

Have Your say on the Council's draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

Please tell us what you think by **2nd October 2023**

How can I have my say?

- Visit: www.rctcbc.gov.uk/CurrentConsultations for more information or to take part in the consultation.
- Email: consultation@rctcbc.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01443 425014
- Write to: Freepost RSBU-HJUK-LSSS, Research & Consultation, Public Relations & Strategy, The Pavilions, Cambrian Industrial Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypany, CF40 2XX.

What does the Council want to do?

The Council wishes to seek the views of the public, employees of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC), risk partners and neighbouring authorities on RCTCBC's draft **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and Action Plan**.

The draft LFRMS and Action Plan outlines the Council's proposals for managing local flood risk in RCT over the next 6 years.

Why is the Council doing this?

Under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. Under this legislation, RCTCBC is required to "develop, maintain, apply and monitor" a LFRMS. Local flood risk is defined as flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

The publication of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion in Wales (National Strategy) in October 2020 triggers the requirements under Section 10 (5) of the FWMA 2010 for the Council as the LLFA to review its current LFRMS and publish a revised version. This draft LFRMS and Action Plan is RCTCBC's second Strategy.

What does the Strategy and Action Plan do?

The LFRMS presents the Council's Objectives and Measures for managing the risk of flooding from local sources in RCT which forms the framework within which communities have a greater say in local flood risk management decisions.

The Action Plan is a detailed plan for managing local flood risk over the next 6 years. These include specific tasks, activities or initiatives to deliver the objectives and measures contained in the Strategy, for example, the design and delivery of a Flood Alleviation Scheme.

What flooding does the Strategy aim to manage?

The LFRMS focuses on managing the risk of flooding from local sources. Local flood risk is defined as flood risk from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

The LFRMS also acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers and sewers) and the associated Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) responsible.

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What's changed since the first Strategy?

The Council published their first LFRMS in 2013. Alongside the Strategy, a **Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP)** was published in 2015, as required under the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). The FRMP developed the objectives and measures in the Strategy into a detailed plan for managing local flood risk in RCT.

Whilst the Council previously published the LFRMS and FRMP separately, the revised LFRMS and Action Plan integrates the two documents into one, so that the Council can communicate local flood risk in a simpler and more effective way.

The revised LFRMS and Action Plan builds upon the lessons learnt from the first Strategy and sets out how flooding from local sources will be managed across RCT, consistent with the Objectives, Measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy.

How does the Strategy consider climate change?

The strategy has been developed with a longer-term view, recognising the nature of flood risk with respect to the challenges of climate change, which include more frequent and intense storms causing flash flooding.

The Objectives, Measures and Actions identified in the LFRMS and Action Plan will help to reduce the risk of flooding where we can, as well as adapt our communities and infrastructure both in terms of how prepared we are for such extreme events and how we become more resilient to flooding when it occurs.

What are the environmental assessments?

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.

The accompanying environmental assessments include the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and draft Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), both of which are included within this consultation.

How long does the Strategy last for?

The LFRMS and Action Plan 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.

The Flood Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every 2 years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Objectives and Measures of the LFRMS.

What happens next?

Following the public consultation period, the Council will consider the responses and use them to update and inform the LFRMS and Action Plan where necessary. The final LFRMS and Action Plan, and accompanying environmental assessments, will be presented to Cabinet for approval before submitting the final document to Welsh Government for Ministerial approval. If approved by Welsh Government, the LFRMS and Action Plan will be adopted in March 2024.