

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM INCLUDING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

(Revised March 2021)

Please refer to the current Equality Impact Assessment guidance when completing this document. If you would like further guidance please contact the Diversity and Inclusion Team on 01443 444529.

An equality impact assessment **must** be undertaken at the outset of any proposal to ensure robust evidence is considered in decision making. This documentation will support the Council in making informed, effective and fair decisions whilst ensuring compliance with a range of relevant legislation, including:

- Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011
- Socio-economic Duty – Sections 1 to 3 of the Equality Act 2010.

This document will also contribute towards our duties to create a More Equal Wales within the

- Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015.

The [‘A More Equal Wales – Mapping Duties’](#) guide highlights the alignment of our duties in respect of the above-mentioned legislation.

## SECTION 1 – PROPOSAL DETAILS

**Lead Officer:** Catrin Evans

**Service Director:** Roger Waters

**Service Area:** Frontline Services

**Date:** 08/06/2023

1.a) What are you assessing for impact?

Strategy/Plan	Service Re-Model/Discontinuation of Service	Policy/Procedure	Practice	Information/Position Statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.b) What is the name of the proposal?

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

1.c) Please provide an overview of the proposal providing any supporting links to reports or documents.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) has been established as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. Under this legislation, RCTCBC is required to “develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management”, i.e., a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy). Local flood risk is defined as flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourse, and groundwater sources.

The publication of the second iteration of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy) in October 2020<sup>1</sup> triggers the requirements under Section 10 (5) of the FWMA 2010 for the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to review its current LFRMS and publish a revised version within the timeframe stipulated by the Welsh Government.

RCTCBC published their initial LFRMS in January 2013<sup>2</sup> in accordance with Section 10 of the FWMA 2010. The LFRMS defines who the Risk Management Authorities (RMA) are, what their function is and what their responsibilities are. The strategy further identifies the Local Objectives and Measures being implemented for the short, medium and long term to manage flood risk from local sources (ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater) within the authority.

RCTCBC is also required to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations. RCTCBC published their FRMP in November 2015<sup>3</sup> in accordance with Flood Risk Regulations 2009. The FRMP developed the objectives and high-level actions outlined in our 2013 LFRMS into a detailed plan for managing local flood risk in our communities.

Whilst the Council previously published the LFRMS and FRMP separately, the revised LFRMS will consolidate the two documents into one single document. This will reduce complexity and enable the LLFA to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively.

The Council's revised LFRMS must align with the aim and objectives of the National Strategy. The aim of the National Strategy is to 'reduce the risks to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion' and to facilitate this, the 5 core objectives are:

1. Improving our understanding and communication of risk
2. Preparedness and building resilience
3. Prioritising investment in the most at risk communities
4. Preventing more people becoming exposed to risk

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

<sup>2</sup> [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, January 2013](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Flood Risk Management Plan, November 2015](#)

## 5. Providing an effective and sustained response to events

RCTCBC's revised LFRMS has been drafted to reflect the aim and objectives of the National Strategy. This has provided the Council with the opportunity to set a sustainable strategy to manage local flood risk, improve communities understanding and awareness of local flood risk and help individuals and communities prepare and respond to the impacts of flooding.

1.d) Please outline where delivery of this proposal is affected by legislation or other drivers such as code of practice.

- Section 10 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
- Flood Risk Regulations 2009

1.e) Please outline who this proposal affects:

- Service users
- Employees
- Wider community

## SECTION 2 – SCREENING TEST – IS A FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIRED?

Screening is used to determine whether the initiative has positive, negative or neutral impacts upon protected groups. Where negative impacts are identified for protected groups then a full Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Please provide as much detail as possible of how the proposal will impact on the following groups, this may not necessarily be negative, but may impact on a group with a particular characteristic in a specific way.

### Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011

The Public Sector Equality Duty requires the Council to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; advance equality of opportunity between different groups; and foster good relations between different groups. Please take an intersectional approach in recognising an individual may have more than one protected characteristic.

