasol a derbyn costau manwl terfynol*' a'r posibilrwydd na fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn cymeradwyo'r achos busnes. Cafodd y Pwyllgor wybod bod yn rhaid i'r awdurdod lleol gyflwyno achosion busnes i Lywodraeth Cymru i'w hadolygu a'u cymeradwyo yn dilyn proses model busnes pum achos y Trysorlys - mae hon yn broses fanwl a chadarn a bydd y goblygiadau ariannol a'r amserlen dalu yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r Cabinet i'w cymeradwyo unwaith y bydd costau terfynol y prosiect ar gael.

Cafwyd datganiad mewn perthynas â'r Asesiad Effaith ar Gydraddoldeb yn yr adran 'Pa dystiolaeth sydd wedi'i defnyddio i ategu'r safbwynt yma?' Awgrymwyd

nad oedd yr ymatebion yn cynrychioli tystiolaeth gadarn a phendant ar ffurf data nac o ran cyfeirio at astudiaethau i ategu'r honiadau a gafodd eu gwneud.

O ran yr Asesiad o'r Effaith ar y Gymraeg, sydd ynghlwm wrth yr adroddiad yn Atodiad 2, lle nodir *'Y bwriad oedd ymgorffori arferion ac agweddau cadarnhaol tuag at y Gymraeg ymhellach mewn ysgolion ac i hyrwyddo defnydd anffurfiol o'r Gymraeg ymhlith dysgwyr yn yr ysgolion a thu hwnt'*, cafodd ymholiad ei godi ynghylch i ba raddau mae'r cynigion yn dod â'r awdurdod yn agosach at gyflawni'r targedau sydd wedi'u hamlinellu yng Nghynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg, sy'n cefnogi uchelgais Cymraeg 2050 Llywodraeth Cymru.

Nododd y Pwyllgor fod y Cyngor yn cynyddu capasiti Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun ac YGG Aberdâr yn rhan o Raglen Ysgolion yr 21<sup>ain</sup> Ganrif ac ysgolion yn yr ardaloedd hynny lle mae angen Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg. Mae ysgolion yn annog defnyddio'r iaith Gymraeg ym mhob rhan o'r cwricwlwm ac yn ystod cyfnodau chwarae ac amser egwyl ac yn hyrwyddo addysg Gymraeg a chyfluoedd ychwanegol i ddysgu Cymraeg a / neu ddatblygu sgiliau a dysgu trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg. Pwysleisiwyd bod ysgolion yn ysgolion cymunedol ac yn cael eu hintegreiddio'n llwyr ac mae modd eu defnyddio i hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg. Mae Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg (drafft) y Cyngor yn rhoi manylion o ymrwymiad y Cyngor i wella'r defnydd o'r Gymraeg ym mhob ysgol a darparu cyfluoedd i ddysgwyr ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn gwahanol gyd-destunau (Deiliant 5) yn ystod y 10 mlynedd nesaf.

I gloi, cadarnhawyd y bydd broses drosglwyddo trylwyr ar ddiwedd y tymor 25 mlynedd. Bydd hyn yn cael ei goruchwyllo gan syrfêwr annibynnol (ac yn cynnwys arbenigwyr technegol o garfan Eiddo'r Cyngor) a fydd yn cynnal asesiad manwl o'r adeiladau i nodi unrhyw faterion a mynd i'r afael ag unrhyw gostau prosiect / gwaith cywiro gofynnol yn rhan o'r cytundeb cyn i'r adeilad gael ei drosglwyddo i'r awdurdod lleol.

#### **PENDERFYNWYD:**

1. Nodi'r wybodaeth yn adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant, ynghyd â'r atodiadau a'r wybodaeth a ddarparwyd yn ystod y cyfarfod;
2. Gofyn bod sylwadau'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn cael eu rhannu â'r Cabinet i'w hystyried cyn ei gyfarfod ar 20 Gorffennaf 2021;
3. Nodwch y bydd adroddiad pellach yn cael ei gyflwyno er mwyn i'r Cabinet ei drafod yn y dyfodol. Bydd yr adroddiad yma'n rhoi manylion goblygiadau ariannol ac amserlenni talu'r Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol.

#### **21 Ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad - Trefniadau diogelwch newydd ar gyfer tomenni glo yng Nghymru**

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad. Rhoddodd yr adroddiad gyfle i aelodau'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu drafod ei ymateb i ymgynghoriad Comisiwn y Gyfraith ar Reoleiddio Diogelwch Tomenni Glo yng Nghymru a'i fabwysiadu'n ffurfiol, a hynny yn dilyn trafodaethau gyda chynrychiolwyr Comisiwn y Gyfraith (Cymru a Lloegr) yn ei gyfarfod ar 5 Gorffennaf 2021.

Cafodd yr Aelodau gwybod y byddai unrhyw sylwadau pellach mewn perthynas â'r ymgynghoriad yn cael eu hychwanegu at yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad sydd wedi'u hatodi a'u cyflwyno cyn y dyddiad cau ar 10 Medi 2021.

Er bod yr ymatebion drafft yn cynnwys y rhan fwyaf o'u sylwadau a'u hadborth, roedd yr Aelodau'n dymuno bod y pwyntiau canlynol yn cael eu cynnwys cyn cyflwyno'r fersiwn derfynol i ymgynghoriad Comisiwn y Gyfraith:

- Ai bwriad Llywodraeth Cymru yw diddymu Deddf Mwynfeydd a Chwareli (Tipiau) 1969 neu barhau â Deddfwriaeth Cymru a Lloegr, ar sail ofnau y bydd y ddau yn gwrthdaro ar ryw adeg yn y dyfodol?;
- Cwestiwn 31 yr ymgynghoriad - Yn gyffredinol, roedd yr Aelodau o'r farn y dylid gwneud darpariaeth ddeddfwriaethol yn yr achosion hyn sy'n nodi mai staff arbenigol, cymwys a phanel o beirianwyr fydd yn gyfrifol ac yn gweithredu o dan yr amgylchiadau hyn. Dywedodd yr Aelodau hefyd y dylai'r awdurdod priodol fod yn gyfrifol am wneud y penderfyniadau, gweithredu (yn gyflym lle bo angen) ac ymateb i argyfyngau tomenni glo;
- Cwestiwn 32 yr ymgynghoriad - Gofynnodd yr Aelodau eto am gyngor ynghylch a fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn diddymu Rheoliad 40 o Reoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol (Cymru a Lloegr) 2016 o blaid dewis arall yng Nghymru;
- Cwestiwn 34 yr ymgynghoriad - Roedd yr Aelodau'n gobeithio y byddai'r Ecolegwyr yn parhau i gydnabod bod llawer o domenni glo bellach yn datblygu i fod yn gynefinoedd ecolegol unigryw yn eu rhinwedd eu hun;
- Cwestiwn 13 yr ymgynghoriad - Gofynnodd yr Aelodau am eglurhad ynghylch yr ymateb yma gan eu bod yn teimlo y dylai gwybodaeth am y Gofrestr Tomenni fod ar gael i'r cyhoedd ond roeddent yn ymwybodol na ddylai gwybodaeth benodol a gynhwysir yn y gofrestr, megis gwybodaeth bersonol, cyfrifiadau a chostau, fod yn hygyrch i'r cyhoedd. O ran adroddiadau archwilio tomenni, awgrymodd y Pwyllgor y gallai'r rhain gael eu rhyddhau os oes dull unfurf safonol a system dosbarthu mewn perthynas â'r adroddiadau tomenni ar waith a bod peirianwyr cymwys, profiadol yn ymgymryd â nhw. Fodd bynnag, roedd Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau'r Priffyrdd a Thrafnidiaeth yn cydnabod y gallai fod angen eglurhad pellach gan Wasanaethau Cyfreithiol y Cyngor cyn darparu ymateb a dywedodd y byddai'n cadarnhau hyn yn dilyn y cyfarfod.

Yn dilyn trafodaeth bellach mewn perthynas â'r materion a godwyd a'r ymatebion, **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- Ychwanegu'r sylwadau uchod at yr ymatebion i'r ymgynghoriad cyn eu cyflwyno; a
- Bod llythyr yn cael ei anfon at y Gweinidogion perthnasol ar ran y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn gofyn am eglurhad clir a diamwys ynghylch a fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn diddymu Deddf Mwynfeydd a Chwareli (Tomenni) 1969 neu a fydd yn aros fel dwy Ddeddfwriaeth ar wahân ac a fydd Rheoliad 40 o Reoliadau Trwyddedu

Amgylcheddol (Cymru a Lloegr) 2016 yn cael ei diddymu i gynnig dewis arall yng Nghymru.

## 22 Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig - ymgynghoriad ar reoliadau cyffredinol drafft

Cyflwynodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth – Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu ei adroddiad a oedd yn ceisio adborth gan yr Aelodau mewn perthynas â'r ymgynghoriad a sefydlwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ynghylch y gyfres nesaf o reoliadau cyffredinol - Rheoliadau Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig (Cyffredinol) (Cymru) 2021.

Dywedodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, er gwaethaf yr oedi o ran rhoi gwybod am yr ymgynghoriad, y byddai hwn yn gyfle i'r Pwyllgor ymateb i'r gyfres nesaf o reoliadau cyffredinol sy'n ymwneud â rolau 'swyddogion gweithredol' penodol i gefnogi gwaith y Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig, rhai darpariaethau cyffredinol mewn perthynas â staff y Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig a chyflawni swyddogaethau'r Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig gan bersonau eraill (is-bwyllgorau, staff ac ati). Amlygodd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth un newid sylweddol mewn perthynas â chael gwared ar y Prif Swyddog Llywodraethu fel bod modd i'r 'nifer fach o swyddogaethau a nodwyd gael eu cyflawni gan Swyddog Monitro'r Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig'.

I gloi, nododd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth y bydd y camau nesaf yn cynnwys ymgynghoriad pellach mewn perthynas â'r canllawiau statudol (drafft) ar gyfer Sefydlu Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig. Bydd yr ymgynghoriad yma'n para 12 wythnos ac yn cau ddydd Llun 4 Hydref 2021. Cynigiodd y dylai'r Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu drafod yr ymgynghoriad hwn yn ei gyfarfod ar 21 Medi 2021.

Nododd yr Aelodau'r newid sylweddol fel yr amlinellwyd gan y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth a chodwyd ymholiad ynglŷn â phenodi'r Prif Swyddog Monitro a'r Prif Weithredwr gan ofyn a fyddai ganddynt ddyletswyddau ychwanegol a hefyd yn gwasanaethu'r awdurdodau lleol priodol, gan wisgo 'dwy het statudol' wrth gyflawni'r rolau hyn. Codwyd pryder ynghylch cyflogi staff sydd ddim yn meddu ar unrhyw wybodaeth leol o'r ardal ddaearyddol dan sylw staff i wasanaeth y Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig.

Dywedodd yr Aelodau y byddai'r Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig yn sefydliad pwerus ac y byddai rhai gwasanaethau statudol yn cael eu trosglwyddo iddyn nhw, gan roi Arweinwyr yr awdurdodau lleol wrth wraidd y broses benderfynu.

Cododd y Cadeirydd bryder ynghylch y cynnig i ddiddymu swydd y Prif Swyddog Llywodraethu, gan ystyried yr wybodaeth brin sydd ar gael a'r diffyg gwaith craffu ac atebolrwydd sy'n gysylltiedig â'r cynigion. Croesawodd yr awgrym i dderbyn gwybodaeth bellach ynghylch y trefniadau craffu maes o law.

Rhannodd Aelod arall ei amheuan mewn perthynas â'r model yn enwedig o ran mynediad at wybodaeth sy'n nodi y bydd gan aelodau o'r Prif Awdurdodau fynediad at ddogfennau, ac eithrio'r rhai sy'n cynnwys gwybodaeth eithriedig. Awgrymodd yr Aelod fod yr adroddiadau eithriedig yn cynnwys y broses bwysicaf o ran gwybodaeth a gwneud penderfyniadau. Codwyd pryder hefyd ynglŷn â phennu'r gyllideb. Bydd modd i'r Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig wneud hyn

cyn i'r Prif Awdurdod gytuno arni. Nodwyd y byddai hyn yn rhwystro craffu ar gyllid a mynediad at wybodaeth.

Roedd y Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth wedi cydnabod yr angen am gyfrinachedd mewn rhai achosion megis yn achos Bargen Ddinesig Prifddinas-Ranbarth Caerdydd (CCR) sy'n yn ymwneud â gwybodaeth fasnachol sensitif ac awgrymodd y gallai hyn fod yn wall sydd wedi codi wrth ddrafftio'r gwaith.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor bryderon ynghylch pennu'r gyllideb a phryderon y gallai'r cynigion gael effaith niweidiol ar gyllideb yr awdurdod lleol ac a fyddai toriadau pellach yn digwydd o ganlyniad i hynny.

I gloi, nododd un Aelod bod y Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig wedi'u diffinio fel Awdurdod Lleol, yn ôl y rheoliadau perthnasol.

#### **PENDERFYNWYD:**

- Nodi'r wybodaeth ynghylch y gyfres nesaf o reoliadau cyffredinol - Rheoliadau Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig (Cyffredinol) (Cymru) 2021.
- I gloi PENDERFYNWYD rhoi caniatâd i Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaeth, Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu, ar y cyd â Chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu, gyflwyno sylwadau ac ymatebion Aelodau'r Pwyllgor i Lywodraeth Cymru cyn i'r ymgynghoriad ddod i ben.

### **23 Adolygiad y Cadeirydd a dod â'r cyfarfod i ben**

Manteisiodd Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu ar y cyfle i grynhoi'r pwyntiau allweddol o'r cyfarfod. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys gwaith cyn y cam craffu mewn perthynas â'r Model Buddsoddi Cydfuddiannol (bydd y sylwadau yn cael eu cyflwyno i'r Cabinet ar 24 Gorffennaf), llunio ymateb ffurfiol i ymgynghoriad Llywodraeth Cymru ynghylch Rheoliadau Cyd-bwyllgorau Corfforedig (Cyffredinol) (Cymru) 2021 a llunio ymateb y Pwyllgor ar gyfer ymgynghoriad Comisiwn y Gyfraith ar Reoleiddio diogelwch tomenni glo yng Nghymru.

I gloi, dymunodd y Cadeirydd ddiolch i Swyddogion ac Aelodau am eu presenoldeb a'u sylwadau.

**Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 3.35 pm**

**Y Cynghorydd M. Adams  
Cadeirydd.**

Tudalen wag

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/11270/21

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Christian Hanagan  
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau - Gwasanaethau Democrataidd a Chyfathrebu  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda Cynon Taf

CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk

10 Medi 2021

Annwyl Christian,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 27 Awst yn gofyn am eglurhad am ein bwriadau o ran rheoleiddio diogelwch tomeni glo yng Nghymru.

Rwy'n falch o glywed am ymgysylltiad rhagweithiol y Cyngor â Chomisiwn y Gyfraith ar ei adolygiad o ddeddfwriaeth diogelwch tomeni glo, mae'n bwysig bod yr holl randdeiliaid yn cyfrannu at sicrhau ein bod yn datblygu trefn fodern addas i'r diben.

Mae hwn yn faes blaenoriaeth i Lywodraeth Cymru ac mae adolygiad Comisiwn y Gyfraith yn elfen bwysig o'r dystiolaeth sydd ei hangen i sicrhau bod gennym drefn reoli effeithiol ar gyfer tomeni glo yng Nghymru.

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi ymrwymo i ddeddfu ar gyfer trefn reoli newydd ar gyfer tomeni glo segur yng Nghymru yn ystod tymor y Senedd hon. Gan fod Deddf Mwyngloddiau a Chwareli (Tomeni) 1969 yn ddarn o ddeddfwriaeth yn y DU, felly ein dull cyffredinol fyddai diwygio'r rhan berthnasol o Ddeddf y DU, yn yr achos hwn Rhan 2 sy'n ymdrin â thomeni glo segur, rhag bod yn berthnasol yng Nghymru.

Yn ogystal â'r adolygiad a grybwyllwyd uchod, y byddwn yn aros am adroddiad gan Gomisiwn y Gyfraith yn ei gylch ar ddechrau 2022, byddwn hefyd yn cynnal ein dadansoddiad ein hunain o domeni a byddwn yn cyhoeddi Papur Gwyn yn y dyfodol i ymgynghori ar gynigion penodol y Bil.

Mewn perthynas â'ch ymholiad ynghylch rheoliad 40 o'r Rheoliadau Trwyddedu Amgylcheddol, mae angen dadansoddiad pellach sylweddol ar y cysylltiadau rhwng cyfraith amgylcheddol a deddfwriaeth diogelwch tomeni glo cyn y gellir gwneud unrhyw benderfyniadau, yn enwedig gan fod y rheoliadau hyn yn gymwys ar draws nifer o feysydd polisi. Bydd fy swyddogion yn parhau i ymgynghori â'r holl randdeiliaid perthnasol ar y mater hwn.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales](mailto:Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales)

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Rwy'n gwerthfawrogi diddordeb y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu yn y mater hwn ac rwy'n annog y Cyngor i barhau i ymwneud yn rhagweithiol â datblygu ein cynigion deddfwriaethol.

Yn gywir,



**Julie James AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd  
Minister for Climate Change





## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21st SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SCHEME – COMMENTS, COMPLIMENTS AND COMPLAINTS ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

**JOINT REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES AND SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &  
COMMUNICATION.**

**Author: Jayne Thomas, Customer Feedback, Engagement and improvement  
Manager. Tel. No. 01443 425449**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to:

- 1.1 Provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the operation and effectiveness of the Council's Customer Feedback Scheme (CFS) between April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.
- 1.2 Seek Committee's comments on the background of the Customer Feedback Scheme together with improvements for 2020/21 and future developments.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the work undertaken by the Customer Feedback and Engagement Team and the relevant legislative changes and new reporting requirements as a result of changes to the powers of the PSOW.
- 2.2 Determine whether they have any comments or observations to make in respect of the Customer Feedback Scheme Comments, Compliments and Complaints report (attached as Appendix 1)

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Whilst there is no current statutory requirement for the Local Authority to produce an annual report it is important that members note the improvements to the CFS and the nature of feedback received by our customers some of which has led to service improvement across the Council.
- 3.2 To ensure there is consistent reporting of customer feedback from which recommendations for improvement can be made and evidence of good practice/customer service can be shared across service areas.
- 3.3 Legislative changes to the powers of the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales came into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 (Public Services Ombudsman Act 2019) giving that office greater investigative powers and through the development of the Complaint's Standards Authority a role in monitoring standards, trends and patterns across public service delivery in Wales.
- 3.4 The Council is, as part of this legislation, required to report on complaints activity to the PSOW and it is therefore recommended that this is noted and that Members consider how complaints activity is monitored going forward.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Management of the Customer Feedback Scheme merged with the existing management arrangements for the Social Services statutory process on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.
- 4.2 The Customer Feedback Scheme records all Comments, Compliments and Complaints received by both residents of RCT and those people visiting RCT who access our facilities. The scheme does not cover complaints where there are other statutory arrangements in place such as complaints about Social care or School complaints.
- 4.3 The complaints process is a two stage process and is in line with the Public Services Ombudsman's Model Complaints Policy. The Complaints Standards Authority confirmed RCT's compliance with this policy in a letter to the Chief Executive of RCT in 2021.

**Stage One: Local Resolution** – The emphasis at this stage of the process is early resolution of the complaint either by providing an explanation, putting things right or agreeing a way forward which may include identifying where improvements to services are necessary. The timescale for local resolution is 10 working days.

**Stage Two: Formal Consideration** – If the complainant remains dissatisfied after completion of stage one, they may request that the complaint proceeds to stage two of the process. This involves a formal investigation of the complaint with a report being produced by a Senior Council Officer. The timescale for dealing with this stage is 20 working days.

- 4.4 If the complainant remains dissatisfied with the outcome of the stage two Investigation, they may progress their complaint to the Public Service Ombudsman for Wales.

## **5. IMPROVEMENTS**

- 5.1 Since January 2019 ongoing improvements have been made to the existing CRM system to enable more accurate recording of customer feedback and this has resulted in improved qualitative data. It is hoped that more robust and accurate data will be available following the commissioning of a new I.T. system for capturing both Customer Contacts and Customer Feedback.

Current improvements include:

- Review of the CFS policy with greater emphasis on feedback, not just a complaint's policy.
  - Monitoring of complaints timescales and closure of feedback items.
  - Updates of information and data categories for recording complaints and detailing the outcome of resolution in line with requirements of the Public Services Ombudsman Wales (PSOW) Complaints Standards Authority.
- 5.2 Other notable improvements include the analysis of outcome data which has highlighted the need to review the way in which customers interact with the Council and how we can manage their expectations and improve communication.
- 5.3 This will inform the work to improve customer facing web and social media information about the Customer Feedback Scheme which will provide both a means for customers to engage with the Council and provide further opportunity for the Council to evidence how customer feedback has improved or developed services. Discussions are underway as to how this can best be achieved.

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no equality and/or diversity implications from this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 No consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report as it provides information on the operation of the Customer Feedback Scheme and direct feedback from service users in relation to how well services are delivered through the monitoring of compliments comments and complaints.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report and the work of the Customer Feedback and Engagement Team is managed within the existing allocated budget.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 The Customer Feedback Scheme is not a requirement of specific legislation however the administration of the work of the Complaints Feedback and Engagement Team is underpinned by the standards and expectations set by the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) and is subject to scrutiny under the new powers afforded to the PSOW under the Public Services Ombudsman Act 2019.

## **10. LINKS TO COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

- 10.1 The function of the Customer feedback and Engagement Team and the collation of service user feedback through both complaints and compliments provide a quality assurance mechanism by which the Council can measure their performance against the corporate priorities to:

- Deliver essential services well;
- Engage with customers and use feedback to redesign and/or improve our services.
- Ensure local people get good outcomes from their services.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 All customer feedback provides valuable information from which services can improve and develop. This data also enables services and the Council as a whole to better understand the needs of its residents and to assist in both the planning and delivery of essential services.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21st SEPTEMBER 2021**

**CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SCHEME  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**JOINT REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES AND SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &  
COMMUNICATION**

**Background Papers**

**Officer to contact: Jayne Thomas, Customer Feedback, Engagement and  
Improvement Manager. Tel. No. 01443 425449**

Tudalen wag

# **RHONDDA CYNON TAF CUSTOMER FEEDBACK ANNUAL REPORT**

**1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**



## FOREWORD

This report provides an overview of the operation of the Customer Feedback Scheme (CFS) including details of the level of feedback received as well as developments and improvements to the scheme for the year 2020/21.

This period has been a significantly challenging and unprecedented time for the Council in having to both deploy services specifically in response to flooding and the Covid pandemic and to manage longer term initiatives to support communities and businesses across RCT. New ways of working have been introduced across all services areas with staff working from home and as a result, some of the development planned for CFS has been delayed while the delivery of community support and front-line services has been prioritised.

Service areas and Complaints Co-ordinators have throughout the period and despite the presented challenges, continued to effectively manage customer contacts and complaints with some service areas noted to have made improvements to the consistency of complaint recording and for the second year reducing the number of complaints remaining open at the 6 month period from 2.4% in 2019/20 to 2.2% in 2020/21. 61% of complaints were dealt with in 10 working days compared to 56% in 2019/20. Whilst this may be a small improvement all service areas should be recognised for continuing to effectively manage complaints and customers' expectations as well as make improvements through what has been a difficult year.

The numbers of feedback Items received are consistent with previous years and remain less than 0.3% of overall customer contacts. The total number of contacts made to the council in contrast to 2019/20 fell by approximately 35%. Of those contacts Social Media and web contacts rose by 210% as telephone contact to the council was restricted for a period due to Covid and adjustments to working arrangements. This pattern is also reflected by the Customer Feedback Scheme source of feedback data which evidences a significant rise in use of web form and e-mail as a means of customers providing feedback.

The Customer Feedback and Engagement Team have continued to throughout this period to provide support and monitor complaints activity across all service areas and to provide responses to those complaints that relate to more than one service area (crosscutting).

As the Manager of the team I have liaised with the Complaints Standards Authority to ensure that the Council's revised Customer Feedback policy is compliant with the standard set by the Public Services Ombudsman and the requirements of the Welsh language Act and have begun preparing necessary changes to both the way complaints are received and recorded in readiness for the implementation of a new Customer Record Management System.

Priorities for the coming year include improving the way in which we use Customer Feedback including social media comments and feedback to customers informing them of improvements that have been made to services and planned developments. This work is being undertaken in conjunction with other colleagues in both the consultation and performance teams.

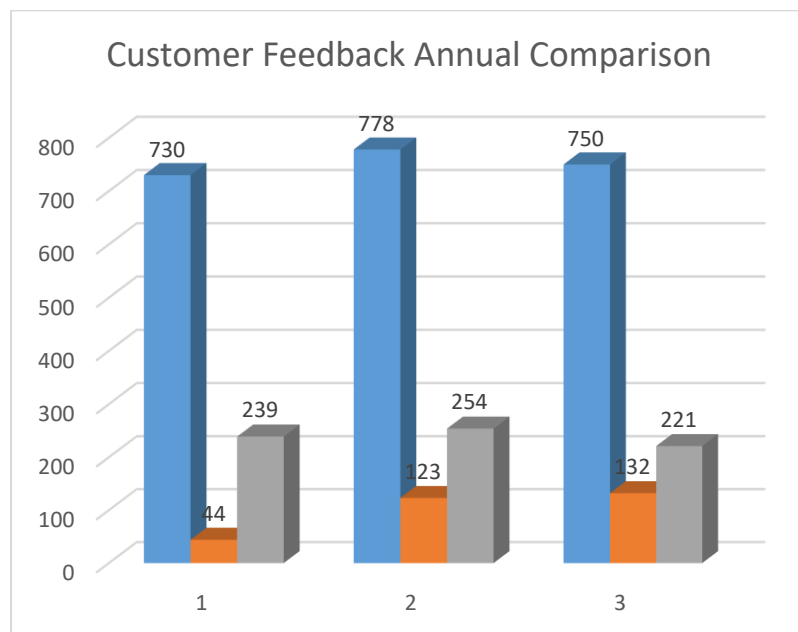
Jayne Thomas, Service Improvement, Customer Feedback and Engagement Manager



## SUMMARY OF CUSTOMER FEEDBACK FOR 2020/21

Service Area	Complaints by Stage		Total complaints	Comments	Compliments	Total
	1	2				
Arts and Theatres	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benefits	9	2	11	2	0	13
Council Tax	55	3	58	8	0	66
Customer Care	7	1	8	3	26	37
Corporate Estates	5	0	5	1	0	6
Cross Service Cases (Multiple services)	21	2	23	0	15	38
Education	43	0	43	2	9	54
E-Access	3	0	3	0	0	3
ESG, Highways and Street care	37	0	37	21	128	186
Information management	1	0	1	0	0	1
Legal (including elections and insurance)	6	0	6	1	1	8
Leisure	13	1	14	4	6	24
Libraries	2	0	2	0	0	2
Parks and Countrysides	27	1	28	10	9	47
Prosperity and Development /Housing	53	13	66	5	17	88
Public Health and Protection	49	7	56	12	5	73
Strategy/Events	1	0	1	1	0	2
Unspecified (no queue)	344	7	351	53	2	406
Cases falling outside of CFS	37	0	37	9	3	49
<b>Totals</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>1103</b>

## KEY THEMES FOR CUSTOMER FEEDBACK



	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
• Complaints	730	778	750
• Comments	44	123	132
• Compliments	239	254	221
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1013</b>	<b>1155</b>	<b>1103</b>

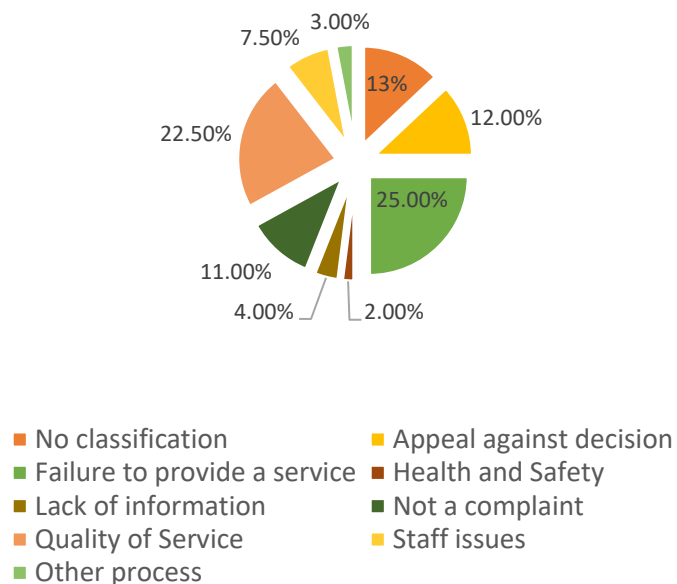
### Key Themes

- A total of 1103 feedback items were logged for 2020/21. This number is consistent with the previous two years however overall contacts to the Council significantly decreased during this period and this along with closed services may have affected the level of feedback received.
- Customer feedback through the Council's website remains the preferred option for customers to communicate with 66% of feedback received through this channel. E-mail communication increased from 8.5% in 2019/20 to 20% and this significant rise can be attributed to Covid restrictions and calls in to the contact centre being unavailable for a period of time.
- 37% of feedback items were not allocated to a queue at the point of reporting. These are cases which have been incorrectly allocated and are in the main complaints for Frontline Services. This is an increase on the figure for 2019/20 and may be attributable to the redeployment of CFS key staff to other positions. It is hoped that the return of staff to their key posts and the development of a new record management system will offer greater flexibility and improve the allocation of feedback items after its implementation.

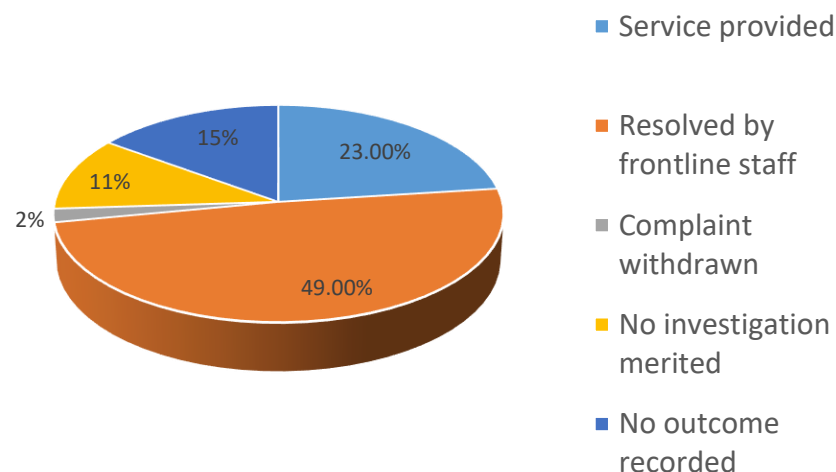
## SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS.

In 2020/21 the Council received 750 complaints through the Customer Feedback Scheme 95% of which were resolved at Stage 1 with 5% dealt with at Stage 2. This number remains consistent with the previous 2 years. The following charts detail the category of complaint where these were recorded on the CRM system and the complaint outcome.

**Complaint Categories**



**Complaint Outcomes**



NB: Outcome categories have been changed to improve reporting, further changes are anticipated in 2021/22.

## COMPLAINTS KEY THEMES

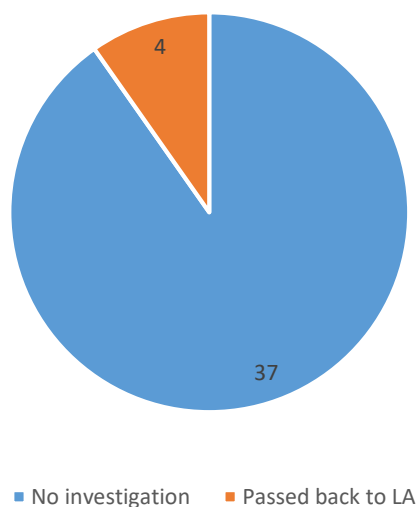
- 59% of Stage 1 complaints were dealt with within 10 working days with 59.5% of Stage 2 complaints dealt with within the designated 20 working days.
- 45% of complaints were determined to be not upheld with 45% being upheld or partially upheld and 10% having no determination recorded.

\*Whilst we continue to record those complaints that are partially upheld the Complaint's Standards Authority no longer accepts this as a valid finding and all partially upheld complaints for their recording purposes will be considered upheld.

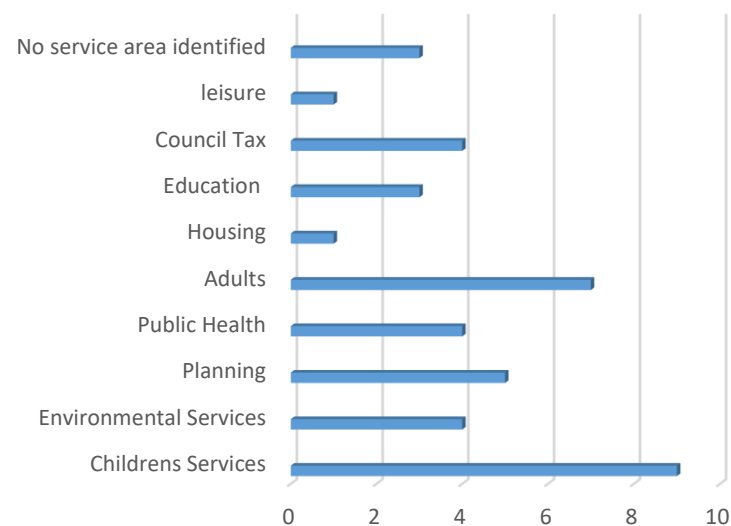
- 23% of upheld complaints identified required action to make improvements to services however only 46 (6%) of complaints recorded learning or areas for identified improvements. This is an area for improvement in 2021/22.
- 17 complaints received identified equality issues, 3 identified Welsh language issues and 17 identified issues relation to data protection.
- Education have improved the recording of complaints with 43 Stage 1 complaints reported in contrast to 19 in 2019/20 and 1 in 2018/19.
- 11% of all complaints and nearly 26% of complaints received by the Council Tax/Benefit Dept. were considered and recorded as 'not a complaint' as an outcome. A detailed look at these complaints is required to determine whether changes are required to the way in which customers categorise their feedback at their first point of contact when using the Web form.
- Complaints in this period made up just 0.2% of all customer contacts made to the Council.
- 41 complaints were referred to the Public Services Ombudsman, details of outcomes for these complaints are detailed in the next graph.
- Complaints reporting this year has been affected by the disruption caused by the Covid pandemic and the priority to provide front line services and to support the community along with adapting to home working and the redeployment of complaints co-ordinators to other roles. The management of complaints however has been consistent and this is evidenced by the low number of Stage 2 and Ombudsman complaints.

## OMBUDSMAN COMPLAINTS

**Complaints referred to Public Service Ombudsman**



**Ombudsman Complaints by Service Area**



### KEY THEMES

- The number of Ombudsman complaints received in 2020/2021 (43) remains consistent with the previous two years and not including complaints for Social care represents only 3.5% of the total number of complaints received by the Council.
- There are no identified themes or concerns as to a particular service area or service provision with 37 complaints requiring no investigation and 4 being referred back to the relevant service area for resolution.
- Overall the number of complaints referred to the Ombudsman for RCT represent just 5% of the overall number of complaints made to their office for all councils across Wales.

## EXAMPLES OF COMPLAINTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Complaint area	Complaint detail	Service Improvement
<b>Cemeteries</b>	Complaint about appearance of cemetery staff	This element of complaint upheld and staff provided with new uniforms.
<b>Contact Centre</b>	Complaint regarding advice given by advisor on how to make a complaint.	Training for all contact advisors on complaints to be scheduled for 2021/22.
<b>Leisure</b>	Complaint about lack of classes in the Rhondda area	Class programme to be reviewed and increased – achieved October 2020.
<b>Refuse and recycling</b>	Disabled lady unable to access steps to/from house as waste collections blocking access.	Crew advised and alternative collection point to be arranged.
<b>Parks maintenance</b>	Complaint about condition of park following grass cutting. Grass was cut during inappropriate ground conditions resulting in surface mud.	All staff reminded of their training and the need to ensure there is a site inspection to determine suitability of works being carried out.
<b>Transportation</b>	Complaint regarding inappropriate position of bus stop and no consultation with resident affected.	Bus stop signage removed and new location to be subject to wider consultation.

## EXAMPLES OF COMMENTS AND COMPLIMENTS

Service Area	Detail of Compliments (Total received 221) Comments (Total received 132)
<b>Education</b>	<i>Thank you for delivering autism awareness for my teams in Communities for Work. The feedback I have had has all been very positive....I am sure it is going to be of great value to our mentors in the future when they are supporting participants.</i>
<b>Council Tax and Welsh language</b>	<i>Customer wished to raise a compliment for Council Tax staff for being helpful and for the level of welsh communication provided stating it was a pleasure to be able to speak with someone in Welsh about his Council Tax query.</i>
<b>Bereavement Services</b>	<i>Customer rung after visit to Aberdare Cemetery and wished to compliment the staff there on how clean and well kept it was. It was spotless and a pleasure to visit there.</i>

<b>Leisure</b>	<i>After setting up the app I booked a gym session....the measures put in place were reassuring and I prefer booking the session as you know how busy or quiet it will be in advance. Thank you</i>
<b>Regeneration and Planning</b>	<i>Thank you very much to all RCT for the grant, how fast it was processed and paid. A big thank you in these times. We are an accident repair centre and still operational.</i>
<b>ESG/flytipping</b>	<i>Reported fly tipping in lane behind house, sorted within days. Geat service, thank you very much to all concerned.</i>
<b>Crosscutting</b>	<i>Mr X would like to say a big thank you to the contact centre/switchboard and mobile library services for continuing the hard work during the pandemic.</i>
<b>ESG/highways</b>	<i>Good Afternoon, I will like it to be noted that on Friday 11th December whilst driving on a country road between Tonyrefail and Penycoedcae, I received excellent public service from two operatives from the Highways Department of RCTCBC. On my way to an appointment in Tonyrefail my car became stuck in a muddy ditch. The two workers, xxx and xxx, pushed the car out of the ditch. Their extremely kind help was gratefully received and I would like to commend them as two outstanding representatives of RCT County Borough Council.</i>
<b>Regeneration and Planning</b>	<i>Can I just say that the access to the current development plan maps and policy documents via the website are excellent. I submit applications to about 12 authorities in Wales and 6 in England, and the system and technology you use is by far the most intuitive. Please don't change</i>
<b>Parks maintenance</b>	<i>Further to meeting with you at my home you ended our conversation by saying that you would arrange for a team to visit the Taff Trail and remove the branch in question. The team arrived just a few days later to cut back the broken branch and remove from my property. All round I was very pleased with the service and advice given and would appreciate if you could pass on my thanks to your line manager as well for the excellent service your department has afforded.</i>
<b>ESG/recycling</b>	<i>Ordered recycling bags online at the weekend - outside my door on Tuesday morning. Brilliant service, thank you.</i>

## **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS AND PRIORITIES**

There is no doubt that the Covid pandemic has had an impact on the levels of customer feedback in 2020/21 and the quality of data that is available on the CFS system. All services have however, continued to respond to customer complaints effectively and have made some improvements in reporting and timescales. The Customer Feedback and Engagement Team will continue to support service areas and monitor the management of customer feedback to ensure that progress continues whilst also ensuring that the Council not only provide customer focused services but use feedback to both understand our customers' needs and to identify where improvements are necessary. Below are some of the priorities for 2021/22:

### **Complaints Training**

Virtual training for staff was provided in 2019/20 by the Complaints Standards Authority however there was some disruption to sessions due to the impact of Covid and services unable to prioritise due to the re-deployment of some front-line staff. It is hoped that sessions will resume later this year and into 2022 when staff across all service areas will have an opportunity to participate.

### **Improved reporting.**

The last 12 months has provided a useful opportunity for the review of improvements that were made to how complaints were logged and categorised and how we capture customer feedback. What we have learnt will inform improvements going forward and how we develop the new Customer Record Management system to ensure it can provide the information we need and through changing our public facing information, better manage our customers' expectations and improve communication.

The Complaints Standards Authority has also, following review, altered the reporting requirements for Local Authorities and this has resulted in further changes to how we log complaint outcomes to ensure we are compliant with their requests. There is still work to be done to ensure that any new system offers the flexibility we need to meet the needs of frontline services and there has been slower progress than anticipated across all areas of developing the Customer Feedback Scheme.

### **Improved customer feedback**

Discussions have begun in relation to how we feedback positive messages to our customers and residents of RCT about how services have responded and improved in response to their feedback. The Customer Feedback team will be part of these discussions and this will be a priority for the service in 2021/22.

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## RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

### REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS

### CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES – DRAFT STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CJC'S

#### 1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek Members' feedback on the consultation initiated by Welsh Government on the **draft statutory guidance for the establishment of CJC's**

#### 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members: -

- 2.1 Consider and provide their feedback on the consultation which considers the **draft statutory guidance for the establishment of CJC's**
- 2.2 Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to convey the comments and responses of committee members to Welsh Government prior to the consultation closing.

#### 3. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Minister for Finance and Local Government has launched a consultation on the **draft statutory guidance for the Establishment of CJC's**, which will run for 12 weeks until the closing date of the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The draft statutory guidance document sets out the core principles and values underpinning the operation of CJC's. The guidance also highlights issues members will wish to consider when putting in place the constitutional and operational arrangements for their CJC.
- 3.2 The draft guidance and consultation paper can be accessed via the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/corporate-joint-committees-draft-statutory-guidance>. It is proposed that Members take the opportunity, through the consultation, to provide any feedback they have in relation to the draft guidance before the closing date of **Monday 4 October 2021**.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Members of the Overview & Scrutiny have, to date, already responded to a number of consultations in respect of the Corporate Joint Committees (CJC), more recently on the the Corporate Joint Committee (General) (No.2)(Wales) Regulations 2021 which is the development of the wider CJC legislative framework and application of specific elements of that framework.
- 4.2 Members are reminded that there are two key principles which underpin the development of the guidance for CJs namely:
- a CJC should be treated as a member of the 'local government family' and, where appropriate, should largely be subject to the same powers and duties as principal councils in the way that it operates
  - the detail on how a CJC operates in practice should be left to the determination of the members of the CJC itself
- 4.3 The draft guidance, on which Members are asked to comment, is not detailed in every aspect of the legislation and will look to support the implementation of the CJC's. It is worthy of noting that in some places it acts as interim guidance until the publication of the Democracy Handbook, due early in 2022. As the remainder of the legislation is applied there may be further changes to this guidance to ensure it reflects the requirements.
- 4.4 The proposed guidance for each chapter together with the consultation questions are set out within the attached document (Appendix 1) and can be accessed here: <https://gov.wales/consultation-corporate-joint-committees-draft-statutory-guidance.html>
- 4.5 As previously advised, it is proposed that a third stage, which will be consulted on in Autumn 2021, will put in place further legislation for the operation of the CJs and their functions including scrutiny and governance and further provision on staffing.
- 4.6 A fourth stage will then address any remaining provisions which a CJC might need, but which are unlikely to be needed at the point at which they begin to deliver their functions. A further consultation will be undertaken on this stage in Spring 2022.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equality or diversity implications aligned directly to this report.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

#### **8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.**

- 8.1 Welsh Government say that developing the CJC mechanism for local government regional collaboration meets the sustainable development principle and five ways of working and they have also considered how a regional approach can maximise our contribution to the well-being goals. In doing so they say CJsCs put in place a new framework to enable local government to make their contribution to the goals more effectively.

