

# Scrutiny Report



## Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate

### Part 1

Date: 19 February 2024

### Subject: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

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The following people have been invited to attend for this item:

Invitee:	Designation:
Paul Jones	Strategic Director- Environment & Sustainability
Stephen Jarrett	Head of Infrastructure
Andrew Brooks	Highways Service Manager
Joanne Turner	Team Manager – Assets and Planning

## Section A – Committee Guidance and Recommendations

### Recommendations to the Committee

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to consider the Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (**Appendix 1**) and determine if it wishes to make any comments to the Cabinet Member for consideration with the Strategy.

## 2 Context

### Background

- 2.1 Newport City Council (NCC) is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, NCC must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management. This document – Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out to satisfy this requirement.
- 2.2 In their role as the Lead Local Flood Authority, NCC has the following statutory duties:
- the duty to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy;
  - the duty to comply with the National Strategy;
  - the duty to co-operate with other Authorities, including sharing data;
  - the duty to investigate all flooding within its administrative boundary, insofar as it is considered necessary or appropriate;
  - the duty to maintain a register of structures and features likely to affect flood risk; and
  - the duty to contribute to sustainable development.
- 2.3.1 In addition to the statutory duties, NCC also has permissive powers to undertake the following:
- Request information;
  - Designate certain structures or features that affect flood or coastal erosion risk;
  - Expansion of powers to undertake works to include broader risk management actions; and
  - The ability to cause flooding or coastal erosion under certain conditions.
- In addition, NCC is also required to take on the role of the Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB).
- 2.4 Local flood risk is defined within the Act as being a flood risk from:
1. Ordinary watercourses (a watercourse that does not form part of main river, includes a lake, pond, or other area of water, which flows into an ordinary watercourse)
  2. Surface runoff (rainfall or other precipitation which is on the surface or ground and has not entered a watercourse drainage system or public sewer)
  3. Groundwater (water that has percolated into the ground and may form underground ponds or streams, which may discharge above ground but lower down the catchment).
- 2.5 The Local Flood Risk Strategy is attached as Appendix 1 and comprises the following Sections:
- CM Foreword
  - 1. Introduction
  - 2. How this strategy responds to climate change
  - 3. Coordination
  - 4. Roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk
  - 5. Our Strategic Objectives
  - 6. What is the risk of flooding in our area?
  - 7. Funding and Prioritisation
  - 8. Flood Measures
  - 9. Flood Actions
  - 10. Environmental Assessments
  - 11. Monitoring Progress
- Appendix A - Schedule of Flood Measures  
Appendix B – Our Flood Action Plan  
Appendix C – National, Regional and Local Legislation and Policy

- 2.6 The Committee is asked to consider the Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in **Appendix 1** and make any comments to the Cabinet Member for consideration with the Strategy.

### **3 Information Submitted to the Committee**

- 3.1 The following is attached for the Committee's consideration:

**Appendix 1** - Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

### **4 Suggested Areas of Focus**

#### **4.1 Role of the Committee**

**The role of the Committee in considering the report is to:**

- Consider the content of the Draft Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Assess and make comment on:
  - How achievable the plan is;
  - How measureable the plan is;
  - Whether sufficient resources for implementation have been identified;
  - How have the barriers / risks have been identified and mitigated;
  - How the plan will be monitored and success measured;
- Conclusions:
  - What was the overall conclusion on the report?
  - Does the Committee wish to make any comments to the Cabinet Member?
  - Is the Committee satisfied that it has had all of the relevant information to base a conclusion on the Draft Plan?

#### **Suggested Lines of Enquiry**

- 4.2 In evaluating the Service Areas performance and, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What is the current state of flood risk management in Newport, and how has it been affected by recent weather events or other factors?
- What are the potential consequences of flooding in Newport, and how will the proposed measures mitigate these risks?
- How will the Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be communicated to the public, and what measures will be taken to ensure that residents and businesses are aware of the risks and preparedness measures?
- What are the potential challenges or obstacles to implementing the proposed measures, and how will they be addressed?
- How will the Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be updated or revised in response to changing conditions or new information?

