

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 Q2 2021/22 reporting period)

No	Agreed Actions	Update
1.	Strengthen plans to respond to extreme weather events	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p>
		<p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>The third formal meeting of the RCT Strategic Flood Risk Management (FRM) Steering Group took place on 7 September.</i></p> <p><i>Among other things the Steering Group considered:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Summary of Capital Programme in respect of “live” projects.</i> • <i>Progress on Major FRM schemes.</i> • <i>Progress on Small FRM schemes.</i> • <i>Resilient Roads.</i> • <i>Emergency Repairs.</i> • <i>Ongoing Storm Damage Review.</i> • <i>Progress of the Section 19 reports.</i> <p><i>The next meeting is scheduled for 16 November 2021.</i></p> <p><i>In September 2021, the Council published its third Section 19 Flood Investigation Report in respect of Storm Dennis. This report focussed on the flooding, preparedness and response within the community of Cilfynydd.</i></p>

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		<p><i>At its meeting on 21 September, Cabinet agreed to update the Strategic Risk Register to include a new Strategic Risk (26) in respect of the physical impacts of climate change as a result of the likelihood of increased frequency of extreme weather events. “If the Council does not plan and invest resources to mitigate the physical impacts of climate change, then the risk of increased frequency of extreme weather events that will adversely impact residential and business properties; spoil tips; infrastructure; health, safety and well-being; and economic activity will be heightened”. Progress outlined in respect of the actions below will help to demonstrate how the Council is mitigating and managing this risk. Regular updates on the risk will be included as part of the Strategic Risk Management updates to Cabinet as part of the quarterly Performance Report.</i></p> <p><i>Progress outlined in the actions below also helps to demonstrate the Council’s operational progress in responding to extreme weather events.</i></p>
2.	<p>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</p>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p>

No	Agreed Actions	Update
	<p>alleviation and mitigation measures that could be put in place.</p>	<p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <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 is indicating a need for wider awareness raising and involvement with residents and businesses to support them to better manage their risk. See Item 3 & 4 below.</i></p> <p><i>Welsh Government continues to consider the possibility of aligning the Flood Risk Management Plan, required later this year, with the review of the Local Flood Risk Strategy that is required by October 2022. This integrated approach will allow for all areas of flood risk to be considered within a single updated strategy. In the meantime, we are continuing to develop longer term flood alleviation and mitigation measures.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation of feedback from the online Flood Survey, and the 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. 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 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</i></p> <p><i>The third Section 19 report, on the flooding in Cilfynydd, was published in September 2021.</i></p> <p><i>Following a detailed review of progress of these reports, it is anticipated that twelve of the seventeen remaining reports will be published before Christmas, and the remaining five reports in early 2022.</i></p>
3.	<p>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>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <hr/> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>The findings of public engagement confirmed the need to promote flood awareness and provide advice and guidance on many aspects of flooding and flood risk management. To meet these needs, on 21 September as part of a wider report ‘Review of regulation, awareness and enforcement of flood and water legislation’, Cabinet considered and approved proposals for new posts to strengthen enforcement activities and flood risk awareness support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enforcement Officer</i>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enforcement Assistant</i> • <i>Flood Risk Awareness and Support Officer</i> <p><i>Legal support that may be required to assist enforcement will be reviewed after the new enforcement posts have been in place for 12 months.</i></p>
4.	<p>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>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <hr/> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update We continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Analyse the feedback from our Flood Risk Management public engagement to inform future information requirements of individual land and property owners.</i> • <i>Provide information on our website 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 in the event of a flood.</i> <p><i>Progress this quarter includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agreeing to put in place Flood Support and Enforcement Team that will support residents, businesses, and landowners to comply with legislation and also enforce if necessary, see item 3 above.</i> <p><i>Continuing delivery of the equipment for Phase 2 of the interim Flood Resistance project using Welsh Government funding. Phase 2 is a collaborative project with Natural Resources Wales for main river flooding. The 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. Of the 105 who responded, 99 properties have been surveyed and equipment</i></p>