## 9. **CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been afforded a further opportunity to respond to a Welsh Government consultation in respect of the CJC's. The draft guidance seeks to set out or build on the policy intent and support the implementation of the CJC's. The next stages will involve the development of the wider CJC legislative framework and application of specific elements of that framework.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &**

**COMMUNICATION**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

OPEN CONSULTATION

# Consultation on the Corporate joint committees: draft statutory guidance

We are seeking your views on guidance which supports the setting up of 4 corporate joint committees (CJCs).

First published: 12 July 2021

Last updated: 12 July 2021

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## What this consultation is about

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (“the LGE Act”) created the framework for a consistent mechanism for regional collaboration between local government, namely Corporate Joint Committees (CJC). The Act provides for the establishment of CJsCs through Regulations.

Regulations creating four CJsCs in Wales (“the Establishment Regulations”) were made on 17 March 2021 and the following CJsCs were established on 1 April 2021:

- [The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021](#)
- [The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021](#)
- [The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021](#)
- [The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021](#)

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These four CJs will exercise functions relating to strategic development planning and regional transport planning. They will also be able to do things to promote the economic well-being of their areas.

In contrast to other joint committee structures which exist in statute CJs are separate corporate bodies which can employ staff, hold assets and budgets, and undertake functions.

Section 86 of the LGE Act provides that principal councils and CJs must have regard to any guidance issued by Welsh Ministers relating to Part 5 Chapters 3, 4 and 5 of that Act and in respect of National Park authorities, relating to Part 5 Chapters 4 and 5.

This consultation is seeking views on draft guidance for Corporate Joint Committees under part 5 of the LGE Act.

## Where we are now

The Establishment Regulations were made as part of the first stage of putting in place the legislative framework which CJs will operate within. These were made along with a number of statutory instruments which ensured that from day one the CJs were subject to the duties which you would expect to apply to public bodies in Wales and have the appropriate governance and oversight you would expect from a public body.

The next stage will provide for the regulation of CJC meetings and proceedings and provide for the roles of certain 'executive officers', Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Chief Financial Officer, to support the work of the CJC.

A [consultation on the draft Corporate Joint Committees \(General\) \(No. 2\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2021](#) has been launched alongside this consultation as part of this stage of the development of CJC legislation. Any comments and views on the draft regulations should be submitted as part of that consultation and will not be considered as part of this consultation.

The third stage will put in place further legislation for the operation of the CJs

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and its functions. We will consult on this stage in Autumn 2021.

A fourth stage will then put in place any remaining provisions which a CJC might need but which are unlikely to be needed at the point at which they begin to deliver their functions. We will consult on this stage in the Spring 2022.

This draft guidance has been prepared as part of this staged process. As with all stages of the development of CJC's, two key principles underpin the development of the guidance for CJsCs:

- a CJC should be treated as a member of the 'local government family' and, where appropriate, should largely be subject to the same powers and duties as principal councils in the way that it operates
- the detail on how a CJC operates in practice should be left to the determination of the members of the CJC itself.

Due to the staged approach to the development of the CJC legislation, in some cases the relevant local government legislation has not yet been applied to CJsCs. In these instances the guidance seeks to set out or build on the policy intent, reflecting the underpinning principle of treating the CJC as a member of the 'Local Government family'. As the remainder of the legislation is applied there may be some small changes required to this guidance to ensure the guidance fully reflects the provisions.

The draft guidance does not seek to provide a detailed analysis of / guidance on every aspect of the legislation which applies, or will apply, to CJsCs. Instead the guidance is intended in the first instance to support the process of establishing CJsCs, and in particular to consider those areas where the legislation provides flexibilities to CJsCs.

The draft guidance sets out the core principles and values around how CJsCs should operate and the issues members will wish to consider when putting in place the constitutional and operational arrangements.

In a number of places the guidance will act as 'interim' guidance, in advance and in anticipation of the publication of the Democracy Handbook, due early in 2022, much of which will apply equally to CJsCs as it will to local authorities. Wherever



possible the guidance will reflect the approach to be taken within that handbook or will directly refer to that handbook when published.

The intention is to publish the CJC Guidance later this year (2021).

The approach to the development of the CJC model to date has been one of co-development and collaboration with local government. The intention is to continue with this approach as we work with local government to implement CJs in Wales. Elements of the draft guidance within this consultation have been prepared in consultation with local government and through a number of local government professional networks including Lawyers in Local Government, Society of Welsh Treasurers and HR Directors Network.

## The proposed guidance

The purpose of the guidance is to support CJs in putting in place the necessary arrangements for the proper administration and governance of the CJC. The guidance is not intended to be prescriptive about what form these arrangements take. The guidance is also intended to support CJs to take a proportionate approach to such arrangements, adapting them to local circumstances. The regulations establishing CJs are designed to provide flexibility and enable local discretion and it is important that the members of CJs determine for themselves what is appropriate and what meets their needs in the development of their constitutional and operational arrangements.

The guidance does not intend to replace or undermine existing good practice in regional arrangements but rather to recognise it and support CJs to build on it. It has been informed by the consultation on the regulations establishing CJs and ongoing discussions with local government.

It is important to note that the guidance is on the constitutional and operational arrangements of a CJC, it is not on the functions that will be exercised, there will be separate guidance on preparing a Strategic Development Plan and preparing a Regional Transport Plan.

The guidance is set out in chapters as follows.

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## Chapter 1

Provides guidance on CJC membership and constitutional arrangements including sub-committees, involving others in the work of CJsCs, the ethical framework, standing orders and delegation

## Chapter 2

Provides guidance on staffing and workforce matter within a CJC including terms and conditions, accountability and pensions.

## Chapter 3

Provides guidance on CJC meeting and proceedings including transparency of meetings, public participation, broadcasting of meetings and multi-location meetings.

## Chapter 4

Provides guidance on governance and scrutiny within, and of, a CJC including performance and governance, overview and scrutiny arrangements and the governance and audit sub-committee

## Chapter 5

Provides guidance in relation to funding, finance and budgetary matters including accounting practices and controls, audit, investment practices and borrowing.

## Chapter 6

Provides guidance in relation to other statutory duties which will apply to CJsCs

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as a public body in Wales including duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, duties regarding the Welsh language and the Welsh language standards, duties under the Equalities Act 2010 and under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

## **Consultation questions**

### **Question 1**

Generally, does the draft guidance provide an appropriate level of support to CJsCs to put in place the necessary arrangements for the proper administration and governance of the CJC?

### **Question 2**

Does Chapter 1 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on the membership and constitution of CJsCs?

### **Question 3**

Does Chapter 2 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on matters relating to the staffing and workforce of a CJC?

### **Question 4**

Does Chapter 3 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on the way CJsCs should conduct meeting and proceedings?

### **Question 5**

Does Chapter 4 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on the governance within, and scrutiny of, a CJC?

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## Question 6

Does Chapter 5 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on the funding, finance and budgetary matters of a CJC?

## Question 7

Does Chapter 6 provide sufficient/appropriate guidance on the other statutory duties which CJsCs will be subject to?

## Question 8

We would like to know your views on the effects that the guidance would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

## Question 9

Please also explain how you believe the guidance could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language, and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and ensure there are no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.

## Question 10

We have asked a number of specific questions on the draft guidance. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use the consultation response form to express your views.

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## How to respond

Submit your response by midnight **4 October 2021** in any of the following ways:

- Complete our [online form](#)
- Download, complete our [online form](#) and email [LGPartnerships@gov.wales](mailto:LGPartnerships@gov.wales)
- Download, complete our [online form](#) and post to:

Local Government Transformation and Partnerships Division  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

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- to (in certain circumstances) object to or restrict processing
- for (in certain circumstances) your data to be ‘erased’
- to (in certain circumstances) data portability
- to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) who is our independent regulator for data protection.

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For further details about the information the Welsh Government holds and its use, or if you want to exercise your rights under the GDPR, please see contact details below:

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## Data Protection Officer

Data Protection Officer  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

E-mail: [data.protectionofficer@gov.wales](mailto:data.protectionofficer@gov.wales)

## Information Commissioner's Office

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 01625 545 745 or 0303 123 1113

Website: [ico.org.uk](http://ico.org.uk)

## UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

The Welsh Government will be data controller for any personal data you provide as part of your response to the consultation. Welsh Ministers have statutory powers they will rely on to process this personal data which will enable them to make informed decisions about how they exercise their public functions. Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about or planning future consultations. Where the Welsh Government undertakes further analysis of consultation responses then this work may be commissioned to be carried out by an accredited third party (e.g. a research organisation or a consultancy company). Any such work will only be undertaken under contract. Welsh Government's

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standard terms and conditions for such contracts set out strict requirements for the processing and safekeeping of personal data. In order to show that the consultation was carried out properly, the Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then redact them before publishing.

You should also be aware of our responsibilities under Freedom of Information legislation. If your details are published as part of the consultation response then these published reports will be retained indefinitely. Any of your data held otherwise by Welsh Government will be kept for no more than three years.

## Further information and related documents

Number: WG43017

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## About this document

This document is a copy of the web page [Consultation on the Corporate joint committees: draft statutory guidance](https://gov.wales/consultation-corporate-joint-committees-draft-statutory-guidance.html) downloaded.

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**Draft Statutory Guidance**

**Establishment of Corporate Joint Committees**

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## About this guidance

### Purpose of this guidance

This draft guidance sets out the core principles and values around how the Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) established on the 1 April 2021 should operate and the issues members will wish to consider when putting in place the constitutional and operational arrangements for their CJC. CJCs will be public bodies, and an important part of the local government family.

Members of the CJC will want to consider from the beginning how they will demonstrate good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour; take informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny arrangements; and engage with and involve others in the decisions they take.

Likewise, CJCs will be responsible for managing public money and so it is essential they are accountable for the use of that money and that they have robust financial management and scrutiny arrangements in place.

In addition, as a public body, a CJC will be expected to comply with a number of general duties, which are key to how public service organisations work in Wales. Members of a CJC will need to consider how it will comply with such duties and this is set out in more detail in Chapter six.

The guidance is intended to support CJCs in putting in place these arrangements, it is not intended to be prescriptive about what form these arrangements take - the regulatory framework for CJCs is designed to provide flexibility and enable local discretion where possible.

The guidance is also intended to support CJCs to take a proportionate approach to such arrangements, adapting them to local circumstances. It is important that the members of CJCs determine for themselves what is appropriate and what meets their needs in the development of their constitutional and operational arrangements.

CJCs will be subject to broadly the same powers and duties as their constituent councils. The guidance confirms what these requirements will be and highlights specific areas for consideration by CJCs. We recognise that local authorities will already be familiar with these requirements, and that guidance already exists in relation to many of them.

The guidance does not intend to replace or undermine existing good practice in regional arrangements but rather to recognise it and support CJCs to build on it. It has been informed by the consultation on the regulations establishing CJCs and ongoing discussions with local government.

CJCs will want to consider how they can work together to shape and support their work, developing common 'once for Wales' approaches where appropriate and sharing learning. We know that this sector led approach is a successful way of driving, owning, sharing and sustaining effective practice. The WLGA Improvement Programme will provide a range of general and targeted support that CJCs will be able to draw upon.

The guidance is on the constitutional and operational arrangements, it is not on the functions that will be exercised – there will be separate guidance on preparing a Strategic Development Plan and Regional Transport Plan.

Section 86 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides that principal councils and CJsCs must have regard to any guidance issued by Welsh Ministers relating to Part 5 of that Act, Chapters 3, 4 and 5, and in respect of National Park authorities, relating to Part 5 Chapters 4 and 5.

As with all stages of the development of CJC's, two key principles underpin the development of the guidance for CJsCs:

- A CJC should be treated as a member of the 'local government family' and, where appropriate, should largely be subject to the same powers and duties as local authorities in the way that it operates. The intent is to avoid as far as possible making CJsCs do things in a manner that those in local government would be unfamiliar with or to create new and unfamiliar procedures, obligations, powers etc. which might increase administrative burdens; and
- The detail on how a CJC operates in practice should be left to the determination of the members of the CJC itself. This flexibility will enable CJsCs to differ between geographical areas to meet the different needs and ambitions of their region.

This guidance does not seek to provide a detailed analysis of / guidance on every aspect of the legislation which applies to CJsCs. Instead the guidance is intended in the first instance to support the process of establishing CJsCs, and in particular to consider those areas where the legislation provides flexibilities to CJsCs.

In some cases where the relevant local government legislation has not yet been applied to CJsCs the guidance will also seek to set out the policy intent where relevant – in these cases it is noted that until the relevant regulations are made the 'due regard' duty under s 86 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 may not apply. Where this is the case the approach or policy intent will reflect the principle of treating the CJC as a member of the 'Local Government family'.

In a number of places the guidance will also act as 'interim' guidance, in advance and in anticipation of the publication of the Democracy Handbook, due early in 2022. Wherever possible the guidance will reflect the approach to be taken within that handbook. It is likely that on publication of the Democracy Handbook this guidance will be update to take into account the approach within the Handbook.

It is important that CJsCs and their constituent councils refer to the text of each piece of legislation as the first source of information about what the requirements are and how to meet them.

Where the text of the legislation itself is self-explanatory, no further guidance is given.

## **Terminology**

Reference to the "Act" means Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

The term 'local authority' should be interpreted to mean County Council or County Borough Council (also referred to in legislation as 'Principal Councils').

The term 'constituent council' should be interpreted to mean those county councils or county borough councils set out in the CJC Establishment Regulations as members of the CJC. Where relevant this should also be taken to include the relevant National Park Authority.

References to the "CJC Establishment Regulations" means the four sets of regulations establishing the four existing CJsCs, (which are for the most part identical) that is:

- The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021

- The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021
- The South Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021
- The Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021



## Chapter One - Membership and constitutional arrangements

A CJC will be a separate corporate body comprised of its constituent councils, will exercise specified functions<sup>1</sup> of a local authority and will be democratically accountable through its constituent councils for the functions it performs.

### 1. Membership

- 1.1 The membership of each CJC are set out in the CJC Establishment Regulations for that CJC. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, which provides the framework for establishing CJsCs, requires that CJC regulations must provide that the senior executive members of the local authorities in the area of the CJC are members of the committee. In most cases this will be the Leader of the principal council but it might also be the mayor if a principal council operates under a mayor and cabinet executive.
- 1.2 When CJsCs are exercising the function of preparing a Strategic Development Plan the relevant National Park authority (NPA) is also a member of the CJC. The council members of the CJC may choose, in agreement with the NPA, to extend the NPA membership of the CJC to include other purposes/functions (see Regulation 8 of the Establishment Regulations).
- 1.3 In the event that the office of leader of a constituent council or the office of the relevant nominated NPA member is subject to a job sharing arrangement those persons involved in the job share should be treated as if they were one person for the purposes of the CJC Regulations.

### 2. Replacement and substitution

- 2.1 The office of CJC council member rests with the role of the senior member of the constituent council and not the individual office holder (or office holders where the role is shared). Therefore in circumstances where this changes, such as a reshuffle or resignation, then membership of the CJC must change also.
- 2.2 Should a constituent council have a vacancy at the senior member position, then that constituent council must appoint another member from the executive to be the member of the CJC until that vacancy is filled (Regulation 7 of the Establishment Regulations).
- 2.3 In circumstances where the council member is unable to discharge their function, a constituent council must appoint another member of the executive to act on behalf of the council member. This is to ensure that the work of the CJC is not disrupted by circumstances that might affect an individual such as:
  - long term sickness
  - family absence
  - parental leave
  - caring responsibility
  - conflict of interest

---

<sup>1</sup> Functions specified under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 or Regulations made under Part 5 of that Act.

### **3. Appointment of a chair and deputy chair**

- 3.1 A CJC will be required to elect a chair and deputy chair from its constituent council members, see paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 of the Establishment Regulations.
- 3.2 The chair and deputy chair must both be elected as part of the first CJC meeting and then be re-elected, or a new chairperson and /or deputy chairperson appointed, annually at the CJC Annual General Meeting. The CJC Establishment Regulations provide (paragraph 2a of Schedule 1) for the chairing of the first meeting, in advance of the election of the chairperson.
- 3.3 In the event that the offices of the chairperson and deputy chairperson are vacant simultaneously then the CJC Establishment Regulations (paragraph 2(7) of schedule 1) also provide for the chairing of a meeting until a chairperson is elected.

### **4. Involving others**

- 4.1 In order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, CJsCs will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each CJC creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each CJC will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.
- 4.2 The regulations establishing CJsCs provide the flexibility for them to engage and involve others in their work through co-option. Who is co-opted and how they are co-opted (the terms of the co-option) will be for the CJC to decide. In some cases members may also enable co-opted participants to vote on such matters. In most cases this will be for the council members to decide unless it is in relation to the exercise of the functions in Regulation 8 of the Establishment Regulations, in which case such decisions will include the NPA member.
- 4.3 The benefits of co-opting participants to participate on the CJC are:
- to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the CJC
  - to enable local input or to provide for local representation
  - to provide specialist expertise on specific issues
- 4.4 CJsCs will want to give thought to the type and range of organisations they wish to be represented by co-opted participants, based on the skills and experience that will be beneficial and relevant to its work – for example representatives of:
- Further and Higher Education Institutions
  - Third sector representatives
  - Business or Sector specific organisations
  - Trade Unions
- 4.5 They could equally be private individuals with expertise that may be useful to the CJC, for example to give evidence or provide advice.
- 4.6 CJC members may also choose to co-opt other participants from the constituent councils – for example the portfolio leads for the transport, strategic planning or economic development functions. This might be particularly relevant for subject specific sub-committees.
- 4.7 The Welsh Government is committed to working in social partnership. Social partnership refers both to a transactional way of working and more generally to an idea; a value that should underpin all we do. It can encourage collaboration in delivering public services

and is a means of promoting economic growth and improvements in well-being. Social partnership brings together government at all levels, employers and trade unions in areas of mutual interest, to design and implement better solutions. It is expected that CJsCs would work under the same social partnership approach that exists between trade unions and principal councils. CJsCs should consider how they involve trade unions in their work and in the decisions they make. This involvement may be through formal co-option of trade unions or a trade union representative on to the CJC and / or one or more of its sub-committees (if it elects to have sub-committees) or through less formal arrangements. Welsh Government is also committed to fair work and is committed to introduce legislation in this regard. Any provisions in relation to fair work which apply to local authorities and other public bodies will be expected to apply to CJsCs too.

- 4.8 In considering who to co-opt, CJsCs should also consider the backgrounds and circumstances, gender, age and cultural diversity, of the communities they serve and how those they co-opt might best reflect the diversity of their communities - notwithstanding the need for each participant's ability to demonstrate the skills, experience and knowledge required to contribute to the effectiveness of its work.
- 4.9 There are no restrictions on who can be co-opted, how long they are co-opted for, the purpose for which they are co-opted or if they are co-opted with or without voting rights (but see voting arrangements) – this is left entirely to the CJC to decide. A CJC will however be required to set out such matters in written notice to the co-opted participant (see Regulation 10 of the CJC Establishment Regulations).
- 4.10 When co-opting participants a CJC might wish to consider:
  - the purpose for which co-opted participants are co-opted, for example which function or functions
  - the 'term of co-option', (how long they are co-opted for) for example a fixed period, renewed annually or indefinitely until the co-option is terminated;
  - whether co-opted participants are to be co-opted with or without voting rights (see restrictions on voting co-opted participants)
  - If co-opted participants are to have voting rights if those rights are for one, some or all functions, and / or on the governance and administrative arrangements of a CJC
  - whether co-opted participants are co-opted onto the CJC itself or onto one of its sub-committees, or both.

## **5. Sub-committees**

- 5.1 A CJC will be able to establish sub-committees to support it in exercising its functions and/or to support its governance and administrative arrangements. However, certain functions cannot be delegated to a sub-committee and these are set out in the Establishment Regulations. Sub-committees are an important way of involving others and in ensuring appropriate expert and sector specific advice is available to support the decisions CJsCs must take. Sub-committees can also provide an opportunity for more detailed discussion, consideration and decision making on specific matters.
- 5.2 The role, rules and procedures (or terms of reference) of CJC sub-committees are for the CJC to decide and are wholly at the discretion of a CJC. Unless otherwise stated in legislation, a CJC will be able to delegate decision making to a sub-committee, should it wish to do so.
- 5.3 Whilst sub-committees are not required in legislation, other than a Standards sub-committee (see paras 12.8-12.13) and Governance and Audit sub-committee para 35) there is an expectation that CJsCs will set up sub-committees for each of the key

functional areas that they exercise. It is anticipated that these sub-committees will provide the opportunity to engage more broadly and involve a range of relevant stakeholders.

- 5.4 CJC sub-committees can consist of members of the CJC itself. They can also include co-opted participants (see paras 4.1-4.10). It might also be possible for sub-committees to be made up entirely of co-opted participants if the CJC considers this appropriate. For example such sub-committees might be led by a relevant member or relevant portfolio holder from within the constituent councils' executive. In addition it is possible for people to attend a CJC or sub-committee for example to present on a one off basis.
- 5.5 When establishing sub-committees, and considering who to involve in the sub-committee, a CJC might wish to consider, in addition to those matters in 4.10 above:
- the nature of the task/activity to be considered
  - the relevant expertise/skills which might be needed to support the CJC in its decision making
  - the gender, diversity and cultural balance of sub-committee membership and how this might/should represent the communities the CJC serves
- 5.6 A CJC might also consider the timings of its sub-committee meetings, and its meetings more generally, and how this might help support the diversity of its membership and participation by others in its work.

## **6. Voting arrangements**

- 6.1 The default position for a CJC's voting procedures is 'one member one vote' and all CJC's will initially be established on this basis. However, once established, CJC's will be able to adopt alternative voting procedures should they wish to do so. In some cases, such as the Mid Wales CJC with only two constituent councils, adopting an alternative voting procedure might support the approach to involving others through co-option, in particular if the CJC wished to provide co-opted participants with voting rights.
- 6.2 Any decision to adopt an alternative voting arrangement will be required to be a unanimous decision of all those entitled to vote on such matters, all of whom must be present. CJC's will want to give thought to how any alternative voting arrangements can be proportionate, accurate, efficient, transparent and secure. It is important that the administration of a CJC is transparent and accessible to members of the public. Any alternative voting arrangement adopted should be clear and easy to understand and will be required to be set out in the standing orders.
- 6.3 Decisions on alternative voting procedures may not be delegated to a sub-committee or other person(s).

## **7. Dispute resolution**

- 7.1 As provided for in the CJC Establishment Regulations all matters, apart from adopting alternative voting procedures and funding of the budget requirement, are to be decided by a simple majority (unless an alternative procedure is adopted). However as all CJC's are made up of an even number of constituent councils there is a potential for voting to be tied and in which case, except for matters relating to the Strategic Development Plan function (where the chair has the casting vote) the tied matter is not carried.

- 7.2 Whilst CJs may wish to work by consensus there is a potential that such tied matters may escalate into disputes i.e. they are unable to reach decision by simple majority.
- 7.3 It is the case that any tied matters can be deferred for re-consideration and there is nothing to prevent this from happening until a majority agreement can be reached. However a CJC may wish to consider putting in place appropriate arrangements in the event that a CJC is not able to reach a decision by simple majority, in particular where this might prevent the CJC from exercising its statutory duties. A CJC may wish to consider for example;
- adopting alternative voting procedures to introduce a casting vote approach for the chair for certain functions or in certain circumstances; and / or
  - procedures for arbitration (including independent arbitration if appropriate).

## **8. Training for members**

- 8.1 A CJC may wish to consider appropriate and proportionate training for its members and any co-opted participants. Providing training and ongoing support to CJC members and co-opted participants will ensure they have the necessary information and skills needed to fully participate in the work of the CJC. This might include for example in relation to the nature of membership and members' roles and responsibilities on a CJC. A CJC may also wish to provide support to its members on their relationship with, and representation of, their constituent councils and in supporting and encouraging the democratic accountability of the CJC members with their constituent councils.
- 8.2 Training may be particularly important for co-opted participants, for example to support them in understanding their role on the CJC, the nature of the functions within the CJC, the administration and governance of the CJC and the relationship of the CJC with other public bodies / organisations.

## **9. Concurrence of powers and duties**

- 9.1 It will be important that the work of the CJC at the regional level complements, supports and is aligned to that of the constituent councils at the local level. In some cases, for example with strategic development planning and regional transport planning, delivery of functions at the local level will be dependent on the decisions made regionally by CJs; that is in terms of the nature of the decision and the timing of when decisions are made. In other cases, for example with economic development, the powers will be broadly the same and agreements will need to be made so there is clarity on who does what, when, where and how. We refer to such issues here as issue of concurrence.
- 9.2 It is expected that a CJC would seek to agree a process with its constituent councils that sets out how issues of concurrence will be managed. This might include for example:
- agreeing the specific activities within the scope of the agreement
  - agreeing how concurrence will operate and how issue of concurrence will be communicated between parties
  - providing clarity on how agreement on concurrence will be achieved, reviewed and how disputes may be resolved.

## **10. Constitutions and standing orders**

- 10.1 CJs will be required to have a constitution and to adopt standing orders to set out the CJC's organisational, administrative and procedural matters for meetings and decision-making. Standing orders will also set out certain matters with respect to staff, including; codes of conduct (para 12.1-12.5); a protocol on member / officer relations; and, the function of appointment and dismissal of, and taking disciplinary action against, members of staff of the CJC (how-so-ever appointed). There will be a requirement to identify the person responsible for such functions.

## **11. Discharge of functions**

- 11.1 A CJC can adopt a sub-committee model to exercise some of its functions or to support it in exercising its functions, including so as to delegate some of its functions to a sub-committee. It will be for the CJC to determine the arrangements, including membership and voting rights of its sub-committees as it sees fit (see section 5 above). A CJC will also be able to delegate some of its functions to a member of the CJC or staff of the CJC. However, certain decisions cannot be delegated to a sub-committee and these are set out in the Establishment Regulations.

## **12. Ethical standards framework**

### Code of conduct

- 12.1 It will be important that members and co-opted participants within a CJC are subject to the same standards of conduct as members of constituent councils. The Local Government Act 2000 established an 'ethical framework' for local government in Wales and the intention is that this same 'ethical framework' will apply to CJs. The Welsh Government is currently reviewing this framework and this guidance will be updated to take account of any changes resulting from the review. The intention is that any changes will be in place for the new administrations elected in May 2022.
- 12.2 It is intended to apply Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 to CJs, which will bring CJs within the ethical framework for local government which that Act establishes. On application of the ethical framework a CJC will be able to adopt its own code of conduct for members. Until this point its members (including co-opted participants from constituent councils) will be subject to the relevant code of conduct of their local authorities. During this time members and co-opted participants from local authorities will be required to register any personal interests they have in the business of the CJC in their relevant principal council's register of interest by providing written notification to their council's Monitoring Officer.
- 12.3 Prior to application of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 co-opted participants who are not from a constituent council will not be subject to a code of conduct (or be within the remit of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales). CJs will want to consider if co-opted participants, with or without voting rights, should be required to sign up / adhere to a code of conduct as part of the 'terms of co-option'. It is recommended that all co-opted participants should be required to adopt the code of conduct as good practice. Any such requirement should be set out in the notice of co-option.
- 12.4 The Code of Conduct (Qualifying Local Government Employees) (Wales) Order 2001 sets out the code of conduct for qualifying employees of relevant authorities in Wales.

It is intended that the code of conduct will apply to employees of CJsCs (see also staff and workforce Chapter Two).

- 12.5 Ad hoc observers invited to advise or to present to the CJC will not be subject to the code, but should follow the [Nolan principles of public life](#). It will be for the CJC to ensure that Ad hoc observers are aware of the Nolan principles and are aware of the standards required when invited to advise or present.

#### Register of interests

- 12.6 On application of the ethical framework a CJC will be required to maintain a register of interests, to be established by the Monitoring Officer, for its members and co-opted participants with voting rights. A CJC will cover a different geographical area to its individual constituent councils and therefore it is considered necessary for a separate relevant register of interests to be maintained to cover the functions and geographic area of a CJC (and in relation to relevant matters outside the areas to which CJsCs may influence and to which members may benefit).
- 12.7 Co-opted participants with voting rights will be required to declare relevant interests to a CJC. Co-opted participants without voting rights may not be required to declare interests but a CJC should consider, in order to promote transparency in its work and in particular where this work is related to strategic plans, if co-opted participants without voting rights should declare interests also. This should be set out in the CJsCs notice of co-option.

#### Standards Committee

- 12.8 A CJC will be required to appoint a standards committee. The way in which this requirement is satisfied will be for the CJC to determine.
- 12.9 There are a number of approaches a CJC may wish to consider:
- utilising an existing standards committee of one of its constituent councils
  - establishing its own standards sub-committee, which could be populated in line with the principles within the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001 but by members of the standards committees of the constituent councils
  - establishing a standards sub-committee in line with the Standards Committee (Wales) Regulations 2001
- 12.10 A CJC standards committee will not be able to establish a joint committee with another CJC standards committee or delegate any of its functions to a sub-committee.
- 12.11 As with standards committees of local authorities, a CJC standards committee will be required to hold at least one meeting during every 12 month period after 31 December 2021.
- 12.12 As with other CJC meetings, the CJC standards committee are likely to conduct the majority of its meetings virtually (unless a standards committee elects to hold physical meetings) and therefore access, notice and availability to relevant documents should be interpreted at all times to mean electronically. A CJC should make all relevant notices, agendas, minutes and other documents of its standards committee available on a dedicated website and / or a designated area of the constituent authorities' websites.

12.13 A CJC standards committee will be required to prepare an annual report to the CJC. To support democratic accountability and transparency a CJC may consider providing a copy of that annual report to its constituent councils also.

#### Monitoring Officer

12.14 To ensure that the CJC operates within the relevant legislation and that the CJC is not subject to any maladministration a CJC will be required to appoint a suitably qualified Monitoring Officer on the same basis as the provisions in section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

12.15 The role of the Monitoring Officer will also include:

- providing support and advice to the CJC and its members in relation to its meetings and any meetings of its sub-committee (where applicable)
- ensuring appropriate scrutiny arrangements are put in place
- providing support and advice in relation to the functions of the CJC's committees to both the members and officers of the CJC
- establishing and maintaining a register of interests of the members and co-opted participants of the CJC. Such interests should include any matters relevant to the functions and functional area of the CJC, not just their own Principal Council
- providing support and advice to each member of the CJC in carrying out the role of members of the CJC
- providing reports and making recommendations in respect of the number and grades of staff required to discharge the role

12.16 In the case of absence or conflict of interest an alternative person can be nominated to carry out the required functions.



### **13. Liability of members and staff**

- 13.1 A CJC is a corporate body in its own right and the members will be taking decisions on functions which are theirs alone and / or have been delegated to them by the local authorities. A CJC will be required to indemnify its members (have its own indemnity) for the decisions they take. The CJC should hold the liability, rather than individual members, employees or others discharging functions, on their behalf.
- 13.2 Section 101 and 105 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides for the indemnification of local authority members and officers and the same provisions will apply to a CJC.
- 13.3 In relation to the issue of exposure to liability of co-opted participants with voting rights for decisions taken by the CJC, 'The Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) (Wales) Order 2006' sets out the terms under which this may happen. Whilst this Order does not specifically reference co-opted participants it does not exclude them.
- 13.4 Co-opted participants without voting rights are not part of the decision making process and therefore it is not anticipated that a CJC need indemnify such persons.
- 13.5 CJCs will need to consider how they will provide similar arrangements, as is necessary, in relation to officers employed by them (and those not employed by them) who are entrusted with the custody and control of money on their behalf. Section 114 of the LGA 1972 provides an example of how this is currently provided for in Local Authorities.
- 13.6 Section 1 of the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 requires insurance against liability for employees – it requires every employer carrying on any business in Great Britain to insure, and maintain insurance, under one or more approved policies with an authorised insurer or insurers against liability for bodily injury or disease sustained by his employees.

### **14. Member remuneration**

- 14.1 Decisions about the remuneration of members of a CJC will be made by the Independent Remuneration Panel for Wales (IRPW), which is a body set up to decide on the payments that local authorities, community councils, fire and rescue authorities and national park authorities make to their elected members.
- 14.2 Members of CJCs (or their sub-committees) who are already elected members of their 'home' authorities will not receive an additional salary in respect of their role on the CJC. Members will however be entitled to receive payments for items such as travel costs and subsistence while on CJC business. The CJC will be required to put appropriate arrangements in place to facilitate such payments.
- 14.3 The IRPW are also able to consider whether additional support is appropriate to address specific issues, for example it has previously decided that members of local authorities should receive support to assist with the costs of caring for dependents.

### **15. Discrimination against members**

- 15.1 CJCs will be subject to the duties within the Equalities Act 2010 (see Chapter 6 of this guidance) which will include duties to ensure that the CJC does not discriminate against, harass or victimise any of its members when carrying out official business for

and on behalf of the CJC (s58 of the Equalities Act 2010). A CJC will wish to consider how it provides the same or similar protection to any co-opted participants on the CJC and may wish to set this out as part of the notice of co-option.

## Chapter Two - Staffing and workforce

It is important that a CJC has the staff it requires to be able to discharge its functions effectively. CJsCs will be able to employ and recruit (on merit) staff in their own right; make agreements to have staff from other bodies placed at the CJsCs' disposal, and place staff at the disposal of other bodies; commission services / staff resource from other bodies; loan or share staff resource with other bodies; and undertake secondments (in and out).

### 16. Staffing requirements

- 16.1 It will be for each CJC, and its Executive Officers, to decide as is appropriate for its area and for each function it exercises, what staff it requires to be able to discharge its functions effectively. It is important to note that the staffing requirement may change as the CJC develops and the approach to staffing will likely be proportionate to its stage of development and to its functions. For example, staffing requirements for the first year of the CJC, and in advance of the strategic functions commencing, will likely be minimal as the CJC puts in place its constitutional and operational arrangements. As functions commence or transfer / transition into CJsCs this may necessitate more significant staffing levels.
- 16.2 In the first instance, CJsCs will likely place more emphasis on the use of loaned/seconded staff and as they develop they might then explore all potential options to staffing in order to deliver efficient and effective services at a regional level.
- 16.3 In considering its staffing requirement and approach, a CJC might wish to consider:
- if the role has any statutory requirements
  - if the role requires any specific skills or qualifications
  - if the role is temporary in nature (for example as part of a planning cycle) or more permanent and ongoing
  - if there are particular skills or capacity within the constituent councils which the CJC is seeking
- 16.4 A CJC might also look to other CJsCs to see if there is an opportunity to share resources for specific roles or where specific skills or expertise is required.
- 16.5 CJC regulations require that where a CJC is to enter into an agreement with another body with regards to staffing, all relevant staff must be consulted. Where staff are transferred from a constituent council to a CJC then the provisions of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protections of Employment) Regulations 2006 (other than regulations 4(6) and (10)) will apply.
- 16.6 The Code of Practice on Workforce Matters<sup>2</sup> (also known as the 'two tier code') issued under s19 of the Local Government Act 1999 currently applies to local authorities and it is intended to apply this to CJsCs and in any relationship between a local authority and a CJC in the delivery of the CJsCs functions.

### 17. Publicly employed individuals

- 17.1 It is intended that, as publicly employed individuals, officers of a CJC are:
- subject to the same / similar requirements of transparency / accountability etc. as employees of local authorities
  - afforded similar or the same benefits as officers of local authorities
  - subject to the same / similar restrictions on political activities

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<sup>2</sup> [Code of Practice on Workforce Matters](#)

- indemnified in the discharge of their duties on behalf of the CJC (see indemnity of members and staff)

## **18. Trade union representation**

- 18.1 As has been previously mentioned, the Welsh Government and local government are committed to working in social partnership. Social partnership brings together government at all levels, employers and trade unions in areas of mutual interest, to design and implement better solutions.
- 18.2 It is expected that CJsCs would work under the same social partnership approach that exists between trade unions and local authorities. This would include the role of trade unions for the purpose of consultation and negotiation on a collective basis in relation to relevant matters and in the representation of the interests of their members. CJsCs should consider putting in place an appropriate trade union recognition agreement to support the process of representation and negotiation.

## **19. Terms and conditions**

- 19.1 The CJC regulations require that where a CJC appoints staff it does so under terms and conditions (including terms and conditions as to remuneration) that are *'substantially similar to those of officers within a constituent council undertaking responsibilities which the ..... CJC considers to be reasonably comparable.'* These should be in line with the pay and terms of conditions determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services.
- 19.2 The basic principal is that employees of a CJC should be treated no more / less favourably than employees of a local authority. However the approach within the regulations recognises that there may not be directly comparable posts within local authorities and CJsCs, particularly when you consider the current and potential scale of the CJsCs and the functions they operate.
- 19.3 There is already a significant divergence across Wales in the terms and conditions of local government employees. The intent is to avoid CJsCs looking to establish additional and separate terms and conditions to those that might already exist in local government and therefore adding additional complexity to an already complex landscape. Indeed there may be an opportunity should they wish to do so for CJsCs to look to standardise their terms and conditions more generally with each other or with the constituent councils within their region. In the first instance, it is envisaged that a CJC might use the back office services of one of its constituent councils (or indeed of any principal council in Wales) for example, to provide HR, finance, procurement and payroll functions and so a more standardised approach to terms and conditions would be highly beneficial.

## **20. Pay policy**

- 20.1 A CJC will be held accountable for its approach to pay in the same way that a local authority currently is. Standardising such approaches will ensure that a CJC is not used as a vehicle to erode (or indeed inflate) pay structures through the transfer of staff or functions to a CJC. Where there is deviation / difference such deviation / difference must be clear and transparent.
- 20.2 To maintain transparency in matters relating to pay the intention is to require CJsCs to prepare, annually, a statement setting out the CJC's policies on the remuneration of its chief officers, the remuneration of its lowest paid employees and the relationship

between the remuneration of its chief officers and the remuneration of its employees who are not chief officers.

## **21. Transparency and accountability**

- 21.1 As publicly employed individuals, officers of a CJC are subject to the same requirements of transparency / accountability etc as employees of local authorities or any other public appointments.
- 21.2 Any person who holds a politically restricted post within a CJC (whether appointed to their role by direct contract, commissioned or other loan agreement) will be disqualified from becoming or remaining a member of a CJC or a member of a local authority. A CJC will be required to prepare and maintain a list of politically restricted posts.
- 21.3 A CJC will also be subject to the same legislative requirements as local authorities in terms of:
- Conflict of interest in staff negotiations
  - Payments due to deceased members of staff
  - Limit on paid annual leave for local authority duties
  - Disclosure of interest in contracts and prohibition on accepting rewards

## **22. Statutory officers**

- 22.1 In the same way as currently applies to local authorities, CJC's will have a requirement to put in place a number of statutory officers (see for example Monitoring Officer - para 12.14, and Chief Financial Officer – Chapter 5). This is not necessarily a requirement to directly employ an individual, or individuals, to fulfil these roles. It will be possible for a CJC to satisfy any statutory requirements in this regard in the same flexible way as is outlined for general staffing above. This might include via sharing of resources from within its constituent councils (or any other council), sometimes referred to as 'twin hatting'; commissioning the role from another body; or recruiting on a full time or part time basis as appropriate. It will be for the CJC to determine the approach to filling its statutory officer roles, where appropriate in consultation with its constituent councils.

## **23. Pensions**

- 23.1 CJC's will be required to provide and contribute to a pension for any of its staff that it directly employs. The intent is that CJC's will be able to participate in the Local Government Pension Scheme in the same way that local authorities do. Such an approach would facilitate the transfer of staff between CJC's and the local authorities in Wales and ensure that pension liabilities should not be crystallised as a result of any transfer of staff and that any staff transferring retain their existing Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) membership and provision.

## **Chapter Three - Meetings and proceedings**

As with local authorities, it is important that political decision-making within CJsCs should take place in the public eye, with CJsCs ensuring their citizens are both kept informed of policy developments and provided the opportunity to be consulted on policy changes. Making it easier for members of the public to understand how a CJC functions; how it makes decisions; and how local people can follow proceedings, input their views and have them taken into account is vital.

### **24. Transparency and openness**

- 24.1 Transparency and openness of meetings, proceedings and decision-making are important parts of ensuring democratic accountability. A CJC should be at least as open/transparent as a principal council. All CJC meetings, including those of its sub-committees will be required to:
- enable / allow public and press access to all meetings (subject to existing constraints on disclosing information which is confidential and exempt)
  - give public notice of meetings electronically, including details of how to gain access
  - publish an agenda, reports and background papers for any meetings electronically
  - retain a formal record of its proceedings and decisions made. The record must be published electronically and made available to members of the CJC and members of the constituent councils
  - maintain a register of members and publish an electronic and postal address for each member
- 24.2 For the purpose of CJC meeting documents, and any other documents required to be published, these are only required to be made available / published / held electronically. However members of the public who do not have access to electronic means of accessing the documents will be able to request that the CJC provide them with copies.

### **25. Participation strategy**

- 25.1 It is important to remember that the work CJsCs will be taking forward will have the potential to impact on the lives of a great number of people. It is only right that individuals are able to contribute to the shaping of services which they and their families rely upon and which have a significant impact on their daily lives. Trust and respect between communities and CJsCs will be required to set a foundation upon which all parties can work together to meet and overcome the challenges each CJC will encounter as work progresses.
- 25.2 A CJC will be required to encourage participation in its decision making. It will be important that any approach to encouraging participation is proportionate to the functions which a CJC exercises and takes into account any consultation requirements, whether set out in statute or in guidance, when exercising those functions.
- 25.3 Section 40 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 requires local authorities to prepare and publish participation strategies as part of their duty to encourage participation. Section 41 required the local authorities to consult and review the participation strategy. These duties have not been applied to CJsCs in the first instance, however in encouraging public participation a CJC will wish to consider how it proposes to comply with its wider duties to encourage public participation which

might include the development of an appropriate and proportionate participation strategy.