<b><u>Protected Characteristics</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
<b>Age</b> ( <i>Specific age groups i.e. young people or older people</i> )	Positive	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of age.</p> <p>The reduction in local flood risk will have the greatest positive impact on the young and elderly. The very young and very old can be particularly vulnerable during a flood as they may be less able to prepare and respond to a flood event.</p>	<p>The Census 2021<sup>4</sup> data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 11.2% of RCT’s population is below the age of 9 years and 19.7% of RCT’s population is over the age of 65 years. This represents almost a third of RCT’s total population to be identified within the more vulnerable age groups in</p>

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<sup>4</sup> [Census 2021](#)

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		<p>Objectives 1 – 3 of the Local Strategy aim to reduce distress, community disruption and risk to life to the number of people and properties exposed to the risk of flooding. To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified the relevant measures to be delivered by the Council. These measures are expected to have a positive impact on all age groups, however the benefits achieved to those age groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding (the very young and old) will be greatest. This is particularly relevant when considering the ‘Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response’ measures. The most relevant measures and how specific age groups have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how</p>	<p>terms of preparing for and responding to a flood event.</p> <p>RCT’s public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee’s review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p>

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>different age groups are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all ages are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to people of all age groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target people of all age groups. Outreach work in schools will significantly benefit</p>	

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		<p>children between the ages of 5 and 18 years.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b>  Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage people of all ages to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst all age groups, considering how we communicate with the young and old.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public</p>	



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		<p>engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p><b>Measure 29: Monitoring the Reduction of Risk to People and Property</b> Understanding the benefits of local flood risk management delivered through the Local Strategy will raise awareness of flood risk management amongst the public.</p> <p>The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they</p>	

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		will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.	
<p><b>Disability</b> <i>(people with visible and non-visible disabilities or long-term health conditions)</i></p>	Positive	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of disability.</p> <p>People with a disability can be particularly vulnerable during a flood event as they may be less able to respond and prepare. There is also an emotional recovery associated with flooding. People suffering from mental illness such as depression and anxiety are particularly vulnerable, as are those who have experienced flooding before.</p> <p>Objectives 1 – 3 of the Local Strategy aim to reduce distress, community disruption and risk to life to the number of people and properties exposed to the risk of flooding. To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified the relevant measures to be delivered by the Council. These measures are</p>	<p>The Census 2021<sup>4</sup> data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 23.7% of the population of RCT are identified as disabled under the Equality Act.</p> <p>According to the Cwm Taf Population Needs Assessment, 1 in 7 people aged 65+ across Cwm Taf Morgannwg claim Attendance Allowance (payable to people over 65 who are so severely disabled, physically or mentally, that they need a great deal of help with personal care or supervision).</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p>

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>expected to have a positive impact on people of all abilities, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as those with a disability will be greatest. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how people with disabilities have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how people with disabilities or long-term health problems are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p>	<p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p>

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b>  Ensuring individuals of all abilities are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to people with disabilities, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b>  The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target people with disabilities. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit people with disabilities.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b>  Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage people of all abilities to be more pro-active at</p>	

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		<p>community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst people with disabilities.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p>	

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		<p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p><b>Measure 29: Monitoring the Reduction of Risk to People and Property</b>  Understanding the benefits of local flood risk management delivered through the Local Strategy will raise awareness of flood risk management amongst the public.</p> <p>The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.</p>	
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> <i>(anybody who's gender identity or gender expression is different to the sex they</i>	Neutral	There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have an impact on people that share this characteristic.	The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 93.7% of the population of RCT identify their gender identity

<b><u>Protected Characteristics</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
<i>were assigned at birth including non-binary identities)</i>		The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.	the same as sex registered at birth. Only 0.1% of the population state that their gender identity is different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given.
<b>Marriage or Civil Partnership</b> <i>(people who are married or in a civil partnership)</i>	Neutral	There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have an impact on people that share this characteristic.  The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.	The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 42.4% of the population of RCT are married or in a registered civil partnership.
<b>Pregnancy and Maternity</b> <i>(women who are pregnant/on maternity leave)</i>	Positive	The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of pregnancy or maternity.  The impacts on pregnant people and those people with young children are expected to be positive because the	*There are no stats currently available for this group of people.  RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the

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		<p>strategy will encourage more consideration of this group.</p> <p>Pregnant woman and those with young children can be particularly vulnerable during a flood event as they may be less able to respond and prepare.</p> <p>Objectives 1 – 3 of the Local Strategy aim to reduce distress, community disruption and risk to life to the number of people and properties exposed to the risk of flooding. To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified the relevant measures to be delivered by the Council. These measures are expected to have a positive impact on all groups, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as pregnant women and those with young children will be greatest. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp;</p>	<p>development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p>



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		<p>Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how specific this specific group have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b>  The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how pregnant women and people with young children are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b>  Ensuring individuals of all abilities are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to people with young children and</p>	

