

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Executive Summary



www.npt.gov.uk

Foreword

“The impacts of climate change are becoming increasingly noticeable to all of us and major incidents of flooding are a common event on the national news. It is inevitable that flooding will happen in the future despite all our best endeavours to prevent it.

Neath Port Talbot’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk and effects of flooding. It aims to achieve this by raising awareness in the community and encouraging a partnership approach with the community and external organisations in tackling the challenges that lay ahead. The strategy looks to maximise funding opportunities that can contribute towards flood prevention, including the development of greater resilience and ability to recover from flooding.

The strategy has been developed with the objective of long term sustainability and to ensure that Neath Port Talbot remains an attractive place to live, work and visit.”



Ali Thomas – Leader Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Why is a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy needed?

The Government has recently given local authorities new powers to help manage local flood risk in a more coordinated way. These new responsibilities relate primarily to **local flood risk**. Local flood risk is flood risk from:

- surface water,
- groundwater, and
- ordinary watercourses e.g. small rivers, streams and ditches.



Flood Risk from all other rivers and the sea remains the responsibility of **National Resources Wales** (Formally Environment Agency Wales).



Introduction

One of the new responsibilities that has been placed on local authorities is a duty to produce a **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**. The Strategy determines the locally significant flood risk for the area, focusing mainly on flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, and helps everyone affected to understand and manage flood risk. The strategy must be consistent with what is stated in the:

- **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**, and
- **The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales.**
[Link to National Strategy below]

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/flooding/nationalstrategy/strategy/?lang=en>

The main aim of the strategy is to reduce the risk of flooding and the social and economic damage that flooding causes, in a sustainable manner. The strategy provides a perfect opportunity for the authority to work together with Risk Management Authorities, residents and businesses to reduce the risk of flooding and prepare for the future.

What is included within the LFRMS?

- The risk management authorities in the authority's area;
- The flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities in relation to the area;
- The objectives for managing local flood risk;
- The measures proposed to achieve those objectives;
- How and when the measures are expected to be implemented;
- The costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for;
- The assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy;
- How and when the strategy is to be reviewed, and
- How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

Who are the Risk Management Authorities in Neath Port Talbot?

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and The Flood and Water Management Act 2010

identified **Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (NPTCBC)** as the **Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)** for the County Borough. This gives the council a strategic leading role in overseeing the management of local flood risk. **The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy** sets out who the other **Risk Management Authorities** are within the area that have legal responsibilities for the management of flood risk. These authorities are identified in the table below along with their **flood risk management responsibilities**.

Risk Management Authority	Responsibility
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (LLFA)	Leading Management of flood risk from local sources – ordinary watercourses, surface water, groundwater and where there is an interaction between these sources and main river and sea.
National Resources Wales (Formally EAW)	Managing flood risk from Main Rivers, reservoirs and the sea.
South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA)	Managing flood risk on motorways and trunk roads.
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (Highways Authority)	Managing flood risk on county roads and highways.
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water	Managing flood risk from foul and surface water sewers and flooding from burst water mains.
Neath canal Navigation, Tennant Canal Company, Canal & River Trust & NPTCBC	Managing the operation of canals

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's duties and powers as Lead Local Flood Authority

As mentioned previously, **The Flood and Water Management Act 2010** places a number of statutory duties on **NPTCBC** as a **LLFA** which include:

- A duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area;
- A duty to co-operate with other authorities, including data sharing;
- A duty to investigate flooding within its area, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate;
- A duty to maintain a register of assets that are seen to have a significant flood risk;
- A duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

In addition to these duties, **NPTCBC** as a **LLFA** have a number of permissive powers. These powers allow the authority to do certain things, however it does not compel them to. These powers include:

- Powers to request a person to provide information in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions;
- Powers to designate a structure or feature that **NPTCBC**, as the designating authority, believe to be a flood risk;

NPTCBC are also required to take on two further roles:

- Take responsibility for consenting works on ordinary watercourses; and
- Act as the SuDS Approval body (SAB). This involves approving, adopting and maintaining Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems on new development sites which serve more than one property.

Objectives and measures to manage flood risk

The **National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales** sets out four over-arching objectives for the management of flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales. The local strategy recognises these objectives and further identifies a number of sub-objectives to support them. A selection of which can be found below:

- Provide strategic leadership and direction at a local level.
- Establish regular maintenance schedules for flood and coastal erosion risk.
- Ensure that by 2026, everyone who lives in a flood risk area understands the flood risk they are subject to, the consequences of this risk and how to live with that risk.
- Respond to events in a timely and appropriate manner.
- Increase the use of alternative sources of funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management.

The local strategy identifies a number of proposed measures to help meet the flood risk management objectives that are set out within it. These measures reflect those for both high (national level) and local level action. A selection of measures for local level action can be found below:

- The provision of mapping of all sources of flooding.
- Development of a register and designation of natural and manmade structures/features which are likely to have an effect on flood risk by 2014.
- Review the programme of regular and appropriate maintenance for flood and coastal risk management assets.
- Affected groups and vulnerable individuals to be identified within the flood affected area by 2017.
- Ensure early and appropriate response to emergency events.
- Development of local level emergency plans with Community/Town Councils.

Reviewing the Strategy

Monitoring and updating the Strategy is necessary and will be carried out annually to ensure new information is included and to ensure current legislation is applied. The strategy review frequency may vary in the longer term but never less than the minimum recommended frequency. The amendments to the Strategy will be reviewed by the Joint Resilience Forum, and other appropriate political processes, as well as being made available to the public.

What happens next?

The Strategy document has been approved by the Welsh Ministers and can be viewed online at www.npt.gov.uk; paper copies will also be available to view at:

**The Quays,
Brunel Way,
Baglan Energy Park,
SA112GG.**

Neath Port Talbot will aim to implement the local measures that have been set out to achieve the objectives that are identified within the document.

The next process for **NPTCBC** as **LLFA** is to prepare a **Flood Risk Management Plan** for the area. This is a legal requirement under the **Flood Risk Regulation 2009** and will help to further improve our knowledge of flood risk and identify priority actions within the area.