25.4 Such a strategy might address:

- ways of promoting awareness among local people of the CJC's functions
- ways of facilitating access for local people to information about decisions made, or to be made, by the CJC
- ways of promoting and facilitating processes by which local people may make representations to the CJC about a decision before, and after, it is made
- arrangements made, or to be made, on how views of the public can be brought to the attention of the relevant overview and scrutiny committees
- how a CJC proposes to comply with a duty imposed by any enactment

25.5 It will be important for a CJC's approach to encouraging participation to meet the needs of communities, building on the arrangements within constituent councils and actively seeking the views of the citizens within the area about how they would wish to be engaged. A CJC should regularly review and if appropriate consult on its approach to encouraging public participation.

25.6 Guidance about how to take forward the work to deliver and maintain participation strategies will be contained within the Democracy Handbook, currently in development. The intention is to have this in place later this year so that arrangements can be made in advance of the new administrations elected in May 2022. CJsCs should adhere to the principles within the Democracy Handbook (when published) when considering their approach to public participation.

## **26. Petitions scheme**

26.1 CJsCs will be required to make and publish a petition scheme setting out how the CJC will handle and respond to petitions, including electronic petitions, in the same way as is required of local authorities. This brings CJsCs in line with local government and other public bodies such as the Senedd and, in relation to electronic petitions, in line with the Welsh Government's digital agenda.

## **27. Broadcasting of CJC meetings**

27.1 The electronic broadcasting of meetings will enable individuals who cannot attend meetings to see and hear the proceedings which affect their lives and witness the decisions made and position taken by their representatives. At its heart, these provisions are about the transparency of local democracy.

27.2 Welsh Government has given substantial political and financial support to the introduction of broadcasting of council meetings through on-line web streaming. This has improved significantly the opportunity for the public to follow proceedings in their local authority.

27.3 The matters which CJsCs are responsible for will be of significant interest to individuals, communities and the constituent councils. It is therefore appropriate that CJC meetings, and meetings of its sub-committees, which are open to the public should be subject to the same or similar broadcasting requirements as a principal council. The provisions on broadcasting within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 (s46 and s47) will apply to CJsCs. However in line with the approach with local authorities these provisions will come into force in May 2022. As a new corporate body however CJsCs are encourage where possible to consider and incorporate the broadcasting requirements from the outset.

- 27.4 Further guidance is likely to be provided within the Democracy Handbook currently in development. Where this is the case CJs should take account of the approach within that guidance as if it were part of this guidance.
- 27.5 The expectation is that meetings will be broadcast as they take place, and be available electronically for a reasonable period of time after the meeting. However, depending on the circumstances, flexible arrangements for broadcasting will be considered. It is anticipated that a CJC will look to make use of the constituent councils' facilities in the broadcasting of its meetings. The CJC might wish to consider such arrangements in determining the budget setting and funding requirements of a CJC.

## **28. First meeting**

- 28.1 The CJC Establishment Regulations provide (paragraph 2a of Schedule 1) for the chairing of the first meeting, in advance of the election of the chairperson by a specified constituent council. While not currently explicitly provided for, the expectation is that the responsible council would also arrange the first meeting. However, where the CJC is building on or replacing existing regional arrangements there may be programme offices in place which could undertake this task.
- 28.2 Other than appointing the chairperson and deputy chairperson, there are no requirements in the CJC Establishment Regulations on what must be discussed at the first meeting, but it is expected that it could cover:
- appointing or discussing the appointment of executive officers
  - agreeing/discussing Standing Orders
  - agreeing/discussing code of conduct and disclosure of any interests / conflicts
  - agreeing/discussing sub-committees
  - agreeing meeting schedule for the year
  - agreeing locations / arrangements for meetings (virtual / physical)
- 28.3 Subject to the timing of the first meeting it may also be necessary to agree / set the budget for the CJC in line with Regulation 16(7) of the CJC Establishment Regulations. This requires a CJC to have set its budget by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2022. The CJC must meet to agree its budget.
- 28.4 The balance between discussing and agreeing items at the first meeting will be dependent on the extent of any preparatory work undertaken beforehand.

## **29. Meeting quorum**

- 29.1 A quorum of no fewer than 70% of those persons entitled to vote is required at each meeting (recognising that this may be different for each item subject to the individual decisions of a CJC). This balances the need for the CJC to be able to exercise its functions effectively and the need to ensure that decisions of the CJC are representative of the majority of those entitled to vote.
- 29.2 This quorum applies except for decisions in relation to the funding of the budget requirement and adopting of alternative voting procedures where all of the persons entitled to vote on such matters must be present.

## **30. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**



- 30.1 A CJC will be required to hold an AGM in each financial year but the arrangements and timings of an AGM will be at the discretion of the CJC. At each AGM the CJC must confirm / appoint the chairperson and deputy chairperson.

### **31. Holding other meetings as a CJC may determine and extraordinary meetings**

- 31.1 Other than the AGM the number and frequency of meetings of a CJC will be at the discretion of the CJC. However it is expected that these will be of sufficient frequency to allow for the effective and efficient exercise of the CJC's functions and to ensure the transparency of the work of the CJC. It is anticipated that the frequency of meetings may change depending on the nature of the functions to be exercised or the stages in the relevant planning, reporting or budget setting process. A CJC might wish to consider the timings of its meetings in a way as to encourage and support the diversity of its members and the participation of members of the public in its work. A CJC must provide for its meeting arrangements in its standing orders.
- 31.2 An extraordinary meeting of the CJC may be called at any time by any person entitled to vote on a matter to be discussed / decided on at that meeting.

### **32. Multi-location meetings**

- 32.1 The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the difficulties in relying on traditional ways of working within local government and the restrictions that arise from the lack of digital interaction between electors and those elected to represent them.
- 32.2 The flexibility introduced through the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides that meetings can be held in multiple locations – referred to as multi-location meetings<sup>3</sup>. Under the new provisions authorities must make, and publish, arrangements to facilitate meetings, including fully virtual meetings, semi-virtual or hybrid meetings and of course physical meetings. Authorities must ensure that every meeting covered by these provisions is capable of being held virtually. However, not all meetings will have to be held virtually, that will be a matter for local determination.
- 32.3 It is intended that these multi-location meeting provisions will also apply to CJC's. CJC meetings (including sub-committee meetings) will be able to be held virtually, in a physical location, or a combination of both. This will enable a CJC to conduct its business in an effective and efficient way and in a way that meets the needs of its members and the communities it serves. It is assumed that due to the wider geographic spread of its members a CJC will conduct the majority of its meetings virtually.
- 32.4 Local authorities and CJC's will be required to have regard to guidance (to be prepared separately), which will include the expectation that individuals' personal circumstances should be considered when deciding on the type of meetings to be held.

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<sup>3</sup> The phrase "multi-location meeting" describes any meeting which involves one or more meeting participant joining a meeting from a location other than the council chamber or a committee room of a local authority or other physical location

## Chapter Four - Governance and scrutiny

As is discussed in Chapter Three it is important that political decision-making within CJsCs is transparent and CJsCs are able to be held to account and are able to be challenged for the decisions that they take. Having appropriate performance and governance and scrutiny arrangements in place will be important to achieve this. CJsCs will therefore be subject to the same performance, governance and scrutiny requirements as local authorities, however it is expected that these would be proportionate to the scale of functions the CJC undertakes.

### 33. Performance and governance

- 33.1 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides at Part 6 for a new performance and governance regime for local authorities. Part 6 requires each council to keep under review the extent to which it is fulfilling its 'performance requirements', that is, the extent to which it:
- is exercising its functions effectively;
  - is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively; and
  - has effective governance in place for securing the above.
- 33.2 The mechanism for this review is self-assessment, with a report setting out the conclusions of the self-assessment once in respect of each financial year. Self-assessment will be complemented by a peer-led panel performance assessment once in an electoral cycle.
- 33.3 Separate guidance has been produced to support the introduction of the performance and governance regime. It is intended that Part 6 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 will apply to CJsCs. [The guidance on the performance and governance regime](#) will therefore apply to a CJC as a result of the application of Part 6.

### 34. Overview and scrutiny arrangements

- 34.1 Working with its constituent councils a CJC will be required to put in place appropriate overview and scrutiny arrangements. This will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC. It will be important for CJsCs to consult on and agree the arrangements with its constituent councils. In considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJsCs should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils. The clear aim and ambition however must be to create, facilitate and encourage a clear democratic link back to the constituent councils.
- 34.2 CJC members and staff will have a duty to provide information to the scrutiny committee; attend committee meetings if requested to do so; and consider or respond to any report or recommendations made by a committee within the agreed arrangements and which relate to the CJC.

### 35. Governance and audit

- 35.1 A CJC will also be required to have its own governance and audit sub-committee. The functions of the governance and audit sub-committee are as follows: (see also paragraph 16(1) of the CJC Establishment Regulations)
- to review and scrutinise the financial affairs of the CJC
  - to make reports and recommendation in relation to the CJsCs financial affairs
  - to review and assess the CJsCs risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements

- to make reports and recommendations to the CJC on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements
- to oversee the CJC's internal and external audit arrangements
- to review any financial statements prepared by the CJC
- to exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify

35.2 Membership of a CJC governance and audit committee will be constituted in the following way:

- at least two thirds of the members must be members of the constituent councils; and
- at least one member is a person who is not a member of a county council or county borough council in Wales.

35.3 In both cases above the members of a CJC governance and audit committee cannot be a member of the CJC, a member of the executive of a constituent council or a co-opted participant (co-opted participant in this case means a person co-opted on to the CJC, or to participate in activities of the CJC, other than the governance and audit committee).

35.4 It is anticipated that the governance and audit committee will be required to meet once in every calendar year as a minimum. Section 116 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 amends section 82 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 so that the chair of the governance and audit committee must be a lay member – it is intended that this should apply to a CJC governance and audit committee also. These amendments do not come into force until after the 2022 local government elections. However in anticipation of the application of the commencement of the relevant provision under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 and to avoid needing to amend the approach within the CJC, the CJC should establish its governance and audit committee as if the amendments in Section 116 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 had commenced.

## **Chapter Five - Funding, finance and budgetary matters**

A CJC must ensure it is sufficiently funded to deliver its specified functions and activities and is required to put in place financial management arrangements which are in line with existing checks and balances – including the financial duties and rules which require councils to act prudently in spending, overseen and checked by a responsible Chief Finance Officer. Proper accounting practices and external audit arrangements will provide independent and objective assurance regarding the effectiveness of the CJC's risk management, control and governance processes.

### **36. Budget requirements**

- 36.1 Each CJC is required to calculate its budget requirements for each financial year to include the amounts required to exercise its functions, and expenditure associated with administrative costs and overheads, as well as an amount for contingencies, a reserve, and an amount to cover any outstanding liabilities. The intention is that a CJC must be sufficiently funded to deliver its specified functions/activities, including expenditure associated with administrative costs and overheads.
- 36.2 In calculating its budget requirement the CJC must also take into account any estimated funding it anticipates receiving from other funding sources including Welsh Government, UK Government, private sector bodies, third sector and voluntary bodies.
- 36.3 The CJC must agree its budget requirement and the amounts payable by each constituent local authority at a meeting before 31 January immediately preceding the beginning of a funding period. This would include the separate calculations involving the relevant NPA required in relation to the strategic planning function.
- 36.4 To facilitate these agreements a CJC is expected, and encouraged, to engage with all its constituent councils and the relevant NPA early in the budget setting process. It is envisaged this should take place as early as November preceding the beginning of a funding period.
- 36.5 For the amounts payable determined by the CJC, the CJC must disclose the factors and criteria which were taken into account, or the methods, principles and rules which were adopted in its formula for the preceding funding period for its functions (including any new factors, criteria, methods, principles or rules).
- 36.6 The amount payable by each of the constituent councils (and for strategic development planning the NPA) is to be determined by apportioning such costs between the constituent councils (and for strategic development planning the constituent councils and NPA) in such proportions as they may agree. The funding of the budgetary requirement must be agreed by unanimous decisions of those entitled to vote on such matters. In the absence of unanimous agreement by all those entitled to vote on such matters, the amounts payable by the constituent councils will be directed by Welsh Ministers.
- 36.7 A CJC may adjust its budget requirement during the financial year, any agreement to do so must be a unanimous agreement of all those entitled to vote on such matters. This is only expected to be done in exceptional cases where the existing budget requirement for a financial year transpires to be substantially insufficient for a CJC to carry out its functions. Before deciding to adjust its budget requirement a CJC should consider all its alternative options to address any temporary cash flow challenges it

faces, including the use of reserves and seeking temporary borrowing or overdraft facilities.

### **37. Funding the budget requirement**

- 37.1 As soon as practicable after 31 January preceding the beginning of a funding period the CJC should in writing confirm arrangements for the payable amounts to be paid by the constituent councils. The frequency and proportion of the payable amounts will be a matter for the constituent authorities and the CJC to agree taking into account respective cash flow challenges.

### **38. First year budget**

- 38.1 In advance of the strategic functions commencing on 2022, the budget requirement for the first year of the CJC (2021/22) is unlikely to be significant as the CJC will primarily focus on putting in place its constitutional and operational arrangements.
- 38.2 The CJC will likely look to draw upon resources from one or all of its constituent authorities in this first year to cover incidental or administration costs that may arise before the budget is set for the following year. The Welsh Government has committed to supporting the initial set up of the CJs. It is likely that this support will go some way to covering the initial expenses of establishing the CJs. It is assumed that a CJC will utilise facilities of the constituent local authorities wherever possible, particularly in the first year, i.e. facilities for meetings, Human Resources and other back office functions.
- 38.3 Each CJC must set a budget for the 2022-23 financial year before 31 January 2022.

### **39. Accounting practices and controls**

- 39.1 The funding from constituent councils will be held and managed by the CJC. In doing so it will be subject to the same financial management arrangements as local government bodies in Wales and required to comply with the same statutory requirements:
- The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) Regulations 2003 (“the 2003 Regulations”) contain detailed provisions for the regulatory regime for the operation of capital finance and accounting controls applicable to local government bodies in Wales. They also modify accounting practice in various ways to prevent adverse impacts on authorities’ revenue resources.
  - The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the 2014 Regulations”) provide the regulatory regime underpinning the financial reporting and accounting of local government bodies in Wales.
- 39.2 When preparing financial accounts, CJs will be required to follow proper practices which are prescribed in the 2003 Regulations, defined as:
- a) the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code) published annually by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA). The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority. This Code is prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which have been adopted as the basis for public sector accounting in the UK

b) Governance and accountability for Local Councils: A Practitioners Guide 2011 (Wales) as may be amended [or reissued] from time to time

39.3 These documents take into account the detailed provisions within the 2003 Regulations ensuring local government bodies are complying with legislation when preparing financial statements to give a true and fair view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority.

39.4 Which of these two 'proper practice' documents CJs will follow will be dependent on their size and this is specified in the 2014 Regulations. It is envisaged the CJs are likely to be managing relatively small budgets in the early years and will therefore adopt the proper practices of the smaller relevant bodies proportionate to their size. As they grow, CJs could be expected to follow practices for those of a larger relevant body.

#### **40. Keep, prepare and publish annual financial accounts**

40.1 The 2014 Regulations contain important responsibilities for the control and effectiveness of financial management of a local government body including; governance arrangements; preparation of accounting statements; signing and approval of accounts and interaction with the public in regards to making available documents via publication or inspection.

#### **41. Appropriate audit and accounting**

41.1 All funding decisions taken by the CJC will be subject to review through annual external audit, which will undertake cost benefit analysis and assess the extent to which resources have been used economically, efficiently and effectively in delivering its services and activities.

41.2 CJs will be subject to appropriate accounting and audit arrangements set out in the 2014 Regulations, and in compliance with the mandatory Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Such an approach will provide independent and objective assurance regarding the effectiveness of the CJC's risk management, control and governance processes.

41.3 CJs are also local government bodies in Wales for the purpose of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 provides, amongst other things, for the Auditor General for Wales to audit the accounts of local government bodies.

#### **42. Provide and receive goods and services**

42.1 A CJC is permitted to 'trade' with other public bodies in the same way as a local authority governed by the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 is. This allows a CJC to enter into agreements with public bodies for the provision of goods, materials, and administrative, professional and technical services, for the use of vehicles, plant and apparatus, and for the carrying out of maintenance.

#### **43. Investment practices**

43.1 As an accountable body a CJC is responsible for the proper administration and financial probity of the funds it receives. Each CJC must ensure the effective use of public money and have responsibility for the proper administration of its financial affairs and treasury management activities.

43.2 A CJC will have the ability to invest for any purpose relevant to its functions under any enactment, or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs in the same way a local authority can. A CJC must therefore have regard to existing Welsh Government [Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments](#) issued under section 15(1) (a) of the Local Government Act 2003 – this encourages local authorities to invest prudently, thus preserving safeguards and to approve and thereby produce:

- a Treasury Management Strategy including the use of reserves
- a Capital Strategy

#### **44. Borrowing**

44.1 A CJC will have the ability to borrow for any purpose relevant to its functions or for the purposes of the prudent management of its financial affairs and in doing so it must have regard to proper practices specified as:

- the document entitled "Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes" published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy as may be amended [or reissued] from time to time
- the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy as may be amended [or reissued] from time to time

44.2 It is not envisaged that the delivery of the CJC functions will require significant capital resources required by borrowing in the early years. Current legislative arrangements do not allow CJs to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) lending facility operated by the UK Debt Management Office (DMO) on behalf of HM Treasury. A CJC with an early ambition to borrow may therefore look to its constituent councils to agree to undertake such borrowing in the same way as current arrangements for City Deals.

## Chapter Six - Other statutory duties

As with any public sector body in Wales a CJC will be expected to comply with duties that apply to public bodies. These are a key element of how public service organisations work in Wales.

### 45. Corporate Joint Committees as a public body in Wales

45.1 From the outset, members of the CJC will need to consider how it will promote and facilitate the underpinning principles and standards of these duties in everything it does.

45.2 Each CJC will wish to give thought to how its public sector duties can best be achieved and how it will enable, protect and build on the practices of its constituent councils, taking into account its own unique circumstances. This will include its duties to:

- promote and carry out sustainable development; taking greater account of its long-term impact; and monitoring and assessing the extent to which it is meeting its well-being objectives in relation to collaboration, involvement and taking an integrated approach (for example its duties under the Well Being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015)
- promote the Welsh language and not treat it differently or any less favourably than the English Language; ensuring its staff are able to work through medium of Welsh by making it an integral part of workforce planning; and encouraging collaboration in delivering its public services by ensuring services are accessible to members of the public in the language of their choice (the CJsCs will be required to comply with duties under Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards (No 1) Regulations 2015)
- enable greater diversity and equality by actively involving others in its work so it is able to respond to the economic and social prosperity of local communities within its area; creating an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work; and considering the backgrounds and circumstances, gender, age and cultural diversity to better reflect the diversity of the communities it serves (for example its duties under the Equalities Act 2010)
- to have due regard, when taking strategic decisions, to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome resulting from socio-economic disadvantage (The Equality Act, 2010 Socio-economic Duty)
- seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in so doing promote the resilience of ecosystems in line with their duties under s6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016

45.3 In addition, when doing anything that impacts on a NPA area, CJsCs will need to consider how they can further support the purposes of NPA to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Parks; and promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities (of the Park) by the public.

45.4 It is important to note that while the guidance sets out some of the key legal requirements in this area which will apply to CJsCs, it does not seek to replicate legislation or guidance that already exists.

### 46. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015



- 46.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act 2015 provides the context within which public bodies, including CJC, should be exercising their functions, using their resources and ensuring their governance is effective with the aim of maximising their contribution to the well-being goals within the scope of their functions / responsibilities. The Act puts a framework around the decision-making process and should shape what CJC, do, how they do it, and how they communicate the difference they are making to the achievement of the well-being goals. The five ways of working set out in the WFG Act (long-term, collaboration, involvement, prevention and integration) will be particularly important to consider in the context of a CJC.
- 46.2 In considering how a CJC discharges its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the CJC should have due regard to the [statutory guidance for the Act](#) which contains a core set of activities common to the corporate governance of public bodies. These are:
- Corporate planning
  - Financial planning
  - Workforce planning (people)
  - Procurement
  - Assets
  - Risk management
  - Performance Management
- 46.3 Considering from the outset the seven corporate areas as a framework for the establishment of the constitutional and operational arrangements of the CJC, and applying the five ways of working to those areas, will support the CJC to ensure it is governing itself to maximise its contribution to the well-being goals and meet its well-being objectives.
- 46.4 CJC, need to own and design its response to its well-being duties in a way that best reflects its ambitions and functions. There is a clear opportunity for the ways of working under the Well-being of Future Generations Act to be embedded and built into the governance and administrative arrangements of the CJC from the point of establishment.
- 46.5 For example, one of the 5 ways of working set out in the WFGA is 'integration', which requires public bodies to take account of how the body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, as well as each other or upon other public bodies' objectives. CJC, may wish to consider different options when setting their well-being objectives and steps but, in any case, need to ensure that their approach is integrated to reduce administrative burden and encourage efficient use of resources.
- 46.6 The CJC, can work with other public bodies in their area, as well as with Public Services Boards, when setting their well-being objectives and steps to ensure alignment.
- 46.7 CJC, may choose, for example, to work their constituent councils on joint well-being objectives in relevant areas with different bodies responsible for individual steps to help meet these joint objectives. Applying the 5 ways of working and the sustainable development principle will help CJC, their constituent councils and other public bodies determine the objectives and steps that they can work on together to jointly discharge their duties under the WFGA and maximise their individual and collective contribution to the goals.
- 46.8 Alternatively, CJC, may choose to set separate well-being objectives and steps and meet those independently of the other public bodies in their area. In which case it is

important to ensure that the integration principle is applied and the objectives of their constituent councils are mapped out and aligned against the CJC's objectives.

## 47. Welsh language

- 47.1 The Welsh language is integral to our culture, our heritage and our daily lives. Welsh belongs to us all in Wales, wherever we are and whatever level of Welsh we have as individuals. There is an expectation that CJC's will create and foster an atmosphere in which the use of the Welsh language can grow within the CJC and in the communities they serve. There is also an expectation that CJC's will work in partnership to contribute to achieving the Welsh Government shared vision for the Welsh language, published in Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers.

*"The year 2050: The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales."*

- 47.2 CJC's will be expected to contribute to the realisation of this vision and the strategies three themes;
- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers
  - Increasing the use of Welsh
  - Creating favourable conditions – infrastructure and context
- 47.3 CJC's will be subject to the same Welsh Language Standards as local authorities - The Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015 ("the No. 1 Regulations"). The No. 1 Regulations also authorise the Welsh Language Commissioner to issue Compliance Notices, which set out the duties that each individual body must comply with.
- 47.4 There are 5 classes of standards within the No. 1 Regulations:
- **Service delivery standards** relate to the delivery of services in order to promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language, or to ensure that it is treated no less favorably than English
  - **Policy making standards** require bodies to consider what effect their policy decisions will have on the ability of persons to use the language and on the principle of treating Welsh no less favorably than English
  - **Operational standards** relate to the internal use of Welsh by bodies. If operational standards are imposed on a body, that body will be expected to increase the opportunities to use Welsh in their internal arrangements
  - **Promotion standards** means a standard that is intended to promote the use of the Welsh language more widely, this class of standards includes a duty to adopt a strategy setting out how it proposes to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh
  - **Record keeping standards** will make it necessary to keep records about some of the other standards, and about any complaints received by a body. These records will assist the Welsh Language Commissioner in regulating the body's compliance with standards
- 47.5 The No.1 Regulations also specify standards that deal with supplementary matters which are specific forms of the classes of standards set out above.
- 47.6 Applying the standards within the No 1 Regulations to CJC's in this way will:

- ensure that Welsh-speakers are clear about the services they can expect to receive from each CJC
- provide clarity to CJsCs about the Welsh language duties they must comply with working continuously to improve the level of Welsh language services they provide
- ensure that CJsCs encourage people to make use of Welsh language services
- ensure there is an appropriate degree of consistency in terms of the duties placed on bodies in the same sectors

47.7 There are likely to be differences in the internal use of Welsh language within the constituent councils of CJsCs and in terms of the services they provide in Welsh. It is recognised that these differences respond to the different needs of the communities each constituent council serves. The Welsh Language Commissioner may impose operational standards on CJsCs which will determine the level of Welsh language services they must provide to staff.

47.8 With the establishment of the CJsCs as new corporate bodies we would expect the CJsCs, from the outset, to embed the use of the Welsh language within the CJsCs themselves and in relation to the Welsh language services they provide.

## **48. Equality**

48.1 CJsCs will be required to promote equality and play their part in delivering a more equal Wales. CJsCs will be subject to a number of duties within the Equality Act 2010 and it is these statutory duties which will underpin their obligations on equality. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful to discriminate against those with a protected characteristic. The 2010 Act also places a ‘due regard’ duty (public sector equality duty 6) on public bodies, to ensure that advancement of equality of opportunity is a key consideration for relevant public bodies when carrying out their functions.

### Socio-economic Duty

48.2 The Equality Act, 2010 Socio-economic Duty will require a CJC as a ‘relevant public body’, when taking strategic decisions such as ‘deciding priorities and setting objectives’, to consider how its decisions might help to reduce the inequalities associated with socio-economic disadvantage - driving better outcomes for people’s lives and experiences through better decision making and further contributing towards our shared goal of becoming “a more equal Wales”.

48.3 More information and [guidance on the Socio-economic Duty](#) can be found at the Welsh Government website.

### The Public Sector Equality Duty

48.4 CJsCs will be subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). Section 149 of the Equality Act sets out the PSED which, in summary, places a duty on public bodies to have due regard in exercising their functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

- 48.5 The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation; marriage and civil partnership.
- 48.6 As a relevant public authority in Wales, a CJC will also be subject to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011.
- 48.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) in Wales champions equality and human rights for all, working to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequality, protect human rights and to build good relations, making sure that everyone has a fair chance to participate in society. The EHRC is the regulator of the PSED and works with public authorities to encourage, guide, monitor and regulate activity on the public sector equality duty. [Guidance and advice on the PSED](#) can be found on the EHRC Website.
- 48.8 The [Mapping the Duties](#) guide published by the EHRC also provides tips for the alignment, where appropriate, of common organisational processes undertaken by public bodies under the Socio-economic Duty, the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 Duties.

## **49. Biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems.**

- 49.1 CJs will be subject to the duties under section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and will be required to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of their functions and in doing so promote the resilience of ecosystems.
- 49.2 To comply with the section 6 duty CJs should embed the consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into their early thinking and business planning, including any policies, plans, programmes and projects, as well as their day to day activities. A public authority, in complying with the S6 duty, must have regard to:
- The [section 7 list](#) of habitats and species of principal importance for Wales
  - The [State of Natural Resources Report](#) (SoNaRR), published by Natural Resources Wales
  - Any [Area Statement](#) which covers all or part of the area in which the authority exercises its functions, once these are produced.
- 49.3 The [Nature Recovery Action Plan](#) for Wales contains six objectives which should be used to help develop and guide actions to comply with the S6 duty. Further guidance in the form of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) can be found on the Welsh Government website and a [Good Practice Guide](#) is also hosted by the Wales Biodiversity Partnership.
- 49.4 CJs must prepare and publish a plan setting out what they propose to do to comply with the s6 duty. They must also produce and publish a report on what they have done to comply with the s6 duty by 31 December 2022 and then every three years after this date. [Reporting guidance](#) is available on the Welsh Government website.
- 49.5 Complying with the S6 duty will also help CJs to maximise their contributions to the Well-being goals under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

## **50. Freedom of Information**

- 50.1 A CJC will be a body corporate in its own right and so will not be automatically covered by the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However it is the intention that

CJCs should be and so an application has been made to the UK Government to add CJCs to the schedule of public authorities under Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Adding CJCs to the Act in this way will be dependent upon a relevant instrument being made by the UK Government. It is not known when this might take place, however in the interim CJCs should conduct themselves in so far as possible as if they were subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. However it is recognised that until such time as CJCs are included in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 then the Information Commissioners Office will not have jurisdiction over a CJC or any complaint made against a CJC.

- 50.2 [Guidance on freedom of information](#) can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website.

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## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**21<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

### **FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT & ACTION PLANS**

#### **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES & COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide members with the opportunity to consider the Storm Dennis February 2020 – Overview Report and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 19 Flood Investigation Report (Flood Investigation Area RCT25) (attached at Appendices 1 and 2).
- 1.2 To provide Members with the opportunity to comment on the actions to have arisen from the recommendations contained in the review of the Council's response to Storm Dennis which were reported to [Cabinet on the 18 December 2020;](#)

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Consider the Storm Dennis February 2020 – Overview Report and Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 19 Flood Investigation Report (Flood Investigation Area RCT25) (attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively);
- 2.2 Scrutinise the action plans enclosed as set out at Appendix 3
- 2.3 Determine whether they have any comments or observations to make in respect of the attached reports/action plans;
- 2.4 To note the ongoing scrutiny work of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on this subject.

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to provide comments on the attached Overview report and Section 19 investigation factual report which sets out the storm events that occurred between February and August 2020 within the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area, focusing investigation on the flooding at Pentre in the Rhondda Fawr valley (Flood Investigation Area RCT 25).
- 3.2 To provide constructive scrutiny upon the action plans contained in Appendix 3.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has played a key role in scrutinising the Council's response to the severe flooding experienced during 2020, the first at its meeting of the [14<sup>th</sup> October 2020](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Committees/Virtualmeetingsduringsocialdistancing.aspx) when Members received a report and presentation from Council Officers on the scale of this weather event, the service and community response, and lessons learned to-date. (The meeting can also be viewed here) :-  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Council/CouncillorsCommitteesandMeetings/Committees/Virtualmeetingsduringsocialdistancing.aspx>
- 4.2 Members resolved to hold a 'Scrutiny Inquiry Session' on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to explore how the affected communities could be supported in the aftermath of the floods through its local members. They also had opportunity to consider the responses of its most relevant partners Welsh Water/Dwr Cymru and Natural Resources Wales (NRW).
- 4.3 In addition to the opportunities afforded to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, a detailed report and power point presentation were provided at [Full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020](#) in order to provide a briefing to all Elected Members on the operational response of the Council and the scale of the major weather event.
- 4.4 At that time Members learned that in addition to the Council's Section 19 statutory report into the February Floods as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) an internal assessment would also be undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- 4.5 Following consideration of the internal review it was recommended that progress and implementation of the actions agreed by [Cabinet on the 18 December 2020](#), would form part of the Council's quarterly performance report. It was proposed that the monitoring of progress updates would be scrutinised by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee moving forward.

### **5. STORM DENNIS FEBRUARY 2020 – OVERVIEW REPORT AND FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010 SECTION 19 FLOOD INVESTIGATION REPORT**



5.1 The Section 19 flood investigation report has been produced through the duties placed upon Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Act states, “On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and

b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised or is proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood”.

5.2 The Storm Dennis February 2020 – Overview Report provides an overview of the storm event that occurred on the 15 and 16th of February 2020 and provides context to the individual flood investigation area reports that will be published over the coming weeks.

5.3 Members will note that this is the first of the individual Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Section 19 Flood Investigation Reports to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee which focuses its investigation on Pentre.

Both reports can be viewed on the Council’s website here:

[Flood Investigation Reports | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/flood-investigation-reports)

## **6. THE ROLE OF SCRUTINY**

6.1 The evidence gathered by Scrutiny was crucial in highlighting the overarching issues to have emerged from the flooding event and focused those areas where improvements could be made through a suite of recommendations to the Cabinet in December 2020.

6.2 Scrutiny is asked to consider the attached reports and action plans which have been provided as part of the Council’s performance reporting arrangements, so that it can identify those actions which have been delivered to date and understand how they have been implemented with a view to monitoring any outstanding matters.

6.3 It is proposed that Scrutiny will continue to receive reports and information on this matter in the coming months with the delivery of the Council’s Section 19 statutory reports into the February Floods and will receive regular updates on the Council’s development of a strategic flood risk management.

## **7. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT**

7.1 The process of engagement with key partners and local members will continue to steer Scrutiny’s consideration and methodology going forward.

## **8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Equality and diversity implications are to be considered as part of the Scrutiny's ongoing activity with this matter.

## **9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Financial and resource implications will be considered as part of the scrutiny's recommendations as will any subsequent implementation arrangements going forward.

## **10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 10.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **11. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.**

- 11.1 The Well-being of Future Generations Act asks public bodies to work better with people, communities and each other to meet the Sustainable Development principle. The Council's approach to the implementation of the Act agreed by Cabinet is to make sure that its requirements are embedded into the everyday business.
- 11.2 Engagement with Stakeholders has enabled the Scrutiny review to apply the Sustainable Development principle of the Act through the five ways of working, namely, Integration, Collaboration, Long term thinking, Involvement and Prevention and maximise the contribution to the 7 national Well-being goals.

## **12. CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 As the Council's overarching Scrutiny Committee, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its terms of reference, has undertaken an extensive review into the Council's response to the severe flooding experienced during 2020 as outlined above and contributed to the recommendations to the Cabinet. Scrutiny continues to play a crucial role in monitoring the action plans as they are implemented to ensure that the issues which emerged from the flooding event and subsequent recommendations have been highlighted, reflected upon and actioned.

# **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**

## **Storm Dennis February 2020 – Overview Report**

**July 2021**

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This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Council assumes no responsibility or liability from any person in connection with its contents or findings.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an overview of the storm event that occurred on the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, including detailed rainfall, watercourse and river level analysis, a short summary of the impacts, primary flooding types and an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities in managing different sources of flooding. It does not identify any proposed specific causes, actions or works in relation to the storm event.

The flooding that affected RCT on 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, was a result of an extreme rainfall event. The storm was preceded by 6 weather warnings being issued by the Met Office ranging from; Yellow to Amber to Red warnings with rainfall predictions increasing closer to the 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February. The Met Office designated the storm as ‘Storm Dennis’.

The impact of Storm Dennis resulted in internal flooding to approximately 1498 properties and extensive flooding of infrastructure including rail and highway networks, town centers, business parks and leisure facilities. These impacts were identified through inspections made by RCT’s Flood Risk Management Team during the days following the storm event, as well as information collated by residents, RCT’s Public Health, Protection and Community Service, Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

Storm Dennis was indeed an unprecedented weather event which, according to NRW, was equivalent to a Q200 storm event. Record-breaking rainfall and river levels exceeded the design standard of all drainage infrastructure in RCT, resulting in the worst flooding in a generation to homes, businesses and infrastructure.

Detailed assessments of the flooding mechanisms and impacts caused during the storm event have been produced for individual areas across RCT. A total of twenty-eight areas have been investigated across the county borough, nineteen of which have met stipulated Welsh Government thresholds for the production of individual Section

19 Reports<sup>1</sup>. These reports will be made available to the public and will compliment this overview report of Storm Dennis.

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<sup>1</sup> [40996 National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales \(English\) \(gov.wales\)](#)

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**DCWW** – Welsh Water

**FRMP** – Flood Risk Management Plan

**FWMA** – Flood and Water Management Act 2010

**LFRMS** – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

**LLFA** – Lead Local Flood Authority

**NRW** – Natural Resources Wales

**RCT** - Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC

**RMA** – Risk Management Authority

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

On the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) was impacted by an extreme weather event which was designated by the 'Met Office' as 'Storm Dennis'.

Storm Dennis was the 4<sup>th</sup> named storm of the 2019-2020 season and was the second of three consecutive storm events that made landfall in February 2020 i.e. Storm Ciara (8-9<sup>th</sup> February), Storm Dennis (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> February) and Storm Jorje (28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March), making February 2020 the wettest February on record in Wales and the UK.

The impacts of Storm Ciara were mainly felt towards the north of Wales, however, Ciara had left the ground saturated and rivers running high across RCT, exacerbating the impacts of Storm Dennis the following week. Weather impacts from Jorje were generally less severe than that from Storm Dennis, however flooding problems continued in the aftermath of these earlier storms and as a result of further rainfall on already saturated ground. It is important to note that the impacts of storm Jorje were not as easily discernible due to the wide-spread flooding caused by storm Dennis which left many properties empty during the latter event. Much of the flood damage following Dennis was still visible during Storm Jorje which restricted the post event inspections.

Communities within RCT were amongst the worst impacted by the storm with several hundred homes and businesses flooded. Rainfall in the catchment areas of RCT during the storm event was of such intensity that rivers and watercourses reacted extremely quickly, reaching record levels and flows. A major incident was declared by the South Wales Police following the serious disruption caused by the flooding.

Although every storm cannot be attributed to the effects of climate change, evidence suggests that extreme weather events, such as those of February 2020, will become more frequent in the future. Climate projections over UK land for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

suggest that winters will become warmer and wetter, summers will be drier, and we will experience an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events<sup>2</sup>.

According to the UKCIP 2018, winters in the UK, for the most recent decade (2009-2018), have been on average 5% wetter than 1981-1990 and 12% wetter than 1961-1990. Summers in the UK have also been wetter, by 11% and 13% respectively, and the number of extreme rainfall events has also increased by 17% when comparing 2008-2017 with the 1961-1990 period<sup>2</sup>.

Climate change is a well-established phenomenon which will bring significant challenges to communities, particularly in relation to flood risk. As a society we must all learn to adapt to the changing climate, both in terms of preparedness for such extreme events and also in terms of responding to major instances of flooding.

## **1.2 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 saw an extreme weather event impact RCT and resulted in widespread residential and commercial flooding across the authority. The purpose of this report is to provide an initial overview of the storm event, designated by the Met Office as 'Storm Dennis'.

This wider overview report of Storm Dennis provides a detailed analysis of rainfall during the event and the subsequent responses of local watercourses and Main Rivers flowing through the authority. It also includes a brief overview of the impacts experienced across RCT caused by a wide range of flood sources. This report will also set out how the authority intends to formalise the investigation process, as required under Section 19 of the FWMA, which has been underway since February 2020.

It is important to note that this overview report has been produced to compliment the specific flood investigations which will be published under Section 19 of the FWMA following this report.

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<sup>2</sup> UKCIP18 Science Overview Report

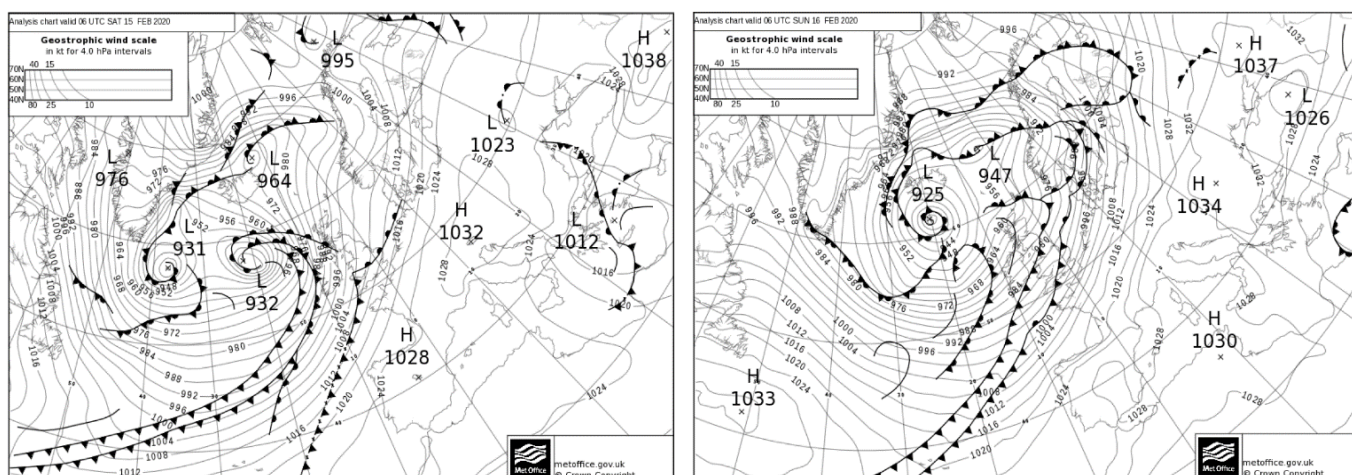


## 2. STORM DENNIS

### 2.1 FORECASTING AND PREDICTION TIME-LINE

Storm Dennis was a European windstorm which became one of the most intense extratropical cyclones ever recorded. The cyclone emerged into the North Atlantic, where it redeveloped into Storm Dennis, officially named by the Met Office on 11 February, and subsequently underwent ‘explosive intensification’ on 13 February, reaching a near-record low pressure of 920 mb the following day, according to analyses from NOAA’s Ocean Prediction Centre<sup>3</sup>. By Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, heavy rainfall and strong winds, driven by a powerful Atlantic jet stream, swept across the UK.

The analysis charts depicted within Figure 1 show Storm Dennis as the deepening area of low pressure to the north-west of the UK, driven by a powerful Atlantic jet stream. Twenty-four hours later Storm Dennis was still dominating the north Atlantic with rain-bearing fronts and strong winds sweeping across the UK<sup>4</sup>.



**Figure 1:** Met Office analysis chart at 06 UTC 15 February 2020 (left) and Met Office analysis chart at 06 UTC 16 February 2020 (right). Met Office.

<sup>3</sup> The Weather Channel - [Bomb Cyclone Storm Dennis, One of the Most Intense North Atlantic Storms on Record, Triggers Massive Flooding in U.K. | The Weather Channel - Articles from The Weather Channel | weather.com](#)

<sup>4</sup> Storm Dennis, Met Office - [2020\\_03\\_storm\\_dennis.pdf \(metoffice.gov.uk\)](#)



The storm was tracked by the Met Office who issued approximately six weather warnings, four of which were issued prior to the storm making land fall and two during the event. The nature of the weather warnings identified an unpredictability to the storm track with a range of likelihoods and impacts leading up to the storm event.