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		<p>pregnant women, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target people with young children and pregnant women.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage people of all characteristics to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will consider awareness raising activities amongst people with young children and pregnant women.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to</p>	

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		<p>inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p><b>Measure 29: Monitoring the Reduction of Risk to People and Property</b></p>	

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>Understanding the benefits of local flood risk management delivered through the Local Strategy will raise awareness of flood risk management amongst the public.</p> <p>The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.</p>	
<p><b>Race</b> <i>(ethnic and racial groups i.e. minority ethnic groups, Gypsy, Roma and Travellers)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of race.</p> <p>Portable dwellings rather than traditional brick-built houses are more at risk in the event of a flood, and Gypsy and Traveller communities are potentially at greater risk. Gypsy and Traveller sites can fall into three categories; Permanent, Transit and Temporary Stopping Places. Due to the mobility of this character group, it</p>	<p>The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 96.7% of the population of RCT are of 'White' ethnicity. 'Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh' account for 1.5% of the total population of RCT, 'Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups' account for 1%, 'Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African' account for 0.4% and 'Other ethnic</p>

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		<p>is difficult to warn these communities of the flood risk associated with an area they may be utilising and they may not be aware of the free flood warning services provided by the Met Officer and Natural Resources Wales.</p> <p>Objective 9 within the draft Local Strategy aims to 'develop effective communication tools to share information and improve individual and community awareness of local flood risks and how they can be managed proactively'. To achieve this objective, the Local Strategy has identified the relevant measures to be delivered by the Council. These measures are expected to have a positive impact on all groups, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as Gypsy and Traveller communities will be greatest. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness,</p>	<p>group' account for the final 0.3% of the total population.</p> <p>There are approximately 1,092 Gypsy and Traveller caravans on 136 sites reported in Wales (2020, <a href="#">Welsh Gov – Statistics for Wales</a>).</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p>

<u>Protected Characteristics</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how specific this specific group have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider people of all groups, including Gypsy and Traveller communities are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all abilities are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to</p>	

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		<p>Gypsy and Traveller communities, ensuring sufficient support and advice is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target Gypsy and Traveller communities.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage people of all characteristics to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will consider awareness raising activities amongst Gypsy and Traveller communities. The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our</p>	

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		<p>revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p>To mitigate the potential negative impact on this group of people, the production of a communication strategy and plans will give due regard to the Gypsy and Traveller</p>	



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		<p>communities that are at risk of flooding. Alternative communication methods which reach these groups of people will be considered and implemented within our communication strategy which is expected to be delivered in the Medium term (2 – 5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p>The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.</p>	
<b>Religion or Belief</b> <i>(people with different religions and philosophical beliefs including people with no beliefs)</i>	Neutral	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of religion or belief.</p> <p>While there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a negative impact on people that share this</p>	<p>The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 56.2% of the population of RCT have 'no religion'. The second largest group identify as 'Christian', which accounts for</p>

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		characteristic, the implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.	36.4% of the total population of RCT.
<b>Sex</b> <i>(women and men, girls and boys)</i>	Neutral	The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of sex.  While there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a negative impact on people that share this characteristic, the implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements.	The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 51.1% of the population of RCT are female and the remaining 48.9% are male.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b> <i>(bisexual, gay, lesbian, straight)</i>	Neutral	The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of sexual orientation.  While there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a negative	The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 90.1% of the population of RCT identify as 'straight or heterosexual'. 1.5% of the population identify as 'gay or

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		impact on people that share this characteristic, the implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements.	lesbian' and 1.1% of the population identify as 'bisexual'.

In addition, due to Council commitments made to the following groups of people we would like you to consider impacts upon them:

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
<b>Armed Forces Community</b> <i>(anyone who is serving, has served, family members and the bereaved)</i>	Neutral	The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT.  While there is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have a negative impact on people that share this characteristic, the implementation of this Strategy will be monitored	There is no evidence to suggest that the proposal will have an impact on people that share this characteristic.

		closely in line with service requirements.	
<p><b>Carers</b> <i>(anyone of any age who provides unpaid care)</i></p>	Positive	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT.</p> <p>People who provide unpaid care, and those who they care for, can be particularly vulnerable during a flood event as they may be less able to respond and prepare. Objectives 1 – 3 of the Local Strategy aim to reduce distress, community disruption and risk to life to the number of people and properties exposed to the risk of flooding. To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified the relevant measures to be delivered by the Council. These measures are expected to have a positive impact on all groups of people, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as carers and those who are cared for will be</p>	<p>The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 11.1% of the population of RCT provide some level of unpaid care.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p>

