

# Cabinet

## 2 Rhagfyr 2024

### Y Pwnc:

Strategaeth Leol ar gyfer Rheoli Perygl Llifogydd Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin

### Y Pwrpas:

Mae Adran 10.7 o Ddeddf Rheoli Llifogydd a Dŵr 2010 yn ei gwneud yn ofynnol i bob Awdurdod Lleol gyhoeddi ei strategaeth a'i gynllun lleol ar gyfer rheoli perygl llifogydd. Bydd y strategaeth, a gefnogir gan gynllun mwy tactegol, yn egluro ein sefyllfa bresennol o ran rheoli perygl llifogydd ac erydu arfordirol, ein nodau ar gyfer 2030 a sut y byddwn yn eu cyflawni.

### Yr argymhellion / penderfyniadau allweddol sydd eu hangen:

Bydd angen cymeradwyaeth gan y cyngor llawn cyn cyhoeddi'r strategaeth.

### Y Rhesymau:

Mae'r adroddiad yn ofyniad statudol a bydd angen ei gyhoeddi ar-lein.

Angen i'r Cabinet wneud penderfyniad

OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad

OES

YR AELOD CABINET SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:-  
Vaughan Owen

Y Cyngorydd Aled

Y Gyfarwyddiaeth:

Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth:

Awdur yr Adroddiad:

Swyddi:

Rhodri Griffiths  
(Pennaeth Lle a  
Chynaliadwyedd)

Ben Kathrens  
(Rheolwr Amddiffyn rhag  
Llifogydd ac Addasu'r  
Arfordir)

Ffôn:

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## SUBJECT

CCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2024-2030)

### 1. **BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.**

We published our first Local Strategy in May 2013, setting out our overarching approach to managing flood risk in Carmarthenshire.

Alongside our strategy, we developed and published a flood risk management plan (the FRMP). The FRMP was a more detailed evaluation on an electoral ward level and from this analysis, fifty-five high risk areas were further evaluated.

This document is our second strategy. It will explain how flooding will be managed across Carmarthenshire, consistent with local objectives, measures policies and our cooperate and national strategies. This strategy also provides some background information on FCERM at both a local and national level.

There are chapters that cover how our FCERM duties and plans respond to climate change and how we align with other strategies. It provides insight into the roles and responsibilities pertaining to FCERM in Carmarthenshire and provides an update on our process since our first FRMP in 2018.

The primary purposes of the report is to set out our strategic assessment of flood risk in Carmarthenshire where we have 12,600 addresses at risk of flooding.

Secondly, it aims to formalise and agree our strategic aim which is  
***“to reduce the number of dwellings and businesses at risk of flooding”***

Thirdly, it aims formalise five strategic objectives, and how they align with the national objectives.

- ***Modernise and develop a risk based, thematic approach to flood and coastal risk management.***
- ***Become data and information rich to facilitate better decision making.***
- ***Champion NFM, sustainable drainage and nature based solutions;***
- ***Educate, advise and empower our communities to become more resilient.***
- ***Promote and support community adaption and partnership working.***

Finally, agree the 10 measures which will in turn deliver the 5 strategic objectives above.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES  
Strategy Report  
Associated appendices

# IMPLICATIONS

## ALL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRE SIGN OFF BY THE DIRECTOR OR HEAD OF SERVICE

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

**Signed:** Rhodri Griffiths

Head of Place & Sustainability

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 2. Legal

S10.7 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires all Local Authorities to publish their local flood risk management strategy and plan.

*'I think it will need to go to Full Council, via Cabinet. The Act post-dates the Functions Regulations (ie the Regulations which specify whether something is a Council or an executive function) but s. 10 (1) of the FWM Act provides that "A lead local flood authority for an area in Wales must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management its area (a "local flood risk management strategy")" with "Lead local flood authority" being defined as "(a) the county council for the area".*

*So I'd say it's therefore a Council function imposed by subsequent legislation, and not by default an executive function under the Regulations.*

Linda Rees-Jones (26 Sept 2023)

*'In terms of the Cabinet functions, they usually cover nearly everything apart from the functions explicitly set out in the table dealing with Council functions. As Linda says this legislation came after the constitution so it is no surprise that it's not listed under the Council functions.*

*But saying that there this hasn't been amended subsequently either. I would say that as long as the flood risk strategy does not conflict with the Council's overall strategies or policies then it can be approved by Cabinet. If it does conflict in some way then Linda's advice would need to be followed'.*

Steve Murphy (11 July 2024)

### **3. Finance**

The finance element and costings will be delivered as a part of the tactical Flood Risk Management Plan. It is proposed that this is brought to CMT post the summer holidays.