**Table 1:** Summary table indicating the Met Office Warnings related to Storm Dennis

Warning Level	Event	Date of issue	Time	Likelihood	Impact	Range Rainfall (mm)	Range Wind Gusts (mph)
<b>Yellow</b>	Wind	11/02/2020	10:34	Medium	Low	N/A	50-60
<b>Yellow</b>	Rain	11/02/2020	11:36	Low	Medium	100-120	N/A
<b>Yellow</b>	Wind	12/02/2020	10:24	Medium	Low	N/A	50-60
<b>Amber</b>	Rain	13/02/2020	10:57	Medium	Medium	100-120	N/A
<b>Amber</b>	Rain	15/02/2020	11:07	Low	High	100-120	N/A
<b>Red</b>	Rain	16/02/2020	06:10	High	High	100-140	N/A

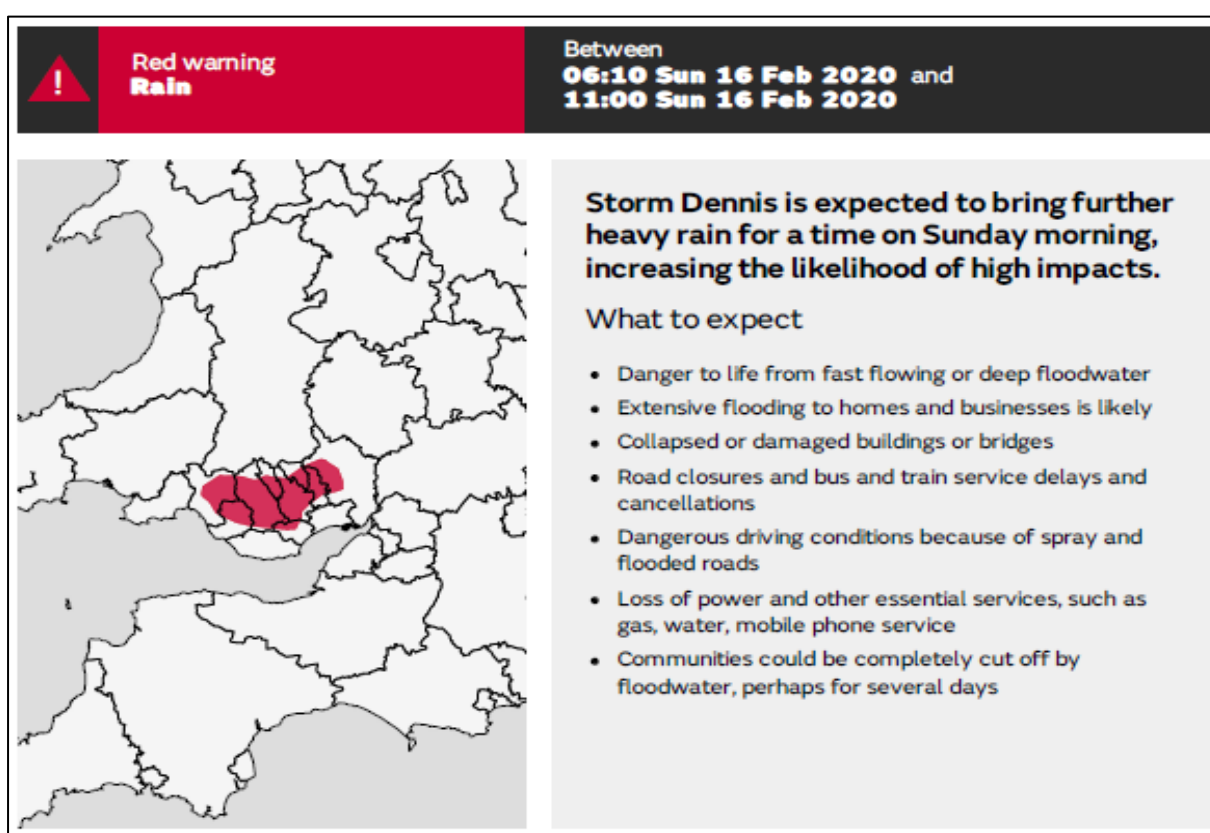
On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February the Met Office issued their first weather warnings, in relation to Storm Dennis, for potentially hazardous winds and heavy rainfall to be expected over the weekend (15-16<sup>th</sup>).

A second yellow weather warning for wind was issued at 10:24 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February for strong persistent winds between 50-60 mph to last until Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February the storm deepened over the Atlantic increasing the likelihood of strong winds and heavy rainfall, triggering an Amber warning with a medium likelihood of medium impacts, which indicated a 'potential risk to life'. During the storm event, a second amber weather warning was issued 11:07 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February, indicating severe impacts but remained at 'Medium' status due to the reduced likelihood. Prolonged heavy rain of 60-80mm was forecasted to fall widely, and up to 100-120mm expected in some places, between 12:00 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and 15:00 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

The overall flood risk warning was only upgraded to a 'Red' Weather warning for rain at 06:10, on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February which indicated a, 'danger to life', for parts of the South East Wales Valleys (Figure 2).

At the time the red warning was issued the storm had already flooded many communities within the authority. It was the first red warning issued specifically for rain since December 2015 and the first red weather warning of any kind issued for Rhondda Cynon Taf<sup>5</sup>.



**Figure 2:** Weather warning issued by the Met Office's National Severe Weather Warning Service at 06:10 Sunday 16th February 2020. Met Office.

On review of the range of warnings ahead of Storm Dennis, there is a clear trend that the storm event was shifting where changes in the likelihood and impact were fluctuating. Notably the latest pre event warning indicated a reduction in the likelihood of the impacts (a lack of warning time for the most severe and highest impact warning affected response times).

<sup>5</sup> Met Office 2020 - [Storm Dennis triggers Red rain warning - Met Office](#)

The most severe (red) warning was issued by the Met Office approximately 3-4 hours after the peak of rainfall hit the south of the borough, and 6-7 hours after peak rainfall was recorded in the upper parts of RCT. Main Rivers also reached their peaks prior to the red weather warning being issued as the River Rhondda and Cynon reached their recorded peak levels three hours prior, and the River Taff at Pontypridd reaching its peak at 04:45 (16 Feb), just over an hour prior to the warning being issued. By 06:10 (16 Feb) the worst of the rainfall and the majority of flooding was either in progress or had already occurred.

The weather warnings issued by the Met Office can be found in the online National Service Weather Warnings Archive.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Met Office National Severe Weather Warnings Archive -  
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/library-and-archive/publications/national-severe-weather-warning-service>

## 2.2 RAINFALL ANALYSIS

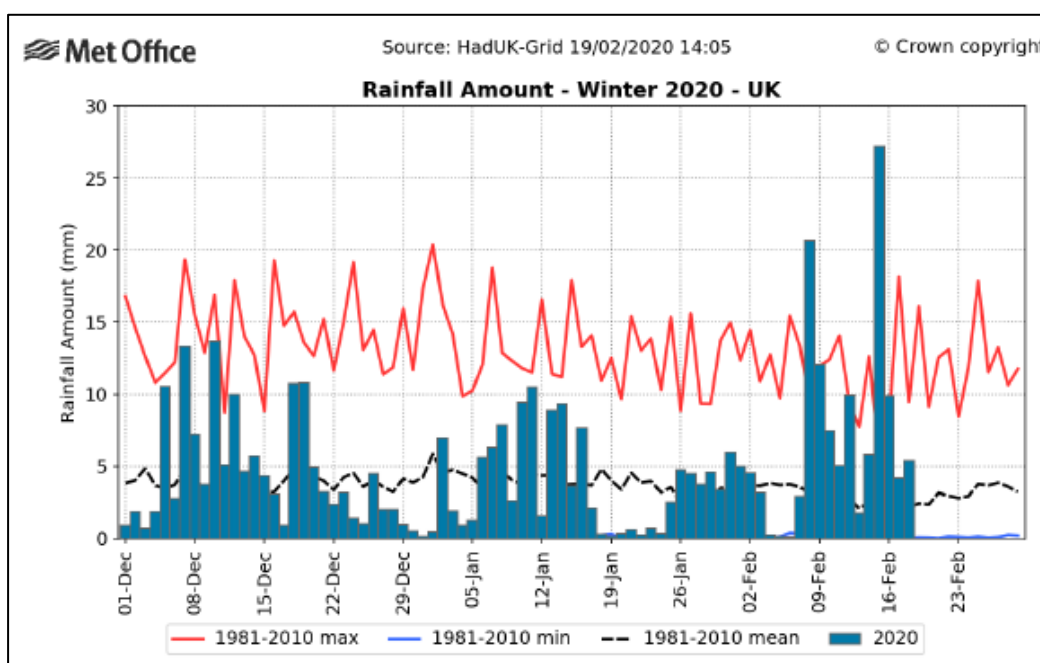
February 2020 has been the wettest February on record for Wales and the UK, and the fifth wettest winter (December, January, and February) on record (dated back to 1862) for the UK according to the Met Office<sup>4</sup>. In comparison with other parts of the UK, Wales was the worst affected by the winter storms, with a total of 288.4 mm of rainfall falling during February 2020.

The extremely wet February of 2020 was a result of a strong and southward displaced jet stream and positive North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), both of which have been stronger than normal<sup>7</sup>. A positive NAO during winter is usually associated with wetter-than-normal conditions across the UK and northern Europe. Paired with a stronger jet stream directing the north Atlantic storm track towards northern Europe, a succession of low-pressure systems crossed the UK and resulted in persistent and heavy rainfall.

Three named storms crossed the UK during February: Storm Ciara (8-9<sup>th</sup> Feb), Dennis (15-17<sup>th</sup> Feb) and Jorje (28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar). All three named storms (9 days) account for just over 44% of the total rainfall during February 2020<sup>7</sup>. Figure 3 illustrates the UK's daily areal-average rainfall totals for winter 2019/20, highlighting the exceptionally wet days of 8 and 15 February associated with Storm Ciara and Dennis. An average accumulation of 27mm across the UK on 15<sup>th</sup> February (Storm Dennis) was the second highest UK daily rainfall total in a Met Office series dating back to 1891<sup>7</sup>.

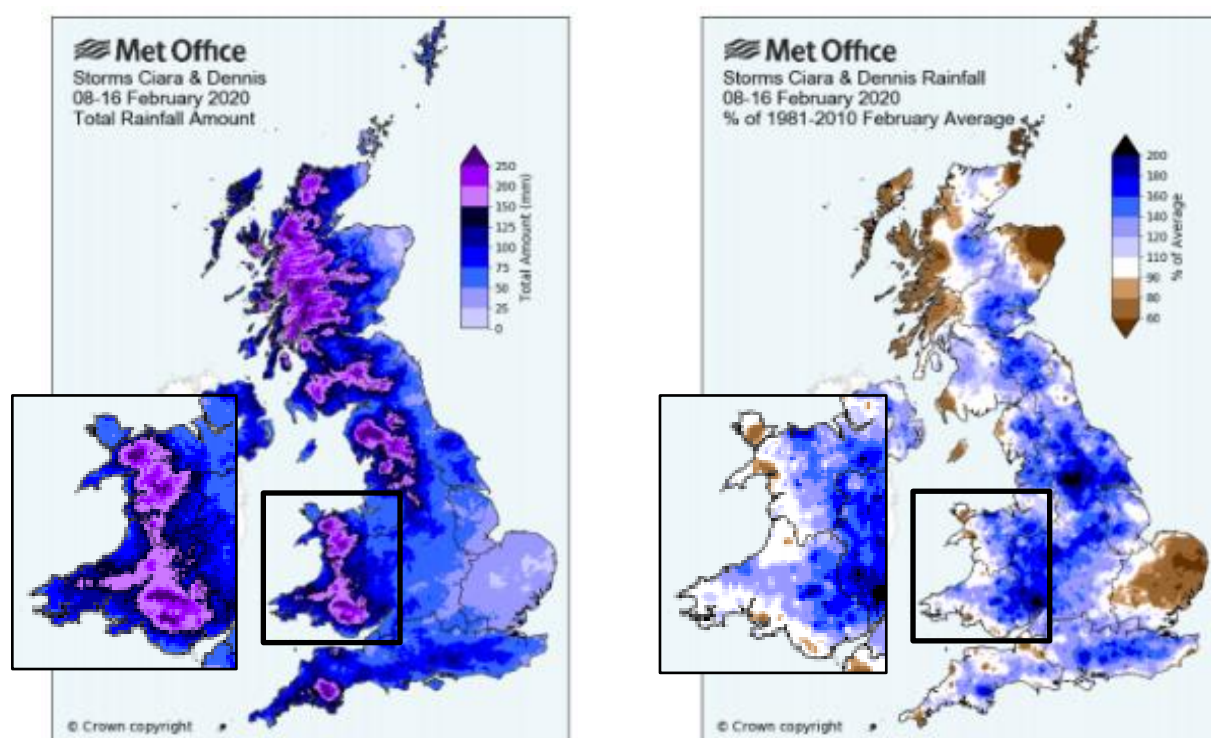
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<sup>7</sup> Met Office 2020 - [Met Office: Why the UK saw record-breaking rainfall in February 2020 | Carbon Brief](#)

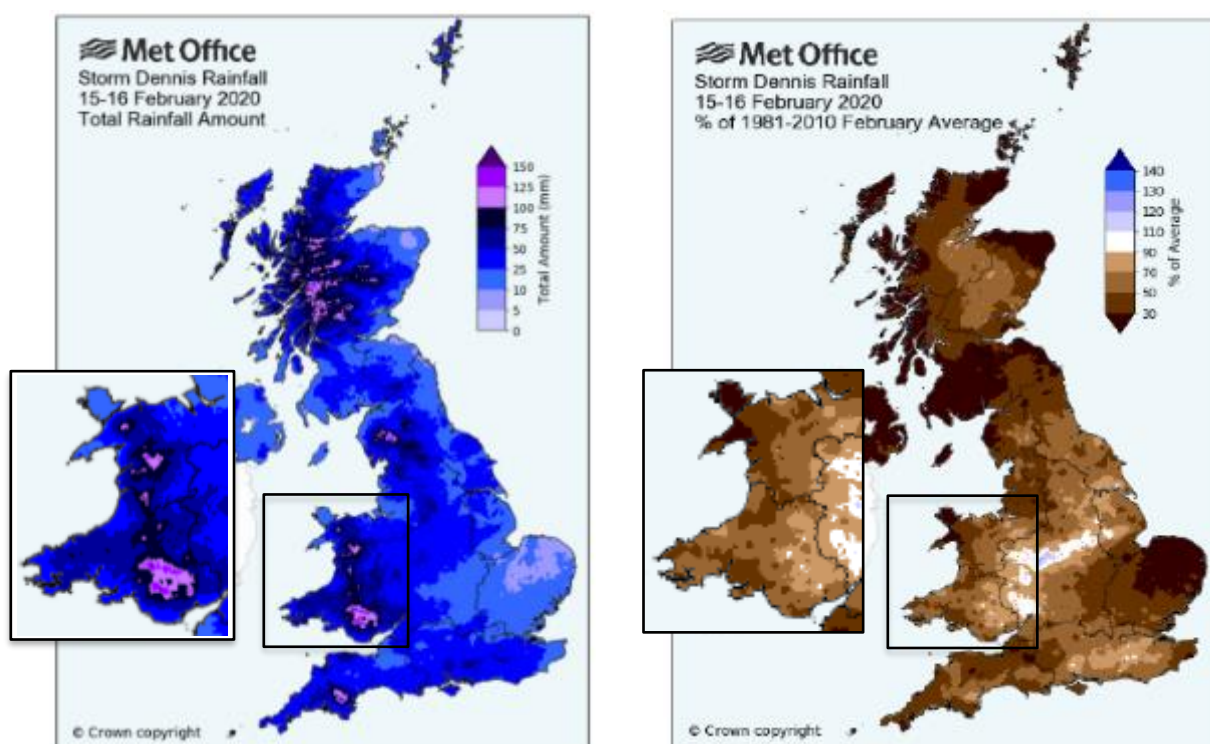


**Figure 3:** Daily rainfall totals averaged for the UK through winter 2019/20 (1 December 2019 – 18 February 2020). Met Office.

Figure 4 taken from the Met Office's Storm Dennis summary, illustrates the intensity and persistence of the rainfall that occurred during the 9-day period from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> February, including both Storm Ciara and Dennis. Up to 150 to 250mm or more of rain fell across the south east Wales valleys with the highest amounts falling across higher ground. It is estimated that 120% of the February whole-month average fell widely across Rhondda Cynon Taf County with up to 180% in some localised areas<sup>4</sup> during the 9-day period. This intensity of rain falling on already saturated catchments, combined with the rapidly responding nature of the river catchments in Wales, led to some of the most unprecedented flooding in a generation.



**Figure 4:** Total Rainfall amount (actuals) and % of 1981-2010 February average rainfall during 08-16th February 2020. Met Office.

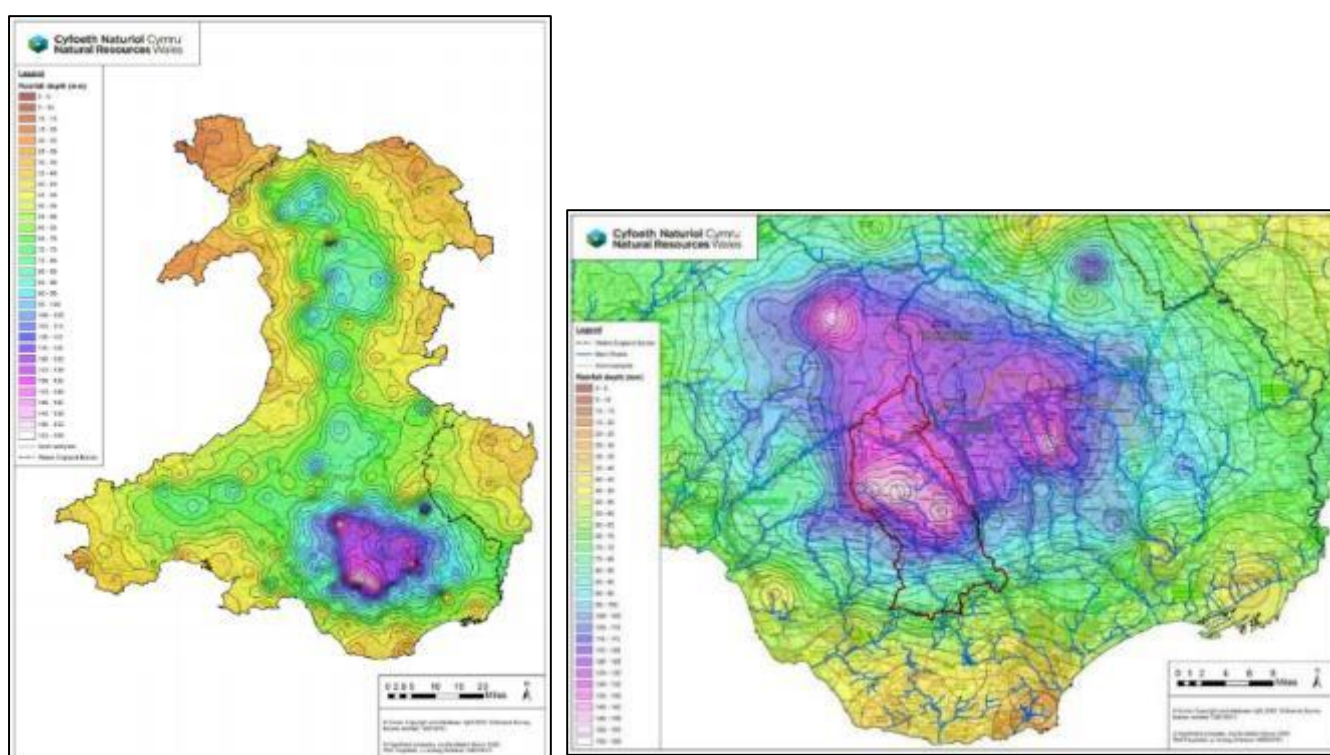


**Figure 5:** Total rainfall amounts (actuals) and % of 1981-2010 February average rainfall during Storm Dennis (15th-16th February). Met Office.



According to the Met Office 100 to 160mm of rain fell across the majority of RCT between the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Storm Dennis), with significant intensities recorded across the River Rhondda catchment (Figure 5).

Figure 6 below taken from NRW's review of the February 2020 flood events, illustrates the distribution of rainfall during Storm Dennis, highlighting the significant rainfall totals within a 48-hour period in areas of Wales and more specifically in the south east Wales valleys and RCT.



**Figure 6:** Rainfall Isohyet Map showing rainfall over a 48h period during Storm Dennis in Wales (left) and South Wales (right). Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

The greatest rainfall totals fell across the northern parts of RCT, and more specifically to the north west region of the borough. According to data collected from NRW's rain gauges, during Storm Dennis the tops of the Rhondda Fawr catchment received 132.4mm of rainfall in 24 hours, the equivalent of 62% of an entire month's rainfall in

a single day, whilst the tops of the Cynon valley catchment received 119.8mm in 24 hours, the equivalent of 75% of an entire month's rainfall in a single day<sup>8</sup>.

Rainfall during the event was also recorded at four weather stations maintained by RCT. An additional four monitoring stations owned and maintained by NRW have also been included in this review to account for rainfall amounts in the upper Cynon and the Rhondda valley catchments.

Geographically the RCT stations are situated to the south and south east of the borough within the urban catchments of Cwmaman, Cilfynydd, Rhydyfelin and Coedely. NRW's Tyn y Waun station is located to the north west of the borough in the Rhondda Fawr valley while the Maerdy station lies within the Rhondda Fach valley. The Hirwaun station is located to the north east in the upper Cynon valley and the Nant yr Ysfa is situated at St Gwynno Forest above the town of Ynysybwl. All four of NRW's rain gauges are situated on higher ground compared with RCT's monitoring stations which reflect the higher rainfall totals and intensities captured within Table 2 for NRW stations.

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<sup>8</sup> Based on the Long-Term Average (LTA) for February as provided by the Met Office, using the period 1981-2010



**Table 2:** Rainfall totals and peak hourly intensities recorded at four RCT monitoring station and four NRW stations during Storm Dennis (15-16<sup>th</sup> February 2020). Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

Monitoring Station	Total Rainfall (mm)	Total Rainfall (mm) (15/02/20)	Peak Hourly Intensity (mm/hour) (15/02/20)	Total Rainfall (mm) (16/02/20)	Peak Hourly Intensity (mm/hour) (16/02/20)
RCT Cwmaman	94.0	54.4	6.6	39.6	7.4
RCT Cilfynydd	88.6	49	8.4	39.6	10.2
RCT Rhydyfelin	53.4	25.2	5.2	28.2	8.8
RCT Coedely	58.8	25.4	4.4	33.4	11.2
NRW Hirwaun	129.2	85.2	13.4	44	9.6
NRW Tyn y Waun	150.2	91.4	12.0	58.8	10.6
NRW Maerdy	157	93.2	12.0	63.8	14.8
NRW Nant yr Ysfa	145.4	85.6	10.4	59.8	14

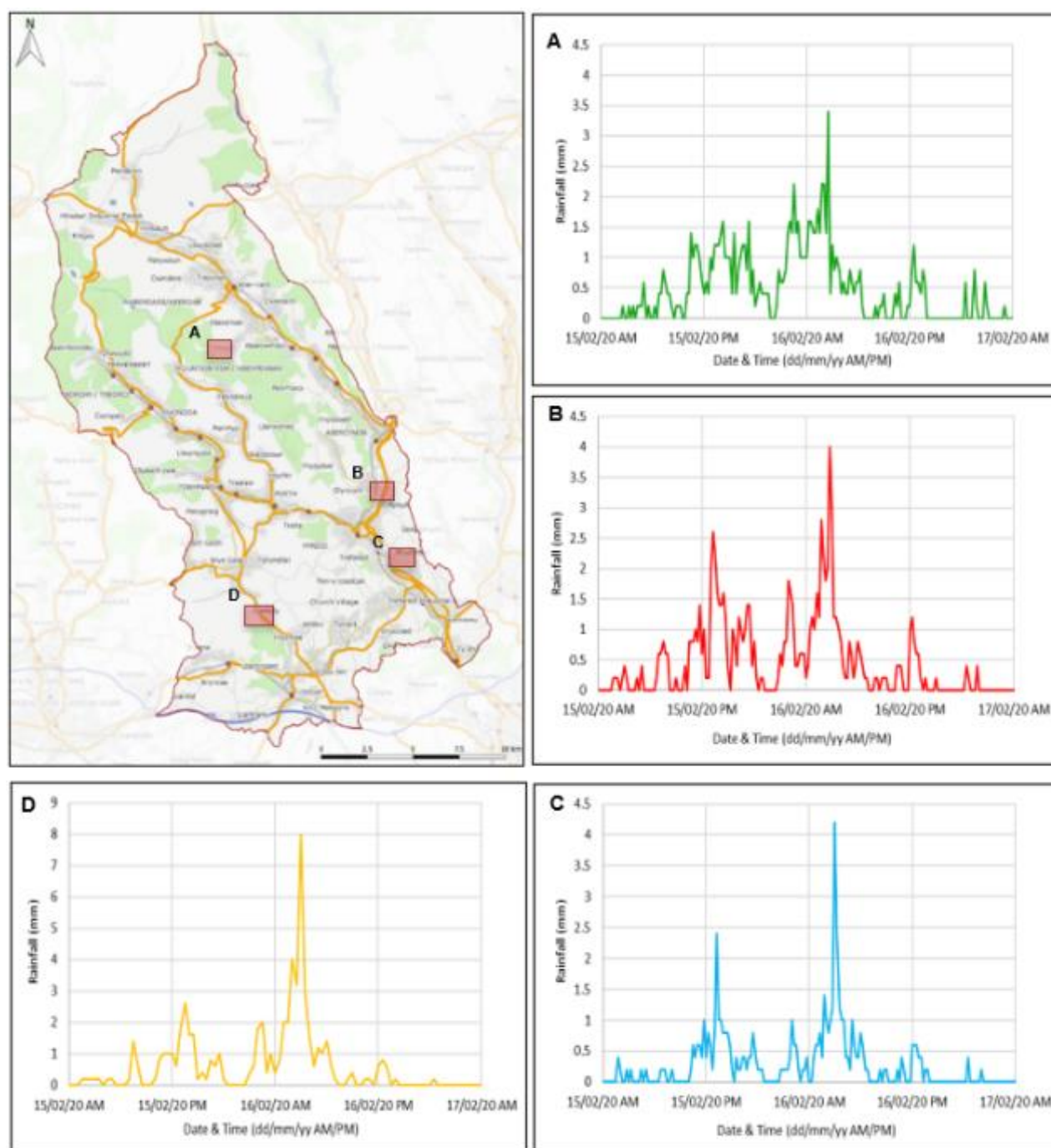
Table 2 details the summary of the rainfall recorded for both the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of February (Storm Dennis), including daily totals and peak hourly intensities. Rainfall amounts and the associated impacts of Storm Dennis varies across different areas of the borough. Table 2 identifies a moderate increase in rainfall the further north the stations are located, with greater rainfall totals in the northern extent of the borough occurring over the two days i.e. 129.2 mm of rain falling over a 2-day period at Hirwaun compared with 53.4 mm further south in Rhydyfelin.

NRW's Tyn y Waun and Maerdy stations confirm prolonged and exceptional amounts of rainfall occurred further west within the upper Rhondda catchments, especially during Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February through till the early hours of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. Evidence captured by RCT and NRW rain gauges is reflected within NRW's Figure 6b which illustrates that greater rainfall totals were experienced in the northern parts of RCT, and particularly in the Rhondda valleys.

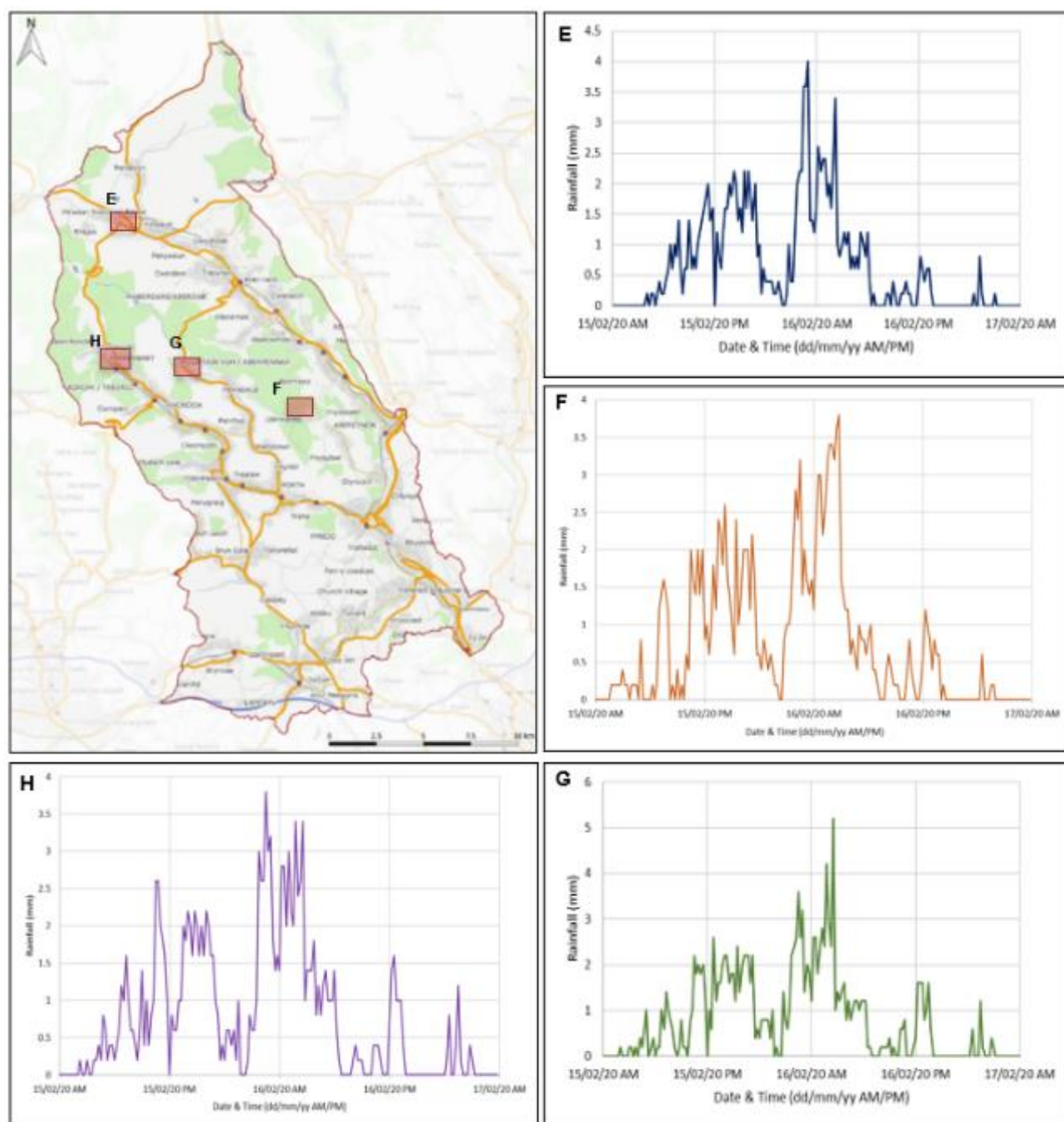
Rainfall intensities were high across the whole of the borough but localised and sporadic ‘rain bombs’ were widespread, especially to the north west of RCT extending to the south east of the borough during the storm event.

Figures 7 and 8 below depicts the rainfall intensities recorded at RCT and NRW’s rain gauges situated across different areas of the borough during the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of February. It aims to provide a holistic overview of rainfall patterns across RCT to account for localised differences in rainfall conditions.

Hourly rainfall intensities peaked initially towards the northern extent of the borough at Hirwaun and Tyn y Waun stations during Saturday (15<sup>th</sup> February) night at approximately 22:30-23:30 GMT, whilst short bursts of intense rainfall were recorded further south during the early hours of Sunday morning (16<sup>th</sup> February) between 02:30-03:30 GMT, reaching peaks of 11.2 mm/hour at Coedely and 10.2 mm/hour at Cilfynydd.



**Figure 7:** Rainfall (mm) readings at RCT's four rainfall gauge monitoring stations during Storm Dennis (15th – 16th February 2020); Cwmaman (A), Cilfynydd (B), Rhydyfelin (C), Coedely (D)



**Figure 8:** Rainfall (mm) readings at NRW's four rainfall gauge monitoring stations during Storm Dennis (15th – 16th February 2020); Hirwaun (E), Nant yr Ysfa (F), Maerdy (G), Tyn y Waun (H). Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

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## 2.3 ORDINARY WATERCOURSE RESPONSE

The catchments of the South East Wales Valleys within RCT; the Rhondda, Cynon, Taff and Ely, are all characterised by steep sides, which are susceptible to intense rainfall and associated flash flooding. The combination of topographic, geological and geographical factors causes the catchments within RCT to have an almost immediate response to rainfall with events often subsiding in hours, rather than days (FRMP, 2015).

The character of the landscape reflects the rapid rise and subsequent fall in watercourse levels in response to rainfall. This is illustrated well within the four hydrographs in Figure 10 which show the levels within three ordinary watercourses situated at Cwmaman, Cilfynydd and Rhydyfelin, and two water basins situated within the upper catchment of Cwmaman and at Coedely; all of which are monitored by RCT. The three watercourses rose rapidly over a short amount of time, with a lag time of approximately 15 to 30-minutes after peak rainfall. This exceptionally short lag time between peak rainfall and peak discharge overwhelmed many watercourses during the storm event.

The Nant Aman Fach, situated in the Cynon valley catchment within the town of Cwmaman reached its peak level of 1.5094 meters at 02:45 on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 15-minutes after peak rainfall was recorded at 02:30 (3.4 mm/00:15). The Nant Aman Fawr is similarly located within the town of Cwmaman and is served by a Flood Attenuation Basin which is supported by a monitoring station maintained by RCT (Figure 9). During the event the attenuation basin peak water level was 1.38m at 03:00am on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 30 minutes after peak rainfall was recorded at 02:30.

Notably the attenuation basin was active for approximately 12 hours during the storm event. At its peak the basin attenuated 2000m<sup>3</sup> of flood water. The volume of flood water being attenuated during the event shows the volume of water generated by the intense rainfall over a short duration.



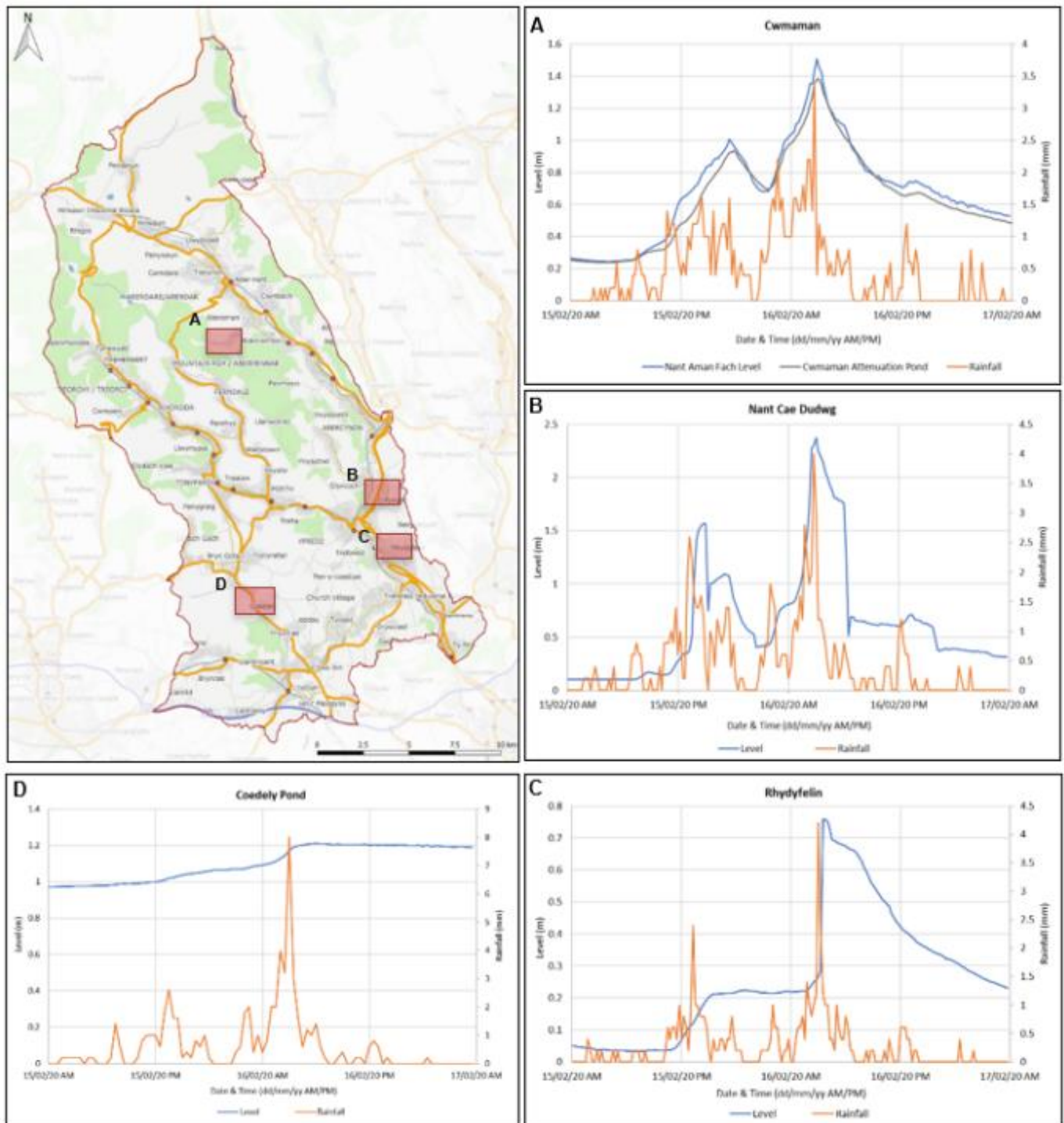


**Figure 9:** Cwmaman Attenuation Basin located in the Cynon valley catchment

The Nant Cae Dudwg watercourse, situated further south at Cilfynydd, reached its peak level of 2.3779 meters at 02:45 16<sup>th</sup> February 15-minutes after peak rainfall was recorded.

Rhydyfelin, further south again, is drained by a number of ordinary watercourses. The monitoring station is located near the culvert inlet downstream. A significant response in watercourse levels was recorded at Rhydyfelin, increasing from 0.28541 to 0.75855 meters in 15-minutes. Peak rainfall was 4.2 mm at 03:00 16<sup>th</sup> February which caused watercourse levels to peak at 0.75855 30-minutes later at 03:30.

To the south east of the borough, RCT have a monitoring station situated at Coedely pond. The rainfall gauge recorded a short burst of intense rainfall of 8 mm between 02:30 and 03:00 (16<sup>th</sup> February). Levels within the pond reached a peak of 1.2117 meters at 06:00 16<sup>th</sup> February, 3 hours after the peak rainfall. The readings recorded at Coedely pond provide a useful display of the slower response to rainfall within a large body of water compared with the rapid rise and fall of levels within an ordinary watercourse.



**Figure 10:** Watercourse/body level (m) and rainfall amounts (mm) at RCT's four weather monitoring stations during storm Dennis (15th – 16th February 2020); A. Nant Aman Fach and Cwmaman Attenuation Basin (Cwmaman), B. Nant Cae Dudwg (Cilfynydd), C. Unnamed watercourse (Rhydyfelin) and D. Coedely Pond

Within a 14-hour period, levels within the Nant Gwawr which flows west to east through the town of Aberaman, rose extremely suddenly during Saturday (15 Feb) night and remained high until suddenly falling by Sunday (16 Feb) morning, leaving behind deposited debris mobilised during the peak flows. The images captured by RCT's monitoring station demonstrate the watercourses' rapid response to rainfall which was replicated across the borough at a number of ordinary watercourses (Figure 11).



**Figure 11:** Images of the Nant Gwawr inlet captured at RCT's monitoring station (15/02/20 20:34 (top left), 16/02/20 03:30 (top right), 16/02/20 08:27 (bottom left), 16/02/20 10:27 (bottom right))



## 2.4 MAIN RIVER RESPONSE

This section of the report will provide an overview of the Main River response within RCT however, for a detailed analysis refer to NRW's February 2020 Floods in Wales: Flood Event Data Summary<sup>9</sup> report which provides a summary of the Main River level and flow responses across Wales during Storm Dennis.

Storm Dennis incurred the most river level warnings than at any one time in Wales. During the peak of Storm Dennis (15-16<sup>th</sup> February), 61 Flood Alerts, 89 Flood Warnings and two Severe Flood Warnings were in force across Wales. 3 Flood Alerts and 12 Flood Warnings including one Severe Flood Warning were in force across RCT during the 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February. Figure 12 below illustrates the extent of the flood warnings that were issued by NRW across RCT during Storm Dennis.



**Figure 12:** Flood Warnings in place across RCT during storm Dennis (15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020). Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

<sup>9</sup> February 2020 Floods in Wales: Flood Event Data Summary, Oct 2020 - <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692376/february-2020-floods-in-wales-flood-event-data-summary-high-resolution-eng.pdf>

Rivers in the South Wales area are relatively steep and flow through narrow valleys that are underlain by impermeable geology. Consequently, runoff from headwaters and ordinary watercourses rapidly reach the Main Rivers and levels respond quickly following intense rainfall.