		<p>greatest. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how people who provide unpaid care have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how carers are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all abilities are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive</p>	
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		<p>communication strategy which gives due regard to carers, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target carers. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit people with provide unpaid care.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all groups of people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst people with disabilities.</p>	
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		<p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p>	
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		<p><b>Measure 29: Monitoring the Reduction of Risk to People and Property</b></p> <p>Understanding the benefits of local flood risk management delivered through the Local Strategy will raise awareness of flood risk management amongst the public.</p> <p>The implementation of this Strategy will be monitored closely in line with service requirements. Should any additional impacts be identified, they will be addressed and this impact assessment will be updated.</p>	
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If the initial screening test has identified negative impacts then a full equality impact assessment (section 4) **must** be undertaken. However, if after undertaking the above screening test you determine a full equality impact assessment is not relevant please provide an adequate explanation below:

No negative impacts have been identified therefore, the Council will continue to implement the draft LFRMS and Action Plan. Overall, the LFRMS has a neutral/positive impact for the 'Protected Characteristics' groups. The evidence to support these conclusions is outlined in the draft LFRMS and Action Plan, and the Cabinet report dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023<sup>5</sup>. This Equality and Socio-economic Impact Assessment is a live document and as such will be reviewed by the Council's Flood Risk Management team at key points, subject to securing Cabinet approval to commence statutory consultation of the draft LFRMS and Action Plan.

<sup>5</sup> [Cabinet Report MTSP One4aLL LG \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](https://modern.gov.co.uk)



Are you happy you have sufficient evidence to justify your decision?

Yes

No

Name: Catrin Evans

Position: Senior Flood Risk Officer

Date: 08/06/2023

Please forward a copy of this completed screening form to the Diversity and Inclusion Team.

PLEASE NOTE – there is a separate impact assessment for Welsh Language. This must also be completed for proposals.

Section 3 Socio-economic Duty needs only to be completed if proposals are of a strategic nature or when reviewing previous strategic decisions. Definition of a 'strategic nature' is available on page 6 of the [Preparing for the Commencement of the Socio-economic Duty](#) Welsh Government Guidance.

### **SECTION 3 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY (STRATEGIC DECISIONS ONLY)**

The Socio-economic Duty gives us an opportunity to do things differently and put tackling inequality genuinely at the heart of key decision making. Socio-economic disadvantage means living on a low income compared to others in Wales, with little or no accumulated wealth, leading to greater material deprivation, restricting the ability to access basic goods and services.

Please consider these additional vulnerable groups and the impact your proposal may or may not have on them:

- Single parents and vulnerable families
- Pensioners
- Looked after children
- Homeless people
- Students
- Single adult households

- People living in the most deprived areas in Wales
- People with low literacy and numeracy
- People who have experienced the asylum system
- People misusing substances
- People of all ages leaving a care setting
- People involved in the criminal justice system

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
<p><b>Low Income/Income Poverty</b>  <i>(cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing, transport etc.)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic status.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those experiencing low income/income poverty by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Low income/income poverty individuals are less able to respond and recover to flood events, particularly the recovery costs associated to dealing with flood damages and insurance premiums. Low income/income poverty individuals are also less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing property flood resistance equipment (flood gates).</p> <p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on low income/income poverty individuals,</p>	<p>According to the Households Below Average Income (HBAI) report published by the Department of Work Pensions (DWP), between financial year ending (FYE) 2020 and FYE 2022, 21% of all people in Wales were living in relative income poverty. Wales represents the highest proportion of people living in relative income poverty compared with the rest of the UK.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public</p>

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as low income/income poverty groups. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how low</p>	<p>engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>income/income poverty groups have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b>  The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how low income/income poverty groups are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b>  Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to low income/income poverty groups, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p>	

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b>  The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target low income/income poverty groups. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit low income/income poverty groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b>  Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst low income/income poverty groups.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid deprivation caused by flooding. The</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy will prioritise investment and deliver flood alleviation schemes to those areas at greatest flood risk, thereby having a positive impact on those low income/income poverty groups which tend to be located in those areas of highest risk.</p> <p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due</p>	



