WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT TOOL

This Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIS) tool enables RCT Council to consider the principles and requirements of the <u>Welsh Language</u>

<u>Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015</u> to ensure compliance with the <u>Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011</u>.

Stage 1 - Information Gathering

NOTE: As you complete this tool you will be asked for **evidence to support your views**. Please see <u>Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> <u>Guidance</u> for more information on data sources.

Proposal Name:	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) & Action Plan
Department	Frontline Services
Service Director	Roger Waters
Officer Completing the WLIA	Daniel Mathias
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Brief Description	The second iteration of the National Strategy on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM), replacing the 2011 version, was published by the Welsh Ministers in October 2020. The publication of the National Strategy for FCERM in Wales triggered the requirements under Section 10 (5) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) for the Council as LLFA to review its current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and publish a revised version within the timeframe stipulated by Welsh Government.
	 Under section 10 of the FWMA, RCTCBC must "develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management". RCTCBC must: ensure the strategy is consistent with the National Strategy consult other risk management authorities and the public on the LFRMS publish a summary of its LFRMS



	 consider issuing guidance about the application of the LFRMS submit a draft of the LFRMS to the Welsh Ministers for review Welsh Government (WG) may approve with or without modification or reject it. In January 2013, RCTCBC published their initial LFRMS setting out the overarching approach to managing local flood risk. 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 2015¹ 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. This revised LFRMS and Action Plan (formerly known as a Flood Risk Management Plan) builds upon the lessons learnt from the first Strategy. The strategy will set out how flooding from local sources will be managed
Date Please outline who this	across RCT, consistent with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation set out in the National Strategy published in 2020. 08/06/2023 The LFRMS will impact everyone within the unitary authority boundaries, including Service Users, Employees
proposal affects? (Service Users, Employees, Wider Community)	and the Wider Community.

¹ Flood Risk Management Plan, November 2015





What are the aims of the policy, and how do these relate to the Welsh Language?

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
- 5. Providing an effective and sustained response to events

To achieve the aim and objectives of the National Strategy, the Council have set out 13 local strategic objectives which are outlined in Section 6 of the revised LFRMS. The strategic objectives remain largely unchanged from the 2013 LFRMS, however there is a stronger promotion for raising awareness and improving communication of flood risk to communities. This is reflected in the new objectives of the National Strategy.

- 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 'Action for Nature' (Local Nature Recovery Plan) plan.



	8) Improve 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
	While these aims do not directly relate to the Welsh language, indirectly there will be benefits. For example, 'Objective 9: Developing effective communication tools to share information and improve individual and community awareness of local flood risks', will provide the opportunity to communicate information and raise awareness of important challenges such as flooding in the medium of English and Welsh. This ensures that the Welsh language is treated no less favourable than the English language throughout the lifecycle of this Strategy.
Who will benefit / Could the policy affect Welsh language groups? If so, list them here.	The LFRMS is a county wide strategy, therefore it will benefit the wider community, particurarly those that will be impacted by the Strategy directly such as residents and business owners living in high local flood risk areas.
Current linguistic profile of	The 2021 Census figures regarding the Welsh language show a decrease in the percentage of Welsh
the geographical area(s) concerned	speakers across Wales to 17.8%. There was, however, a small increase in RCT – the percentage of the population of the county borough who can speak Welsh increased from 12.3% to 12.4%.
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	Numerically, RCT saw a 2.8% increase in the number of Welsh speakers in the county borough, from 27,779
	speakers to 28,556 speakers. RCT was also one of only four LAs in Wales to see an increase in the percentage of Welsh speakers – the others were Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tydfil. All of these are neighbouring county boroughs, which could demonstrate that our region is seeing some positive



trends in terms of increases in Welsh speakers, and that there may be a resulting increase in demand for services through the medium of Welsh. As further, more detailed, data from the Census becomes available for RCT (e.g. LSOA data), we will need to consider what impact it may have on the services we provide. The main strategies and policies that are linked with the LFRMS are: Other relevant data or research **National** Welsh Government National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2020. - Planning Policy Wales 2021 - Technical Advice Note 15 - Flood & Water Management Act 2010 - Flood Risk Regulations 2009 - Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 & 2018 - Flood Hazard and Risk Maps 2013 & 2020 - NRW's updated Flood Risk Management Plan, 2023 Regional EA/NRW Severn River Basin Management Plan

