



Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

Summary

March 2024



RHONDDA CYNON TAF



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Glossary/Definitions

Communities at Risk Register (CaRR):

A national assessment of flood risk and hazard from all sources, produced by Natural Resources Wales.

Council:

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA):

An Act of Parliament updating and amending legislation to address the threat of flooding and water scarcity.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM):

The management of all aspects of flood and coastal erosion risk through understanding risk (probability and consequence) and seeking to modify these factors to reduce its impacts.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA):

A process that determines whether or not a plan or project could negatively impact a European site.

Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA):

Local Authority (the County Council or County Borough Council) for the area as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act.

Local flood risk:

The risk of flooding from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:

A requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act for Lead Local Flood Authorities to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for managing local flood risk.

Main River:

A watercourse shown as such on the Main River Map, and for which NRW have responsibilities and powers, to protect, risk of life where there is real evidence of a flood risk.

National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (NFCERM):

A requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act for the Welsh Government to produce which sets the direction and objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales.

Natural Flood Management (NFM):

Measures that use natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding, for example, tree planting, creating areas to store water and land/soil management.



Natural Resources Wales (NRW):

A Welsh Government sponsored body that manages the natural resources of Wales.

Risk Management Authority (RMA):

A term used to describe organisations that play a major role in managing flood and coastal erosion risks.

Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA):

Assessment boundaries for assessing flood risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS):

A natural approach to managing surface water drainage in and around properties and other development, for example,

Sustainable Drainage System Approval Body (SAB):

A service delivered by the Local Authority to ensure that drainage proposals for all new development of more than 1 dwelling or over 100m² of construction area is fit for purpose and built in accordance with the National Standards for Sustainable Drainage.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA):

A formal process for assessing the effect of a plan or programme on the environment.



Culvert Inlet Improvement – Bryn Ifor, Mountain Ash



Attenuation Basin - Park Lane Flood Alleviation Scheme, Aberdare



Monitoring Station – Heol Tyle-du, Treorchy



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Introduction

The Council has produced a strategy and action plan that details the objectives, measures and actions that have been developed to outline, at a high level, how the Council intends to manage local flood risk within the life of this particular strategy and sets out how to adopt a holistic approach to flood risk management.

The **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** was introduced following the review of the 2007 flooding that was widespread across the UK. The Act sets out to provide a better and more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, properties and infrastructure.

Under this legislation, the Council became a Lead Local Flood Authority and has a duty to “develop, maintain, apply and monitor” a strategy for local flood risk management.

This is the Council’s second Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, replacing the first strategy which was published in 2013.

Objectives

- Overarching targets or outcomes of flood risk management during, or beyond the Local Strategy cycle.
- Statements of Local Authority ambition for flood risk management.
- Specific to the Local Authority, but linked to the National Strategy Objectives.

1

Measures

- Broad activities and ways of working to meet the Objectives.
- Apply to the Local Authority area rather than specific communities/locations within it.
- Loosely time-bound and are measurable at a high-level, with indicative costs and benefits.

2

Actions

- Specific tasks, activities or initiatives, planning and tracked, to deliver the Measures.
- Clearly defined output/outcomes with indicative timescales for delivery (short/medium/long).
- Reviewed and updated on a regular basis, reporting on progress every 2 years.
- Actions can be location-specific within RCT and also apply to the Local Authority area wholly.

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What is Flooding?

Flooding is a hazard that has the potential to cause harm to human health and life and effect the natural and built environment. Flood risk is a combination of the likelihood of a flood event occurring and the severity of its impacts.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 devolves the management of local flood risk to the Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Local flood risk is defined as flooding from:



Ordinary Watercourses

(such as small rivers, streams, ditches, culverts)



Surface Water



Groundwater

Different Risk Management Authorities in Wales are responsible for different sources of flooding.

This strategy focuses on local sources of flood risk but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (such as main river and sewer) and associated Risk Management Authority responsibilities.