<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.	
<p><b>Low and / or No Wealth</b>  <i>(enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provisions for the future)</i></p>	Positive	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic status.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those experiencing low and/or no wealth by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Low and/or no wealth individuals are less able to respond and recover to flood events, particularly the recovery costs associated to dealing with flood damages and insurance premiums. Low and/or no wealth individuals are also less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing property flood resistance equipment (flood gates).</p>	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The WIMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. According to the WIMD, of the top 50 most deprived areas in Wales that have remained in the top 50 since 2005, i.e., 'Deep-Rooted Deprivation', 4 are located in RCT, accounting for 12.5%. People in income deprivation in LSOAs in deep-rooted deprivation areas were 3 times the Wales average.</p> <p>According to the Cwm Taf Population Needs Assessment, over the three</p>

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on low and/or no wealth individuals, the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as low and/or no wealth groups. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant</p>	<p>year period between 2019 – 2022, RCT has seen a 4.1% increase in workless households.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>measures and how low and/or no wealth groups have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how low and/or no wealth groups are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to low and/or no wealth groups, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p>	

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b>  The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target low and/or no wealth groups. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit low and/or no wealth groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b>  Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst low and/or no wealth poverty groups.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>deprivation caused by flooding. The Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy will prioritise investment and deliver flood alleviation schemes to those areas at greatest flood risk, thereby having a positive impact on those low and/or no wealth groups which tend to be located in those areas of highest risk.</p> <p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.	
<b><u>Material Deprivation</u></b> <i>(unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, hobbies etc.)</i>	Positive	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic status.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those experiencing material deprivation by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Those individuals unable to access basic goods and services are less able to respond and recover to flood events, particularly the recovery costs associated to dealing with flood damages and insurance premiums. These individuals are also less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing property flood resistance equipment (flood gates).</p>	<p>13% of children, 11% of working-age adults and 7% of pensioners living in Wales between financial year ending (FYE) 2020 and FYE 2022 were in material deprivation and low income households. This represents the highest percentage of people from each age group compared with the rest of the UK, indicating that a higher average proportion of people in Wales are at greater material deprivation.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p>

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on those experiencing material deprivation, the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as those experiencing material deprivation.</p>	<p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>



<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how those unable to access basic goods and services have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b>  The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how those unable to access basic goods and services are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding, provide support and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b>  Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved</p>	

<u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u>	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts	Provide detail of the impact	What evidence has been used to support this view?
		<p>through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to material deprivation groups, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b>  The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target low those unable to access basic goods and services. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit these groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b>  Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst those unable to access basic goods and services.</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid deprivation caused by flooding. The Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy will prioritise investment and deliver flood alleviation schemes to those areas at greatest flood risk, thereby having a positive impact on those unable to access basic goods and services</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
		<p>which tend to be located in those areas of highest risk.</p> <p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.</p>	

<b><u>Socio-economic disadvantage</u></b>	<b>Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts</b>	<b>Provide detail of the impact</b>	<b>What evidence has been used to support this view?</b>
<p><b><u>Area Deprivation</u></b>  <i>(where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of public transport))</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic status.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those in area deprivation by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Those individuals experiencing area deprivation are less able to respond flood events, particularly during a flood event where there is limited access to key transport links and services.</p> <p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on those experiencing area deprivation, the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such</p>	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The WIMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. According to the WIMD, of the top 20% most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the access to services domain, 12 are within RCTCBC. This accounts for 7.8% of those in the Local Authority and 0.6% of those in Wales.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public</p>

		<p>as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as those experiencing area deprivation. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how those in area deprivation have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b>  The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how those in area deprivation are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding, provide support and</p>	<p>engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>
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		<p>build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard those living in more rural areas, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 5: Emergency Response Plans</b> RCT is predominately a rural environment. During a food event, these often more remote communities may find responses from the emergency services are delayed or take longer to arrive. To mitigate these impacts, this measure and associated actions will enhance emergency response plans and procedures to give due regard and consideration to those living in rural areas with limited access to services.</p>	
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		<p>This is also reflected within the multi-agency response plans detailed in the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target those in rural areas. Outreach work with community groups will benefit these groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst those in area deprivation.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be</p>	
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		<p>carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.</p>	
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		<p>Seeking external funding may however be problematic as often to achieve a robust cost benefit a large number of properties need to have been impacted by flooding. As some rural communities have only a small number of properties, they often do not meet the national thresholds to be eligible for national grant funding. To mitigate the negative impacts of this, in addition to the objectives and measures previously mentioned which aim to raise awareness of flood risk, build preparedness and improve resilience in the community, the Local Strategy will also identify opportunities which work with nature to manage flood risk (Objective 6). This type of flood risk intervention is often implemented in rural areas or in the upper catchment due to the larger areas of available land which can be utilised for natural flood management (NFM).</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy encourage opportunities for NFM and has included measures and actions to promote these types of interventions</p>	
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		<p>across RCT. RCT will investigate opportunities to deliver NFM, thereby having a positive impact on those in rural areas that are also at high risk of flooding.</p> <p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid deprivation caused by flooding. The Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p>	
<p><b>Socio-economic background</b> <i>(social class i.e. parents education, employment and income)</i></p>	Neutral	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic status.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those groups in</p>	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The WIMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation.</p>