<u>Local</u>

- RCT Local Development Plan
- Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment
- RCT Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013
- RCT Flood Risk Management Plan 2015

HOW THIS STRATEGY ALIGNS WITH RCTCBC'S OTHER STRATEGIC PLANS



- RCTCBC's Corporate Plan 2020-2024, 'Making a Difference': Sets out the Authority's priorities, directs what they do and how they use their resources so that RCTCBC is better able to meet future challenges. The plan's vision is 'for RCT to be the best place in Wales to live, work and play, where people and businesses are independent, healthy and prosperous'. The revised Local Strategy's objectives, measures and actions align with the principal vision and priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan.
- RCTCBC's Climate Change Strategy, 'Think Climate Change': Provides a framework to meet corporate targets and commitments to reduce carbon emissions within RCT through the delivery of Climate Commitments. Managing flood risk is identified as one of RCTCBC's Climate Commitments and several plans and processes to manage flood risk and deliver against the Climate Change Strategy are outlined within the document. These include investigating and promoting opportunities to use natural processes such as NFM and green infrastructure to reduce flood risk.
- RCTCBC's Local Development Plan: Provides a long term plan for development in RCT, primarily used to support investment decisions and determine planning applications. The LDP includes specific policies which set out how all other development proposals should be considered in relation to flood risk, for example, including criteria which aim to ensure that highly vulnerable development or emergency services are not permitted within high risk areas. This Local Strategy supports the delivery of RCT's LDP, in addition to key national policy and guidance in relation to flooding and development
- RCTCBC's Local Biodiversity Plan: A nature recovery action plan for RCT which focuses on actions needed to help wildlife to thrive in RCT. Biodiversity has been an integral consideration in the development of this Local Strategy's objectives, measures and actions.
- RCT's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 and Flood Risk Management Plan 2015: The Authority's previous Local Strategy was published in 2013 following the publication of the Welsh Government's initial National Strategy in 2011. RCT's initial Flood Risk Management Plan was published in 2015 and outlined how the Authority intended to achieve the Local Strategy's objectives and measures through the delivery of actions. The development of this Local Strategy and Action Plan builds upon the original objectives, measures and actions to manage local flood risk in RCT, however improvements in national flood risk mapping/datasets, together with recent flood events have allowed



and understanding.



Stage 2 - Impact Assessment

In this section you need to consider the impact, the evidence and any action you are taking for improvement. This is to ensure that the opportunities for people who choose to live their lives and access services through the medium of Welsh are not inferior to what is afforded to those choosing to do so in English, in accordance with the requirement of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

Please note there is a separate impact assessment for Equality and Socio-Economic duty that must also be completed for policy proposals.

Remember that effects that are positive for some groups could be detrimental to others - even among Welsh language groups. Consider the effects on different groups. For example, a proposal may be beneficial to Welsh learners, but not to Welsh speakers.

Previous Welsh Language Impact Assessments can be found by clicking here.

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	Positive	The strategy will have a positive	Documentation and	To better contribute to
Opportunities for persons		impact on the Welsh Language	communication will be	positive impacts, the Council
to use the Welsh language		by providing opportunities to	bilingual (Welsh and English)	will work with Risk
e.g. staff, residents and visitors		promote and use the Welsh	in line with the Council's	Management Authorities, the
e.g. stair, residents and visitors		Language within the Flood Risk	Welsh Language Standards	public and other
The rights of Welsh speakers and		Management Sector of RCT. This is especially relevant when	Compliance Notice.	stakeholders to ensure they are aware that the Council
learners to use Welsh when		delivering Objective 9 of the	There is a training and	offer communication,
dealing with the council and for		LFRMS: 'Develop effective	development programme for	information and resources
staff to use Welsh at Work		communication tools to share	Welsh Language Training.	through the medium of
		information and improve	This is stipulated within the	Welsh and English. This will



individual and community awareness of local flood risks and how they can be managed proactively'.

All documentation and communication produced by the Council will be produced and made available in Welsh to ensure the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than the English language.

Additionally, there are Welsh language speakers who operate within the FRM team. In maximising the use of Welsh language when delivering the Local Strategy, the service area will be developing a Learning & Development plan that considers Welsh Language along with service specific technical training. This will benefit the Welsh language for example, queries or correspondence regarding the strategy or its outputs can be dealt with through the medium of Welsh if required.