The steep sided catchments of RCT's valleys paired with already saturated ground following previous rainfall during Storm Ciara meant that river levels rose suddenly and in a matter of hours during Storm Dennis. Almost a quarter (22%) of NRW's 231 river level gauges in Wales recorded their highest ever levels during the peak of Storm Dennis. Data from NRW's River Monitoring stations show that river levels reached record levels at all stations across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Provisional data from NRW's river level gauges shows that on Sunday morning (16<sup>th</sup> February) the River Taff at Pontypridd reached its highest level for over 40 years of 5.2 meters (16ft) – 78 cm higher than the level in the 1979 floods. At the peak of the flood in Pontypridd, NRW estimate that 805 m<sup>3</sup>/s of water was flowing down the River Taff, warranting a severe flood warning to be issued for the Taff at Pontypridd, and a further four flood warnings further downstream. Between 22:15 (15 Feb) and its peak in Pontypridd at 04:45 (16 Feb), the River Taff nearly doubled in flow in just 6.5 hours and increased in height by 2m.<sup>10</sup>

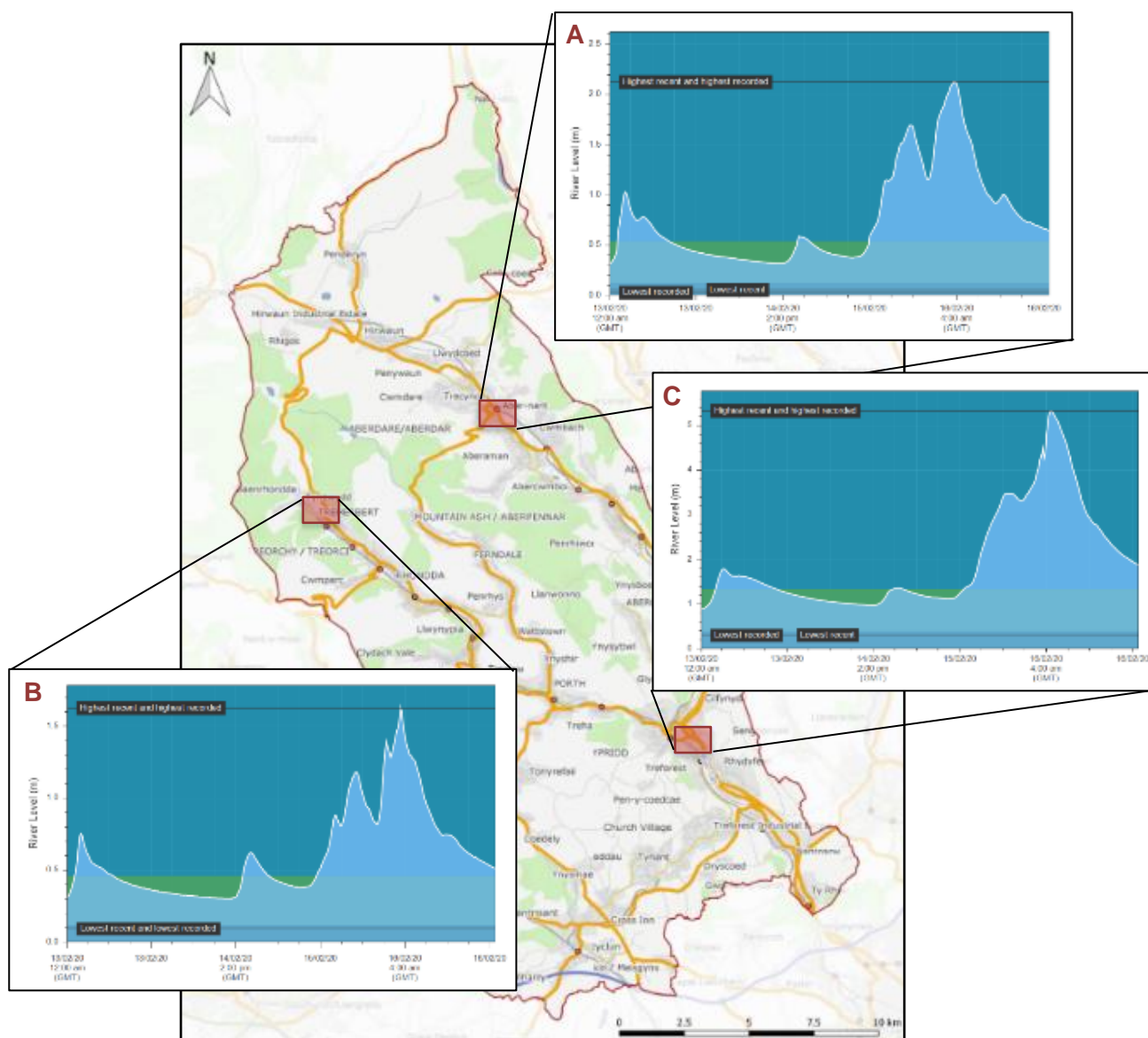
The Cynon typically runs through the town of Aberdare at a level of approximately 0.5 meters. At its peak during storm Dennis (03:00 16<sup>th</sup> Feb), levels reached 2.13 meters (7ft), breaking a record set in 1998. Four flood warning alerts were issued by NRW at locations along the River Cynon.

The Rhondda river was three times its usual level at Tynewydd monitoring station situated in the upper Rhondda, peaking at 1.62 meters at 02:45 16<sup>th</sup> February. Three flood warning alerts were issued by NRW at locations along the Rhondda River.

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<sup>10</sup> Natural Resources Wales Flood Event Data Summary - [February 2020 Floods in Wales: Flood Event Data Summary \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](#)

Figure 13 reflects the rapid response of the three Main Rivers flowing through RCT during the early hours of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February. NRW's hydrographs reflect a similar situation to that of the ordinary watercourse response; a rapid rise in water level, short lag time followed by a fast recedence in river levels. The volume and force of water associated with the water depths depicted below make them particularly dangerous.



**Figure 13:** River Levels at the Cynon at Aberdare (A), Rhondda at Tynewydd (B) and the Taf at Pontypridd (C) between the 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (NRW's River Level Monitoring Stations). Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

According to NRW, it is estimated that the lower Taff experienced the equivalent of a 1:200 flood (0.5% chance in any one year of an event of this scale occurring) event storm. It is clear from the evidence provided throughout this overview report that Storm Dennis was indeed an unprecedented event. Exceptional levels of rain caused record-breaking river levels across RCT and widespread flooding to several communities.

NRW have since highlighted within their review of the February 2020 storms that significant issues relating to the accuracy and timeliness of some flood warnings occurred during February 2020. Whilst a record 243 Flood Alerts, 181 Flood Warnings and 6 Severe Flood Warnings were issued in February 2020, 12 flood warnings were not issued when they should have been, and 6 were issued late, including warnings along the River Taff.

On the River Taff, five river gauge thresholds to consider issuing Severe Flood Warnings were exceeded, but these warnings did not get issued. The River Taff at Nantgarw (issued at 05:19 16<sup>th</sup> Feb) was issued later than they should have been as anecdotal evidence indicate properties in Nantgarw began flooding before the flood warning had been issued. In addition, the Severe Flood Warning at Pontypridd was issued relatively late compared to the timing of reports of significant flooding.

For details relating to each individual flood warning issued by NRW within RCT, refer to Table 1 within Appendix A.

## 2.5 WIND DATA

Winds were comparable to storm Ciara, gusting at over 58 mph across the UK and over 69 mph (60Kt) around exposed coastlines. Gusts across Rhondda Cynon Taf were slightly above average, reaching speeds of up to 66 mph on lower ground and 84mph on higher ground during the early morning of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February (Table 3 and 4). In terms of wind speeds, this was notable although not exceptional for this time of year. However, one feature of storm Dennis was the persistence of the strong winds across the UK for several days (Met Office).

**Table 3:** 24-hour Wind Summary for RCT on 15th February 2020 (MetDesk)

RCT Above 200m	15/02/20 00:00 – 06:00	15/02/20 06:00 – 12:00	15/02/20 12:00 – 18:00	15/02/20 18:00 – 00:00
Direction	S	S	SW	SW
Speed (mph)	7-22	15-30	21-37	21-39
Gust (mph)	31-44	45-65	58-79	63-82
RCT Below 200m	15/02/20 00:00 – 06:00	15/02/20 06:00 – 12:00	15/02/20 12:00 – 18:00	15/02/20 18:00 – 00:00
Direction	S	S	SW	SW
Speed (mph)	4-17	13-22	19-28	19-30
Gust (mph)	27-34	43-49	51-60	57-66

**Table 4:** 24-hour Wind Summary for RCT on 16th February 2020 (MetDesk)

RCT Above 200m	16/02/20 00:00 – 06:00	16/02/20 06:00 – 12:00	16/02/20 12:00 – 18:00	16/02/20 18:00 – 00:00
Direction	SW	SW	W	W
Speed (mph)	20-39	20-38	20-34	23-25
Gust (mph)	62-82	66-84	54-57	55-76
RCT Below 200m	16/02/20 00:00 – 06:00	16/02/20 06:00 – 12:00	16/02/20 12:00 – 18:00	16/02/20 18:00 – 00:00
Direction	SW	SW	W	W
Speed (mph)	20-30	20-30	20-27	23-28
Gust (mph)	57-66	65-66	54-56	55-58

RCT received 12 out of hour calls reporting fallen trees during Storm Dennis (15-16<sup>th</sup> February). The location of these incidences was widespread and impacted not only key transport networks across the borough but also influenced the mobilisation of

debris which may have contributed to blockages to assets. It is important to note that the time of year that storm Dennis occurred in meant that leaf mass would have already fallen, suggesting that blockages to gullies, culvert inlets and trash screen were most likely caused by larger pieces of debris mobilised from the steep valley hillsides.

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### 3. IMPACTS

Storm Dennis saw an exceptional amount of rain fall in a short amount of time, which caused rapid increase in river and watercourse levels and led to severe flooding to communities across RCT. Very few communities within RCT escaped the impacts of Storm Dennis.

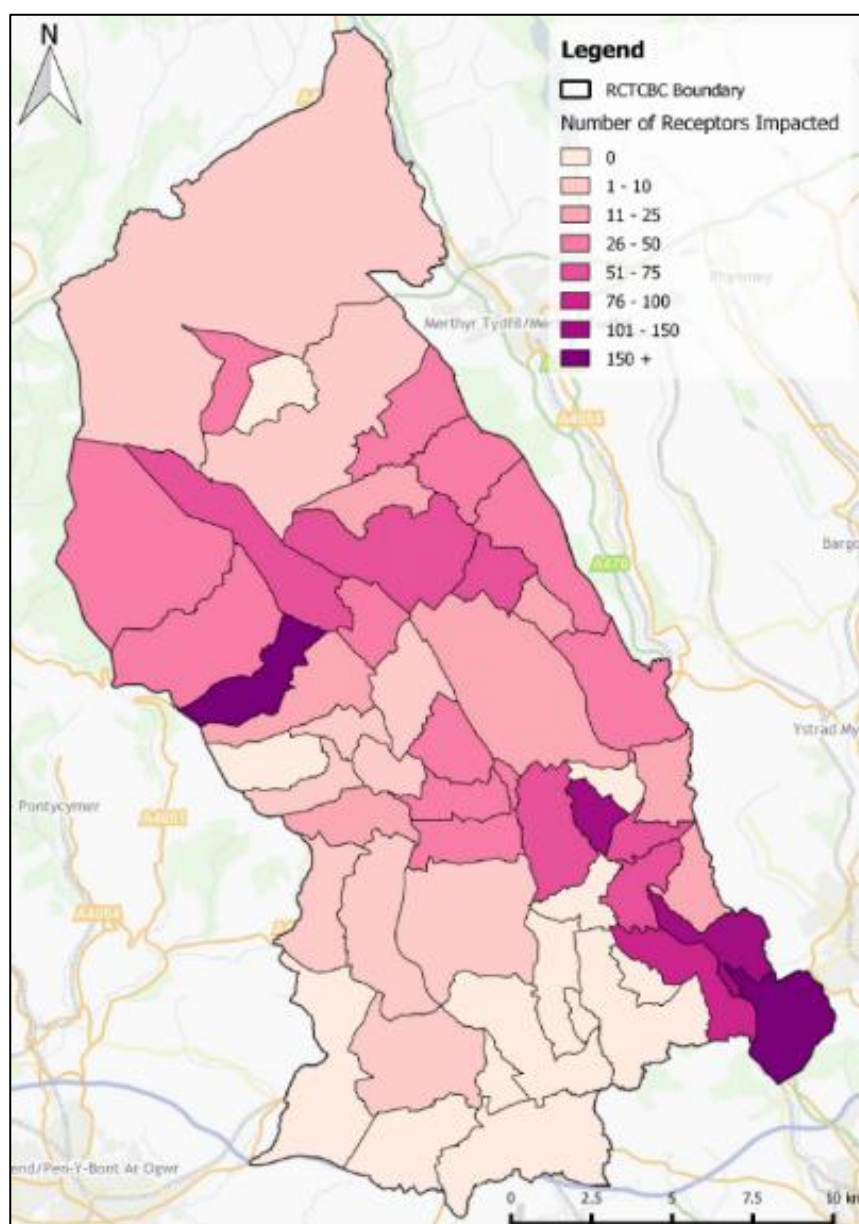
It was noted that RCT recorded approximately 1496 reports of flooding and 19 reports of landslides within the borough during Storm Dennis and the days following the event (15<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> February).

Provisional data following the investigations undertaken by RCT's Flood Risk Management team and Public Health department, estimate that approximately 1091 residential properties and 407 commercial premises were internally flooded during Storm Dennis. The number of properties that suffered external flooding is expected to be much higher.

The primary causes of flooding to properties across RCT was due to pluvial sources (surface water and ordinary watercourses). Approximately 806 receptors were internally flooded due to pluvial flood sources, of which 704 were residential properties. Fluvial flooding from the Main Rivers was also a dominant flood source during Storm Dennis, causing approximately 692 receptors to flood internally, of which 305 were commercial premises.

The map below shows the extent of the flooding during Storm Dennis per electoral ward within RCT (Figure 14). Notably, the impacts of flooding were widespread, with Pentre, Pontypridd, Taffs Well and Hawthorn worst affected. Areas to the southeast of the borough were least affected during Storm Dennis.





**Figure 14:** Number of Receptors flooded per electoral ward within RCT during Storm Dennis (15 – 16th February 2020)



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### **3.1 IMPACTS - TYPES OF FLOODING**

This section identifies the key sources of flooding and describe the mechanisms of each type of flooding that occurred during Storm Dennis. It is not intended to cover every incidence of flooding across the county borough, but to provide an overview of the primary flood sources. An overview of the flooding impacts to infrastructure and assets during Storm Dennis has also been described within section 3.2.

### 3.1.1 PLUVIAL FLOODING - ORDINARY WATERCOURSE

An ordinary watercourse is defined as a watercourse that does not form part of a Main River. This includes streams, drains, culverts, dikes, ditches and passages through which water flows. Ordinary watercourse flooding is the most common cause of flooding within RCTCBC and occurs when the capacity of a local drainage channel is exceeded and/or culvert inlets and trash screens are blocked with debris (FRMP, 2015)<sup>11</sup>.

Storm Dennis was an exceptional and unprecedented storm event which led to large parts of both the Cynon and Rhondda Valleys being affected by ordinary watercourse flooding as a result of culvert networks becoming over capacitated resulting in hydraulic overload/surcharging, as well as large stonewash and debris being transported downstream causing damage and blockages to culvert inlets and debris screens (Figures 15 and 16). It is estimated that 65% of all residential flooding during Storm Dennis was primarily caused by pluvial sources (ordinary watercourse and surface water).

Areas worst affected by ordinary watercourse flooding were widespread and mainly affected residential properties. These areas include Treherbert, Treorchy, Pentre, Mountain Ash, Abercwmboi and Ferndale, among others.

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<sup>11</sup> RCT's Flood Risk Management Plan 2015 - <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlluviation/RelatedDocuments/FloodRiskManagementPlanFinal.pdf>



**Figure 15:** Pentre Road culvert inlet pre (left) & post Storm Dennis (right) showing evidence of significant blockage to the inlet



**Figure 16:** Section of open watercourse, upstream of the Nant-y-Ffrwd culvert inlet near Granville Terrace, Mountain Ash immediately after Storm Dennis (right) and three months post storm event (left)

Evidence of scour in the upper catchments of RCT (illustrated in Figure 17) indicate the power of the flows within the watercourses which mobilised and transported large amounts of debris and stonewash downstream towards culvert inlets and carrier lines during the storm event.





**Figure 17:** Upper catchment of the Nant Cae Dudwg watercourse, Cilfynydd (left) and the Nant y Ffrwd watercourse, Mountain Ash (right) showing evidence of bank scour and deposition of debris in and adjacent to the channel

Storm Dennis has highlighted the role of morphological processes as a significant contributor to flood risk in many areas in RCT. The degree of morphological instability and potential sediment supply varies from catchment to catchment, however both historical and present-day anthropogenic landscape changes at the catchment scale have been identified as key influences on ordinary watercourse behaviours and local flood risk.

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### 3.1.2 FLUVIAL FLOODING - MAIN RIVER

Fluvial flooding (flooding from the main river) can be caused by river levels ‘*overtopping*’ their banks and/or ‘*breaching*’ of the defence structures. ‘Main Rivers’ are usually larger streams and rivers and include certain structures that control or regulate the flow of water in, into or out of a main river. In Wales, main rivers are legally designated by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, NRW are responsible for flood risk management activities on Main Rivers<sup>19</sup>.

Following Storm Dennis, NRW, acting as the risk management authority responsible for managing the risk of flooding on Main Rivers, have published several reports which analyse and critically review NRW’s response to the events.

The River Taff, Cynon and Rhondda (Fawr and Fach) are the primary Main Rivers running through Rhondda Cynon Taf. All three primary Main Rivers overtopped their banks at various locations across the borough, with the most notable flooding impacts occurring along the River Taff which is fed by both the Cynon and Rhondda rivers and caused flooding to multiple receptors situated within the urban and industrial floodplains of the Taff. Areas worst affected include Pontypridd, Nantgarw, Treforest Industrial Estate and Taffs Well and the affected receptors primarily being commercial units. The aerial photographs captured below by South Wales National Police Air Service (Figure 18) show the dramatic inundation of Pontypridd Town Centre and Treforest Industrial Estate by the River Taff on Sunday morning (16<sup>th</sup> February 2020).



**Figure 18:** Main River flooding from the Afon Taf at Pontypridd (left) and Treforest Industrial Estate (right). South Wales National Police Air Service.

NRW own and maintain approximately 13.29 km of flood defences within RCT. That's equivalent to 7.7% of the total length of Main Rivers that flow through RCT. NRW have acknowledged within their review of the February 2020 floods that their defences did overtop in a number of locations, however defences did not structurally fail or become breached<sup>10</sup>.

Some privately owned defences and highway retaining walls were also overtopped and some were breached and damaged during the storm event.

### 3.1.3 PLUVIAL FLOODING - SURFACE WATER & GROUNDWATER

Pluvial flooding includes both ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding. Surface runoff occurs when rainwater which is on the surface of the ground and has not yet entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer (FRMP, 2015). As a result of RCT's catchment geomorphology, climate and concentrated urban development, surface water flooding is common and particularly prominent following a prolonged period of rainfall when the catchment is saturated, or after an intense storm and drainage systems become overwhelmed.

Flooding from groundwater occurs as a result of water rising from the underlying aquifer or from water flowing through normal springs. This tends to occur after sustained high rainfall, and the areas at most risk are often low-lying where the water table is more likely to be at shallow depth<sup>12</sup>.

Historic mining activities within RCT have disrupted the 'natural' groundwater regime within the coal measures and it is likely that the interconnection between many of the collieries has resulted in cross catchment 'groundwater flow' in certain parts of RCT. Although the carboniferous limestone is recognised as a major aquifer, and the coal measures and Triassic strata are minor aquifers with local importance, the contribution of groundwater to even low flows is modest<sup>12</sup>.

Although the risk posed by groundwater flooding is generally low, the already-saturated catchments caused by previous rainfall during Storm Ciara likely contributed to surface water flooding during Storm Dennis.

Surface water flooding was experienced across the majority of RCT and was exacerbated in some locations by the impacts from ordinary watercourse and sewer network flooding. Notable areas of surface water flooding include Glenboi within the town of Mountain Ash (Figure 19) as well as large parts of Trehafod (Figure 20).

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<sup>12</sup> RCT's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011





**Figure 19:** Surface water flooding at Glenboi, Abercwmboi captured by RCT's FRM team during Storm Dennis (16th February)



**Figure 20:** Surface water flooding at Trehafod Road (left) and the A4058 above Trehafod captured during Storm Dennis (16th February) (source: Facebook)



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#### **3.1.4 SEWER NETWORK**

Sewer flooding is often caused by excess surface water entering the drainage network and exceeding the capacity of the sewer. When this happens, sewage can overflow from manholes and gullies and cause flooding to land and properties.

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water have primary responsibility for flooding from water and sewerage systems (foul, surface-water and/or combined). Many areas have separate sewer systems to take foul water and rainwater (surface-water), but most sewers are combined, meaning that they are designed to simultaneously collect surface runoff and sewage water in a shared system.

Flooding arises from combined sewers when excess rainwater entering the system exceeds the capacity of the sewer. Due to the exceptional and unprecedented amounts of rainfall during Storm Dennis, the sewer network in many parts of the borough become overwhelmed. Notable areas of flooding from the sewer network include parts of Aberdare and Cwmbach.

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### 3.1.5 PUMPING STATIONS

Pumping stations are built when the existing drainage system in an area is lower than the public sewer to which it has to connect. Water (foul, surface water and sewage) is then 'lifted' and pumped through a discharge pipe to the main sewer.

Within RCT there are multiple pumping stations with various ownerships including Council owned and privately owned, but the majority of surface water and sewer pumping stations are owned and maintained by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

Pumping stations are designed to cope with very high flows in flood situations, however some pumping stations and their supporting drainage infrastructure across RCT became overwhelmed by the sheer amount of water that entered the drainage systems, including stations at Abercynon, Cwmbach and Glenboi.

### 3.2 IMPACTS – ASSETS & INFRASTRUCTURE

Current design standards for flood risk assets are outlined in Table 5 below;

**Table 5:** Current design standards for flood risk assets

Asset Type	Design Standard	Guidance Document
<b>Highway Drainage</b>	Q30 (1 in 30 year)	Statutory standards for sustainable drainage systems – designing, constructing, operating and maintaining surface water drainage systems <sup>13</sup>
<b>Sewers</b>	Q30 (1 in 30 year)	Sewers for Adoption 7 <sup>th</sup> Edition <sup>14</sup>
<b>Ordinary Watercourse</b>	Q100 (1 in 100 year) plus climate change allowance	Culvert, screen and outfall manual CIRIA C786 <sup>15</sup>
<b>Main River</b>	Q100 (1 in 100 year) plus climate change allowance	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Business Case Guidance <sup>16</sup>

It should be of note that the design standards are applicable to infrastructure constructed in modern time. Significant extents of the assets & infrastructure within RCT were constructed during the age of industrialisation and urbanisation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century indicating that a growing number of assets are expected to reach or exceed their design life within the next 30 years<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> [statutory-national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf \(gov.wales\)](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm-business-case-guidance_0.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> WRC., 2012. Sewers for Adoption: 7<sup>th</sup> edition

<sup>15</sup> CIRIA Culvert, Screen and Outfall Manual (C786)

<sup>16</sup> [https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm-business-case-guidance\\_0.pdf](https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-fcerm-business-case-guidance_0.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> [Welsh Water 2050 Consultation Document - Final version.pdf](#)

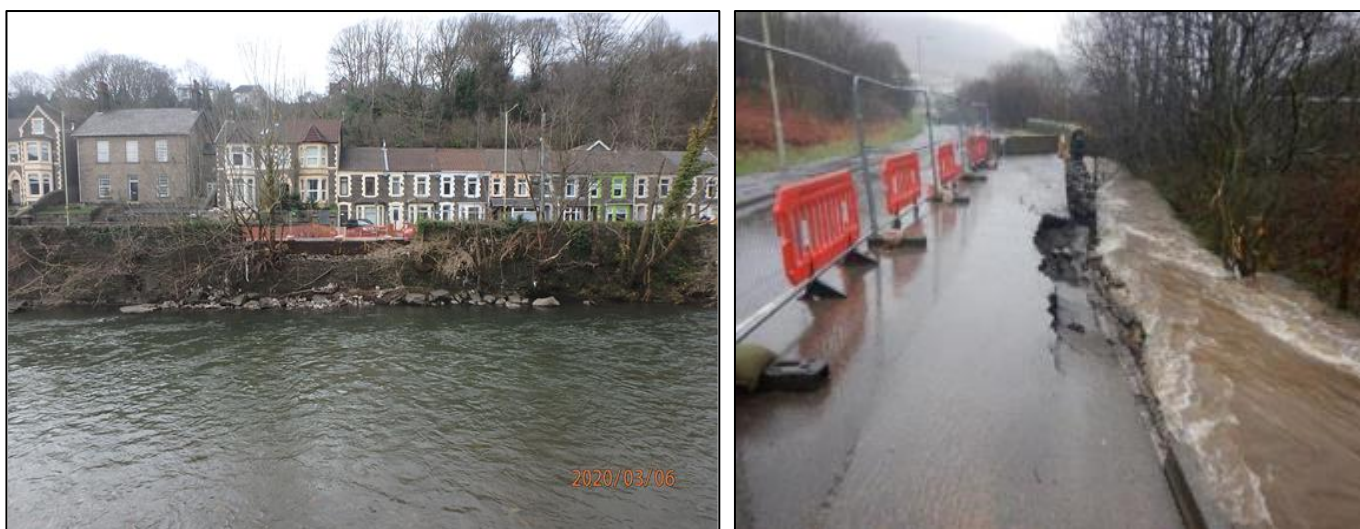
Storm Dennis exceeded all current design standards, resulting in unprecedented damage to assets and infrastructure across the county borough, including several bridges, culverts, sewers, retaining walls and highway infrastructure.

It is estimated that Storm Dennis caused approximately £70 million of damages to civil infrastructure alone (excluding tips), and it is estimated that the overall spend on the Highway Structures and landslips will be in excess of £91 million.

The below sections are intended to provide a short overview of the damages caused to infrastructure.

### 3.2.1 STRUCTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Extensive damages to infrastructure across RCT including bridges, culverts and retaining walls occurred during Storm Dennis. Many of the damages caused by the storm was as a result of Main River flows carrying large debris at high velocity along the watercourses and subsequently breaching its banks at several locations, causing significant damage to several highway and privately owned retaining walls. Figures 21 show sections of damaged river retaining walls at Blaenrhondda and evidence of severe scouring to the riverbanks of the River Taff caused by the storm event.



**Figure 21:** Damages to Berw Road retaining wall at Pontypridd (left) and Blaen y Cwm Road river wall at Blaenrhondda (left)

Record breaking river levels and velocities caused whole trees to uproot from the banks and other woody debris to be transported along the watercourses resulting in damages to approximately 72 bridges and footpaths across the county borough. Evidence of accumulated material at the Nant Clydach Bridge at Ynysybwl and Feeder Pipe footbridge at Abercynon are illustrated below (Figure 22).



**Figure 22:** Damages to Nant Clydach Bridge at Ynysybwl (left) and Feeder Pipe footbridge at Abercynon (right)

Damages to infrastructure also occurred as a result of ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding, mainly through the mobilisation of large debris from the upper catchments which resulted in blockages to culvert inlet structures and trash screens further downstream (illustrated in Section 3.1.1).



### 3.2.2 HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

Flooding to the highway network across RCT was widespread. Highway drainage infrastructure in several locations became overwhelmed by the sheer volume of surface water entering the drainage network, resulting in surface water ponding which led to many of the borough's primary transport corridors becoming impassible, including the A465 at Hirwaun and the A4095 at Mountain Ash (Figure 23).



**Figure 23:** Images captured by Local Authority officers of the A465 Underpass at Hirwaun Industrial Estate (left) and the A4059 (New Road) at Mountain Ash on 16th February 2020

Damages to highway infrastructure was also commonplace. Debris and stonewash mobilised from the upper catchments above residential settlements and carried downstream via watercourses resulted in blockages to the highway drainage network which not only caused significant damages but also exacerbated the flooding to the highway. Figure 24 depicts evidence of silt and stonewash deposited onto the highway below Heath Terrace, Ynyshir following the storm event.



**Figure 24:** Image captured by Council Highways and Streetcare Depot officers at Heath Terrace, Ynyshir on 17th February 2020

## 4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES

The term 'Risk Management Authorities' refers to the organisation(s) that have legislative powers concerning flood risk management. A Welsh Risk Management Authority is defined in Section 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as Natural Resources Wales; a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), a district council for an area where there is no unitary authority, or a highway authority wholly in Wales; an internal drainage board for an internal drainage district that is wholly or mainly in Wales; a water company that exercises functions in relation to an area in Wales.

RCT work in partnership with those organisations to investigate and manage flood risk. Whilst RCT as the LLFA has a duty to investigate flood incidents in its area, it may be the responsibility of another RMA, or a land/property owner, to take actions to resolve an issue.

**Table 6:** Risk Management Authorities responsible for different flood types

Source of Flooding	LLFA	NRW	Water Company	Highway Authority	SWTRA
River		✓			
Sea		✓			
Surface Water	✓			✓ (on or coming from the Highway)	✓ (on or coming from the Highway)
Ordinary Watercourse	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Sewer flooding			✓		
Reservoirs		✓			



Table 6 summarises which RMAs are primarily responsible for managing flood risk dependent on the source of flooding. The roles and responsibilities of each individual RMA has been further described within the sections below.

#### 4.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

Within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has been established as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area.

As defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, RCT is responsible for 'Managing' what is termed, its 'local flood risk'. This includes the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface runoff and groundwater.

Local Authorities have always had certain responsibilities in relation to ordinary watercourses, and in practice most Local Authorities took the lead in dealing with surface water flooding incidents prior to the changes contained within the Flood and Water Management 2010.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a number of statutory duties on Local Authorities in their role as LLFAs including:

- 1 - A duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area<sup>18</sup>
- 2 – A duty to comply with the National Strategy<sup>19</sup>
- 3 – A duty to co-operate with other authorities, including sharing data
- 4 – **A duty to investigate all flooding within its area, insofar as a LLFA consider it necessary or appropriate**
- 5 - A duty to maintain a register of structures and features likely to affect flood risk;
- 6 - A duty to contribute to sustainable development; and
- 7 - Consenting powers on ordinary watercourses.

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<sup>18</sup> RCT Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/LocalFloodRiskManagementStrategy.aspx>

<sup>19</sup> WG National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - [40996 National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales \(English\) \(gov.wales\)](#)

The role of RCTCBC as the LLFA to investigate the Storm Dennis flood event falls under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 the LLFA also have duties to contribute to the production of Flood Risk Management Plans<sup>20</sup>.

In addition to these, each LLFA has a number of what are called permissive powers under the FWMA. These are powers that allow them to do something, but do not compel them to and include:

- 1 - Powers to request information in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions;
- 2 - Powers to designate certain structures or features that affect flood or coastal erosion risk;
- 3 - The expansion of powers to undertake works to include broader risk management actions; and
- 4 - The ability to cause flooding or coastal erosion under certain conditions.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council also manage flood risk via the permissive powers bestowed upon all Lead Local Flood Authorities under the Land Drainage Act 1991, which allow them to regulate ordinary watercourses (outside of internal drainage districts) to maintain proper flow by;

- Issuing consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourse; and
- Enforcing obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse and repair watercourses, bridges and other structures in a watercourse.

These powers are for the purpose of preventing flooding or remedying or mitigating any damage caused by flooding. Enforcement powers under the Act assist the Council in carrying out its duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Land Drainage Act 1991 to help with their land drainage and flood risk management functions across RCT through better regulation of activities on, near or adjacent to an ordinary watercourse, which may increase the risk of flooding. The responsibility for

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<sup>20</sup> RCT Flood Risk Management Plan - [Flood Risk Management Plan \(Final\) \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/flood-risk-management-plan-final)

maintenance of watercourses ultimately rests with the landowner. Riparian landowners' rights and responsibilities are discussed in Section 5.3.

LLFA's in Wales also take on the role of the SuDS Adopting and Approving Body (SAB) in relation to sustainable drainage systems as of the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019. In this role they have a duty to ensure surface water drainage for new developments with drainage implications is built and functions in accordance with mandatory National Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) prior to construction work taking place<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-06/statutory-national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems.pdf>

## 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Natural Resources Wales is responsible for managing the risks of flooding from main rivers and the sea, and for regulating the safety of reservoirs. In addition, NRW also have operational responsibilities in relation to coastal erosion and a wider oversight role for all flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales.

The oversight role is integral to the delivery of national policy on flooding and coastal erosion risk management and has been taken forward to ensure that Natural Resources Wales has the remit to support the Welsh Government across the full range of flood and coastal erosion risks affecting Wales.

As part of their oversight role, Natural Resources Wales will lead on the provision of technical advice and support to other Risk Management Authorities. They will also lead on national initiatives such as Flood Awareness Wales, the national raising awareness program, and be the single point of contact for enquiries and information on flood risk, via their Flood Line warning service<sup>22</sup>.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a number of statutory duties on Natural Resources Wales including:

- a) Co-operating with other authorities, including sharing data;
- b) Reporting to the Minister on flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales including the application of the National Strategy; and
- c) The establishment of Regional Flood and Coastal Committees.

In addition to their statutory duties, Natural Resources Wales has a number of permissive powers. These are powers that allow them to do something, but do not compel them to and include:

- a. Powers to request information
- b. The ability to raise levies for local flood risk management works, via the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees
- c. Powers to designate certain structures or features that affect flood or coastal erosion risk

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<sup>22</sup> NRW Flood line Warning - <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/sign-up-to-receive-flood-warnings/?lang=en>

- d. The expansion of powers to undertake works to include broader risk management actions; and
- e. The ability to cause flooding or coastal erosion under certain conditions.

This new allocation of responsibilities is also consistent with Natural Resources Wales' role; in relation to the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which allocates specific responsibility for conducting assessments in relation to mapping and planning the risks of flooding from main rivers, the sea and reservoirs to Natural Resources Wales, as well as providing guidance to Local Authorities on these matters for flooding from other sources.

Under the Regulations, Natural Resources Wales also takes on an assessment and coordination role at a national level, ensuring the correct information is passed back to the European Commission.

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### 4.3 WATER COMPANY

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is the regional water and sewerage treatment company serving Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC. Water and sewerage companies are responsible not only for the provision of water, but also for making appropriate arrangements for the drainage of foul water, the treatment of waste, surface water sewers and combined sewers. They have primary responsibility for floods from water and sewerage systems, which can include sewer flooding, burst pipes or water mains or floods caused by system failures.

No changes have been made to the operational arrangements for water and sewerage companies in respect of flood risk.

Water companies, when exercising their flood or coastal erosion risk management functions in relation to an area within Wales, must have regard to the relevant Local Strategies and any associated guidance.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a number of statutory duties on Water and Sewerage Companies including:

- 1 - A duty to act consistently with the National Strategy;
- 2 - A duty to have regard to the content of the relevant Local Strategy; and
- 3 - Co-operation with other Authorities, including sharing data.

Water and sewerage companies often hold valuable information, which could greatly aid the understanding of flood risks faced by communities across Wales.

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#### **4.4 HIGHWAY AUTHORITY**

Highway authorities have the lead responsibility for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches under the Highways Act 1980. The owners of land adjoining a highway also have a common-law duty to maintain ditches to prevent them causing a nuisance to road users.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, as the highway authority, is the relevant RMA with responsibility for ensuring the roads and highways within its area is clear of obstructions and to manage and maintain the surface water drainage infrastructure to an appropriate design standard to drain surface water from the highway. As part of their duty, they are responsible for carrying out routine and reactive works to these systems to ensure they are working to maximum capacity.

Highway drainage is not designed to manage overland flows from private areas, parks or open space. In these instances, the capacity of the highway drainage may become exceeded by a combination of highway and private surface water, resulting in surface water flooding.

#### **4.5 SOUTH WALES TRUNK ROAD AGENCY (SWTRA)**

The Welsh Government has a responsibility for managing flood risk on motorways and major trunk road drainage under the Highways Act, section 100. The Trunk Road Agency must ensure that road projects do not increase flood risk and road discharges do not pollute receiving waterbodies.

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## 5. ROLE OF OTHER AUTHORITIES & ASSET OWNERS

Whilst not designated flood risk management authorities, stakeholders such as infrastructure providers, riparian landowners and residents have responsibilities to maintain their assets for the purposes of managing flood risk.

### 5.1 NETWORK RAIL & TRANSPORT FOR WALES

Whilst legislation does not impose an official role on Network Rail/Transport for Wales, they have an operational responsibility for flooding as a land and asset owner and are required to undertake regular maintenance of all drainage infrastructure and assets that pose a risk to flooding.

### 5.2 RIPARIAN LANDOWNERS

If you own land or property located adjacent to or abutting a waterway (watercourse, stream, ditch) then in legal terms you are a Riparian Owner and have certain common law rights and responsibilities.

Riparian Landowners are legally responsible under common law for the maintenance of the land generally up to the centerline of any watercourse adjacent to their property<sup>23</sup>. This includes the maintenance of the bed, banks and any boundary features e.g. vegetated strips such as hedging, with routine clearance of debris and/or blockages.

This does not mean that the owner must remove all debris from the watercourse, but it does require the owner to maintain as far as it does not pose a risk or 'nuisance' to a neighbour. Any works to modify the watercourse by the landowner must first be passed through the relevant Risk Management Authority, Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) or Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

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<sup>23</sup> Natural Resources Wales – Riverside Property Owners - <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/managing-flood-risk/riverside-property-owners-know-your-rights-and-responsibilities/?lang=en>



Under common law, Riparian Owners have rights and responsibilities relating to any watercourse that passes through or adjacent to the boundaries of their land. This means that the landowner must:

- Pass on flow without obstruction, pollution or diversion affecting the rights of others;
- Accept natural flood flows through their land, even if caused by inadequate capacity downstream, as there is no common law duty to improve a watercourse;
- Maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse (including trees and shrubs growing on the banks) and clear any debris, natural or otherwise;
- Not cause any obstruction to the free passage of fish;
- Keep the bed and banks clear from any matter that could cause an obstruction either on their land, or by being washed away by high flow to obstruct a structure downstream;
- Take responsibility for protecting their property from seepage through natural or constructed banks, and;
- Keep clear any structure that they own such as culvert, trash screen, weirs and mill gates.

Under the FWMA 2010, a landowner needs consent from the Land Drainage Authority if they want to construct a culvert or flood relief control structure on any ordinary watercourse.

### **5.3 RESIDENTS, PROPERTY & BUSINESS OWNERS**

Residents, property and business owners are responsible for the protection of their own properties against flooding as well as maintaining private surface water drainage infrastructure such as guttering and soakaways. Residents have the right to defend their property as long as they do not subsequently increase the risk of flooding to other properties.

Residents are advised to review their personal flood resilience to ensure that they are as prepared as possible for any future flooding events. For more information on property flood products and services to help reduce the risk of flooding to homes and/or businesses, see The Blue Pages webpage<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> [Blue Pages, Flood Directory - http://bluepages.org.uk/](http://bluepages.org.uk/)

## 6. SECTION 19 INVESTIGATION & REPORTING

The Section 19 report is a statutory requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which primarily focuses on the statutory responsibilities and duties of flood risk management authorities in response to a flood event.

The purpose of the investigation is to determine which Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) have relevant flood risk management functions and which functions have been exercised in response to a flood. Specifically, Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. "on becoming Aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
  - a) "Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and,
  - b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in the response to the flood."
2. "When an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must publish the results of its investigation, and notify any relevant risk management authority"<sup>25</sup>

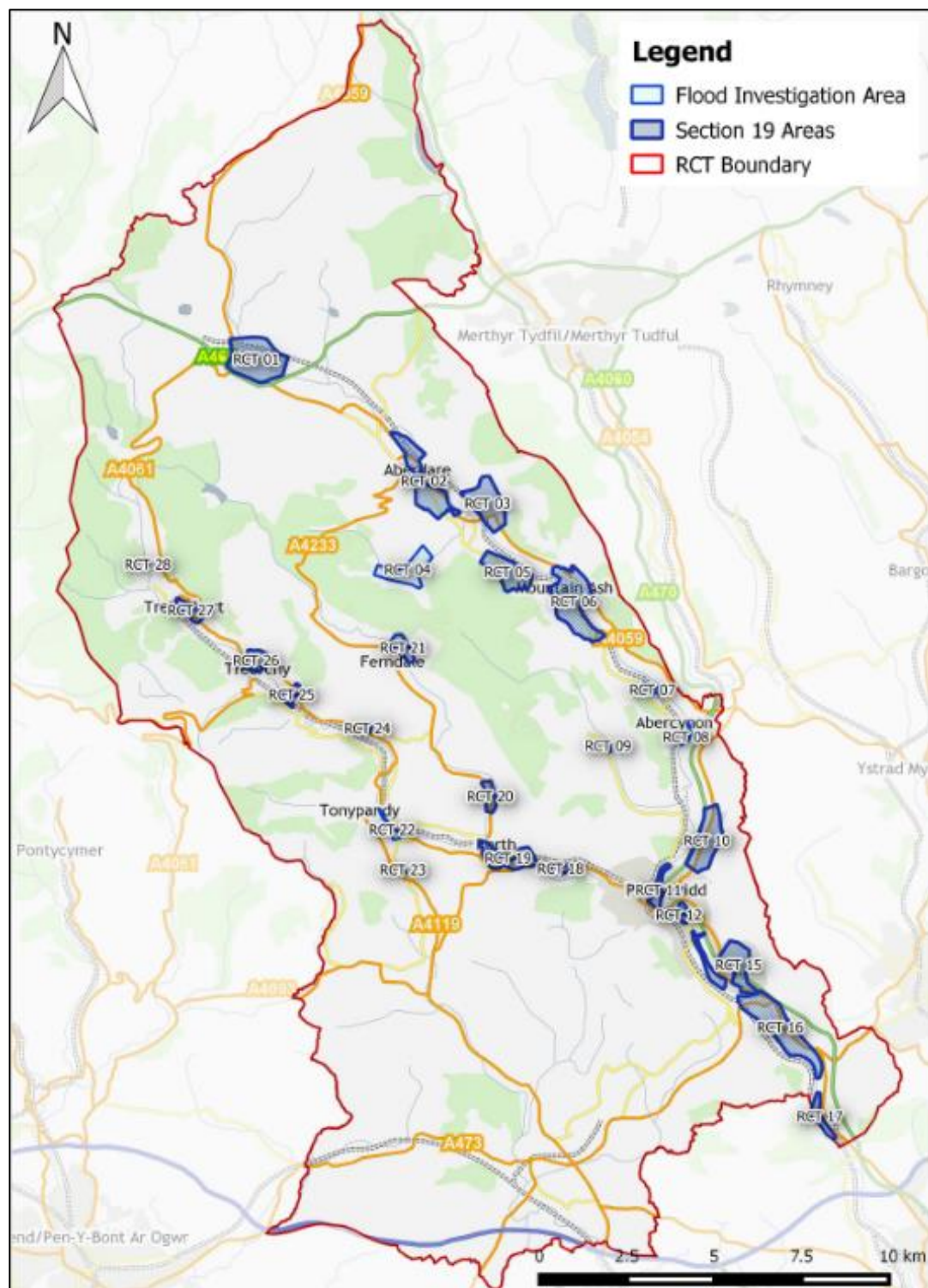
Current Welsh Government guidance outlined within the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management<sup>1</sup> stipulates that Section 19 reports should be produced for flooding incidents where twenty or more properties experience internal flooding following a storm event.

Due to the widespread and extensive flooding impacts of Storm Dennis across Rhondda Cynon Taf, hot-spot areas which experienced internal flooding have been clustered into twenty-eight Flood Investigation Areas (FIA) (Figure 25). These FIAs are also listed in Table 7. Individual Flood Investigation Reports (FIR) will be produced for each FIA identifying the causes and mechanisms of flooding within each area, nineteen of which will be progressed into Section 19 reporting following the thresholds set out by the Welsh Government. Those Flood Investigation Areas that require a

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<sup>25</sup> Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – Section 19 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/section/19>

Section 19 Reports have been highlighted within Table 7, along with links to the relevant reports published on the Council's website.



