

**SUBJECT: LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**MEETING: PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 10 JULY 2025**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

## **1. PURPOSE:**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to facilitate pre-decision scrutiny on Monmouthshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy). The Local Strategy will be reported to Cabinet seeking its endorsement in the autumn following a public consultation and engagement exercise between 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (6 weeks).

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 To consider the content of the draft revised Local Strategy prior to statutory public consultation and provide feedback to Cabinet.

## **3. KEY ISSUES:**

- 3.1 Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)<sup>1</sup>, Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for its administrative area. Under this legislation, MCC is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management, known as the Local Strategy.
- 3.2 Local flood risk is defined as the risk from:
- Surface water runoff
  - Groundwater
  - Ordinary watercourses (usually smaller watercourses, not designated main rivers).
- 3.3 The draft revised Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire, but acknowledges and considers other sources of flood risk (including main rivers, sea, and sewers) and associated responsible Risk Management Authorities. The responsibility for different sources of flood risk is detailed in the Local Strategy and outlined in the following table.

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<sup>1</sup> [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

**Risk Management Authorities with Roles for Managing Different Sources of Flood Risk in Monmouthshire**

<b>RMA Flood Source</b>	<b>MCC (LLFA)</b>	<b>Natural Resources Wales</b>	<b>Dŵr Cymru/ Welsh Water</b>	<b>MCC (Highways)</b>	<b>Welsh Government / SWTRA</b>
<b>Surface Water</b>	✓			✓ (Local roads)	✓ (Trunk roads)
<b>Ordinary Watercourses</b>	✓				
<b>Groundwater</b>	✓				
<b>Main River</b>		✓			
<b>Internal Drainage District (Gwent Levels)</b>		✓			
<b>Reservoirs</b>		✓			
<b>Sewers</b>			✓		
<b>Coastal/Tidal</b>	✓	✓			

- 3.4 MCC published its first Local Strategy in 2013, setting out their overarching approach to managing local flood risk. Alongside their Local Strategy, MCC published a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) in 2016. The FRMP developed the objectives and high-level measures outlined in the Local Strategy into a more detailed plan for managing flooding in our communities.
- 3.5 Following the publication of Welsh Government's new National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales (National Strategy)<sup>2</sup> in October 2020, LLFA's in Wales are required to revise their Local Strategy to ensure compliance with the National Strategy.
- 3.6 The draft revised Local Strategy has been developed to ensure compliance with the National Strategy. It also takes into account changes to relative key legislation, policies and funding arrangements for local flood risk management, since the publication of the previous LFRMS 2013 and FRMP 2016.
- 3.7 The draft revised Local Strategy sets out how flooding from local sources will be managed across Monmouthshire, ensuring consistency with the objectives, measures and related policies and legislation, set out in the National Strategy. The Local Strategy will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required. The revised draft Local Strategy is included in Appendix 1 of this report.
- 3.8 Whilst MCC previously published their Local Strategy and FRMP separately, the draft revised Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity

<sup>2</sup> [National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales | GOV.WALES](#)

and enables MCC to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively. The FRMP is referred to as the Flood Action Plan within the draft revised Local Strategy.

3.9 The structure of the revised draft Local Strategy is as follows:

**Chapter 1 Introduction**

Introduces the background, need and purpose of the Local Strategy.

**Chapter 2 Coordination of Flood Risk Management**

Summarises how this Local Strategy aligns with other Council strategic plans, national policies and coordination with other stakeholders and their plans.

**Chapter 3 Flood Risk in Monmouthshire**

Provides an overview of the different sources and risk of flooding across Monmouthshire.

**Chapter 4 How this Strategy Responds to Climate Change**

Provides an overview of climate change in the context of flood risk and outlines how this Local Strategy seeks to address these risks in Monmouthshire.

**Chapter 5 Roles and Responsibilities for Managing Flood Risk in Monmouthshire**

Sets out the roles and responsibilities for managing flood risk in Monmouthshire. It also highlights some of the key policies we have in place for managing local flood risk.

**Chapter 6 Strategic Objectives**

Describes the strategic objectives for managing local flood risk in the coming years, and how these align with the objectives set out in the National Strategy.

**Chapter 7 Flood Measures**

Sets out the flood risk management measures. These are broad activities and ways of working which help us to meet our strategic objectives.

**Chapter 8 Flood Actions**

Introduces the Flood Action Plan. This is a focused plan, detailing specific deliverable actions required to meet the measures. The Flood Action Plan is included in Appendix A.

**Chapter 9 Funding and Prioritisation**

Summarises the different ways in which flood risk management activities can be funded as well as how MCC prioritise these activities.

**Chapter 10 Environmental Assessments**

Outlines how this Local Strategy will contribute to wider environmental objectives.