Strategic Projects Service Delivery Plan which is reported against annually.

The delivery of the LFRMS will contribute to all seven well-being goals of the Wellbeing for Future Generations Act 2015, including:

 A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh language, by creating a society that is resilient to the impacts of flooding and climate change, thereby promoting and protecting culture, heritage and the Welsh language. be done via various methods, including the promotion of communication tools such as the flood risk management website, in addition to consultation and engagement activities for the development of community-wide flood alleviation schemes.



Stage 2 - Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Numbers and / or percentages of Welsh speakers e.g Welsh Medium Education / Study Opportunities. Links with the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 Strategy / RCTCBC Five Year Welsh Language Strategy	Positive	While all communication, promotional material and information relevant to the Strategy will be provided through the medium of Welsh first, the strategy does not directly support or enhance the number of Welsh speakers in RCT. Therefore, the LFRMS is not expected to have any impact on the number of Welsh speakers.	N/A	Increase the use of Welsh in the workplace by actively encouraging Welsh language training courses for members of staff. This will build confidence and skills in our staff but also increase the range of services offered to Welsh speakers regarding flood risk management.
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life in work and in the community Actively encourage and promote the use of our services in Welsh to see an increase in demand over time	Positive	Communication of information and resources will maintain a pro-active approach in regard to the Welsh language. This will actively support the use of the Welsh language for service users.	By ensuring the strategy and all outputs of the strategy are offered through the medium of Welsh, there is a greater chance that anyone engaging with the strategy in some way will be inspired or feel more confident in using the Welsh language.	Members of staff will take the opportunity to promote the Welsh language when engaging with members of the public and other stakeholders, such as email correspondence, social media or face to face visits.



	Post flood support will also be pro-actively offered in the Welsh language in order to ensure continuity.
	There is a training and development programme for Welsh Language Training within the service area. This is stipulated within the Strategic Projects Service Delivery Plan which is reported against annually. This helps support the communication and use of Welsh language within
	the Flood Risk Management Department.



Stage 2 - Impact Assessment

Will the proposed action affect any or all of the following?

	Does the proposal have any positive, negative or neutral impacts?	Describe why it will have a positive/negative or neutral impact on the Welsh language.	What evidence do you have to support this view?	What action(s) can you take to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Compliance with the Council's Statutory Welsh Language Standards e.g increasing or reducing the Council's ability to deliver services through the Medium of Welsh. Consider the rights of Welsh speakers to use Welsh when dealing with the Council and for staff to use Welsh at Work	Positive	The development and delivery of the LFRMS will comply with the Council's statutory Welsh language standards, including standards 6, 61, 62, 63, 89 and 145 which relate to correspondence and promotional materials being provided through the medium of Welsh, ensuring the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language version. The Council must also ensure that any external partners or third parties are aware of the Councils and their obligations in regard to complying with the Standards.	Increase in services through the medium of Welsh will be evidenced by the enhanced communication tools available to the public in both the medium of Welsh and English as a result of the Strategy.	There is a training and development programme for Welsh Language Training within the service area. This is stipulated within the Strategic Projects Service Delivery Plan which is reported against annually. This helps support the communication and use of Welsh language within the Flood Risk Management Department and also provides opportunities for staff to engage with the public in the medium of Welsh.



	Positive	The strategy itself, along with	N/A	N/A
Treating the Welsh		relevant communication of		
language, no less		information and resources will		
favourably than the		maintain a pro-active approach		
English language		in regard to the Welsh language,		
		meaning the Welsh language		
		will be treated no less		
		favourably than the English		
		language.		

Stage 3 - Strengthening the proposal

Having listed actions in section 2 which may mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts – please record below which ones you will imbed into the policy proposal and who will be responsible for them.

Also consider is the proposal necessary? Would it be possible to meet demand without any new developments? Could other existing provision be used? Where should the development be?

What are you going to do?	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible?
Improve the communication of flood risk and flood risk management in the medium of Welsh via online resources and public engagement/consultation activities.	Improving communication of flood risk is an objective within the Local Strategy. Once approved, the Authority	RCT Flood Risk Management Team RCT's Communication & Press
Translation services will be contacted to ensure that the strategy will be translated from English to Welsh ready for publication.	will be expected to report against progress every year. The Strategy itself will be translated ahead of its	team
	publication in March 2024.	
Offer training and development opportunities for team members so they can reach a basic/fluent level of Welsh which can be utilised within the team.	The encouragement of the Welsh language is already stipulated as a requirement for the Flood Risk Management team to develop	RCT Flood Risk Management Team.