**Figure 25:** Flood Investigation Areas and Section 19 Areas in RCT

**Table 7:** List of all twenty-eight Flood Investigation Areas, the number of receptors affected, a determination of whether a Section 19 Report is required and links to those reports

Flood Investigation Area Reference	Location	Total Number of Receptors Affected	Section 19 Report	Link to Section 19 Report
<b>RCT01</b>	Hirwaun	35	Yes	FRM – S19 - 001
<b>RCT02</b>	Aberdare	50	Yes	FRM – S19 – 002
<b>RCT03</b>	Cwmbach	34	Yes	FRM – S19 – 003
<b>RCT04</b>	Cwmaman	11	No	N/A
<b>RCT05</b>	Abercwmboi Fernhill	74	Yes	FRM – S19 – 005
<b>RCT06</b>	Mountain Ash	68	Yes	FRM – S19 – 006
<b>RCT07</b>	Ynysboeth	15	No	N/A
<b>RCT08</b>	Abercynon	14	No	N/A
<b>RCT09</b>	Ynysybwl	19	No	N/A
<b>RCT10</b>	Cilfynydd	25	Yes	FRM – S19 – 010
<b>RCT11</b>	Pontypridd	158	Yes	FRM – S19 – 011
<b>RCT12</b>	Treforest	50	Yes	FRM – S19 – 012
<b>RCT13</b>	Pentrebach	10	No	N/A
<b>RCT14</b>	Hawthorn	27	Yes	FRM – S19 – 014
<b>RCT15</b>	Rhydyfelin	33	Yes	FRM – S19 - 015
<b>RCT16</b>	Nantgarw	306	Yes	FRM – S19 – 016
<b>RCT17</b>	Taffs Well	36	Yes	FRM – S19 – 017
<b>RCT18</b>	Trehafod	68	Yes	FRM – S19 – 018
<b>RCT19</b>	Porth	61	Yes	FRM – S19 – 019
<b>RCT20</b>	Ynyshir	26	Yes	FRM – S19 – 020
<b>RCT21</b>	Ferndale	26	Yes	FRM – S19 – 021
<b>RCT22</b>	Tonypandy	7	No	N/A
<b>RCT23</b>	Penygraig	10	No	N/A
<b>RCT24</b>	Ystrad	14	No	N/A
<b>RCT25</b>	Pentre	169	Yes	FRM – S19 – 025
<b>RCT26</b>	Treorchy	44	Yes	FRM – S19 – 026
<b>RCT27</b>	Treherbert	23	Yes	FRM – S19 - 027
<b>RCT28</b>	Blaenrhondda	9	No	N/A

A brief summary of the flooding mechanisms and impacts which occurred during Storm Dennis within those Flood Investigation Areas that fall below the threshold stipulating the production of a Section 19 report, have been provided within Table 8.

**Table 8:** Summary of the flooding mechanisms observed during Storm Dennis within the Flood Investigation Areas that do not stipulate a Section 19 report

Flood Investigation Area Reference	Number of Receptors Affected	Summary of Flood Mechanisms
<b>RCT04</b>	11	<p>Investigation area RCT04 is located within the town of Cwmaman situated within the River Aman catchment in the Cynon valley.</p> <p>The primary source of flooding at Cwmaman was identified as the overtopping of several unnamed ordinary watercourses, possibly exacerbated by poor culvert conditions downstream but primarily caused by extreme rainfall flowing down the hillsides, leading to flooding to several properties situated at Brynhyfryd, Glanaman Road, Kingsbury Place and Treneol.</p> <p>A section of the Nant Aman watercourse (designated by NRW as a Main River) was also observed to have overtopped its bank at a low point causing internal flooding to a property at Llanwonno Road.</p>
<b>RCT07</b>	15	<p>Investigation area RCT07 lies within the community area of Ynysboeth located in the River Cynon catchment on the western bank of the river.</p> <p>The source of flooding at Ynysboeth originated primarily from the Nant-y-Fedw ordinary watercourse which overtopped at a culverted section of the watercourse due to an observed blockage and caused internal flooding to properties adjacent to the inlet at Abercynon Road, and further downstream at Nant-y-Fedw.</p> <p>Additional sources of flooding were recorded from surcharging highway drainage infrastructure and surface water runoff from the hillside towards the B4275 Abercynon Road.</p>



<b>RCT08</b>	14	<p>Investigation area RCT08 is situated within the town of Abercynon located in the River Cynon catchment and bounded to the south and east by the River Taf catchment.</p> <p>The source of flooding at Abercynon originated from two surcharging culvert inlets, one at the northern end of River Row causing properties to flood, and the second culvert above Wood Road which resulted in surface water runoff travelling towards low points and causing internal residential flooding.</p> <p>Highway drainage infrastructure became overwhelmed during the storm event and the mobilisation of debris carried by the flowing water caused partial blockages, resulting in the reduced capacity of the surface water drainage systems.</p> <p>The River Cynon is also known to have overtopped its banks upstream of River Row, contributing to the flooding of these properties.</p>
<b>RCT09</b>	19	<p>Investigation area RCT09 is located within the town of Ynysybwl in the River Cynon catchment, to the west of Abercynon.</p> <p>The source of flooding at Ynysybwl originated from the Main River, the Nant Clydach, which overtopped its defence embankments adjacent to Clydach Terrace and resulted in internal flooding to several properties.</p>
<b>RCT13</b>	10	<p>Investigation area RCT13 is located within the electoral ward of Trallwng. The area is bounded to the north by the A4054 Pentrebach Road and to the south by the River Taf and the A470.</p> <p>An unnamed ordinary watercourse overtopped its banks adjacent to Nightingales Bush, causing internal flooding to residential properties after becoming overwhelmed during the storm event.</p>

		Surface water runoff along Pentrebach Road was also identified as a contributing source of flooding to properties.
<b>RCT22</b>	7	<p>Investigation area RCT22 is located within the town of Tonypany in the Rhondda River catchment.</p> <p>The source of flooding at Tonypany in this incident originated from extreme rainfall running from the hillsides to the southeast and southwest of the town draining to lower ground and causing surface water flooding to several commercial properties along Foundry Road and Talycelyn Road.</p> <p>Highway drainage infrastructure at Foundry Road was observed to have become blocked during the storm event, further contributing to the observed surface water flooding.</p>
<b>RCT23</b>	10	<p>Investigation area RCT23 is situated within the village of Williamstown in the Rhondda valley.</p> <p>The source of flooding in this incident originated from the overtopping of the Nant Ffrwdamas ordinary watercourse which flows to the rear of Brook Street. The watercourse became overwhelmed during the storm event and breached its lower embankments allowing water to flow onto Brook Street, causing blockages to highway drainage infrastructure and resulting in internal flooding to several properties.</p>
<b>RCT24</b>	14	<p>Investigation area RCT24 is located within the community area of Ystrad in the Rhondda River catchment.</p> <p>The primary source of flooding at Ystrad originated from the surcharging of a culvert inlet and manholes located to the rear of Danygraig and near the Nant Gelligaled ordinary watercourse to the west of Danygraig. The culvert network was identified as heavily silted, resulting in the reduced capacity of the drainage infrastructure which ultimately caused surcharg.</p>



		Water flowed downhill towards the rear of the impacted properties along Penrhys Road.
<b>RCT28</b>	9	<p>Investigation area RCT28 is located within the town of Blaenrhondda, to the northwest of Treherbert, at the head of the Rhondda Fawr valley.</p> <p>The primary source of flooding at Blaenrhondda was identified as originating from an unnamed ordinary watercourse to the rear of the impacted properties on Brook Street.</p> <p>The watercourse became overwhelmed during the storm event by both the volume of water and the mobilisation of debris from the mountainside which caused the culvert inlet and trash screens to block, resulting in the overtopping of the watercourse from its concrete channel.</p>

Approximately a further 78 properties, in addition to those outlined in Table 7 and 8, have been confirmed as experiencing internal flooding during Storm Dennis. Those additional properties fall outside the boundaries of the twenty-eight FIAs. For that reason, neither Flood Investigation Reports nor Section 19 Reports have been produced for those properties, however, the Authority's Flood Risk Management Team have undertaken initial investigations and will continue to manage the flood risk associated to each location on a prioritised basis.

As part of producing the Section 19 Reports, RCTCBC as the LLFA will seek to collaborate with the local community and those affected to draw upon detailed local knowledge. The primary outcome for each flood investigation report is to gain a better, more comprehensive understanding of local flood risk across RCT, especially in relation to ordinary watercourse and surface water flood risk. Ultimately the production of Section 19 investigation reports will support future targeted investment in reducing flood risk, allow the development of recommendations for proposed solutions and will

feed into the development of RCT's revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, due to be published within the next two years.

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## CONCLUSION

This overview report has been produced to provide a factual account of the events that occurred during Storm Dennis (15-16<sup>th</sup> February 2020) and is not meant as a detailed investigation into the individual flooding mechanisms that impacted so many.

February 2020 was the wettest February on record in Wales. Significant rainfall totals were reached over the entire month, but particularly during Storm Dennis which occurred on the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

Rivers and watercourses across RCT reached record-breaking levels, resulting in severe impacts which exceeded all design standards for drainage assets and infrastructure in RCT. No action could have prevented the unprecedented rainfall and river levels that occurred during Storm Dennis, resulting in the worst flooding in a generation for many communities.

While the figures suggest that the flooding events experienced in February 2020 were exceptional, climate science suggest that they might not be quite so exceptional in the years to come. It is evident that storms are becoming more frequent and severe across Wales and the UK. The need to enhance community resilience, build preparedness and improve our ability to adapt to the challenges facing society now and in the future is paramount.

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## USEFUL LINKS/CONTACTS

**Blue Pages** – property Resilience - <http://bluepages.org.uk/>

**Flood Re** – Flooded Property Insurance Scheme - <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

**Natural Resources Wales** – Check Flood Warnings -  
<https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-flood-warnings/?lang=en>

**Natural Resources Wales** - Long Term Flood Risk -  
<https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/long-term-flood-risk/?lang=en>

**Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC** - Local Flood Risk Management Plan -  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/Floodriskregulations2009.aspx>

**Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC** - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy -  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/LocalFloodRiskManagementStrategy.aspx>

**Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC** – Sustainable Drainage –  
<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/SustainableDrainage/SustainableDrainage.aspx>

**Welsh Government** - National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/national-strategy-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-in-wales.pdf>

**Welsh Water** – How to Contact Us – <https://www.welshwater.com/en/Contact-Us.aspx>

## APPENDIX A: NRW RIVER WARNINGS & ALERTS

**Table 1:** River Warnings and Alerts issued by NRW for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area between the 15-17<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Message Type	Location	Start Time	End Time
<b>Flood Alert</b>	River Cynon	12:51:38 15/02/2020	07:31:08 17/02/2020
<b>Flood Alert</b>	River Taff	13:27:38 15/02/2020	09:15:17 21/02/2020
<b>Flood Alert</b>	Rhondda River	14:43:04 15/02/2020	07:25:17 17/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	River Cynon at Mountain Ash	19:45:09 15/02/2020	14:21:00 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	River Cynon at Abercynon	19:49:37 15/02/2020	14:23:06 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Pontypridd	20:48:22 15/02/2020	22:08:33 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Taffs Well and Industrial Areas of Gwaelod y Garth	20:52:24 15/02/2020	22:13:37 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Upper Boat	02:10:17 16/02/2020	14:32:03 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	River Cynon at Hirwaun	02:45:58 16/02/2020	14:18:59 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	River Rhondda at Porth	02:49:11 16/02/2020	14:35:17 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	River Cynon at Aberdare	02:58:21 16/02/2020	14:13:35 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning Rapid Response</b>	Rhondda Fawr at Pentre	03:03:06 16/02/2020	14:15:53 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Hawthorn and Rhydyfelin	04:00:53 16/02/2020	15:13:59 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Rhondda at Trehafod	05:07:43 16/02/2020	15:44:48 16/02/2020
<b>Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Nantgarw	05:19:05 16/02/2020	22:15:55 16/02/2020
<b>Severe Flood Warning</b>	River Taff at Pontypridd	06:33:35 16/02/2020	22:08:33 16/02/2020

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# **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**

## **Section 19 Flood Investigation Report**

### **Storm Dennis – Flood Investigation Area RCT25**

**July 2021**

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This report should be read in its entirety.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Council assumes no responsibility or liability from any person in connection with its contents or findings.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been produced through the duties placed upon Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Act states, “On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

- a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised or is proposing to exercise those functions in response to the flood”.

This Section 19 investigation provides a factual report of the storm events that occurred between February and August 2020 within the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area, focusing investigation on the flooding at Pentre in the Rhondda Fawr valley (Flood Investigation Area RCT 25). This report was undertaken to identify the mechanism for flooding, establish which Risk Management Authorities have relevant flood risk management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and ascertain if those Risk Management Authorities had undertaken or were planning to undertake actions related to those functions to reduce/alleviate the risk of flooding.

Pentre was impacted by flooding on five separate occasions during 2020. This report will focus on the largest of the four 2020 flood events which occurred between the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The flooding that affected RCT on 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2020, was a result of an extreme rainfall event, designated by the Met Office as ‘Storm Dennis’. The impact of this event at Pentre resulted in internal flooding to 159 residential properties, 10 commercial properties and extensive flooding to the highway. These impacts were identified through inspections made by RCT’s Flood Risk Management Team during the days following the storm event, as well as information collated by residents, RCT’s Public Health team, Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water.

The evidence gathered within this report indicates the main source of flooding during the initial flood event was a result of significant blockage and damage to the Pentre Road culvert inlet to the north of the village, which resulted in water flowing down Pentre Road onto Elizabeth Street and Queen Street towards the lower streets of Pentre.

The culvert inlet and extensive hillside above Pentre are in the ownership of Welsh Government and managed by NRW. Post event reports identified the culvert inlet to

have been blocked by woody debris washed off the mountain side, which severely reduced the hydraulic capacity of the inlet. Upon a review of the hydraulic performance of the inlet without blockage, it was identified as having a standard of protection of 1 in 1000 year. This confirms that the inlet had sufficient capacity to deal with the storm event, but its capacity was significantly reduced due to blockages which ultimately was the primary cause of flooding at Pentre during Storm Dennis. These blockages at the inlet severely reduced the inlet's capacity to manage the flow of water.

The subsequent impact of this initial blockage resulted in a significant amount of debris washing down into the culvert network, contributing to repeat surface water flooding in the lower reaches of Pentre during the subsequent storm events. Additionally, mud and silt carried overland from the inlet entered the highway drainage infrastructure, leading to a substantial reduction in the hydraulic capacity of the surface water drainage networks in Pentre. A review of NRW's National Surface Water Flood Maps supports this interpretation, displaying flooding in those downstream areas reported by residents and Flood Risk Management officers.

RCTCBC as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Land Drainage Authority (LDA) has been determined as the relevant Risk Management Authority responsible for managing the ordinary watercourse flooding that occurred during Storm Dennis and the surface water flooding that occurred during the following flood events. The LLFA and LDA are working closely with NRW and DCWW to assess the risk of flooding from all sources and to develop a range of flood alleviation options to increase the standard of protection to approximately 400 properties in Pentre.

In response to the flooding events of 2020, the LLFA has;

- Carried out significant upgrades to the Pentre Road inlet to reduce potential blockages;
- Developed and implemented a flood routing scheme at Pleasant Street to manage overland flows;
- Worked with DCWW to construct a high-level overflow to increase the capacity of the highway drainage network in Lewis Street;
- Is developing proposals for significant efficiency upgrades to Volunteer Street pump station; and
- Led on the development of an Outline Business Case for Pentre which seeks to mitigate flood risk in the community.

The event that occurred on 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was extreme, and it is unlikely flooding from a similar event could be prevented entirely. It is concluded that Risk Management Authorities satisfactorily carried out their flood risk management functions in response to the flood event, however, further functions have been

proposed by all RMAs to better address preparedness and response to surface water flood events.

Further to this, and to address the interconnections between NRW's Forestry operations and flooding, the LLFA has made the following recommendations which align with the recommendations presented by NRW as the land estate manager within their Land Estate Management Review: -

- To review NRW's own Forest Resource Plans and Coupe Management Plans with regard to water management, particularly surface water management and the treatment of brash material in close proximity to an ordinary watercourse;
- To develop a Forest Resource Plan for the Rhondda Fawr valley, in collaboration with the LLFA, to identify and reflect the key challenges facing the community of Pentre;
- To embed NRW's own Water Management Plans into their forestry management operations to ensure the impacts of flood risk downstream are fully realised; and
- To engage with residents in relation to Forest Resource Planning and forest operations to help develop greater confidence in the WGWE and NRW's contribution to managing surface water runoff from their land.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

**DCWW** – Welsh Water

**FRMP** – Flood Risk Management Plan

**FWMA** – Flood and Water Management Act 2010

**LDA** – Land Drainage Authority

**LFRMS** – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

**LLFA** – Lead Local Flood Authority

**NRW** – Natural Resources Wales

**RCT** - Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC

**RMA** – Risk Management Authority

**SAB** – Sustainable Drainage Approval Body

**SuDS** – Sustainable Drainage Systems

**WGWE** – Welsh Government Woodland Estate



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION

On the 15 and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT) was impacted by an extreme weather event which was designated by the Met Office as 'Storm Dennis'. Due to the extent and impact of the event, the LLFA opted to undertake a formal investigation.

The storm resulted in widespread residential and commercial flooding within the Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council area. This report will focus on Flood Investigation Area RCT 25 which covers the town of Pentre in the Rhondda valley.

The reason behind RCT's investigation is in response to the duties of the local authority in regards to Section 19; of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which states:

1. "on becoming Aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
  - a) "Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and,
  - b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in the response to the flood."
2. "When an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must publish the results of its investigation, and notify any relevant risk management authority"<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the investigation is to determine which Risk Management Authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and which functions have been exercised in response to a flood.

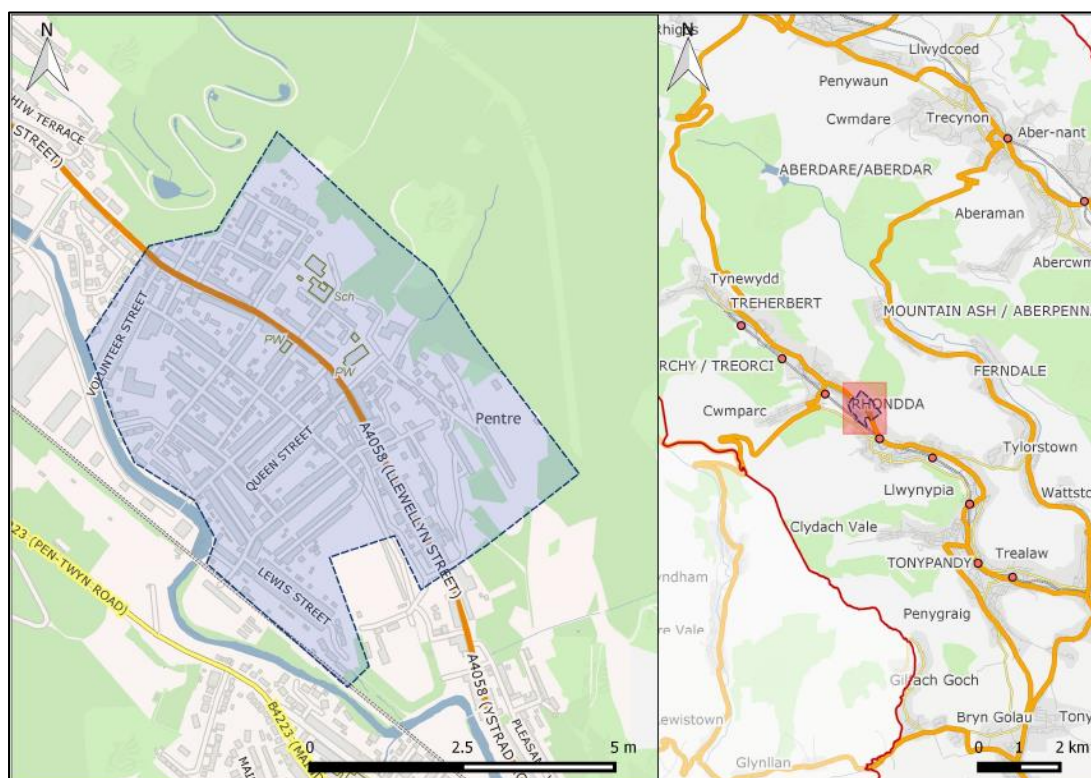
Specific details of Storm Dennis, such as rainfall analysis are covered within a separate overview report that covers the wider RCT area. The report is titled 'Storm Dennis February 2020 – Overview Report' and will be referred to as 'FRM – Storm Dennis – Overview Report'.

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<sup>1</sup> Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – Section 19 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/section/19>

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION

The area investigated within this report is located within the electoral ward of Pentre, and community area of Rhondda, which is situated in the western sector of Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, to the south of Treorchy (Figure 1). Pentre is primarily located within the Rhondda Fawr River catchment which flows northwest to southeast through the centre of Pentre.



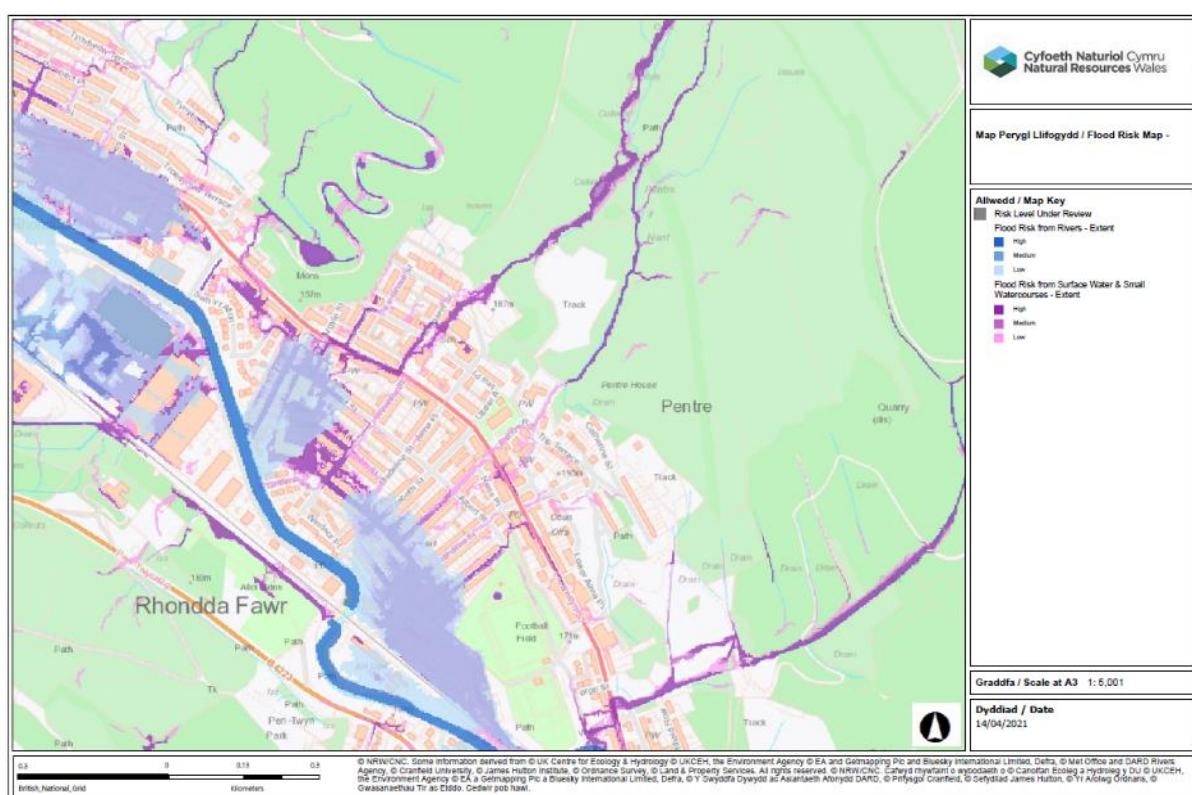
**Figure 1:** Flood Investigation Area RCT25 Location Plan

The catchment of Pentre is characterised by having steep-sided valleys above the village with a gradual decreasing gradient through the urban area to the valley floor. Pentre village is heavily urbanised, with the surrounding area land use being predominantly forestry with some hill grazing.

The community of Rhondda is identified as having significant flood risk and as such has not only been designated a Flood Risk Area requiring the production of a Flood Risk Management Plan according to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010<sup>1</sup>, but Rhondda has also been ranked as the highest risk community in Wales for ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding according to the Communities at Risk Register.



Compared to other community areas in RCT, the extent and degree of flood risk at Pentre is far greater, as is illustrated in NRW's Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map presented in Figure 2. The highest risk posed to people and properties within Pentre is broadly associated with the four primary ordinary watercourses which drain the highlands in the east and discharge into the Rhondda Fawr River. These watercourses are heavily culverted beneath Pentre's urbanised area, with flooding primarily being sourced from culvert inlets. Figure 2 outlines the flow path of flood water which generally follows the roads towards the streets on the north bank of the Rhondda Fawr River which are at significant risk of flooding from all sources according to the FRAW.



**Figure 2:** Natural Resources Wales' Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) Map for rivers and ordinary watercourse and surface water flood risk within investigation area RCT25. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

### 1.3 DRAINAGE SYSTEM

The surface water drainage system that serves investigation area RCT25 is that of the highway drainage network designed to manage the surface water within the highway and public surface water sewer and combined sewer networks operated by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water. These drainage networks are largely integrated and complex.

## 1.4 INVESTIGATION EVIDENCE

To support the investigation, a range of qualitative and quantitative evidence has been gathered from numerous sources, the summary of which is listed in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Investigative evidence gathered in preparation of the Storm Dennis Section 19 report

Source	Data
<b>Residents</b>	Photos, videos, statements, email correspondence, public engagement survey responses
<b>Responders statements</b>	Local responders' statements
<b>CCTV Surveys</b>	Internal surveys of the local drainage networks
<b>Met Office Data</b>	Weather Warning information (see FRM – Storm Dennis – Overview Report)
<b>Rain Gauges</b>	RCT and NRW operated rain gauge information (see FRM – Storm Dennis – Overview Report)
<b>Natural Resources Wales</b>	River Level and Flood Warning data
<b>RCT Flood Risk Management Plan</b>	Site specific information and data for each electoral ward in RCTCBC
<b>Communities at Risk Register</b>	Flood risk ranking and scores for all flood types based on community data in Wales
<b>Flood Investigation Report (RPS's FIR)</b>	A summary of the source-pathway-receptors, culvert capacity assessment and hydraulic modelling work undertaken by RPS Consulting. The Flood Investigation Report was commissioned by RCTCBC prior to writing the Section 19 report.

Evidence sourced from the 'Flood Investigation Report', commissioned by RCTCBC, will be further referred to as 'RPS's FIR' throughout this report.

## 1.5 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Following each of the flooding events that affected Pentre, flood risk officers from RCT's Flood Risk Management department were deployed to areas across the borough to investigate reports of internal flooding by residents. Residents were engaged by the Flood Risk Management team to help determine the initial impacts caused by the flooding event and to investigate the potential source(s) and pathway(s) of flood water during the event. Due to the volume of calls received by RCT's Out of

Hour department, visits were prioritised to those areas experiencing significant internal flooding to residential properties.

To support the flood investigations, a public engagement questionnaire was carried out by external consultant RPS Consulting on behalf of RCTCBC post event, in order to gain further local insight and anecdotal evidence to support the flood investigation. The questionnaires were posted to approximately 800 properties across streets affected by one or more of the 2020 flood events. This allowed residents and business owners to provide commentary on each flood event as well as submit photo and video evidence, some of which have been referenced in this report. A site walkover was also carried out by RPS on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> August 2020. This data is useful to help us better understand and validate our assessment of the flood event to support the investigation under Section 19 of the FWMA.

## 2. FLOODING HISTORY

### 2.1 PREVIOUS FLOOD INCIDENTS

Residents accounts captured by RCT's Flood Risk Management officers post event, as well as responses provided as part of the public engagement exercise, suggest that the residents of Pentre had not experienced flooding anywhere near as significant as the flooding that occurred during Storm Dennis. Several residents stated that they had lived in Pentre for over 40 years and never experienced anything like the Storm Dennis flood event.

Surface water flooding to the highway is relatively common during intense downpours however no significant internal flooding has been reported at Pentre up until the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Since Storm Dennis, Pentre has experienced flooding on a further four occasions. Each flood event has been described in section 2.2.



## 2.2 FLOOD INCIDENT(S)

Pentre village has been impacted by flooding on five separate occasions during 2020, at the time of writing. These events resulted in widespread residential and commercial flooding across the village. Each flooding incident has been discussed within this report. The dates of the five events are:

- 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Storm Dennis)
- 20 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020
- 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Storm Jorje)
- 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

A summary of the source(s) and pathway(s) for flooding within the Pentre investigation area for each of the five individual flooding events have been outlined in Table 2 and further described in the following section.

**Table 2:** Source(s), pathway(s) and receptor(s) summary table for each of the five flood events that affected Pentre investigation area

Source	Pathway	Receptor
<b>15 - 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Storm Dennis)</b>		
Culvert inlet blockage at the top of Pentre Road	Water flowed down Pentre Road onto Elizabeth Street and Queen Street, flowing down various streets towards the lower parts of Pentre.	<p>Internal flooding to a total of 159 residential and 10 commercial properties.</p> <p>Most of the recorded flooded properties from this event were on Lewis Street, Baglan Street and the lower parts of Pleasant Street, Treharne Street, Queen Street and Robert Street.</p> <p>Additional records of flooded properties were identified on Catherine Street, John Street, Llewellyn Street, Rees Place and Windsor Street.</p>

<b>20<sup>th</sup> February 2020</b>		
Surcharging manhole on culvert network within Pleasant Street Park	Water flowed from the manhole in the park and travelled down Pleasant Street before accumulating at the bottom of the street.	Flood water affected multiple residential properties in the lower part of Pleasant Street.  Exact number of recorded internal flooding to properties is unconfirmed.
<b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (Storm Jorje)</b>		
Intense rainfall resulting in surface water accumulation and surcharging manholes across parts of Pentre	Exact flow paths of the water are unknown but likely to have accumulated in the lower parts of Pentre at the base of the valley.	Exact number of receptors affected is unknown. Streets known to have flooded include Lewis Street, Baglan Street, Pleasant Street, Robert Street, Price Street, John Street, Queen Street, Carne Street and Volunteer Street.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June 2020</b>		
Intense rainfall resulting in surface water accumulation and surcharging manholes	Surface water flowing down a lane to the west of Volunteer St then onto Volunteer St, travelling along gullies on both sides of the street.  Two manholes within residential properties along Volunteer St surcharged during the event.	Several properties on Volunteer St impacted internally and/or externally, including two properties which flooded from the surcharged manholes.
Intense rainfall resulting in surface water accumulation and surcharging manholes	Surface water pooling outside the Pentre Legion at the junction of Price St and Albert St. Water flowed in an easterly direction towards John Street.  Surcharging manholes in the area contributed to flood water accumulation.	Several properties flooded internally on Price Street and Albert Street due to surface water ponding on roads.  An additional property on John Street had internal flooding from the rear.
Intense rainfall resulting in surface	Water flowed down Queen Street, Treharne Street and	Several properties at the bottom of Queen Street,

water accumulation and surcharging manholes	Elizabeth Street and accumulated at the bottom of these streets, as well as Baglan Street.	Elizabeth Street, Treharne Street and Baglan Street had internal flooding through the front of their properties. Some properties reporting flooding from both the front and rear.
Intense rainfall resulting in surface water accumulation and surcharging manholes	Significant surface water ponding outside a number of properties on Lewis Street.	Internal flooding to several properties on both sides of Lewis Street.
<b>5<sup>th</sup> August 2020</b>		
Two surcharging manholes due to a blockage on the combined sewer network	Water filling the gardens of one property at Queen Street and two properties at Treharne Street.	Internal flooding to 3 residential properties.

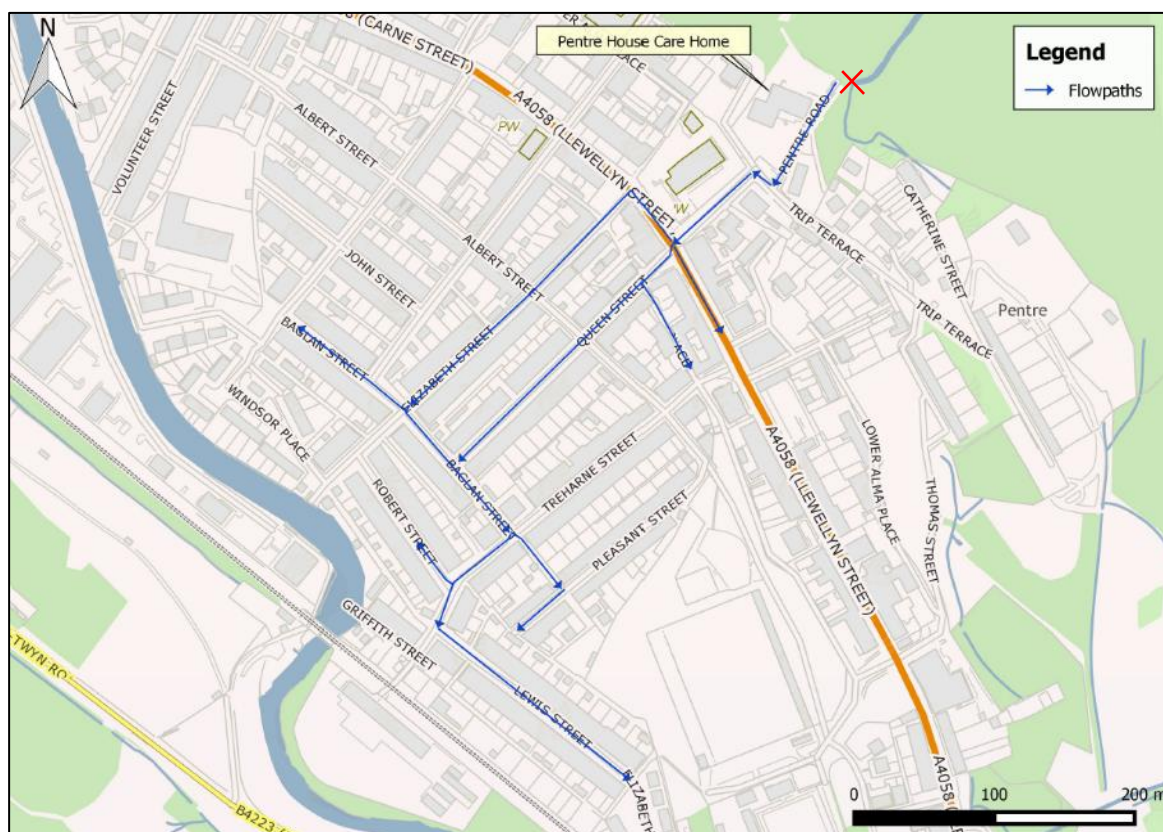
### 2.2.1 15 – 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 (STORM DENNIS)

The largest of the five events occurred between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 as a result of an extreme rainfall event, designated by the Met Office as ‘Storm Dennis’. Storm Dennis was the 4<sup>th</sup> named storm of the 2019/20 season in the UK, arriving one week after Storm Ciara (8 – 9<sup>th</sup> February), and the event caused unprecedented flooding across the majority of RCT, including widespread flooding and damage throughout Pentre.

During the early hours of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, RCT received a large volume of calls from local residents referencing significant flooding emanating from a culvert inlet located at the top of Pentre Road. The inlet location is provided in Figure 3 (red cross). Post event inspections undertaken on the days following the storm event by RCT’s Flood Risk Management Team and Public Health, Protection and Community team identified 159 residential properties and 10 commercial properties as internally flooded.

Further post event surveys carried out through questionnaires and discussions with the local community indicated the main source of flooding during Storm Dennis to be the culvert inlet behind the ‘Pentre House’ care home, resulting in water flowing down

Pentre Road and onto Elizabeth Street and Queen Street (Figure 3), impacting the majority of properties downstream at the base of the valley, particularly properties at Baglan and Lewis Street.



**Figure 3:** Source and observed flow path of the flood event on the 16<sup>th</sup> February (Storm Dennis)

The volume and severity of the flood depth within the properties impacted during the event varied by street, with Treharne Street, Lewis Street, Pleasant Street and Baglan Street reported as the worst affected.

Within the worst affected areas, the water level was identified as up to and above the height of windows of parked cars and vans, with an approximate reported flood depth between 1.1m – 1.4m. The significant flood depth experienced in the lower parts of Pentre is apparent within Figures 6 and 7 captured by residents on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 depicting the flood impacts.

Anecdotal evidence collected during the August 2020 site visit provided evidence of flooding within properties up to 1.3m in depth. Post event photos reveal the severe and long-lasting damage caused by the flooding, with deposits on the streets of Pentre reported to have been transported from the upper catchment and made apparent once the flood water had drained away (Figure 4 and 5). Significant cleansing from a Council



specialist contractor and the respective Council Highways and Streetcare Depot was carried out to clear both the streets and surface water networks following the storm event.



**Figure 4:** Photo depicts significant deposits post Storm Dennis at Lewis Street captured by FRM officers on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020



**Figure 5:** Photo depicts significant deposits post Storm Dennis at Baglan Street captured by FRM officers on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020



**Figure 6:** Photo showing severe flooding at Lewis Street, Pentre on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (image provided by resident)



**Figure 7:** Photo showing severe flooding to the south of Pleasant Street, Pentre on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (image provided by resident)

### 2.2.2 19 – 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2020

In the week following Storm Dennis, the Met Office issued a yellow weather warning for further spells of rainfall to be expected from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. According to data captured by NRW's nearest rain gauge at Tynewydd, over 50mm of rainfall was recorded during this period<sup>2</sup>. Given the already saturated ground, further flooding was likely during this event according to the Met Office.

Several properties at Pleasant Street reported repeat internal flooding to residential properties on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February, only four days following the initial flood event during Storm Dennis. Post analysis surveys and questionnaire feedback noted the source of flooding to have originated from a manhole situated within Pleasant Street Park, due to blockages of the Pentre Road culvert network within the park (location shown in Figure 8).



**Figure 8:** Location plan illustrating the location and flow path of flood water from the manhole within Pleasant Street Park

<sup>2</sup> [River levels, rainfall and sea data \(naturalresources.wales\)](https://naturalresources.wales/)





**Figure 9:** Surcharging manhole within Pleasant Street Park (top) and flow path down Pleasant Street (bottom) taken by RCT's FRM team on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Figure 9 shows evidence of the manhole overflowing from the park area and flowing down Pleasant Street before accumulating at the bottom of the street, causing internal flooding to an unconfirmed number of residential properties. According to anecdotal



reports from residents, properties at the bottom of Pleasant Street suffered flooding up to half-a-meter in height, with water entering homes from both the front and rear.

### **2.2.3 28<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 (STORM JORJE)**

Further spells of heavy rain continued to impact Pentre and the rest of Rhondda Cynon Taf when Storm Jorje, the fifth named storm of the 2019/20 season, brought strong winds and heavy rain across Wales and the UK from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Although the weather impacts from Storm Jorje were less severe than from Storm Dennis, localised flooding problems continued in the aftermath of the earlier storms and as a result of further rainfall on already saturated ground<sup>3</sup>.

A further 128mm of rainfall was recorded during the 48-hour period between the 28 – 29<sup>th</sup> February at Tynewydd rain gauge<sup>2</sup>. This spell of heavy and prolonged rainfall resulted in further flooding to several properties in Pentre. Post analysis surveys and questionnaire feedback noted the source of the flooding to have potentially originated from the Pentre Road culvert inlet and flowed through the village before accumulating in a number of streets. However, following an inspection of the inlet post event, it was confirmed that the source of flooding did not originate from the Pentre Road inlet. Further material was reported to have become mobilised from the upper catchment area again, which impeded the flow within the ordinary watercourse, but did not cause surcharge at the inlet. An estimated 15 tons of material was cleared from the inlet with a further 20 – 30 tons of material required clearing from the internal structures of the culvert barrel.

Reports from both local residents and Flood Risk Management officers did confirm that gullies and drains in Pentre had become blocked or damaged during the earlier storm events, leading to the backing up and overflow of surface water onto several streets, gardens and roads. Several surcharging manholes were also reported by residents in the area.

The impacts of Storm Jorje were not as easily discernible due the wide-spread flooding caused by the previous two flooding events which left many properties empty. Little evidence was found for the exact source and flow path of this event as much of the flood damages following Storm Dennis were still visible during Jorje which restricted the post event inspections. However, questionnaires returned by members of the public aided in the identification of receptors that experienced flooding on this date. The following streets were identified as experiencing either external and/or internal flooding on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020; Lewis Street, Baglan Street, Pleasant Street,

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<sup>3</sup> [2020\\_04\\_storm\\_jorje.pdf \(metoffice.gov.uk\)](#)

Robert Street, Price Street, John Street, Queen Street, Carne Street and Volunteer Street.

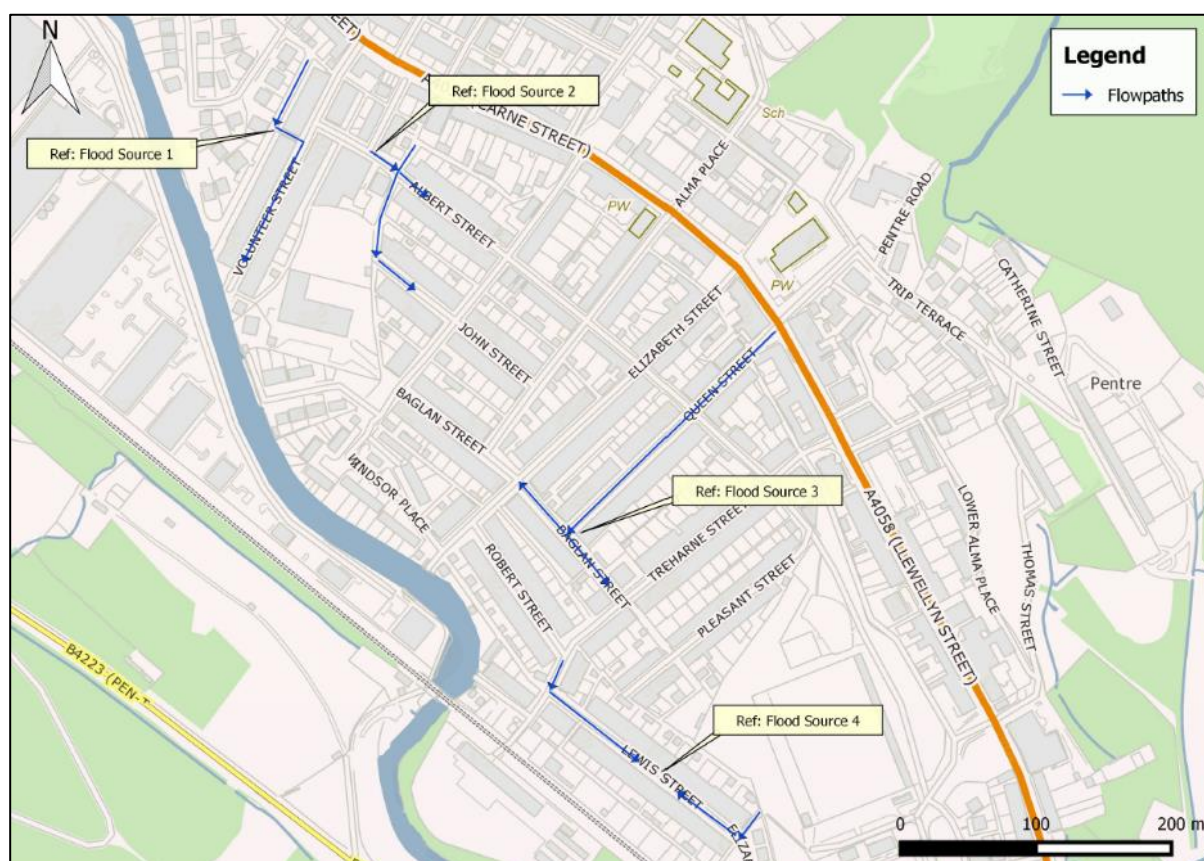
#### **2.2.4 17<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2020**

The fourth flood event of 2020 occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, when local residents across Pentre reported flooding due to a high intensity rainfall event that occurred over a short period of time. Several yellow weather warnings for heavy showers and thunderstorms were issued by the Met Office during the 15 and 18<sup>th</sup> June 2020, however the most intense local downpours occurred in the Rhondda valley area on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

High volumes of surface water runoff across various locations in Pentre were reported by residents on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, due to overflow from drains and gullies, as well as several surcharging manholes.

