

# Flood and Water Management Act 2010

## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy & Action Plan – Summary

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

RCTCBC 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 Authority 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, RCTCBC became a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and has a duty to “develop, maintain, apply and monitor” a strategy for local flood risk management.

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

## 2. 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 FWMA 2010 devolves the management of local flood risk to RCTCBC as the LLFA. Local flood risk is defined as flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, such as small rivers, streams and ditches.

Different Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) 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 RMA responsibilities.

**Local Sources:**



Ordinary Watercourse



Surface Water



Groundwater

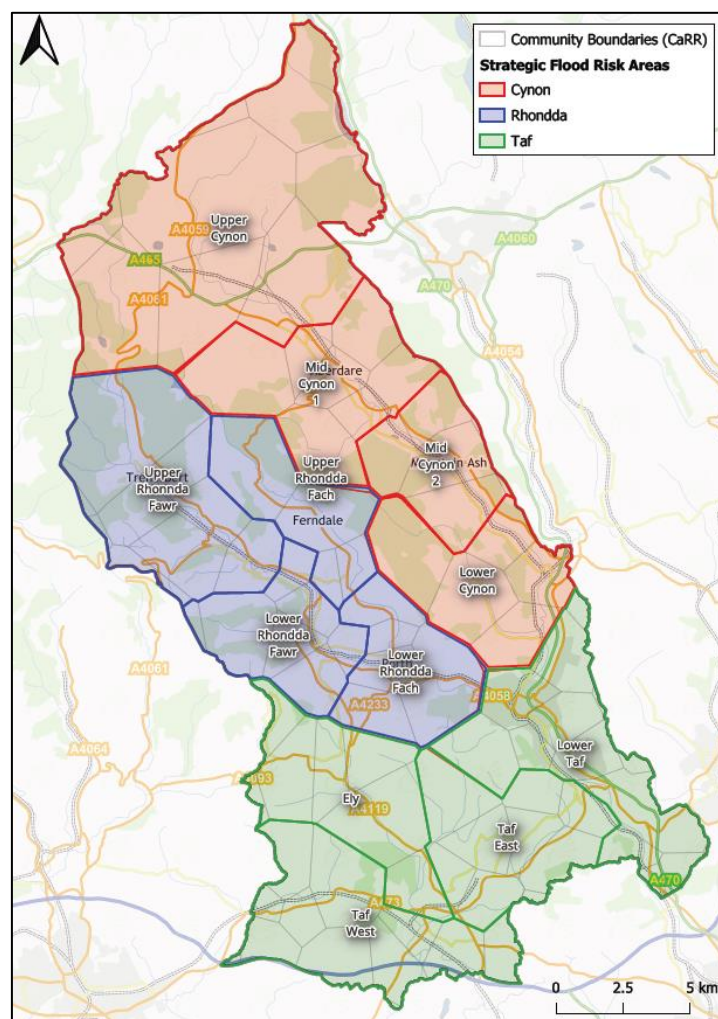
### 3. FLOOD RISK WITHIN RCT & HOW DO WE ASSESS THIS?

Flooding remains a key threat to communities across RCT, 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 RCTCBC's first strategy in 2013, improvements in available mapping and datasets, together with geographical knowledge and local flood history, has provided the LLFA with an enhanced and accurate understanding of local flood risk in RCT. This has led to the development of 12 flood risk assessment boundaries, which are referred to as Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs). These are depicted in Figure 1.

The production of SFRAs in RCT utilise a catchment-based approach for assessing local flood risk in RCT 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, RCTCBC is ranked as the highest risk authority for local flood risk in Wales, according to the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW).



**Figure 1:** RCT 12's Strategic Flood Risk Area (SFRA) Boundaries

## 4. CLIMATE CHANGE & FLOOD RISK

Climate change is expected to increase the risk of flooding in RCT 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 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 RCTCBC's Climate Change Strategy, helping to deliver RCTCBC's ambition of becoming Carbon Neutral by 2030, alongside managing the risk of local flooding.

## 5. WHO ARE THE RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES?

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

Each RMA is required to fulfil a number of statutory duties, as defined under the FWMA, and in addition to these, the Act sets out a range of permissive powers for RMAS, enabling them to undertake defined activities to manage the risk of flooding.

Table 1 summarises which RMAs 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.

**Table 1:** RMAs responsible for managing different sources of flooding in RCT

Source of Flooding	LLFA	NRW	Water Company	Highway Authority	SWTRA (Trunk Roads)
Main River		✓			
Surface Water	✓			✓ (on or coming from the Highway)	✓ (on or coming from the Highway (Trunk Roads))
Ordinary Watercourse	✓				
Groundwater	✓				
Sewer Flooding			✓		
Reservoirs		✓			

## 6. OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

RCTCBC have developed 13 strategic objectives which outline, at a high-level, how RCTCBC 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 (FCERM) (Figure 2) and reflect RCT local context and priorities.



Figure 2: National Strategy for FCERM Aim & Objectives

Table 2: RCTCBC's Local Strategic 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's Local Biodiversity Action 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



## 7. FLOOD MEASURES

To deliver the 13 strategic objectives, RCTCBC 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.

**Table 3:** RCTCBC's Flood Measures

Theme	No	Measure Title
Development Planning & Adaptation	M1	Statutory 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, Assessment and Plans	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

**Table 3:** RCTCBC's Flood Measures (cont.)

Theme	No	Measure Title
Monitoring	M29	Monitoring of Local Flood Risk Reduction
	M30	Hydrological Monitoring & Assessment
	M31	Monitoring the Delivery of Wider Benefits

## 8. 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 LLFA's to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan.

The Flood Action Plan provides information at two scales:

1. The RCT Flood Action Plan sets out the flood actions to be delivered across RCT.
2. 12 Flood Action Plans have been produced for each of the 12 SFRA.

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 RCTCBC's continued delivery against the objectives and measures.

## 9. 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 FCERM.

To deliver 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.



## 10. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

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

Assessments have been undertaken alongside the development of the draft LFRMS and Action Plan to ensure the Objectives, Measures and Actions presented take into account the environment within RCT. These assessments consider and record how the LFRMS contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

These assessments include a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

## 11. 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 RCT's and the SFRA 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 FCERM.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please visit [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy | Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council \(rctcbc.gov.uk\)](#) or contact the Flood Risk Management Team at [FRM@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:FRM@rctcbc.gov.uk)