

22nd January 2024

Re: Pre-Scrutiny of the Revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan.

Dear Cabinet Members,

I have been instructed by this Council's Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the Authority's Revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan prior to its consideration at the Cabinet meeting on the 24th January 2024.

The Committee gave feedback and comments in respect of the Strategy and Action Plan at its meeting on the 18th January 2024. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the recommendations.

Members can view the full record of this meeting [here](#).

In summary, the following points were noted:

- Members commented that the Strategy contains a significant number of specialist terminology and abbreviations. Members suggested a glossary of terms is included at the front of the Strategy for ease of reference;
- Cabinet was asked to consider the recommendations of the Director of Frontline Services within the context of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, in particular Long-Term thinking and Collaboration. Members emphasised the importance of continuing collaboration with other Local Authorities and outside agencies;
- A Member sought clarification on how the proposal will align with RCTCBC's Climate Change Strategy and Corporate Plan. They were pleased to hear that the Strategy considers and specifically references the impact of asset maintenance, green spaces and Natural Flood Management, and the role of woodland and forestry practices on the environment.
- Members were also pleased to hear that the Strategy also identifies opportunities to align with emerging local policies such as the Council's revised Local Development Plan and RCT's Local Nature Partnership – 'Action for Nature Plan';
- Members suggested that the Strategy should be promoted alongside a Communication Strategy to encourage residents to adopt the use of Flood Prevention Schemes and to educate residents on the availability of Flood Prevention self-help tools;
- A Member suggested that the Strategy and Action Plan should include clear hyperlinks to highlight Ward specific risks together with a map of culverts throughout the County Borough;
- A Member suggested that the Strategy and Action Plan should include regular reviews of RCTCBC's contingency planning in conjunction with working collaboratively with emergency services;

- Should the final Strategy and Action Plan be adopted by Cabinet, Members suggested regular and timely reviews of the Strategy in light of changing climate concerns and the constraints of budget pressures and austerity measures. Members emphasised the importance of targeting resources in respect of Flood risk to protect our communities.

At the conclusion of the Committee's discussions, Members praised the Strategy and Action Plan and emphasised that this was a significant opportunity to set a sustainable strategy to manage flood risk and build resilience. Members wished for their comments to be considered and conveyed to the Cabinet at its meeting on the 24th January 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hanagan', written over a faint, light-colored circular stamp or watermark.

Christian Hanagan
Service Director Democratic Services and Communication