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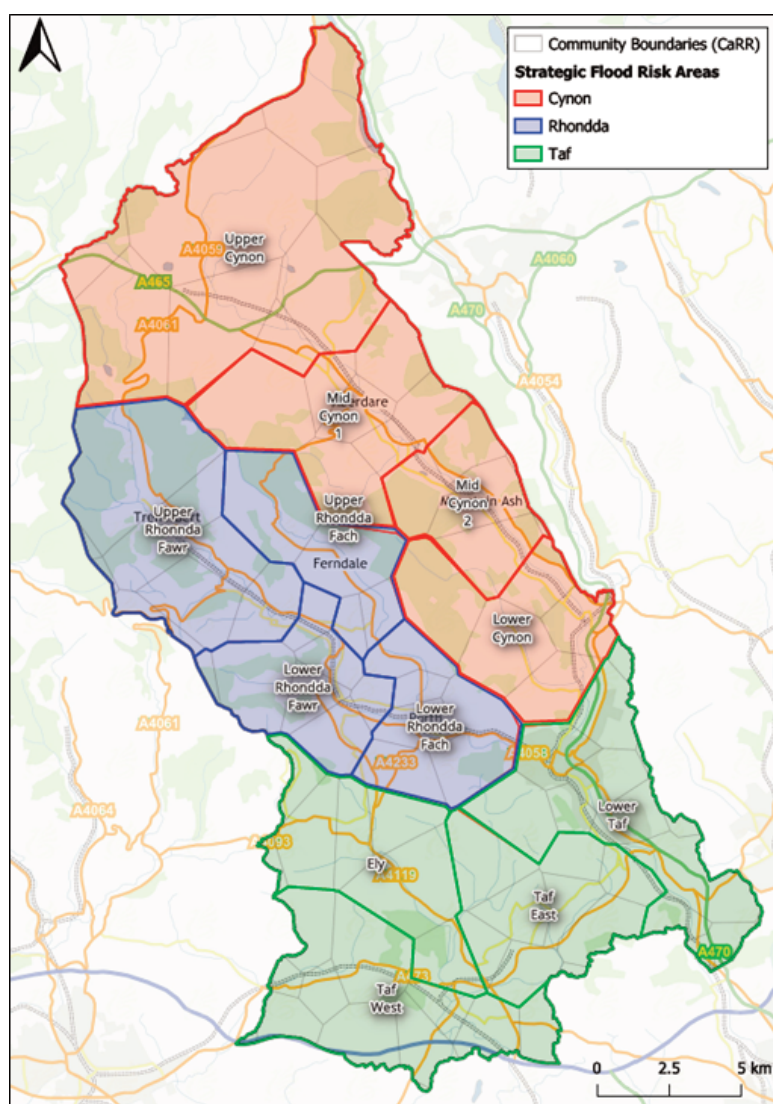
Flood Risk within Rhondda Cynon Taf & How do we assess this?

Flooding remains a key threat to communities across Rhondda Cynon Taf, and this is evidenced by the impact of recent storm events such as Storm Dennis in February 2020 which internally impacted approximately 1,600 properties.

Since the publication of the Council's first strategy in 2013, improvements in available mapping and datasets, together with geographical knowledge and local flood history, has provided the Lead Local Flood Authority with an enhanced and accurate understanding of local flood risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf. This has led to the development of 12 flood risk assessment boundaries, which are referred to as Strategic Flood Risk Areas. These are shown in Figure 2.

The production of Strategic Flood Risk Areas utilises a catchment-based approach for assessing local flood risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf which seeks to provide a holistic and integrated approach to managing flood risk which is not based on administrative or political boundaries.

Based on national assessments of present-day risk, **Rhondda Cynon Taf is ranked as the highest risk authority for local flood risk in Wales**, according to the Communities at Risk Register produced by Natural Resources Wales.





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Climate Change & Flood Risk

Climate change is expected to increase the risk of flooding in Rhondda Cynon Taf and across Wales, bringing more frequent and intense storms which lead to flash flooding.

The strategy has been developed with a longer-term, strategic view, recognising the nature of flood risk with respect to the challenges of climate change.