### 4.3 Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Committees consideration of the Draft Highway Asset Management Plan should consider how the Plan is maximising its contribution to the five ways of working. Below are examples of the types of questions to consider:

5 Ways of Working	Types of Questions to consider:
<p><b>Long-term</b></p> <p>The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.</p>	<p>What consideration has been given to the long term trends that could affect the Draft Plan or; how could the Draft Plan impact these trends?</p> <p>How will the needs of service users potentially change in the future?</p> <p>How will progress against the Plan be monitored?</p>
<p><b>Prevention</b></p> <p>Prevent problems occurring or getting worse.</p>	<p>What is the objective (or the desired outcome) of this Draft Plan?</p> <p>How does the plan assist in preventing future problems, or exacerbating current problems?</p> <p>How are identified risks being mitigated?</p>
<p><b>Integration</b></p> <p>Considering how public bodies' wellbeing objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>Are there any other organisations providing similar / complementary services?</p> <p>Have you consulted with other public bodies, third sector, emergency services, businesses and anyone else you think might be impacted?</p> <p>What practical steps will you take to integrate your Plan with existing plans and strategies of other public organisations to help us all contribute fully to the seven national well-being goals?</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p>Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the organisation itself).</p>	<p>Who have you been working with? Why? Who have you collaborated with in preparing the Draft Plan?</p> <p>How are you co-working with other sectors?</p> <p>How are you using the knowledge / information / good practice of others to inform / influence the Draft Plan?</p>
<p><b>Involvement</b></p> <p>The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.</p>	<p>How have you involved the people who will be impacted by the Draft Plan?</p> <p>How have you taken into account diverse communities in your Draft Plan?</p> <p>How have you used different / alternative methods to reach people and involve them?</p> <p>How will you communicate the Draft Plan?</p>

## Section B – Supporting Information

### 5 Links to Council Policies and Priorities

#### 5.1 Newport City Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being Objectives:

Well-being Objective	1 – Economy, Education and Skills	2 – Newport's Environment and Infrastructure	3 – Preventative and Equitable Community and Social Care	4 – An Inclusive, Fair and Sustainable Council
<b>Aims:</b>	Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.	A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.	Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.	Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

### 7 Impact Assessment:

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

#### 7.1 Summary of impact – Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act

The Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy adopts a sustainable and long-term approach to flood risk management. The strategy not only addresses current flood risks but also anticipates and mitigates future risks in light of climate change and urban development. It contributes to the well-being goals of the Act by enhancing the resilience of natural and human systems and promoting health and well-being. The strategy involves active community engagement, encourages collaboration between public bodies, prioritises preventive measures, and mandates long-term planning. It also ensures transparency and accountability by requiring local authorities to monitor and report on the effectiveness of their strategies, thereby managing flood risks and contributing to the well-being of current and future generations.

#### 7.2 Summary of impact – Equality Act 2010

The Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is required to comply with the Equalities Act 2010, which mandates public bodies to consider and address potential impacts on equality and diversity. This means ensuring that flood risk management measures do not discriminate against any group based on protected characteristics such as age, disability, gender, race, or religion. By conducting an equality impact assessment, the strategy aims to promote fairness and inclusivity for all individuals and communities in Newport.

#### 7.3 Summary of impact – Socio-economic Duty

The Newport Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is influenced by the Socio-Economic Duty, which requires public bodies to consider how their decisions can help reduce inequalities and promote social inclusion. This duty aims to address socio-economic disadvantage and ensure

that policies and actions contribute to improving the well-being of individuals and communities. By incorporating considerations of socio-economic factors into the strategy, such as access to resources, employment opportunities, and community resilience, the aim is to create a more equitable and inclusive approach to managing flood risks in Newport.

## **7. Background Papers**

- [The Essentials - Wellbeing of Future Generation Act \(Wales\)](#)
- [Corporate Plan 2022-2027](#)
- [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014](#)

Report Completed: 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024