Post event inspections were undertaken on 18<sup>th</sup> June by RCT's Flood Risk Management team, during which a number of receptors were identified as internally flooded across several streets. Questionnaires returned by residents provided further confirmation of internal flooding to several other streets. The following streets were identified as experiencing internal flooding during the flood event on the 17<sup>th</sup> June; Albert Street, Price Street, Treharne Street, John Street, Queen Street, Volunteer Street, Rees Place and Lewis Street.

Several different sources and pathways have been identified for the June flood event. The main sources of flooding have been considered and summarised below. Figure 10 illustrates the location references.



**Figure 10:** Main sources of flooding on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 based on anecdotal evidence

Large volumes of water were observed flowing down a lane to the west of Volunteer Street then onto Volunteer Street (Flood Source 1 shown in Figure 10). Surface water travelled along gullies on both sides of Volunteer Street, where a number of properties were impacted internally and/or externally by the flood water. Two manholes were also reported to have surcharged within two residential properties on Volunteer Street, resulting in both properties near the Volunteer Street lane flooding internally.

High volumes of surface water were noted to have accumulated outside the 'Pentre Legion' at the junction of Price Street and Albert Street (Flood Source 2 shown in Figure 10). Several manholes surcharged along Albert Street contributing to the flooding. The water passed along Albert Street in an easterly direction towards John Street, causing internal flooding to one property, with water entering from the rear of the property. Several properties on Price Street and Albert Street were also internally flooded from ponding surface water that was unable to drain away.

Intense rainfall caused surface water runoff to travel down the village's steep roads and accumulate at the bottom of the streets, including Queen Street, Elizabeth Street and Treharne Street (Flood Source 3 shown in Figure 10). The ponding of water led

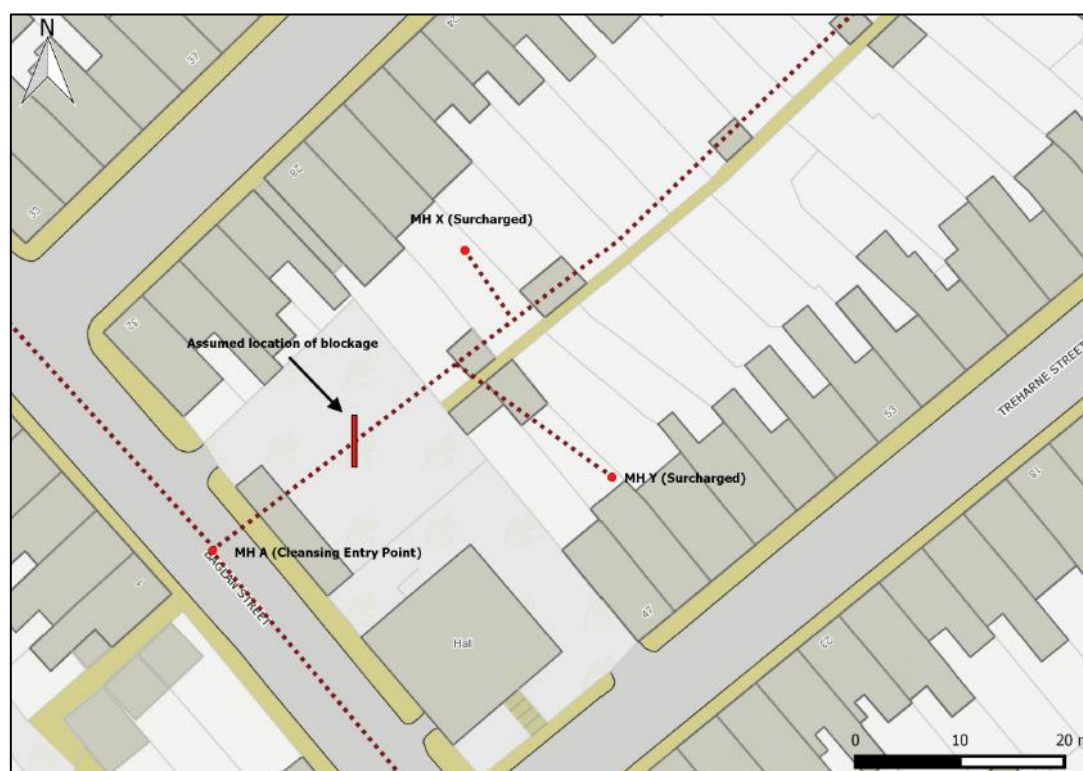
to several properties at the bottom of these streets and along Baglan Street to flood internally, entering through the front of their properties.

Post event analysis indicated that a number of manholes along Lewis Street had surcharged during the event, resulting in significant surface water ponding outside several properties and causing internal flooding to properties on both sides of the street (Flood Source 4 shown in Figure 10).

### 2.2.5 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

Pentre was affected by flooding for a fifth time in 2020 on 5<sup>th</sup> August when residents reported flooding on Queen Street, Baglan Street and Treharne Street.

Post event analysis carried out by RCT's Flood Risk Management team identified the primary source of flooding during this event to be two surcharging manholes, caused by an assumed blockage in the combined network as shown in Figure 11. DCWW identified the cause of blockage was linked to misuse of the public sewer.



**Figure 11:** Location of surcharging manholes causing internal flooding to three properties during the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 flooding event



The surcharging manholes proceeded to fill the rear gardens of the affected properties within Queen Street and Treharne Street before entering the properties via the back doors, resulting in three residential properties experiencing internal damage to their property.



**Figure 12:** Water entering the Queen Street property via the back door (left) and location of surcharging manhole at Treharne Street, causing internal flooding to three properties (right)

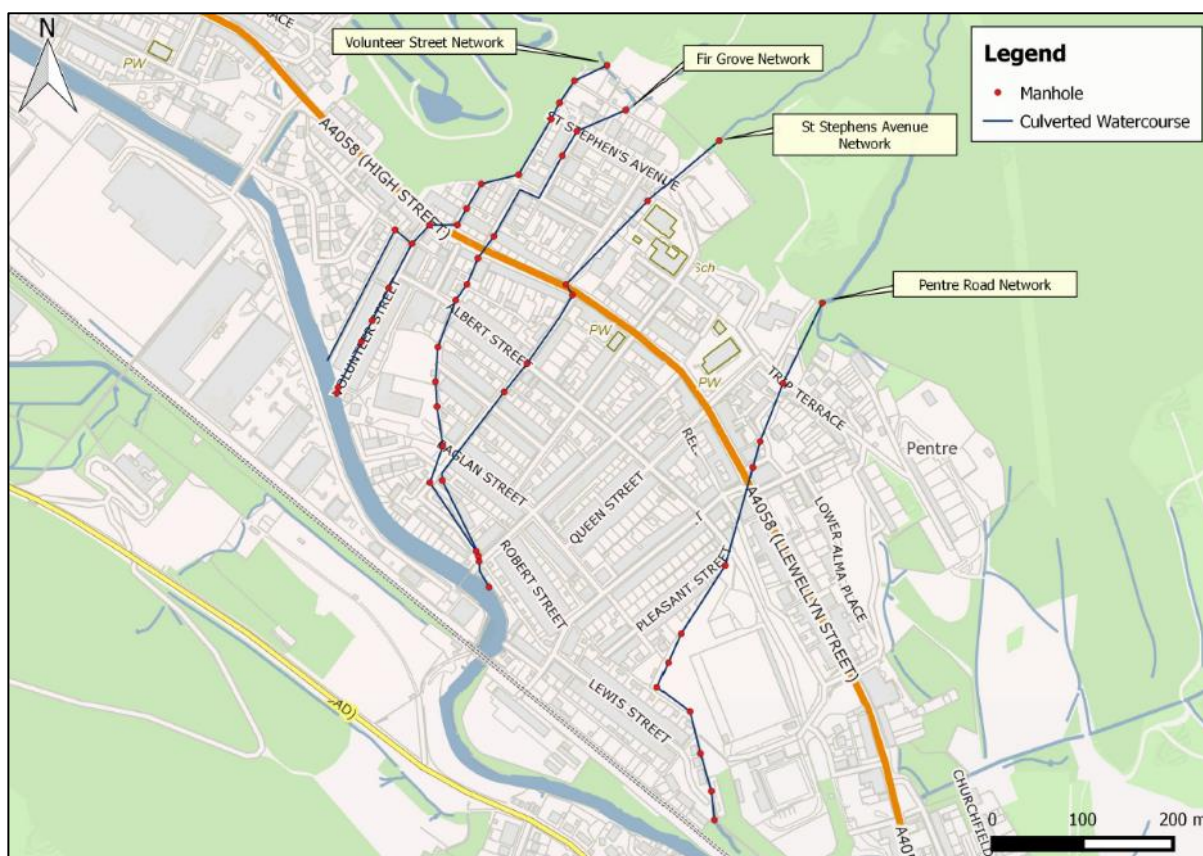
## **2.3 RAINFALL ANALYSIS**

See RCT's 'Overview Report' of Storm Dennis, reference 'FRM – Storm Dennis – Overview Report', for a detailed analysis of the rainfall and ordinary watercourse response.

## 3. POSSIBLE CAUSES

### 3.1. CULVERT CONDITIONS

Within investigation area RCT25 there are four main culverted Ordinary Watercourse networks that originate to the north of the village, which flow in a south-westerly direction towards the Rhondda Fawr River depicted within Figure 13. Pentre Road and St Stephen's Avenue inlets are identified as the responsibility of Natural Resources Wales on behalf of Welsh Government as the landowner, whilst the Volunteer Street and Fir Grove inlets are identified as the responsibility of two private individual landowners.



**Figure 13:** Four culverted watercourse networks in investigation area RCT25

Following the first flood event of 2020 that occurred on 16<sup>th</sup> February (Storm Dennis), the four culvert inlets were inspected by RCT's Flood Risk Management team. The results of which identified that only Pentre Road inlet was found to have been overcome with debris, reportedly having been washed down from the upper catchment, as shown below in Figures 14 - 17.



Additional photographs of the Pentre Road inlet following Storm Dennis are provided in Appendix A.



**Figure 14:** Photo of Pentre Road culvert inlet captured by RCT's Highways and Streetcare Depot immediately after the storm event (16/02/2020)



**Figure 15:** Photo of Pentre Road culvert inlet during works to remove deposited material post Storm Dennis (17/02/2020)





**Figure 16:** Photo looking across the Pentre Road culvert inlet, showing significant material collected during Storm Dennis (17/02/2020)



**Figure 17:** Photo of Pentre Road culvert inlet showing significant woody debris deposition (17/02/2020)



The source of the flooding during Storm Dennis was identified by residents and RCT's flood response team, to have originated from the Pentre Road culvert inlet. Photographic and anecdotal evidence indicates that the culvert's inlet capacity was severely reduced during the flood event, due to debris that had been washed down from the upper catchment and accumulated at the culvert inlet, leading to water spilling onto Pentre Road which resulted in widespread flooding downstream.

Pentre Road culvert inlet was inspected by RCT's Highway Authority the day before Storm Dennis and was found to be in good condition with no significant blockages or debris present. The inlet, which falls under the responsibility of NRW, was last inspected by NRW operatives on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020, during which NRW contractors cleared the channels and grate and checked/cleared the culvert inlet.

Emergency works commenced post flood event to remove the debris from around the inlet and repair the blocked culvert. An operative from RCT's Highways and Streetcare Depot described the material at the inlet as "trees and logs". A photograph captured by a resident shows evidence of woody debris being transported away from the Pentre Road culvert following initial clearance works (Figure 18). Extensive cleansing of the Pentre Road culvert inlet was carried out during 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February.



**Figure 18:** Photo showing woody debris being transported away from the Pentre Road culvert inlet during emergency clearance works (17/02/2020) (image provided by resident)

The FIR notes that the inlets to the other three culverts were not significantly affected by Storm Dennis, with no sign of blockage or discernable flow paths visible during an inspection post event. This result correlates with the public engagement responses. There is also no other evidence of flooding within the four culvert systems, including Pentre Road culvert, during Storm Dennis.

During the repeat flooding event which occurred on the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020 impacting several properties at Pleasant Street, residents identified the source of flooding to have originated from a manhole within Pleasant Street park which had surcharged (Figure 9), resulting in water flowing out of the park towards Pleasant Street. A full-bore blockage within the Pentre Road culvert network was identified as the cause of the surcharging manhole, shown in Figure 19 below.

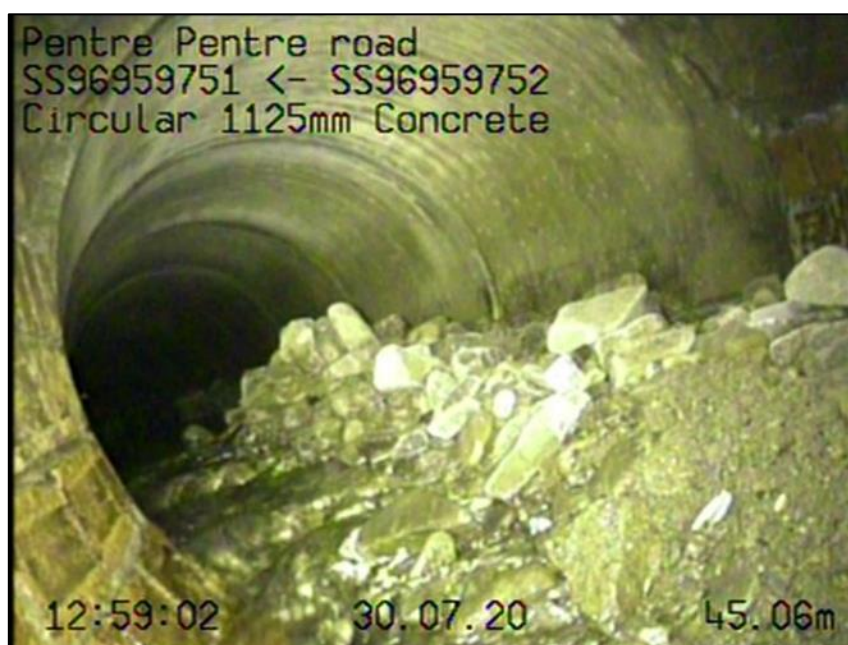


**Figure 19:** Photo showing full-bore blockage of the Pentre Road network downstream of Pleasant Street Park manhole

The image provides powerful evidence of how the mobilisation of woody debris from Pentre's upper catchment during Storm Dennis made its way into the culvert network, resulting in damages to the carrier line and a reduction in the culvert's ability to manage the flow of water. This resulted in water backing up the system and causing the manhole to surcharge. Significant resources, including the fire brigade, were rapidly deployed by RCT to remove the blockage and stop the properties from flooding in the days following the event.

In response to the debris identified within the inlet and downstream manhole, RCTCBC on the 28<sup>th</sup> February undertook extensive surveys to ascertain both the operational condition of the culvert network, and its structural integrity. The CCTV survey identified significant defects and blockages throughout the network, as well as settled deposits and stonewash reducing the networks capacity in several sections. The result was a significant operation to clear the internal culvert barrel of debris utilising specialised contractors that utilised; High Pressure Water Jetting, Vacuumation and Manual 'Hand Balling'; exercises to clear the debris from within the culvert network. This exercise lasted several months.

Following the flood event that occurred during the June thunderstorms, the Pentre Road culvert inlet was surveyed again on the 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020. The survey identified heavy siltation and debris that had re-accumulated in the line after previous cleansing, particularly towards the lower reaches of Pentre where between 20-60% of the network's cross-sectional areas had been lost due to settled debris and stonewash (illustrated in Figure 20). CCTV surveys of the other three networks in Pentre also confirm siltation in lower sections of the network (albeit less severe than the Pentre Road network) where the culvert gradient becomes less steep, resulting in reductions in the hydraulic capacity of the network. A total length of 3.2 km of culverted Ordinary Watercourse was surveyed, mapped and reviewed.



**Figure 20:** CCTV survey footage showing stone deposits between nodes SS96959751 and SS96959752 of the Pentre Road culvert network

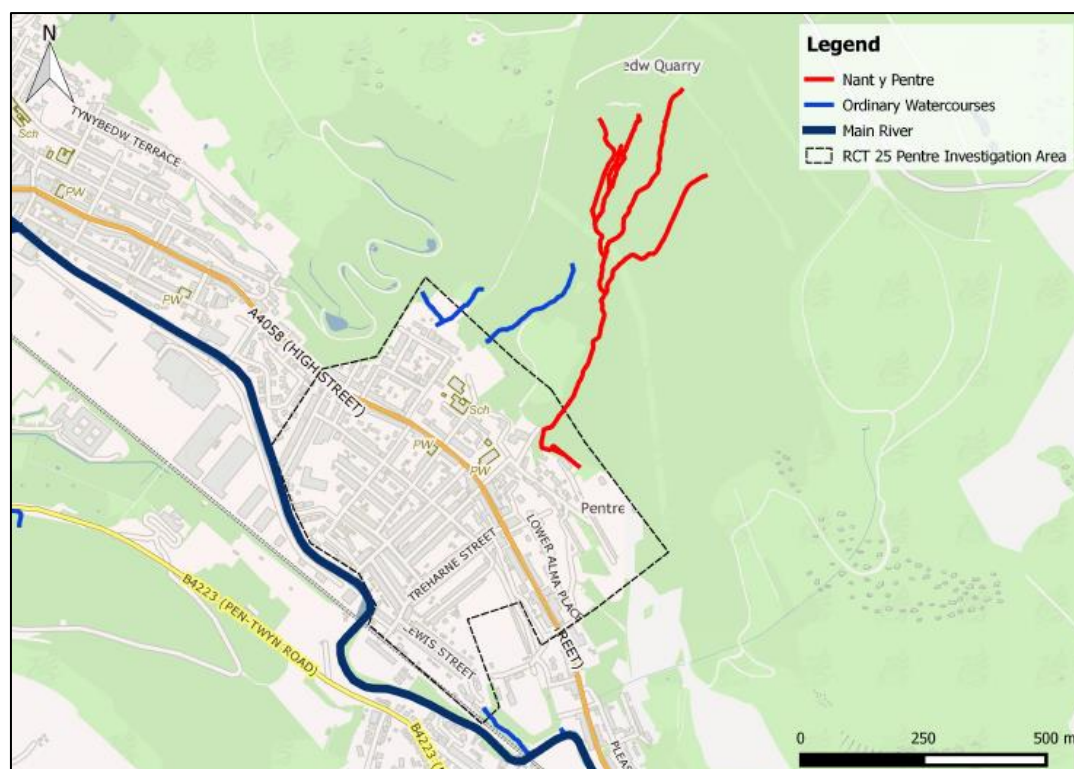
As a result, a further operation was undertaken by RCTCBC utilising specialist contractors to clear the debris from the four ordinary watercourse culverts. This operation was repeated approximately four times throughout 2020 due to continued debris mobilisation into the lower culvert networks. It is estimated that approximately 600 tons of material was removed from the culvert barrels during this time.

There is no evidence to suggest any of the four culvert inlets surcharged during the June flood event.



### 3.2. OPEN WATERCOURSE CONDITIONS

On review of the open watercourse sections identified within investigation area RCT25, four distinct networks were identified. The Nant y Pentre watercourse and its tributaries (highlighted red in Figure 21) was reviewed following the mobilisation of debris washed from the hillside which blocked the Pentre Road culvert inlet.



**Figure 21:** Ordinary watercourses flowing into Pentre investigation area. Nant y Pentre watercourse is highlighted red.

The Nant y Pentre rises steeply from the town situated at the base of the hillslope. Bed incision has created a deeply confined valley with steep, forested sides that rise sharply from the channel. Due to the steepness of the channel and the confined valley, the delivery of overland or sub-surface flow routes to the channel are accelerated, meaning the catchment will respond rapidly to rainfall.

Following the initial flood event during Storm Dennis, RCT Flood Risk Management officers carried out a site walk-over assessment of the catchment above Pentre village to assess the condition of the watercourse for any signs of overtopping, evidence of scour and any land movement of the hillsides.

The walkover found significant amounts of woody debris across the upper catchment; an area where recent tree felling activities were carried out by NRW (Figure 22). This woody debris was similar to the debris found at the Pentre Road culvert inlet.



**Figure 22:** Photo of the felled area in the upper catchment of Pentre (17/02/2020) showing woody debris within the watercourses

Minor scouring of the embankments of the Nant y Pentre watercourse was evident in sections (Figure 23), however this was expected given the significant flow and volume of water that followed the intense rainfall. Despite this, it is not believed that this scouring significantly contributed to the amount of debris that caused the blockage to the Pentre Road culvert inlet.

Following evidence from the Storm Dennis flooding event, it is clear that morphological processes can be a key contributor to flood risk. As a result, a geomorphological review of the upper catchment of Pentre was carried out in early November 2020 by JBA Consulting, on behalf of RCTCBC, which identified evidence of hillslope failure and notable amounts of slope instability<sup>4</sup>. The soil appears to have a high clay content, which following heavy rainfall events and from saturation of the soil, “failed hillslope material would be delivered to the watercourse and transported downstream”. Active

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<sup>4</sup> Fluvial Geomorphology Assessment: Pentre, JBA Consulting, December 2020



fluvial bank erosion further up the hillslope was also identified, supplying the channel with both coarse and fine material.



**Figure 23:** Photo of minor scour to the embankments of the Nant y Pentre watercourse in the upper catchment of Pentre (17/02/2020)

The watercourse was found to be in an “unstable condition” based on the amount of erosion observed. JBA conclude that “although the majority of sediment sources observed in the Nant y Pentre catchment were natural (i.e. bank erosion and landslides), it is likely they have been exacerbated by anthropogenic pressures, including land management practices”.

Details of the woodland loss and forestry works in Pentre have been described further in Section 3.5.



### 3.3. HIGHWAY DRAINAGE CONDITIONS

Following Storm Dennis, Pentre was left with widespread deposits of silt, sand and mud across the village which was reported to have been washed off the mountain and carried by the surcharging water through the village during the event. Figure 24 shows the deposits of mud left behind in Pentre once the flood water had drained away.

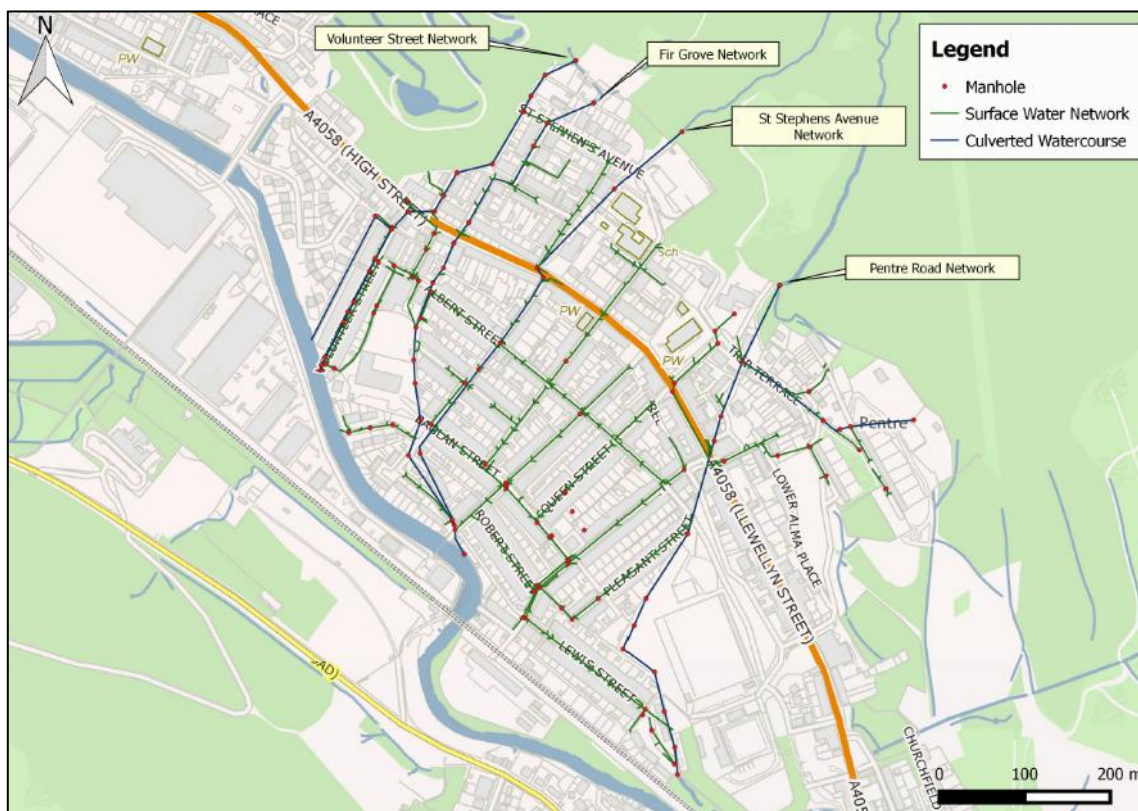


**Figure 24:** Photo shows the deposits of mud left behind in Pentre from the flooding during Storm Dennis (17/02/2020)

Widespread deposits on the streets are assumed to have entered the highway drainage system, leading to blockages and reduction in the hydraulic capacity of the surface water network. Evidence received following the repeat flood events in 2020 strongly suggest that there were issues relating to the function of the drainage system in Pentre, due to blockages and/or damage to the network caused by the initial flood event during Storm Dennis. A number of reports also documented manholes surcharging at various locations across the village during all flood events which suggest that the surface water network was also operating at a reduced capacity.

Figure 25 depicts the surface water drainage systems in Pentre, of which there is approximately 5.5 km of highway drainage infrastructure identified. This infrastructure was surveyed and mapped following extensive jetting and cleansing of the network by the Council Highways and Streetcare Depot. CCTV surveys of the highway drainage conditions in Pentre following the February and June storms confirm significant blockages were present, particularly at the Lewis Street storm water network where

the survey had to be abandoned due to two large obstacles blocking the pipe (between manholes SS96957851 and SS96959750, shown in Figure 26).



**Figure 25:** The extent of the surface water drainage and culverted watercourse systems within investigation area RCT25



**Figure 26:** CCTV footage showing blockage on Lewis Street highway drainage network

The FIR conclude that the blockages identified in the surface water networks may have been significantly impacted by debris carried by overland flows during Storm Dennis, resulting in the drainage network backing up and overflowing onto the highway during heavy rainfall.

The evidence suggests that the poor condition of the highway drainage network following the initial flooding event during Storm Dennis which caused damage and serious capacity and backflow issues throughout the village, is likely to have been a contributing factor which led to repeat internal flooding to several properties and ongoing surface water flooding to the highway during the flood events of 2020 as the damage was being repaired.

### **3.4. DŴR CYMRU WELSH WATER APPARATUS**

During and following the initial flood event (between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020), DCWW received several reports of surface water flooding within Pentre. Although flooding on both occasions was identified as originating from the Pentre Road culvert network, DCWW informed RCT that during the initial flood event (Storm Dennis), their network was operating fine, albeit with high flows but no restrictions identified.

Upon an investigation into DCWW's network and surface water pumping station located to the bottom of Treharne and Pleasant Street, it was found that both were coping with the high flows and the pumping station was operating with no failures.

During the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020 flood event, DCWW received several reports of internal and external flooding across Pentre. The first reported incident occurred at Price Street on the 17<sup>th</sup> June where upon an investigation by DCWW officers, the source of the flooding appeared to have originated from a surcharged manhole located within the highway. The manhole was identified as part of the highway surface water network and not a DCWW surface water line.

Following the flood event, DCWW investigated the performance of both their Treharne Street SPS and Elizabeth Close pumping stations and confirmed that levels were normal and operating with no concerns raised.

DCWW have concluded that their assets performed well during the 2020 flooding events, however, it should be noted that due to significant debris and blockages identified within the surface water network in Pentre following the initial flood event in February 2020, it is likely that flows travelling towards the pumping stations may have been unable to reach the pumping stations, and instead caused several manholes to surcharge, exacerbating surface water flooding to the highway.

During the August 2020 flood event, it was confirmed that a blockage within DCWW's combined sewer network was the cause of flooding to three residential properties. The blockage was subsequently removed by a Council appointed contractor.

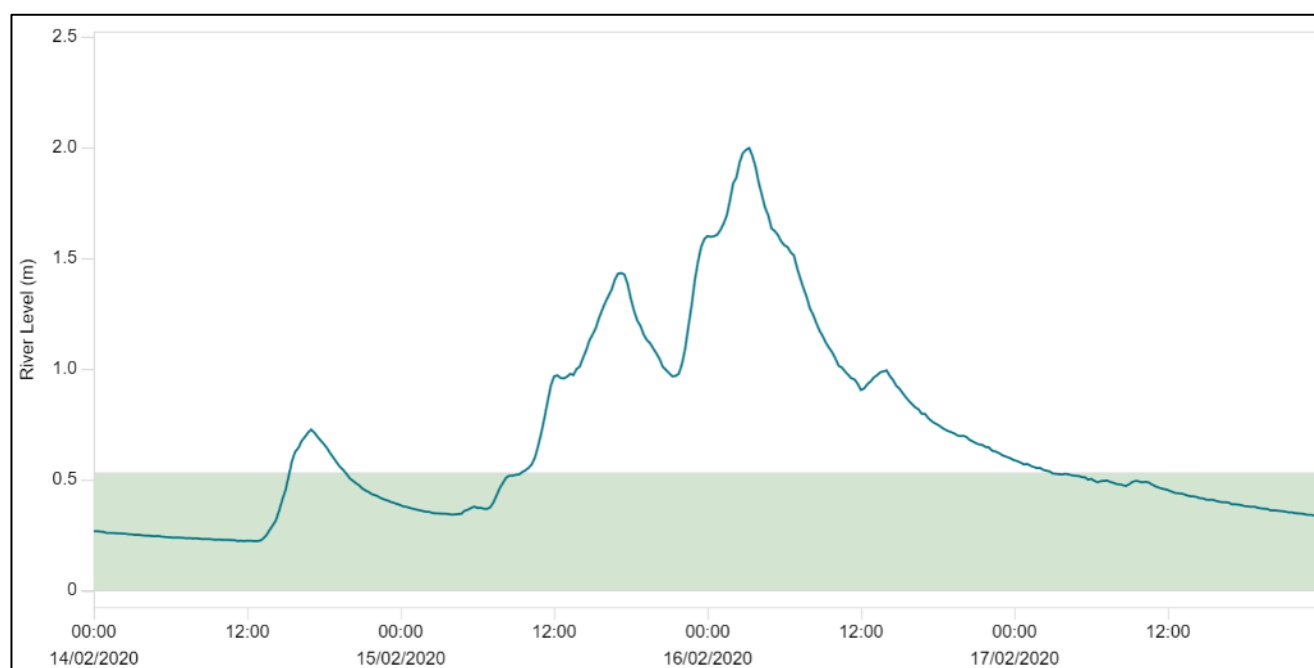


### 3.5. MAIN RIVER

The designated main river Rhondda Fawr flows northwest to southeast through the centre of Pentre, to the south of investigation area RCT25 (Figure 21).

The hydrograph in Figure 27 illustrates the rapid rise in levels of the Rhondda Fawr River in response to rainfall, captured at NRW's Gelli station near Pentre. The Rhondda Fawr River at Gelli reached a peak level of 1.998 meters at 03:30am (16<sup>th</sup> February); only 0.3 meters lower than its highest level ever recorded.

The green bar displayed on the hydrograph shows the typical level of the Rhondda Fawr River at Gelli station, ranging between 0 and 0.5 meters. At its peak, the Rhondda Fawr River at Gelli was almost a meter and a half higher than its average level, stressing the extreme and unprecedented levels that RCT's rivers rose to during the storm's peak intensity.



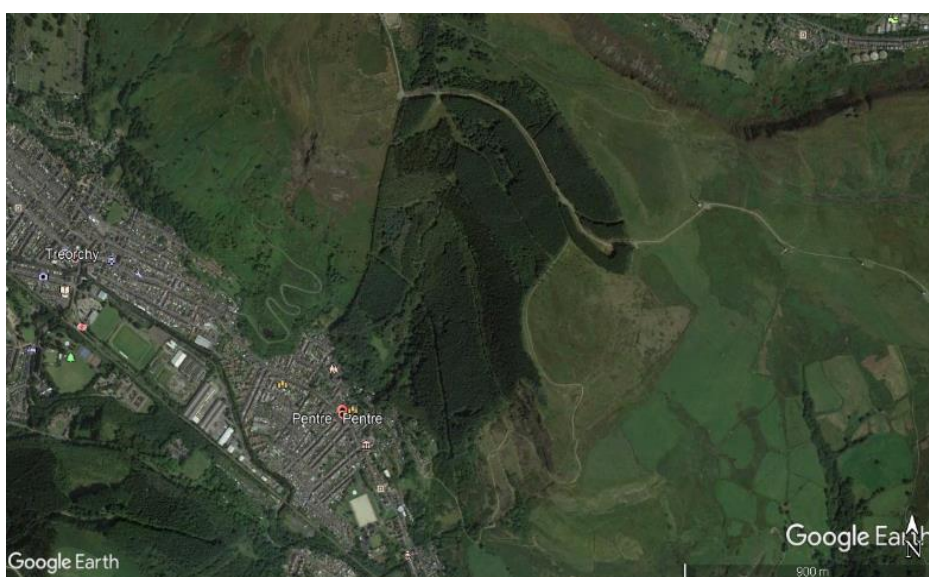
**Figure 27:** The Rhondda Fawr River levels at Gelli station between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020  
(Natural Resources Wales)

There is no evidence from this investigation that the main river Rhondda Fawr significantly contributed to the recorded flooding of properties in Pentre during the 2020 flood events.

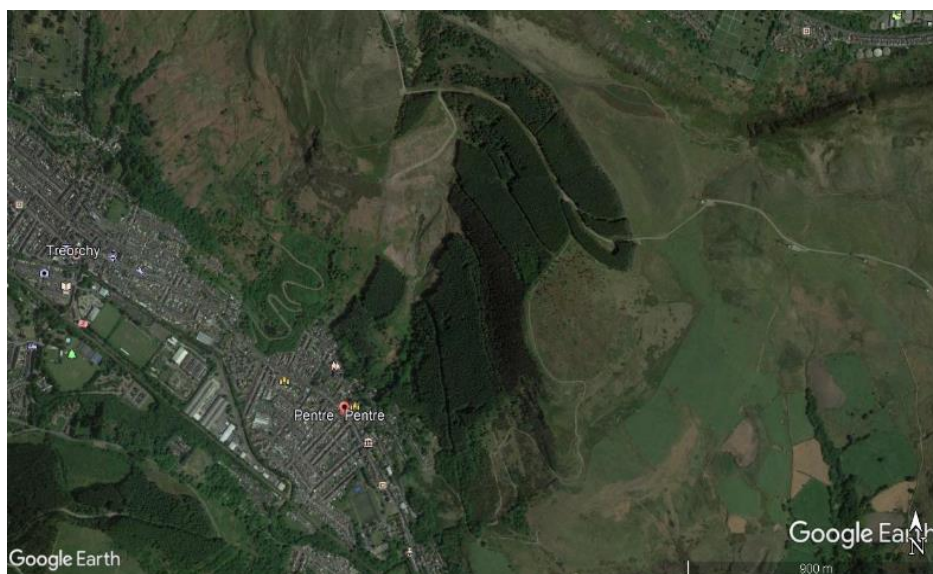
### 3.6. WOODLAND LOSS AND FORESTRY WORKS

Large areas of woodland to the north of Pentre have been felled during the last 2 years. The area in which tree felling has occurred forms part of the Welsh Government's Woodland Estate (WGWE) which is owned by the Welsh Government and managed by NRW. Figure 28 illustrates the woodland loss observed between 2016 and 2020 in parts of Pentre's upper catchment using historic aerial imagery from Google Earth.

**08/2016**



**05/2020**



**Figure 28:** Google Earth imagery of area above Pentre showing change in tree cover between 2016 and 2020

Woodland is currently felled following routine harvesting or removal of Larch infected with 'Phytophthora ramorum' and awaiting 'restocking'. According to NRW's Land Estate Management Review, harvesting was carried out in Pentre mainly over winter 2018/19, although dispatch of timber from the site proceeded until relatively recently<sup>5</sup>.

The treatment of brash – “a term traditionally used to describe the branches and other woody material created by harvesting” - following harvesting is detailed within NRW's Land Estate Management Review. The expectations for brash management, outlined in the Coupe Management Plan and the harvesting contract documents, “specify keeping brash mats, lop top and processed timber at least five meters away from watercourses”, however, NRW do state that “there is scope for some ambiguity on the ground with customers during operations and contract managers often struggle to effectively implement some of these contract conditions”. NRW also note within their review that due to the steep sided nature of Pentre's slopes, “it would have been a significant piece of work to remove all small branches and debris from this area as it would have been a labour-intensive manual operation”.

It is inferred that although NRW followed best practice in relation to their forestry operations, there is ample ambiguity surrounding the treatment of brash in the coupe area to suggest that brash material was part of the material washed down to the culvert inlet. In fact, NRW state that “there is evidence that we (NRW) could have treated the brash better in this case”.

It is concluded within NRW's Review that the act of tree felling alone would not have contributed largely to the flooding which occurred in Pentre due to the apparent lack of scouring in the catchment area, however NRW accept that the brash left within the upper reaches of Pentre is “likely to have been part of the material washed down to the area of the culvert”.

The evidence presented within this report does suggest that although a significant level of silt and stone had been washed down into the watercourse, woody debris (inclusive of brash) was a significant contributing factor in causing the blockage at Pentre Road culvert inlet which resulted in the initial flooding of Pentre village, but also caused further blockages within the drainage network, resulting in repeat flooding to the lower reaches of Pentre. Photographic evidence captured by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 indicates that woody debris within the felled area, and other plantations, above Pentre was washed down to the area of the culvert during the storm event (Figure 29). Additional photographs of the upper catchment are presented in Appendix A.

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<sup>5</sup> [February 2020 Floods in Wales: Natural Resources Wales Land Estate Management Review \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](https://www.naturalresources.wales/land-estate-management-review)





**Figure 29:** Photo taken by RCT's Flood Risk Management Team on 17/02/2020 showing evidence of woody debris accumulation in the upper catchment of Pentre

### **3.7. ACCESS STRUCTURES**

No access structures were identified during the asset investigations within the area, as such 'access structures' have not been considered within this report.

### **3.8. SYSTEM AT CAPACITY**

The evidence gathered within this report has identified five individual storm events that has resulted in internal flooding to residential properties within the community of Pentre during 2020. Each flooding event identified within this report outlines a range of different sources of flooding (Table 2) which are summarised as follows:

- Ordinary Watercourse Infrastructure
- Surface Water
  - Foul Drainage
  - Combined Drainage
  - Highway Drainage

Notably the source of flooding that has resulted in the most significant flooding within the community of Pentre is attributed to the Nant Y Pentre Ordinary Watercourse. This section of the report will review the capacity of the ordinary watercourse (Nant Y Pentre) structures identified as sources of flooding.

### 3.8.1. ORDINARY WATERCOURSE INFRASTRUCTURE

The ordinary watercourse structures as depicted within Figure 30, further referred to as Culvert 1 and MH1, have been assessed to identify the capacity of the network at the point of flooding. The summary of the assessment is depicted within Table 3.



**Figure 30:** Ordinary watercourse structures identified as flood sources during the 2020 flood events in Pentre

**Table 3:** Summary of the culvert capacity assessment results to the ordinary watercourse structures identified as flooding during the 2020 flood events in Pentre

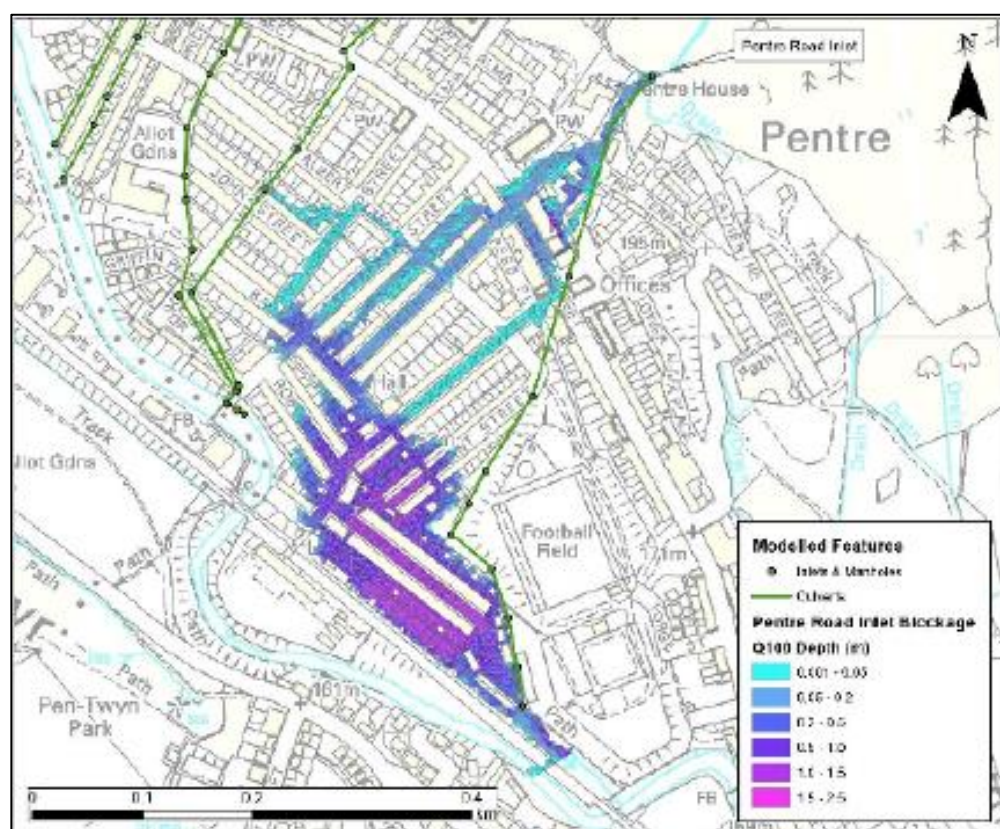
Culvert Network	Standard of Protection (SOP) - Free Flowing
Culvert 1	Q1000 (0.1% AEP)
MH 1	Q25 (4% AEP)

Based on the results of Table 3, Culvert 1 has been shown to have a SOP greater than the current design standards for new culverts as defined by CIRIA C786. As such, Culvert 1 is expected to accommodate flows generated during a Q200 event i.e. Storm Dennis.

