

**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>

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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> - <i>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.</i></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><i>We continue Analysing the feedback from our <a href="#">Flood Risk Management public engagement exercise</a> to inform future information requirements.</i></li> <li><i>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.</i></li> <li><i>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.</i></li> <li><i>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</i></li> </ul>

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		<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>• <i>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.</i></li> <li>• <i>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.</i></li> <li>• <i>Analysing the feedback from our <a href="#">Flood Risk Management public engagement exercise</a> to inform future information requirements.</i></li> <li>• <i>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.</i></li> <li>• <i>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.</i></li> <li>• <i>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.</i></li> </ul>

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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 data-bbox="745 172 1008 204"><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p data-bbox="745 260 2128 659"><i>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference - 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.	<p data-bbox="745 715 1008 746"><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p>

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		<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.

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		<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>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>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.</i></li> <li><i>Developing the specifications for new additional drainage vehicles.</i></li> </ul>
10.	<p>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>	<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> - <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>
11.	<p>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>	<p><b>Qtr 1 21/22 Update</b></p> <p><b>Qtr 4 20/21 For Reference</b> - <i>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</i></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>