		<p>disadvantaged socio-economic background by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Those individuals of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are less able to respond and recover to flood events, particularly the recovery costs associated to dealing with flood damages and insurance premiums. These individuals are also less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing property flood resistance equipment (flood gates).</p> <p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on those groups of people, the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p>	<p>According to the WIMD, of the top 20% most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the education domain, 49 are within RCTCBC. This accounts for 31.8% of those in the Local Authority and 2.6% of those in Wales.</p> <p>Of the top 20% most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the employment domain, 56 are within RCTCBC. This accounts for 36.4% of those in the Local Authority and 2.9% of those in Wales.</p> <p>Of the top 20% most deprived LSOAs in Wales within the income domain, 46 are within RCTCBC. This accounts for 29.9% of those in the Local Authority and 2.4% of those in Wales.</p> <p>The Census 2021 data for Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) identifies approximately 24.2% of the population of RCT have no qualifications.</p>
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		<p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as those with lower incomes, employment and education. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b>  The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding, provide support and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p>	<p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p> <p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>
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		<p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p> <p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. Outreach work with schools, community groups and charities will benefit these groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production</p>	
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		<p>of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p>	
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		<p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid deprivation caused by flooding. The Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy will prioritise investment and deliver flood alleviation schemes to those areas at greatest flood risk, thereby having a positive impact on those of disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds which tend to be located in those areas of highest risk.</p>	
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		<p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.</p>	
<p><b>Socio-economic disadvantage</b>  <i>(What cumulative impact will the proposal have on people or groups because of their protected characteristic(s) or vulnerability or because they are already disadvantaged)</i></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>The aim of the Local Strategy is to manage the risk of local flooding to all communities in RCT, regardless of socio-economic background.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to have a positive impact on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage by alleviating and managing the likelihood and consequences of flooding to those communities at highest risk. Those individuals of socio-economic disadvantage are less able to respond and recover to flood events, particularly the recovery costs associated to dealing with flood damages and insurance premiums. These individuals are also less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as</p>	<p>The Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in Wales. The WIMD identifies areas with the highest concentrations of several different types of deprivation. According to the WIMD, of the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in Wales, 27 are within RCTCBC. This accounts for 17.5% of those in the Local Authority and 1.4% of those in Wales.</p> <p>RCT's public engagement exercise carried out in January 2023 to inform the development of the draft Local Strategy.</p>