N/A	N/A	
What was identified?	Why is it r	not possible?
If ways of reducing the impact have been identified but are not possible to impresearch that has led to your reasoning.	plement, please explain why. Gi	ve sufficient detail of data or
Promote the use of incidental Welsh within the team and promote a culture which supports the use of the Welsh language	Delivery Plan which is reported against annually. Improving communication of flood risk is an objective within the Local Strategy. Once approved, the Authority will be expected to report against progress every year.	RCT Flood Risk Management Team.
	and enhance within the Strategic Projects Service	



Stage 4 – Review

For all policy proposals, whether it is a Significant Key Decision or not, you are required to forward this assessment to Welsh Language services – welshlanguageofficer@rctcbc.gov.uk and the Consultation and Engagement team – 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 (Stage 1>6) impact assessment, policy proposal/report and consultation report to 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 sustainable Welsh language considerations wherever possible. Please ensure you update the relevant sections below in collaboration with the relevant departments.

Welsh Language Services Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Welsh Language Services feedback
Welsh Language Services welcome the proposals made in this Impact Assessment in relation to the Welsh Language and the comprehensive nature of the assessment. There are however, just a few minor changes to be made.	28/06/2023	Comments provided by Welsh Language Services have been actioned.
First of all, we now have a standard paragraph for the data resulting from the 2021 Census for each WLIA that we advise for officers to use.		
We also advise some minor changes in regard to the language used in some proposals. Please amend as instructed.		
We also want to ensure that any external partners or third parties involved in the strategy are aware of our and their		



obligations in regard to complying with the Welsh Language. In order to further strengthen some of the proposals, we advise for some further detail in terms of specifying particular standards. Lastly, we would like to see notice that any post flood support will also be offered in Welsh.		
Officer Review Panel Comments	Date Considered	Brief description of any amendments made following Officer Review Panel considerations
Consultation Comments	Date	Brief description of any amendments made following
Consultation Comments	Considered	consultation

Stage 5 - Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

How and who will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the proposal?

As the LLFA, RCTCBC is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Local Strategy and Action Plan. This includes monitoring its own activities and those completed by other Risk Management Authorities.



Delivery of the Flood Action Plan detailed in Appendix A of the Local Strategy will be monitored on an annual basis. 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 will also be updated every 2 years to reflect the LLFA's continued delivery against the Local Strategy's objectives and measures.

The delivery of RCT's core activities, i.e., business as usual functions, will be monitored quarterly in the Service Delivery Plan which is monitored by RCTCBC Performance Team. Delivery of the LLFA's core activities will be an integral function of the Authority's delivery against the strategic objectives.

Stage 6 – 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 Welsh Language 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.

A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed and the main findings are as follows -

Public bodies must work to achieve all seven well-being goals put in place by the WBFGA, with achieving a Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language being one of the seven goals. The Welsh Government's ambition is to see the number of people able to enjoy speaking and using the Welsh language to reach a million by the year 2050, for further information see the Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy. The Council intends to support this ambition by providing the conditions to facilitate an increase in the use of the Welsh Language.



Under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, RCTCBC has a duty to comply with specific standards in respect of the delivery of Welsh language services. To ensure that we meet the requirements of the Measure, we have undertaken a Welsh Language Impact Assessment to assess the likely (or actual) effects of the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan (which replaces the previous 2013 version) on the Welsh language, both within our workforce and in the community, so that we can mitigate any negative impacts and enhance the positive impacts.

In line with the Council's Welsh Language Promotional Strategy, the Local Strategy will ensure that bilingual Welsh first signage and Welsh language services are available on all communication tools and resources used to promote flood risk management by the Council throughout the County Borough.

Stage 7 – Sign Off					
Name of Officer completing the WLIA	Daniel Mathias	Service Director Name:	Stephen Williams		
Position	Graduate Flood Risk Officer		Is implemented with no amendments		
		I recommend that the proposal: (Highlight decision)	Is implemented taking into account the mitigating actions outlined		
			Is rejected due to disproportionate negative impacts on the Welsh language		
Signature	Daniel Mathias	Service Director Signature	Stephen Williams		
Date	08/06/2023	Date	07/08/2023		