The objectives, measures and actions identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan have been developed to align with the Council's Climate Change Strategy, helping to deliver the Council's ambition of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, alongside managing the risk of local flooding.



View looking over Talbot Green



Ynysangharad War Memorial Park



Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Scheme – Pontypridd Town Centre



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Who are the Risk Management Authorities?

The term ‘Risk Management Authority’ refers to the organisation(s) that have legislative powers concerning flood risk management.

Each Risk Management Authority is required to fulfil a number of statutory duties, as defined under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, and in addition to these, the Act sets out a range of permissive powers for Risk Management Authorities, enabling them to undertake defined activities to manage the risk of flooding.

Table 1 summarises which Risk Management Authorities are primarily responsible for managing flood risk dependent on the different sources of flooding.

Stakeholders such as infrastructure providers, riparian landowners and residents also have responsibilities to maintain their assets for the purposes of managing flood risk.

Source of Flooding	Lead Local Flood Authority	Natural Resources Wales	Water Company	Highway Authority	South Wales Trunk Road Agency (Trunk Roads & Motorway)
Main River		✓			
Surface Water	✓			✓ (on or coming from the Highway)	✓ (on or coming from the Highway (Trunk Roads & Motorway))
Ordinary Watercourse	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Sewer Flooding			✓		
Reservoirs		✓			

Table 1: Risk Management Authorities responsible for managing different sources of flooding in Rhondda Cynon Taf



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Objectives of the Strategy

The Council have developed 13 strategic objectives which outline, at a high-level, how the Council intends to manage local flood risk within the lifecycle of this Strategy (Table 2). The strategic objectives align with the aim and objectives of the **National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management** (Figure 2) and reflect Rhondda Cynon Taf local context and priorities

Reduce the risk to people and communities from flooding and coastal erosion.



A. Improving our understanding and communication of risk.



B. Preparedness and building resilience.



C. Prioritising investment to the most at risk communities.



D. Preventing more people becoming exposed to risk.



E. Providing an effective and sustained response to events.

Figure 3: National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Aim & Objectives





No	Strategic Objective
1	Reduce distress by decreasing the number of people exposed to the risk of flooding.
2	Reduce community disruption by reducing the number of residential and commercial properties exposed to the risk of flooding.
3	Reduce risk to life by reducing the number of people exposed to risk of flooding of significant depth and velocity.
4	Reduce disruption caused by severe weather to critical infrastructure and essential services.
5	Improve or not detrimentally affect water quality.
6	Identify opportunities that work with natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding.
7	Maintain, or where possible, improve the status of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Sites of Importance for Nature and Conservation (SINC) sites and contribute to the RCT Local Nature Partnership 'Action for Nature' Plan.
8	Improving our understanding of local flood risk in RCT and how this risk may be impacted by climate change in the future.
9	Develop effective communication tools to share information and improve individual and community awareness of local flood risks and how they can be managed proactively.
10	Improve individual and communities' ability to prepare, respond and recover to the impacts of flooding.
11	Ensure that RCT work in partnership with Risk Management Authorities and other stakeholders to holistically manage the risk of flooding.
12	Ensure flood risk management functions are considered and delivered in a sustainable way.
13	Ensure that investment decisions for flood risk management schemes are prioritised utilising a risk-based approach.

Table 2: The Council's Strategic Objectives



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Flood Measures

To deliver the 13 strategic objectives, the Council have proposed to implement 31 high-level and wide-ranging flood measures.

Each measure has been categorised into six high-level themes, all of which are shown in Table 3.