		<p>installing property flood resistance equipment (flood gates).</p> <p>To mitigate the potential negative impacts of flooding on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, the objectives and measures in the Local Strategy seek to promote available support and advice through the development of effective communication tools (Objective 9) and awareness raising activities such as outreach work and engagement events to improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding (Objective 10).</p> <p>To achieve these objectives, the Local Strategy has identified relevant measures and actions to be delivered by the Council. These measures and actions are expected to have a positive impact on people of all socio-economic backgrounds, however the benefits achieved to those groups that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of flooding such as those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. This is particularly relevant when considering the 'Flood</p>	<p>The Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee's review of the initial public engagement exercise on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Communities at Risk Register 2019, Natural Resources Wales</p> <p>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</p>
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		<p>Awareness, Preparedness &amp; Response' measures. The most relevant measures and how those socio-economic disadvantage have been considered is detailed below;</p> <p><b>Measure 3: Communications</b> The production of a communication strategy (Action A6) and associated plans (Action A7) will consider how those socio-economic disadvantaged are communicated with to reduce their risk of flooding, provide support and build preparedness. This is identified to be delivered in the Medium term (2-5 years) from publication date of the Local Strategy.</p> <p><b>Measure 4: Flood Warning &amp; Informing</b> Ensuring individuals of all socio-economic backgrounds are promptly informed about potential flooding. This will be delivered and achieved through the production of a comprehensive communication strategy which gives due regard to socio-economic disadvantaged groups, ensuring sufficient support is available.</p>	
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		<p><b>Measure 6: Community Adaptation and Resilience</b> The preparation of community flood plans and outreach work with residents and schools to raise awareness and preparedness will consider how we target socio-economic disadvantaged groups. Outreach work with community groups and charities will benefit these groups.</p> <p><b>Measure 8: Public Engagement &amp; Consultation</b> Public engagement of the risk of flooding will encourage all people to be more pro-active at community level. To achieve this, the production of a communication strategy and plans will target awareness raising activities amongst those socio-economic disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>The Council have already undertaken a public engagement exercise in January 2023 which was produced to inform the development of our revised Local Strategy. A further statutory public consultation will be carried out on the draft Local Strategy. The public engagement exercise shows the Council's due</p>	
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		<p>regard to involve the public in the development of the Local Strategy. The results from the public engagement exercise highlighted the need for better communication with the public, particularly regarding advice and support on what to do before, during and after a flood event. These results have fed into the revised Local Strategy.</p> <p>The results were also presented to the Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023, who agreed with the proposed changes.</p> <p>The Strategy also looks at the different ways of achieving partnership funding to deliver flood mitigation projects throughout RCT (Objective 11), with a core aim to better protect more communities, deliver more benefits and help avoid deprivation caused by flooding. The Strategy utilises the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) as a means of prioritising investment to those communities at greatest flood risk. The CaRR also takes into consideration area vulnerability which consider socio-economic factors and</p>	
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		<p>often correlates with areas at greatest flood risk.</p> <p>In line with the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, RCT's Local Strategy will prioritise investment and deliver flood alleviation schemes to those areas at greatest flood risk, thereby having a positive impact on those socio-economic disadvantaged groups which tend to be located in those areas of highest risk.</p> <p>At the more local level, individual socio-economic assessments at project level will be carried out throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy. This will also give due regard to how we are delivering against the 7 well-being goals stipulated within the Well-being for Future Generations (Wales) Act.</p>	
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## SECTION 4 – FULL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

You should use the information gathered at the screening stage to assist you in identifying possible negative/adverse impacts and clearly identify which groups are affected.

- 4.a) In terms of disproportionate/negative/adverse impacts that the proposal may have on a protected group, outline the steps that will be taken to reduce or mitigate the impact for each group identified. **Attach a separate action plan where impacts are substantial.**

There have been no identified disproportionate, negative or adverse impacts that the proposal may have on a protected group. It is important to note however, that the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a live document subject to change upon further public consultation. Appropriate mitigation methods will be considered upon the identification of any disproportionate, negative or adverse impact and this will be reflected in updates to this Equality Impact Assessment.

- 4.b) If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible, please explain why they are not possible.

There are no disproportionate, negative or adverse impacts on a protected group associated with the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

- 4.c) Give sufficient detail of data or research that has led to your reasoning, in particular, the sources used for establishing the demographics of service users/staff.

The Strategy will advocate for disability and accessibility equality in the delivery of its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, in line with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policy, Strategic Equality Plan (SEP), Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), Equality Act 2010 and The Well-being of Future Generations Act (WBFGA).

In addition, evidence was used from the following to inform the decisions made within this impact assessment: Multiple Deprivation (WIMD), Census 2021 data, Cwm Taf Population Needs Assessment, RCT's Initial Public Engagement Exercise on the drafting of the revised Local Strategy, the National Strategy on Flood and Coastal Erosion in Wales, the Communities at Risk Register 2019, and the Households Below Average Income report published by the Department of Work and Pensions.

- 4.d) Give details of how you engaged with service users/staff on the proposals and the steps taken to avoid any disproportionate impact on a protected group. Explain how you have used feedback to influence your decision.



An initial non-statutory public engagement exercise via a questionnaire was conducted in-house and ran for a period of six weeks from 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The purpose of the initial public engagement exercise was to provide the public with the opportunity to inform the drafting of the revised Local Strategy. The results and review of the initial public engagement exercise on the revised LFRMS and Action plan was presented to Climate Change, Frontline Services and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023. Members were supportive of the public engagement and the review of the Local Strategy, and agreed their comments to be fed into the drafting of the revised Strategy.

It is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for the LLFA to consult on the Local Strategy and accompanying environmental documents (SEA and HRA) with the public and risk management authorities that may be affected by the strategy.

The statutory public consultation on the draft LFRMS and Action Plan, and accompanying environmental documents, is proposed to run for a period of 6 weeks upon approval from Members to commence public consultation.

