



**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](#) 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.