The £225k annual WG revenue flood grant will be lost in 2025-26 to the RSG.

### **4. ICT**

ICT will play a key role in managing flood risk and adapting our communities to better manage the effects of climate change.

One of our 5 objectives is to become data rich. That will need both the systems to capture that information, but also systems to store and interrogate that data.

Measure 1 of 10 is to adopt and implement thematic incident management system. We would view this as a priority both in terms of ensuring that services are delivered efficiently and prioritised accordingly but also in maximising the customer experience and affording operational departments the necessary data to develop robust business cases for future funding.

### **7. Staffing Implications**

The full staffing implications will be tabled as a part of the tactical Flood Risk Management Plan and brought to CMT post the summer.

However, we do believe that the delivery of this strategy and the management of the risk to the 12600 Carmarthenshire properties and businesses will require additional human resource.

The only current option available is to seek support via framework consultants and fund this via the business unit's revenue funding. While this ensures delivery, it's a moot point as to the value for money, the skills development and work force planning.

Subject to a resource application, our preferred option would be recruitment with funding for this will be initially met by the current flood defence business unit's revenue contribution. There are currently vacant posts on the team structure, subject to the recruitment freeze, but these will need to be built on to see tangible benefits delivered.

We will seek to further develop our human resources via the WG capital grants, but due to the nature of annual grant funding, staffing in this way is challenging.

We would also hope that the annual £225k WG revenue grant, that will be paid directly into the RSG from 2024/25 will be ring fenced to help support additional human resources.

## 8. Biodiversity and Climate Change

The strategic objectives specifically focus on nature-based solutions and sustainable drainage. These more modern way of managing flood risk place biodiversity and amenity as a project priority along with flood risk management and water quality. As such, our interventions to manage flood risk via this strategy should maintain and enhance biodiversity in line with section 6 of the Environment Act, and the Council's declaration of a Nature Emergency.

In line with the Council's declaration of a Climate Change emergency this strategy and our flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) activities will seek to have a positive impact on climate change via the following

- We will use the Flood Map for Planning when undertaking flood risk assessments (including climate change allowances).
- We will utilise the Welsh Government guidance on Adapting to Climate Change with climate change allowances for FCERM scheme designs.
- We will develop and promote Natural Flood Management (NFM) FCERM schemes and nature-based solutions to reduce our capital works carbon footprint.
- We will implement FCERM interventions alongside, and in collaboration with, our:
  - Tree and Woodland Strategy
  - Blue and Green Infrastructure Strategy
  - Phosphates and Nitrates Strategy
  - [Local Development Plan \(LDP\)](#)
- We will ensure our FCERM interventions support the recovery of biodiversity as per CCC's [Local Nature Recovery Action Plan](#).
- We will continue to work with the Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the Swansea and Carmarthen Bay Coastal Engineering Group to deliver the actions within the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) 2, but also monitor and develop an understanding, and evidence base, of how our coastline is changing.
- We will collaborate with the Carmarthenshire Public Services Board (PSB) to align our initiatives with the Well-being Assessment and Plan for 2023-28 and the Climate Change Risk Assessment work package.
- We will work with fellow RMAs such as NRW and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW).
- We ensure all new developments follow the latest sustainable drainage design guidance and factor in allowances for climate change.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: Rhodri Griffiths Head of Place and Sustainability

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination

NO

If yes include the following information: -

Scrutiny Committee

Place, sustainability and climate change

Date the report was considered:-

30 January 2024

**Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-**

The chair of the committee wrote to the Minister, Ms Julie James, requesting that increased funds are made available to deliver the strategy and allow Local Authorities to explore innovative approaches for land use in high flood risk areas.

In reply the Minister highlighted the increased revenue funding and a £75 million budget to reduce flooding to 45000 dwelling across Wales.

**2.Local Member(s)**

None

**3.Community / Town Council**

None

**4.Relevant Partners**

NRW have commented, see appendix-A.

**5.Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations**

Carmarthen together have also provided comments via the public consultation process. That is also included in appendix-A.

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b>  YES	<b>Include any observations here</b>
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
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