Following consideration of the consultation responses, the revised draft LFRMS and Action Plan and accompanying environmental documents will be finalised and presented to Cabinet for approval before submitting the final documents to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

Under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duties, the public engagement exercise and the statutory public consultations included/will include questions looking at how its decisions impact on people of particular characteristics.

4.e) Are you satisfied that the engagement process complies with the requirements of the Statutory Equality and Socio-economic Duties?

Yes

No

## SECTION 5 – MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEWING

5a) Please outline below how the implementation of the proposal will be monitored:

The implementation of the Strategy, specifically how we measure progress of the delivery of the Local Strategy will focus upon the delivery of the flood actions. The flood actions have been developed to achieve the measures and objectives within the Local Strategy.

All flood measures that are recurring activities, i.e., the LLFA's core activities related to flood risk management as required under the FWMA 2010, FRR 2009 and as the Land Drainage Authority under the LDA 1991, will be monitored and measured on a quarterly basis via the Authority's Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects Service Delivery Plan.

5b) When is the evaluation of the proposal due to be reviewed?

Delivery of the Local Strategy will be monitored and reviewed annually. A progress report on the delivery of actions will be published each year to monitor progress against the Local Strategy's objectives and measures.

The Flood Action Plan in the Local Strategy (Appendix A) will be updated every 2 years to reflect continued delivery against the Strategy's objectives and measures.

The Local Strategy will be updated in accordance with future updates to the National Strategy.

5c) Who is responsible for the monitoring and review of the proposal?

As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Council is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Local Strategy. This includes monitoring its own activities and those completed by other Risk Management Authorities. All flood measures and actions that are recurring activities, i.e., the LLFA's core activities related to relevant legislation will be monitored and measured on a quarterly basis via the Authority's Flood Risk Management and Strategic Projects Service Delivery Plan. The Service Delivery Plan will be monitored quarterly by the RCTCBC Performance Team.

5d) How will the results of the monitoring be used to develop future proposals?

The delivery of actions to achieve the Strategy's objectives and measures will be monitored annually which will feed into an updated Flood Action Plan every 2 years to reflect continued delivery of actions to manage the risk of flooding in RCT.

## SECTION 6 – REVIEW

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Diversity and Inclusion team – [equality@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:equality@rctcbc.gov.uk) and the Consultation and Engagement team – [consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk) in the first instance for some initial guidance and feedback.

As part of the Welsh Language, Equalities and Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment Process all proposals that fall within the definition of Significant Key Decision should present at the Officer Review Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across Council Services and acts as a critical friend before your report is finalised and published for SLT/Cabinet approval.

If this proposal is a Key Strategic Decision please forward your completed impact assessment, policy proposal/report and consultation report to [CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:CouncilBusiness@rctcbc.gov.uk) for an Officer Review Panel to be organised to discuss your proposal. See our guidance document for more information on what a Significant Key Decision is.

It is important to keep a record of this process so that we can demonstrate how we have considered and built in equality/Socio economic considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments

<b>Diversity and Inclusion team Comments</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations</b>
<b>Consultation Comments</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consultation</b>
<b>Officer Review Panel Comments</b>	<b>Date Considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations</b>

## **SECTION 7 – SUMMARY OF IMPACTS FOR THE PROPOSAL**

Provide below a summary of the impact assessment, to include some of the main positive and negative impacts along with an overview of actions taken since the impact assessment to better contribute to more positive impacts. This summary must be included in the Equality Considerations section of the SLT/Cabinet report template. It is not suitable to only write 'please see full report at Appendix x' in the body of the report. The impact assessment must be published alongside the report.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full report is not required at this time.

There have been no identified disproportionate, negative or adverse impacts that the proposal may have on a protected group. It is important to note however, that the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a live document subject to change upon further public consultation. Appropriate mitigation methods will be considered upon the identification of any disproportionate, negative or adverse impact and this will be reflected in updates to the Equality Impact Assessment.

## SECTION 8 – AUTHORISATIONS

Lead Officer: Catrin Evans

Name: Catrin Evans

Position: Senior Flood Risk Officer

Date: 30/06/2023

I recommend that the proposal:

- Is implemented with no amendments
- Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined
- Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on protected groups or socio-economic disadvantage

Head of Service/Director Approval: Stephen Williams

Name: Stephen Williams

Position: Service Director Transportation, Enforcement And Strategic Investment

Date: 07/08/2023

Please submit this impact assessment with any SLT/Cabinet Reports.