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		<i>delivered. Throughout October 2021, we will deliver and install equipment to best prepare residents for potential flooding in the coming winter months.</i>
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="555 491 882 523">Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <p data-bbox="555 651 882 683">Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>The draft plan and overview of potential premises have been considered by the Senior Leadership Team. The draft plan is now being considered by Legal and Estates Teams with a view to formalising the next steps required to reach agreement with building owners and managers.</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="555 810 882 842">Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <p data-bbox="555 1050 882 1082">Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>We continue to enhance our infrastructure maintenance arrangements in response to extreme weather events. These include:</i></p> <ul data-bbox="609 1168 2139 1358" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="609 1168 2139 1278">• <i>Prioritised general inspections scheduled for completion in Autumn 2021. A review is necessary to determine whether any specialist inspections are required and examine the risk assessments that are being conducted as part of project planning.</i> <li data-bbox="609 1289 2139 1358">• <i>Preparation and review of the draft Confined Space Culvert Maintenance Contract. These Contract documents are being further developed prior to inviting tenders.</i>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ongoing discussions with Natural Resources Wales to identify river walls that serve as flood defences. The outcome of these discussions will inform the Risk Assessment. A programme to strengthen and improve key river walls will then be developed, subject to funding. Discussions between NRW and the Council continue.</i> <p><i>To be resourced:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of a prioritised programme of specialist inspections of key highways river walls and structures.</i> • <i>Consideration of how long-term vegetation management can be incorporated into the highway's structural asset maintenance strategy.</i> <p><i>Programme of prioritised culvert inspections (900mm+).</i></p>
7.	<p>Digitalise and remotely monitor key flood defences, which will include key culverts, outlets, and other drainage systems via a central control room.</p>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <hr/> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>The implementation of the monitoring and installation equipment obtained following successful bid for Welsh Government grant funding has commenced. Seven installations have been completed with a further six in development. By Autumn 2021, an estimated 35 additional monitoring stations are expected to be deployed and operational. The Council will have 50 locations digitalised and remotely monitored once the project is completed.</i></p>
8.	<p>Create the capacity to be able to provide timely Elected Member and Public Information during Major Emergencies</p>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <hr/> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>We continue to invest in and implement the technology needed to enable the intelligence gathering required for use in the Emergency Control Centre. This intelligence will continue to inform critical operational and strategic decisions, as well as direct timely communication with local residents and businesses etc.</i></p>
9.	<p>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</p>	<p>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p>

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	<p>31 staff, comprising a service manager, two senior drainage engineers and 8 additional operational staff.</p>	<p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>A new graduate Civil Engineer is now in post. Four GR5 drainage operatives have been recruited. One of four GR6 drainage operatives have been appointed from the first recruitment drive. The remaining GR6 posts will be now readvertised.</i></p> <p><i>The 'Vactor' high pressure cleaning unit is now in operation. The CCTV 5-year contract which forms part of the 5-year contract for Vactor cleaning has been let. The CCTV is required so that the surface water sewer system is mapped. This was approved and agreed by Senior Leader Team early this calendar year.</i></p>
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>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>Additional resources to supplement the Flood Risk Team have been agreed by Cabinet, see item 3 above. The new Flood Risk Awareness and Support Officer will create the capacity to focus on communication and coordination of the information and support identified.</i></p>

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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>Quarter 3 21/22 Update</p> <hr/> <p>Quarter 2 21/22 Update <i>As part of the ongoing engagement and involvement with residents and communities ‘Face to Face’ Climate Conversations took place between late July and early September. These conversations took place in Aberdare Park, Ynysangharad Park, Mountain Ash, Rhydyfelin, Tonypandy and Treorchy. The feedback and findings will supplement the early survey findings reported to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group in June 2021 and will help to inform the Council’s final Climate Change strategy. It is likely that the strategy will also be informed and shaped by the WG Clean Air Bill, UK initiatives announced in the lead up to COP 26 which is being hosted by UK Government and also COP Cymru the arrangements for which consist of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of Net Zero Wales Plan 28 October 2021. • COP26 Regional Roadshows 4,6,8,10 November 2021. • Wales Climate Week 22 -26 November 2021. <p><i>The final Climate Change/Environmental strategy is likely to be available in late 2021. This is will allow the Climate Change strategy to be clearly aligned to national climate initiatives above. In the meantime, work is continuing on projects to reduce Carbon Emissions across the Council and the County Borough through the Climate Change Steering Group and Officer Working Groups.</i></p>