On review of the condition of the culvert inlet post Storm Dennis (Figures 14 - 17) a sensitivity analysis was undertaken to review the impact of flooding during two scenarios. The scenarios both utilised Q100 event flows, where scenario 1 assumed no blockage and scenario 2 assumes a full-bore blockage (100%) of the culvert inlet.

The results of the sensitivity analysis identified no flooding during scenario 1 outlining the capacity of the culvert inlet with no blockage present can accommodate the catchment flows. Scenario 2 however, identified significant flooding as depicted within Figure 31. On review of the impacts of Storm Dennis there is a close correlation with both the flow paths observed and the properties affected during Storm Dennis. This provides verification that the flooding mechanisms observed in Pentre on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were related to a blockage of the Pentre Road inlet caused by debris, the majority of which appears to have been as a result of the felling in the upper reaches of Pentre.





**Figure 31:** Pentre Road inlet blockage model results, Q100 flood event depths (Scenario 2)

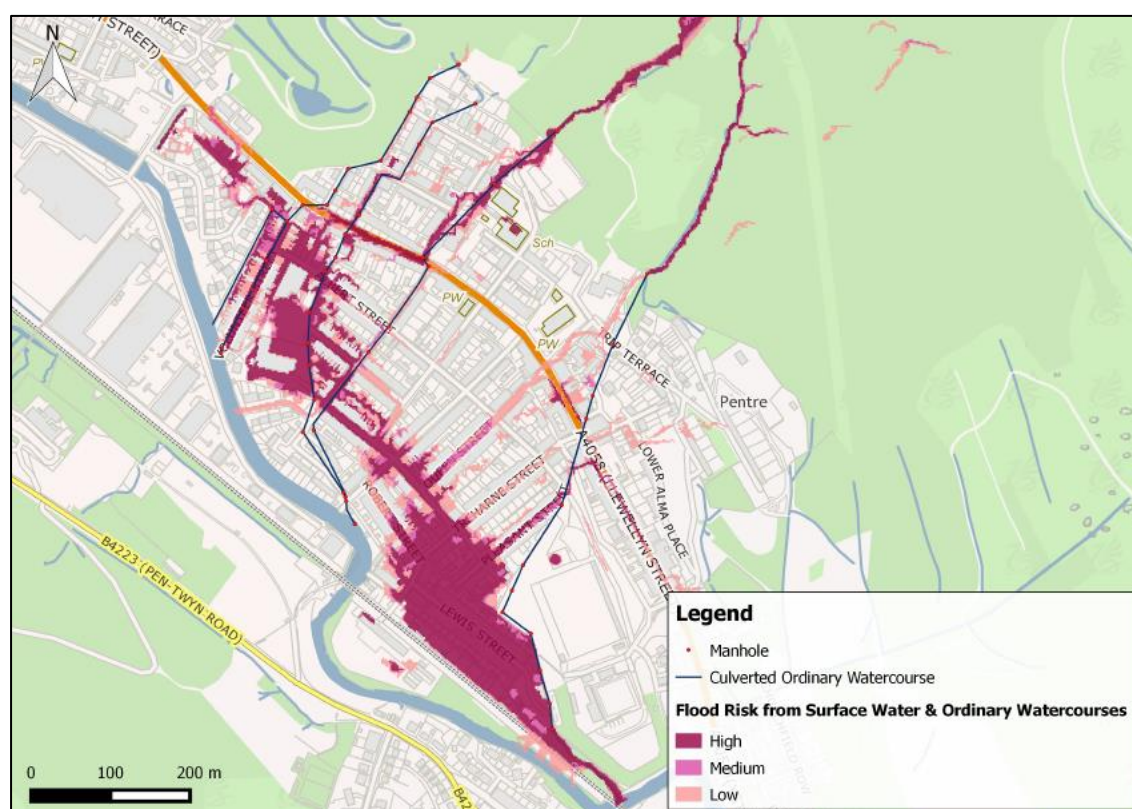
The second node associated to flooding several days following Storm Dennis was MH1 which is a manhole associated to the Nant Y Pentre ordinary watercourse network located within Pleasant Street Park (Figure 30). A review of the capacity of MH1 when free of blockage is identified as providing a SOP of Q25, which is below current design standards. As such the manhole would have been expected to surcharge during Storm Dennis with or without the identified full-bore blockage. It is likely that the initial blockage to the Pentre Road culvert inlet significantly reduced the volume of water entering the network and consequently reduced the likelihood of surcharge at MH1 during the initial flood event.

### 3.8.2. SURFACE WATER

When examining the three additional flooding events, surface water flooding has been identified as the primary source of flooding which contributed to the widespread impacts within the community of Pentre. Notably, the surface water is typically drained via highway drainage, public surface water sewers and combined drainage infrastructure (roof and yard). When examining the wider drainage infrastructure, the

typical design standards are taken into consideration which stipulate that both highway drainage and combined drainage is to be designed to Q30 SOP.

To assess the likely impacts of surface water flooding within the community of Pentre, the National Flood Maps produced by NRW and published in October 2020, have been used i.e. 'Flood Risk Assessment Wales' (FRAW). The outputs of the FRAW mapping is depicted within Figure 32.



**Figure 32:** Natural Resources Wales' Flood Risk Assessment Wales (FRAW) map for surface water and ordinary watercourse sources. Contains Natural Resources Wales information © Natural Resources Wales and database right. All rights reserved.

The extent of the high risk (Q30) flooding event, depicted within Figure 32, is comparable to the extent of flooding experienced during Storm Dennis and the June 17<sup>th</sup> flood event. This comparison provides evidence that surface water flooding has a significant impact on the community of Pentre, particularly towards the lower streets at the base of the catchment.

### 3.9. SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE CAUSES

The above sections have identified and described the possible causes of flooding within the Pentre investigation area for the five flooding events that occurred in 2020. A summary of the identified sources and possible causes of flooding (issue) have been outlined below in Table 4.

**Table 4:** Summary of the source(s) and possible cause(s) of flooding in Pentre during the flooding events of 2020

Ref No	Asset (Source)	Issue	Asset Owner	Type of Flooding
1	Culvert inlet at the top of Pentre Road	A large area of the WGWE (forestry land owned by the Welsh Government and maintained by NRW) above Pentre has been felled in recent years which may have contributed to increased sediment and debris runoff from the hillsides exacerbating the blockage of the Pentre Road culvert inlet which resulted in the inlet overflowing and flooding 169 properties downstream. Additionally, the rate and runoff from the felled areas is expected to have increased following the removal of the canopy cover.	Welsh Government (managed by Natural Resources Wales)	Ordinary Watercourse
2	Welsh Government Woodland Estate to the north of Pentre	Recent tree felling and woody debris in the upper catchment of Pentre is considered to have significantly contributed to the blockage of Pentre Road culvert inlet during Storm Dennis and also contributed to repeat flooding events in 2020.	Welsh Government (managed by Natural Resources Wales)	Ordinary Watercourse and Surface Water
3	Manhole situated in Pleasant Street Park (Pentre Road ordinary watercourse network)	Full-bore blockage in the Pentre Road culvert network was identified downstream of the manhole caused by woody debris washing down from the upper catchment, resulting in a reduced capacity of the culvert network. This led to a backflow of water and resulted in surcharging out the park,	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Corporate Estates	Ordinary Watercourse

		causing internal flooding to properties at Pleasant Street.		
4	Surface water drainage network at Lewis Street	<p>Several manholes at Lewis Street were reported to have surcharged during Storm Dennis, Storm Jorje and June thunderstorm events.</p> <p>Upon a CCTV analysis of the Lewis Street highway drainage system, several blockages and sections of damaged pipe was evident. This resulted in surface water pooling outside properties on Lewis Street and further internal flooding to properties.</p>	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Highway Authority	Surface Water
5	Manhole situated at Albert Street (Fir Grove ordinary watercourse network)	A manhole at Albert Street was reported to have surcharged during the June thunderstorm event, contributing to surface water accumulation on the highway and internal flooding to properties at Price Street, Albert Street and John Street	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Highway Authority	Surface Water
6	Manholes to the rear of Volunteer Street	Two manholes were reported to have surcharged at two residential properties on Volunteer Street, resulting in both properties flooding internally on 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Sewer Flooding
7	DCWW combined sewer network to the rear of Queen and Treharne Streets	A blockage was identified within the combined sewer network to the rear of Queen Street and Treharne Street causing two manholes to surcharge and cause internal flooding to three residential properties on 5 <sup>th</sup> August 2020.	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Sewer Flooding



## 4. RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY ACTIONS

A Welsh Risk Management Authority is defined in Section 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as NRW; a Lead Local Flood Authority, a district council for an area where there is no unitary authority, or a highway authority wholly in Wales; an internal drainage board for an internal drainage district that is wholly or mainly in Wales; a water company that exercises functions in relation to an area in Wales. As the LLFA, RCTCBC has the responsibility to coordinate the management of flood risk and the interaction of Risk Management Authorities across Rhondda Cynon Taf.

An overview of the responsible Risk Management Authority in relation to flood type is provided in Table 5. For further details of the roles and responsibilities of individual Risk Management Authorities in managing flooding, refer to 'FRM – Storm Dennis – Overview Report'.

**Table 5:** Risk Management Authority responsible for different flood types

Type of Flooding	Responsible Risk Management Authority
Flooding from Main River, reservoirs and the sea (including coastal erosion).	Natural Resources Wales
Flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater	Lead Local Flood Authority
Flooding from water and sewage systems	Water Companies (Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water)
Flooding from the highway	Highway Authority
Flooding from the highway (motorways and major trunk roads)	Welsh Government Trunk Road Agency

Risk Management Authorities have direct flood risk management functions under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, as well as the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Highways Act 1980. Through analysis of the flooding that impacted Pentre, the flood risk management functions exercised or proposed to be exercised by relevant RMAs was recorded in response to the duties placed on the local authority in regard to Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which states;

“On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:

- a) Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and,
- b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in the response to the flood.”

Through the investigation process, the source(s) and possible causes of flooding within Pentre during all five flood events have been previously identified and summarised within Table 4. The Risk Management Authorities responsible for managing that flooding have been listed within Table 6 below, along with a series of recommendations presented by the LLFA.

**Table 6:** Recommendations provided by the LLFA to be considered by the relevant Risk Management Authority identified in response to the source(s) of flooding in Pentre (as per Table 4)

Ref No	Asset (Source)	Asset Owner	Type of Flooding	Risk Management Authority Responsible for Managing Risk	Recommendations	
1	Culvert inlet at the top of Pentre Road	Welsh Government (managed by Natural Resources Wales)	Ordinary Watercourse	Lead Local Flood Authority and Land Drainage Authority	R1A	The LLFA and LDA to identify drainage asset ownership and responsibility.
					R1B	The LLFA and LDA to investigate the standard of protection and the condition of the culvert structure and network as a whole.
					R1C	Jet and cleanse the ordinary watercourse network.
					R1D	Install a new and upgraded culvert inlet structure following the damages caused during Storm Dennis.

					R1E	The LLFA to work collaboratively with other RMAs to develop an OBC to identify suitable management methods to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources in Pentre.
					R1F	The LLFA to install remote telemetry monitoring at Pentre Road culvert inlet.
2	Welsh Government Woodland Estate to the north of Pentre	Welsh Government (managed by Natural Resources Wales)	Ordinary Watercourse and Surface Water	Lead Local Flood Authority and Land Drainage Authority	R2A	NRW to review their Forest Resource Plans and Coupe Management Plans with regard to water management, particularly surface water management and the treatment of brash in close proximity to an ordinary watercourse. Aligned with recommendation FRP1, 2 and 3 within NRW's Land Estate Management Review.
					R2B	NRW to develop a Forest Resource Plan for the Rhondda Fawr valley, in collaboration with the LLFA, to identify and reflect the key challenges facing the community of Pentre. Aligned with recommendation FRP1 within NRW's

						Land Estate Management Review.
					R2C	NRW to 'develop Water Management Plans at a scale more appropriate for water management' and embed their Water Management Plans into their forest management operations to ensure the impacts of flood risk downstream are fully realised. Aligned with recommendation FRP2 within NRW's Land Estate Management Review.
					R2D	NRW to 'improve engagement of local communities in Forest Resource Planning and forest operations' to help develop greater confidence in the WGWE and NRW's contribution to reducing flood risk. Aligned with recommendation FRP4 within NRW's Land Estate Management Review.
3	Manhole situated in Pleasant Street Park (Pentre Road ordinary	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Corporate Estates	Ordinary Watercourse	Lead Local Flood Authority and Land Drainage Authority	R3A	The LLFA and LDA to identify drainage asset ownership and responsibility.
					R3B	The LLFA and LDA to investigate the

	watercourse network)					standard of protection and the condition of the culvert structure and network as a whole.
					R3C	Jet and cleanse the ordinary watercourse culvert network.
					R3D	The LLFA to work collaboratively with other RMAs to identify suitable management methods to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources in Pentre.
4	Surface water drainage network at Lewis Street	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC Highway Authority	Surface Water	Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority	R4A	The LLFA and Highways Authority to undertake investigations to clarify the connectivity and condition of the surface water drainage network in Pentre.
					R4B	The Highways Authority to jet and cleanse the highway drainage network and action repairs accordingly.
					R4C	The LLFA, Highways Authority and DCWW to evaluate surface water management options to alleviate the flood risk to Lewis Street.
5	Manhole situated at Albert Street	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	Surface Water	Highway Authority and Lead Local Flood Authority	R5A	The LLFA and LDA to identify drainage asset ownership and responsibility.

	(Fir Grove ordinary watercourse network)	Highway Authority			R5B	The LLFA and LDA to investigate the standard of protection and the condition of the culvert structure and network as a whole.
					R5C	Jet and cleanse the ordinary watercourse network.
					R5D	The LLFA to work collaboratively with other RMAs to identify suitable management methods to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources in Pentre.
6	Manholes to the rear of Volunteer Street	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Sewer Flooding	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	R6A	DCWW to evaluate the standard of service and the condition of the sewer network servicing Volunteer Street.
					R6B	DCWW to work with the LLFA to identify suitable management methods to reduce the risk of flooding.
7	DCWW combined sewer network to the rear of Queen and Treharne Streets	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Sewer Flooding	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	R7A	DCWW to evaluate the standard of service and the condition of the combined sewers servicing Queen Street and Treharne Street.
					R7B	DCWW to work with the LLFA to identify suitable management

						methods to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources in Pentre.
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## 4.1 LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

In review of Ref 1 – 5 in Table 6, the LLFA has been determined as the responsible Risk Management Authority in relation to the ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding which occurred at Pentre during the February and June flooding events.

The LLFA exercised the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- Officers investigated the initial flooding and have produced this report in line with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- Officers contacted residents affected by flooding to offer support and advice to assist in the recovery following the five events.
- A public engagement exercise carried out by RPS Consulting, on behalf of RCTCBC as the LLFA, was undertaken in order to gain further local insight and anecdotal evidence to support the flood investigation.
- The LLFA and LDA have exercised their permissive powers under Section 64 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 to investigate the culvert structures and network conditions and its impact on the flooding within the investigation area. **(R1B, R3B, R5B)**
- An estimated 3.2 km of ordinary watercourse and 5.5 km of surface water drainage network length within Pentre has been surveyed following the initial flood event (16<sup>th</sup> February 2020) to ascertain both the operational condition and structural integrity along sections of the network. **(R1B, R3B, R4A, R5B)**
- An estimated 600 tonnes of material and debris was removed from the culvert and surface water drainage networks within Pentre during jetting and cleansing operations **(R1C, R3C, R4B, R5C)**
- The LLFA and LDA have undertaken clearance works to the culvert inlet structures and network systems which fall under the responsibility of the Authority. **(R1C, R3C, R5C)**
- The LLFA commissioned RPS Consulting to investigate the standard of protection of the existing culvert networks in Pentre to determine their hydraulic capacity following the 2020 flood events. **(R1B, R3B, R5B)**
- Following damages caused to Pentre Road inlet during Storm Dennis, RCTCBC as the LLFA has led on the delivery of new headwall and inlet arrangements for the Welsh Government owned and NRW maintained culvert inlet. Funded by the Welsh Government and part funded by NRW, the existing culvert inlet structure has been upgraded with the emplacement of an upper

debris screen/platform, new headwall and overflow route to provide additional drainage capacity where necessary and reduce the risk of blockage to the culvert. **(R1D)**

- RCTCBC as the LDA have identified the manhole situated at Pleasant Park falls under the ownership and responsibility of the Authority. In response to the flooding event that occurred on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the LLFA and LDA rapidly deployed significant resources to carry out emergency works to remove the blockage from the network which was completed two weeks after the repeat flood event. **(R3A)**
- In review of Ref 3, 4 and 5, the LLFA and LDA have led on the mapping of the ordinary watercourse and highway drainage infrastructure and networks to identify connectivity and identify where systems can be modified to reduce flood risk, particularly with respect to highway drainage, combined systems and pump stations. **(R3B, R4A, R5B)**
- In review of Ref 4, the LLFA have completed works, in partnership with DCWW, to install an overflow arrangement from the highway drainage system in Lewis Street to the DCWW Storm Overflow network that outfalls to the Rhondda River to the east of Elizabeth Close. These works seek to improve the resilience of the highway drainage system in Lewis Street and to support the alleviation of surface water flood risk within the Lewis Street and Elizabeth Close areas. **(R4C)**
- The LLFA has exercised its powers, under Section 13 of the FWMA, to request information and co-operation from the relevant risk management authorities (NRW and DCWW) in relation to their responsibilities as RMAs and NRW as land estate manager of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate in response to Storm Dennis.
- The LLFA has set up a central Control Room, to compliment the Council's Contact Centre and CCTV centre which is based at the Council's offices, to provide a comprehensive and informed response to the residents of RCT as appropriate during storm events. **(R1F)**
- The LLFA have commissioned JBA Consulting to undertake a formal Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) of the Upper Rhondda catchment area to better understand the overall risk from ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding and make recommendations for suitable measures to alleviate the risk. The SFRAs also aim to encourage whole catchment measures, including working with natural processes, to alleviate flood risk in those areas of highest risk. As part of this, JBA were also commissioned to carry out geomorphic

assessments of the upper catchments in Pentre to determine the risk of culvert blockages due to geomorphic instability of the hillside. **(R1E, R3D, R5D)**

- The LLFA have initiated an interim Property Flood Resistance project offering expandable flood gates to those properties deemed at high risk of flooding from local sources.

The LLFA propose to exercise the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- Following the surveying of culvert networks in Pentre, the LLFA propose to input and update all relevant asset data. **(R1A, R3A, R5A)**
- The LLFA is currently developing an Outline Business Case for Pentre, working in partnership with NRW and DCWW, to better understand the drainage networks as a whole and to provide recommendations for suitable management methods to reduce the risk of flooding from all sources within the community. **(R1E, R3D, R4C, R5D, R6B, R7B)**
- In review of Ref 3, the LLFA propose to develop a flood routing scheme along Pleasant Street. The scheme will involve the instillation of an exceedance flow path and interception drainage (linear drainage) to reconnect overland flows from the park, back into the culverted watercourse, and reduce the risk of surface water flooding to properties along Pleasant Street and Lewis Street. **(R1E, R3D, R4C, R5D, R6B, R7B)**
- The LLFA intend to improve the efficiency of the Volunteer Street pumping station, with construction approved for 2021/22. **(R1E, R3D, R4C, R5D, R6B, R7B)**
- The LLFA and LDA intend to clarify drainage asset owners and management responsibilities to make them aware of their personal risk. To ensure landowners manage the risk in compliance with the relevant legislation, a team of Flood Enforcement Officers including legal support is to be appointed. **(R1A, R3A, R5A)**
- The LLFA propose to install remote telemetry monitoring devices at key culvert structures to enable operators to ensure the drainage systems in Pentre are operating effectively. **(R1F)**

## 4.2 NATURAL RESOURCES WALES

Natural Resources Wales were not directly identified as a responsible authority in relation to the flooding at Pentre because the flood type was identified as being largely ordinary watercourse and surface water flooding which is the responsibility of the Lead Local Flood Authority to manage. However, the Authority, as the LLFA and LDA, has engaged with NRW in relation to the initial storm event, specifically regarding their role and responsibility as the woodland and forestry land estate manager.

NRW, as both the Risk Management Authority and as a significant land estate manager within RCT, have exercised the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- Following the flooding events of February 2020, NRW published a review of its incident response to Storm Ciara and Dennis in October 2020<sup>6</sup>. The review contains several recommendations for improvements to their ways of working and services which NRW are in the process of implementing through an internal delivery program.
- As part of NRW's incident response review, and in relation to their role as land estate manager, NRW have published a Land Estate Management Review<sup>5</sup> following the February 2020 flooding. The report details further recommendations put forward by NRW to improve their current approach to Forest Management. **(R2A, R2C, RCD)**
- NRW deployed their own resources during Storm Dennis to help with the over pumping of water from the Pentre Road culvert at Pleasant Street Park during the second flood event (21/02/2020)
- NRW have commissioned a modelling project on the Rhondda Fawr River to assess the fluvial flood risk.

NRW propose to exercise the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- As land manager of the WGWE, NRW are developing Flood Risk Guidance for Forest Operations which will explore the mechanisms in which they can provide better advice on the water management of the Welsh Government Woodland Estate. **(R2C)**
- Building upon their role as land manager of the WGWE, NRW are developing a Local Approach to Woodland and Trees which aims to provide NRW with the

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<sup>6</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Our response to Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis](#)

necessary guidance to ensure that woodland creation can address priority issues including improvements to both air and water quality, rebuilding ecosystem resilience and contribute to reducing flood risk. **(R2C)**

- NRW propose to undertake an initial economic assessment into the viability of potential option for managing flood risk from the Main River Rhondda Fawr following completion of the modelling project mentioned above.
- NRW are proposing to replant the Welsh Government Woodland Estate above Pentre.
- NRW are developing a Forest Resource Plan in the Lower Rhondda woodland area. As part of the development process, NRW wish to engage and collaborate with the Lead Local Flood Authority to identify the key challenges facing the area so that they are reflected in the plan. **(R2B)**

### 4.3 WATER COMPANY

Following the results into the investigation of flooding at Pentre, DCWW were not identified as a responsible authority in relation to the flooding at Pentre during February 2020, however, DCWW have been identified as the responsible authority in relation to sewer flooding at two residential properties during the June thunderstorms, and a further three properties during the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020 flooding event (Ref 6 and 7, Table 6).

DCWW have exercised the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- DCWW carried out their own investigations in response to incidences of flooding that were reported by residents directly to DCWW. **(R6A, R7A)**
- DCWW contacted residents affected by flooding to offer support and advice to assist in the recovery following the five events.
- DCWW investigated the performance of their network and pumping stations at Treharne Street and Elizabeth Close during the February storm events and again during the June thunderstorms to ensure their assets were operating with no issues.
- Although DCWW have concluded that their assets performed well during the storm events, DCWW have made improvements to their telemetry system. These improvements include dynamic testing of alarms as well as increased the priority on key alarms at both pumping stations in the area.

- DCWW has collaborated with the LLFA and Highway Authority to facilitate an overflow arrangement from the highway drainage system in Lewis Street to the DCWW sewers to improve the resilience of the highway system in Lewis Street (Ref 4, Table 6). **(R4C)**

DCWW propose to exercise the following function's in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- Following the dynamic testing of DCWW's pumping station alarms, DCWW have identified further improvements that could be made to improve the quality of information provided by telemetry from these sites, particularly in the event of a power failure.
- In light of the 2020 flooding events, DCWW propose to increase their knowledge and resource sharing with the LLFA, including a coordinated deployment of pumps to meet specific needs and working together to map integrated infrastructure to identify areas for improvement within the highway drainage, combined network and pumping stations to reduce flood risk. **(R6B, R7B)**

#### 4.4 HIGHWAY AUTHORITY

During the investigation into the flooding at Pentre during Storm Dennis, the Highway was identified as flooding as a result of overland flows originating from the blocked Pentre Road culvert inlet and following the streets towards the lower parts of Pentre. Mud and debris mobilised and deposited by the overland flows caused blockages to the majority of highway drainage infrastructure in the lower reaches of Pentre, exacerbating surface water flooding to the highway and properties.

RCTCBC as the Highway Authority have exercised the following functions in response to the flooding at Pentre;

- The Highway Authority assisted with the emergency response during the event by supplying equipment and sandbags, some to individual properties and using sandbags to redirect flood water away from properties.
- The Highway Authority exercised their functions under Section 100 of the Highways Act 1980, to arrange for all gullies and open drains in the highway to be inspected and cleansed following the influx of flood water to ensure the safety of the highway post event. **(R4A, R4B)**

- The Highway Authority ahead of the 2020-21 winter period deployed and maintained two standby pump units within the Pleasant street area to act as 'Rapid Response' measures to reduce the impact of future flooding events whilst the Pentre Road inlet works were ongoing. They also supplied a standby excavator at the inlet prior to the works to rapidly remove debris that may build up on the grill.
- The Highway Authority also carried out repairs to the carriageway, road gullies and gully connections which became damaged by debris during the initial flood event. **(R4B)**
- RCTCBC as the LLFA and Highway Authority carried out several surveys of the highway surface water drainage infrastructure to identify damages caused by the blockages and also to determine overall connectivity of the drainage network in the aftermath of Storm Dennis, Storm Jorje and the June thunderstorms. **(R4A, R4B)**

RCTCBC as the Highway Authority propose to undertake the following functions in relation to the event at Pentre;

- The Highway Authority intend to increase their resource capacity by establishing a dedicated 'Pluvial Drainage Team' to focus entirely on the refurbishment and maintenance of RCT's existing and enhanced highway drainage infrastructure. **(R4B)**



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## USEFUL LINKS/CONTACTS

Blue Pages – property Resilience - <http://bluepages.org.uk/>

Flood Re – Flooded Property Insurance Scheme - <https://www.floodre.co.uk/>

Natural Resources Wales – Check Flood Warnings - <https://naturalresources.wales/flooding/check-flood-warnings/?lang=en>

Natural Resources Wales - Long Term Flood Risk - <https://naturalresources.wales/evidence-and-data/maps/long-term-flood-risk/?lang=en>

Natural Resources Wales – Response to Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis – [Natural Resources Wales / Our response to Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis](#)

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC - Local Flood Risk Management Plan - <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/Floodriskregulations2009.aspx>

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/FloodAlleviation/LocalFloodRiskManagementStrategy.aspx>

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC – Sustainable Drainage – <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/ParkingRoadsandTravel/Roadspavementsandpaths/SustainableDrainage/SustainableDrainage.aspx>

Welsh Government - National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-03/national-strategy-for-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-in-wales.pdf>

Welsh Water – How to Contact Us – <https://www.welshwater.com/en/Contact-Us.aspx>

## APPENDIX A: PHOTOGRAPHS OF PENTRE ROAD CULVERT INLET AND THE UPPER CATCHMENT



Photo provided by RCT's Highways and Streetcare Depot showing woody debris and damages to the Pentre Road Inlet on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



Photo provided by RCT's Highways and Streetcare Depot showing woody debris and damages to the Pentre Road Inlet on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020.





Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team showing woody debris in the Nant y Pentre channel and at the culvert inlet on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.



Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team showing woody debris on the debris screen of the Pentre Road culvert inlet on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020.





Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team showing woody debris and mud being cleared to the rear Pentre Road Care Home on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 (situated directly downstream of the Pentre Road culvert inlet).



Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team of the Pentre Road culvert inlet and channel following emergency clearing works on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020.





Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 of woody debris in the felled area of Pentre's upper catchment.



Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 of woody debris in the felled area of Pentre's upper catchment looking downstream towards the village.





Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 of woody debris in the felled area of Pentre's upper catchment looking downstream towards the village.



Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 of woody debris in the felled area of Pentre's upper catchment looking upstream.





Photo provided by RCT's Flood Risk Management team on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 of woody debris in the felled area of Pentre's upper catchment and adjacent to the watercourse.



Tudalen wag

**Update of actions arising from the recommendations contained in the review of the  
Council's response to Storm Dennis [Cabinet Report 18 December 2020](#)  
(this update aligns to the Q1 2021/22 reporting period)**

No	Agreed Actions	Update
1.	Strengthen plans to respond to extreme weather events	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><i><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - The first formal meeting of the RCT Strategic Flood Risk Management Board took place on 9 February 2021. The Board agreed to consider joint approaches to addressing current issues and longer-term schemes, including how best to respond to the challenges of Climate Change. This approach will also enable the Council to maximise funding opportunities.</i></p> <p><i>Work identified by the Board is progressing e.g. sharing the Emergency Control with partners; completing studies of the lower Taff modelling and the river Cynon; joint approaches to short and longer term projects; the need for better and more accurate shared data and the potential for collaboration in specific local projects inc. Castle Inn Bridge, Sion Street.</i></p> <p><i>The second meeting of the Strategic Flood Risk Management Board was held on 25 May, for which an update will be provided in the Quarter 1 report. A further meeting is scheduled for early September.</i></p> <p><i>The wider Flood Action Plan was considered by the Finance &amp; Performance Scrutiny Committee as part of the quarterly performance arrangements on <a href="#">13 April</a>.</i></p>
2.	Undertake a further comprehensive review of the County Borough to identify the high risk residential and industrial areas likely to be at most risk of flooding in the future as climate change takes effect and identify the possible longer term alleviation and mitigation measures that could be put in place.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><i>We continue to make good progress in our comprehensive review of high risk residential and industrial areas likely to be at most risk of future flooding that will inform the Council's revised Flood Risk Management Plan. We are also responding to the early findings of the review which indicated a need for wider awareness raising and involvement with residents and businesses to support them to better manage their risk. See Item 3 &amp; 4 below.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government is currently considering the possibility of aligning the Flood Risk Management Plan, required later this year, with the review of the Local Flood Risk Strategy is required by October 2022. This integrated approach will allow for ALL areas of flood risk will be considered within a single updated strategy.</i></p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<p><i>In the meantime, we are continuing to develop longer term flood alleviation and mitigation measures as set out below. At time of this update there has been no formal confirmation.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation of information collected from the online flood survey and stories is continuing for the 28 flood investigation areas. This feedback has been invaluable in providing qualitative evidence to support the findings of the specialist consultants.</i></p> <p><i>Information from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on each of the 28 flood investigation areas will also help to inform the lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) reports under Section 19 (s19) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It is expected that the first of the reports will be published in July 2021.</i></p> <p>The First Section 19 report on the flooding in <a href="#">Pentre</a> has been published together with the <a href="#">Overview Report</a>.</p> <p>Another 18nr Section 19 reports are in various stages of drafting and will be published through Sept and October 2021.</p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - <i>We continue to make good progress in our comprehensive review of high risk residential and industrial areas likely to be at most risk of future flooding that will inform the Council's revised Flood Risk Management Plan. We are also responding to the early findings of the review which indicated a need for wider awareness raising and involvement with residents and businesses to support them to better manage their risk. See Item 4 below.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government is currently considering the possibility of aligning the Flood Risk Management Plan, required later this year, with the review of the Local Flood Risk Strategy is required by October 2022. This integrated approach will allow for ALL areas of flood risk will be considered within a single updated strategy. In the meantime, we are continuing to develop longer term flood alleviation and mitigation measures as set out below.</i></p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
3.	Create a Flood Support Team alongside the Housing Grants Service, that supports landowners, residents and businesses in high risk flood areas to procure local flood prevention measures, provides advice and guidance.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><i>A paper will be submitted to Cabinet in Sept 2021 outlining the benefits and costs for the creation of a Flood Awareness and Support Officer to work alongside the Flood Risk Professionals in the Flood Risk Management Team to fully understand the risks, and to communicate and coordinate support required to residents</i></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - Information obtained from public engagement suggests that there is a need to promote flooding awareness, provide information and guidance on many aspects of flooding and flood risk management. Meeting this need will require additional resource which will also to assist in the introduction of key actions and measures that will be informed by the Council's review of its Local Flood Risk Strategy and Flood Risk Management Plan. There is also a need for a central point of contact to coordinate Council Services and liaise with communities.</p> <p><i>A new post will be created to work alongside the Flood Risk Professionals in the Flood Risk Management Team to fully understand the risks, and to communicate and coordinate support required to residents.</i></p>
4.	Request that individual landowners and property owners, particularly in high flood risk areas, consider and evidence how best they can protect their land, homes, and businesses through local measures.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue Analysing the feedback from our <a href="#">Flood Risk Management public engagement exercise</a> to inform future information requirements.</li> <li>• Progressing the resourcing of a Flood Support and Enforcement Team that will support residents, businesses, and landowners to comply with legislation and also enforce if necessary.</li> <li>• Commenced the second phase of the interim Flood resistance project using Welsh Government funding. Phase 2 is a collaborative project with NRW for main river flooding. This project provides the opportunity for residents/owners to receive floodgates, vents (on loan) and 'floodsax' to enable them to better protect their properties against flooding. 367 residential properties at risk of flooding were invited to participate with 105 returning the agreement and participating in the project.</li> <li>• Considering service changes that will involve potential alterations to both the Flood risk management team and associated legal services. This change will reinforce the need for regulatory control over flood risk management assets and ensure that landowners are clear about their responsibilities and are compliant with relevant legislation. Consideration is also being given for enacting Land drainage</li> </ul>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<p><i>byelaws. It is envisaged that a paper will be submitted to Cabinet in Sept 2021/22 detailing the proposed service changes and additional regulatory framework.</i></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - We continue to strengthen the advice and availability of information provided to land and property owners in respect of the local measures that they can use to better protect their land, homes, and businesses This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing information on our <a href="#">website</a> including key contact numbers, advice on being prepared, where to look for additional information e.g. Natural Resources Wales, advice on being safe, and what to do if you have been flooded.</li> <li>• Using our website, examples in <a href="#">March</a> and <a href="#">February</a> 2021, and social media, examples in <a href="#">May</a>, to communicate directly with residents and businesses etc.</li> <li>• Analysing the feedback from our <a href="#">Flood Risk Management public engagement exercise</a> to inform future information requirements.</li> <li>• Progressing the resourcing of a Flood Support Team that will support residents, businesses, and landowners to comply with insurance conditions and also enforce if necessary.</li> <li>• Completed the first phase of the interim Flood resistance project using Welsh Government funding. This project provides the opportunity for residents/owners to receive floodgates, vents (on loan) and 'floodsax' to enable them to better protect their properties against flooding. 407 residential properties at risk of flooding were invited to participate with 281 returning the agreement and participating in the project. This has resulted in 401 Flood gates being distributed and 149 vent covers. Also, each property had a minimum of 5 floodsax for use in an emergency.</li> <li>• Considering service changes that will involve potential alterations to both the Flood risk management team and associated legal services. This change will reinforce the need for regulatory control over flood risk management assets and ensure that landowners are clear about their responsibilities and are compliant with relevant legislation. Consideration is also being given for enacting Land drainage byelaws. It is envisaged that a paper will be submitted to Cabinet in 2021/22 detailing the proposed service changes and additional regulatory framework.</li> </ul>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
5.	Further update the Emergency Plan to ensure that in the event of a major incident we provide local community responses centres within the communities most affected.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><i><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - We are continuing to identify premises suitable and available for use as local community response centres. Whilst our aim is to give consideration to the establishment of one such centre per ward, the geography and size/facilities within the existing potential centres may not meet all the identified criteria. Where this is the case, we may need to identify other complementary premises or provide premises that are accessible and can service a number of surrounding wards which will also provide cover for those wards which have no suitable premises. It is anticipated that a complete list of potential sites together with potential gaps in coverage will be available for initial consideration in quarter 2, following which we will be in a position to start formal processes to ensure the availability of the premises and to establish appropriate sites for additional storage for example. Once formal processes are complete the premises can be included in the Council's Emergency Plan.</i></p>
6.	Maximise the benefits of our current infrastructure by undertaking comprehensive maintenance and introducing some enhancement so this infrastructure operates at the optimum level in its response to extreme weather events.	<b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - We continue to enhance our infrastructure maintenance arrangements in response to extreme weather events. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring scour<sup>1</sup> risk assessments are considered as part of the project planning of the bridge maintenance programme.</li> <li>• Development of a prioritised programme of specialist inspections of key highways river walls and structures.</li> <li>• Considering how long- term vegetation management can be incorporated into the highway's structural asset maintenance strategy.</li> <li>• Undertaking a programme of prioritised culvert inspections (900mm+).</li> <li>• Ongoing discussions with NRW to identify river walls that serve as flood defences. The outcome of these discussions will inform risk assessment requirements. A programme to strengthen and improve key river walls will then be developed, subject to funding.</li> <li>• Preparation of a draft maintenance contract to undertake culvert repairs that will ensure that scour defects are repaired in a timely manner. This is currently under review and will be progressed via procurement processes.</li> </ul> <p>Planning general inspections of highway assets adjacent to rivers when there is low river flow or arranging specialist inspections to identify the presence of scour. Commencing May-August 2021.</p>
7.	<p><b>Digitalise and remotely monitor key flood defences, which will include key culverts, outlets, and other drainage systems via a central control room.</b></p>	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p>The bids for Welsh Government grant funding for monitoring equipment and installation equipment in 2021/22 have been successful. We have identified the locations and the equipment required. Site-specific surveys have been carried out prior to full installation. Our aim is for all the additional equipment to be installed and functioning prior to Autumn 2021, with an estimated 29 additional monitoring locations making a total of 45 locations to be monitored.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Scour is an engineering term used to describe what happens when holes (also known as scour holes) are caused by active water currents that occur around bridge piers or abutments. When severe erosion of the material at the base of the supporting structure takes place, scour can lead to structural failure of the bridge.



No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - The Emergency Control Centre opened in January 2021 and was successfully trialled in February and March 2021 at times when we received weather warnings of heavy rain from the Met Office. The Control Centre staff utilised electronic monitoring equipment to observe river levels and send key messages to Councillors and service teams where necessary to provide relevant, targeted information. This approach was vital in the areas severely affected by flooding in February 2020 to monitor the effectiveness of flood defences, The Emergency Control Centre will continue to be used to support senior managers to coordinate its strategic response to incidents affecting the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf.</p> <p>The bids for Welsh Government grant funding for monitoring equipment and installation equipment in 2021/22 have been successful. We are currently identifying the locations and the equipment required. Site-specific surveys will be carried out prior to full installation. Our aim is for all the additional equipment to be installed and functioning prior to Autumn 2021, with an estimated 29 additional monitoring locations making a total of 45 locations to be monitored.</p>
8.	Create the capacity to be able to provide timely Elected Member and Public Information during Major Emergencies	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - We continue to implement the technology required to support intelligence gathering for use in the Emergency Control Centre. This information will inform critical strategic and operational decisions, and help to direct timely communication with residents and businesses etc.</p>
9.	Create two dedicated Pluvial Drainage Teams, an East and a West team. The teams will increase the staffing compliment in the Drainage teams from 20 to 31 staff, comprising a service manager, two senior drainage engineers and 8 additional operational staff.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - Service changes including additional drainage resources have been progressed to improve surface water drainage maintenance services. Progress to date includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recruitment of a new Principal Drainage Maintenance Engineer who is now in post. A further two Drainage Maintenance Engineers posts will be advertised shortly.</li> </ul>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The preparation of tender documents for the procurement of specialised 'Vactor' (high pressure) cleaning services to enable tendering to take place during Qtr 1 2021/22.</li> <li>Developing the specifications for new additional drainage vehicles.</li> </ul>
10.	Produce on-line information and booklets for flooded households that set out the support available from the Council, and its partners in responding to a household's needs, from securing alternative accommodation, financial support and advice, applications for home repairs assistance, health and wellbeing support, environmental health advice on how to safely clean your home after a flood, and other offers of support from the third sector.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: I think the last update was not for this action. This has been moved to item 2 where is better sites. This one is linked to the resource identified in 3 and 4. Therefore suggest: -</b></p> <p><i>A paper will be submitted to Cabinet in Sept 2021 outlining the benefits and costs for the creation of a Flood Awareness and Support Officer to work alongside the Flood Risk Professionals in the Flood Risk Management Team to fully understand the risks, and to communicate and coordinate support required to residents including web resources. See item 3 and 4.</i></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - The evaluation of information collected from the online flood survey and stories is continuing for the 28 flood investigation areas. This feedback has been invaluable in providing qualitative evidence to support the findings of the specialist consultants.</p> <p><i>Information from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on each of the 28 flood investigation areas will also help to inform the lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) reports under Section 19 (s19) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It is expected that the first of the reports will be published in July 2021.</i></p>
11.	Publish a comprehensive Environmental Strategy by 31 March 2021 that sets out the action the Council will take to ensure it is a Net Zero organisation by 2030 and how it will engage with local communities and businesses to change behaviours to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of the County Borough.	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - A draft Climate Change strategy was considered by the Council's Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group at its meeting on <a href="#">17 March</a>, and subsequently by the <a href="#">Council's Cabinet on 25 March</a>. The draft Strategy was subject to a wide-ranging Climate Conversation – 'Let's Talk Climate Change RCT' which continued, initially until the end of May 2021. There will be further and more in-depth face to face discussions with residents, schools, and communities when it is safe to do so. The initial feedback arising</p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
		<i>from the Climate Conversation and also in respect of the draft Strategy, was considered by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group at its meeting on <a href="#">14 June</a> and also the Cabinet, on <a href="#">24 June</a> 2021.</i>

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