Theme	No	Measure Title
Development Planning & Adaptation	M1	Consultee to the Local Planning Authority
	M2	SuDS Approval Body
Flood Awareness, Preparedness & Response	M3	Communications
	M4	Warning and Informing
	M5	Emergency Response Plans
	M6	Community Adaptation & Resilience
	M7	Partnership Working
	M8	Public Engagement & Consultation
Studies, Plans and Assessment	M9	Investigation of Flooding Incidents
	M10	Flood Alleviation Scheme Business Case Development
	M11	Strategic Flood Risk Area Management
	M12	Flood Risk & Hazard Methodology
	M13	Flood Action Plan
Land, Cultural & Environmental Management	M14	Natural Flood Management
	M15	Environmental Enhancement & Habitat Creation
	M16	Risk Management Authority Coordination
Asset Management & Maintenance	M17	Spatially Mapping Drainage Assets
	M18	Catchment Asset Management Plans
	M19	Asset Register and Records
	M20	Designation of Structures
	M21	Land Drainage Consenting & Byelaws
	M22	Land Drainage Enforcement
	M23	SuDS Approval Body (SAB) Enforcement
	M24	Construction of Flood Alleviation Schemes
	M25	Powers of entry upon land
	M26	Powers to request information and civil sanctions
	M27	Cause incidental flooding for purpose of flood risk management
	M28	Enforcement on Private Surface Water Sewers
Monitoring	M29	Monitoring the reduction of risk to people and property
	M30	Hydrological Monitoring & Assessment
	M31	Monitoring the Delivery of Wider Benefits

Table 3: The Council's Flood Measures



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Flood Actions

The 13 strategic objectives and 31 flood measures will be delivered through the implementation of a wide range of actions, referred to as the Flood Action Plan.

The Flood Action Plan delivers on the requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) for Lead Local Flood Authorities to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan.

The Flood Action Plan provides information at two scales:

1. The Rhondda Cynon Taf Flood Action Plan sets out the flood actions to be delivered across Rhondda Cynon Taf.
2. 12 Flood Action Plans have been produced for each of the 12 Strategic Flood Risk Areas.

Each Action will be considered in the short (1-2 years), medium (2-5 years) and long term (5+ years).

The Flood Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every 2 years to reflect the Council's continued delivery against the objectives and measures.



Attenuation Basin – Upper Bronallt Terrace Flood Alleviation Scheme, Abercwmboi



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Culvert Inlet Improvement – A465 Rhigos Road



Property Flood Resistance Measure



Highway Drainage Swale – A4058, Newtown



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Funding and Prioritisation

The measures and actions outlined in this strategy to manage local flood risk are funded from a range of sources, the majority of which comes from the Welsh Government via capital and revenue grants for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

To accelerate delivery against the National and Local Strategy objectives, measures and actions, and to build resilience against climate change, effective forward planning and programme delivery is key. To address this, funding from a variety of sources will need to be sought and this funding will need to be prioritised utilising a risk-based approach to those communities at greatest risk of flooding.



Before: Pentre Road Culvert Inlet



After: Pentre Road Culvert Inlet





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Environmental Assessments

The implementation of the strategy will, in addition to reducing local flood risk in Rhondda Cynon Taf, also provide an opportunity to improve the natural, rural and built environment within Rhondda Cynon Taf by enhancing the environment and improving biodiversity and habitats.

Assessments have been undertaken alongside the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan to ensure the objectives, measures and actions presented take into account the environment within Rhondda Cynon Taf. These assessments consider and record how the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

These assessments include a **Strategic Environmental Assessment** and **Habitats Regulations Assessment**.





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How will we monitor progress?

Measuring progress of the delivery of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan will focus upon the delivery of the flood actions, and the benefits derived from such actions. The flood actions have been developed to achieve the measures and objectives within the Local Strategy.

Delivery of Rhondda Cynon Taf's and the Strategic Flood Risk Area Flood Action Plans will be monitored on an annual basis and updated every 2 years to reflect continued delivery against the objectives and measures.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be in place for 6 years from the date of publication and will be updated in accordance with future updates to the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.



Attenuation Basin - Cwmaman Flood Alleviation Scheme, Cwmaman

Further Information

For further information please visit:



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (rctcbc.gov.uk)

or contact the **Flood Risk Management Team** at:



FRM@rctcbc.gov.uk

Mae croeso i chi gyfathrebu â ni yn y Gymraeg / You are welcome to communicate with us in Welsh.