

**MERTHYR TYDFIL
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

SUMMARY

April 2013

MERTHYR TYDFIL COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

SUMMARY

The Flood Risk Regulations came into force in December 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act became law in April 2010. Under this legislation Merthyr Tydfil Council Borough Council (MTCBC) has been identified as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and has been given a number of key responsibilities.

The purpose of the Flood Risk Regulations is to transpose the European Commission (EC) Floods Directive (2007/60/EC), on the assessment and management of local flood risk, into domestic law in England and Wales and to implement its provisions.

In particular it places duties on the LLFAs to prepare a number of documents including:-

- **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report (PFRA) - 22nd June 2011** - Completed, approved by Welsh Government and forwarded to the EU
- **Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps to be completed by 22nd June 2013**
- **Flood Risk Management Plans to be completed by 22nd June 2015**

In addition MTCBC must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management.

This document namely:

Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

has been completed by MTCBC and was approved by Welsh Government on 15 April 2013. The Strategy, together with other relevant information, has been published on the Merthyr CB Council webpage.

Relevant information includes the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment.

The Strategy sets out to satisfy the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The level of flood risk within MTCBC was established as part of the process of producing the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report the results of which are shown below.

Level of Flood Risk

A total of 22 grid squares have been identified by MTCBC as having a significant level of flood risk, referred to as “Blue Squares”. Of these squares 20 are contained within the Flood Risk Area, which covers an area of 58 km².

The Key Flood Risk Indicators for the MTCBC Flood Risk Area have been calculated by the as follows:-

- Human health consequences –
Number of people 7,923
- Other human health consequences –
Number of critical services flooded 26
- Economic consequences – number of
non-residential properties flooded 818

The assessment of Flood Risk is ongoing and will be updated to include for any flooding events within the borough since the preparation of the PFRA.

In addition Flood Risk will be re-assessed following the completion of new flood modelling and the preparation of Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps.

For the purpose of this Strategy the flood risk in the whole of the borough has been considered, which includes the Flood Risk Area, the two Blue Squares outside the area, which are situated in Quakers Yard, and all other areas considered at lower risk.

MTCBC has set a high level strategy as follows:-

**“Endeavour to reduce Flood Risk in all of the areas
Identified as being subject to significant flood risk”.**

The National Strategy, prepared by the Welsh Government, has set out four Overarching Objectives for the management of flood risk. In considering its strategy MTCBC has identified 17 Detailed Objectives that will deliver the Overarching Objectives.

Overarching Objective 1

Reducing the impacts on individuals, communities businesses and the environment;

- Reduce distress by reducing the number of people exposed to the risk of flooding.
- Reduce community disruption by reducing the number of residential and commercial properties affected by the risk of flooding.
- Reduce risk to life by reducing the number of people exposed to risk of flooding of significant depth and velocity.
- Reduce disruption to critical infrastructure or prepare plans to allow the operations to be maintained.
- Protect and improve Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- Contribute to the delivery of Merthyr Tydfil Biodiversity Action Plan
- Minimise Damage to known Historic Assets

Overarching Objective 2

Raising awareness of and engaging people in the response to flood

- Provide systems to give early warning of potential flooding to individuals and communities.
- Provide efficient systems for the management and maintenance of surface assets.
- Reduce economic damage
- Endeavour to reduce cost of management

Overarching Objective 3

Providing an effective and sustained response to flood events

- Improve naturalness including the creation/restoration/protection of natural channels and water bodies with minimal modifications

- Protect and where possible Improve water quality
- Provide Flood Risk Management Plans for each area subject to flood risk
- Ensure that measures are sustainable
- Ensure that MTCBC works in partnership with all other Risk Partners and works collaboratively with adjacent Authorities

Overarching Objective 4

Prioritising investment in the most at risk communities.

- Ensure that investment decisions for the implementation of flood risk management schemes are made on a consistent, defensible basis and are subject to cost benefit analysis

Delivery of Strategy and Time Scale

The Welsh Government has also given the following seven high level themes which have been considered by MTCBC for the implementation of the Strategy

- Development planning and adaptation.
- Flood forecasting, warning and response.
- Land, cultural and environmental management.
- Asset management and maintenance.
- Studies assessments and plans.
- High level awareness and engagement (to increase individual and community resilience).
- Monitoring (of the local flood risk issues)

MTCBC has identified a total of 39 detailed measures which will ensure the delivery of the objectives.

The measures have been identified within three categories namely:

- Prevention of flooding.
- Preparedness for flooding.
- Protection against flooding.

Each measure has been given a time scale for implementation as follows:

- Short term 0 – 20 years.
- Medium term 20 – 50 years.
- Long term 50 – 100 years

The Strategy has been developed on the following principles:

- A high level objective has been set to reduce flood risk in the borough.
- The four overarching objectives as defined in the National Flood Risk Management Strategy document have been used as the framework in which the strategy has been developed.
- A series of 17 detailed objectives have been adopted in order to satisfy the requirements of the four overarching objectives.
- The seven themes identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Guidance for delivery of the Strategy have been adopted by MTCBC.
- A total of 39 measures have been identified in order to implement the objectives.
- In addition the strategy aims to satisfy additional requirements including collaborative working with other Risk Partners and Sustainable Development.
- The strategy also aims to interface with other major strategies and plans developed by MTCBC including MTCBC Local Development Plan.
- The need for the strategy to make a positive contribution towards meeting the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan for the Severn River Basin District has also been addressed.

In order for The Strategy to be successful it is essential that significant funding be made available in addition to the normal funding arrangements from Welsh Government. This funding will be required to cover the following operations:

- Development of the Flood Risk Management Plans for each of the areas subject to significant levels of flood risk.
- Investigations to allow the Plans to be prepared
- Funding at a much more significant level will be required in order to implement the measures which will be identified as part of the Plans.