**Chapter 11 Monitoring Progress**

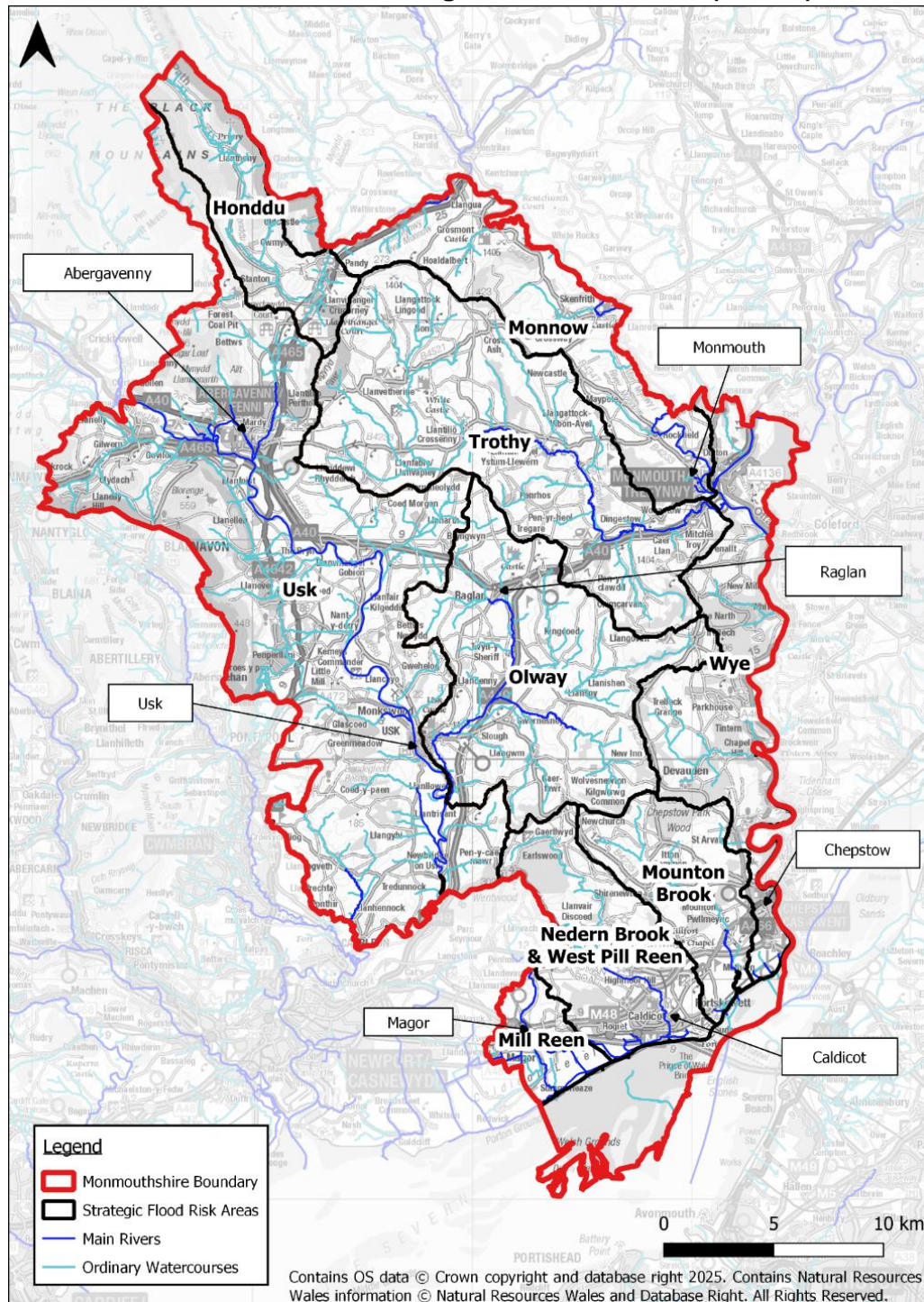
Describes how MCC will measure and monitor progress in delivering the objectives, measures and actions set out in this Local Strategy.

3.10 MCC has adopted a catchment based approach to flood risk management, which is encouraged by Welsh Government in their National Strategy. Flood risk across

Monmouthshire has been assessed on a catchment basis using identified Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs).

- 3.11 These SFRAs mirror the catchments of larger watercourses and breakdown the county into suitable areas whereby local flood risk can be considered in a holistic way along with all other sources of flooding. This approach also helps to highlight areas at greatest risk and their interconnected potential for mitigation on a catchment basis, whilst also maximising the potential for identifying flood risk management opportunities across a range of LLFA responsibilities and duties.

**Monmouthshire Strategic Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs)**





- 3.12 An assessment of flood risk across each of the SFRA's has been undertaken using the latest flood risk mapping<sup>3</sup>, environmental datasets and Natural Resources Wales's Communities at Risk Register<sup>4</sup>. Additional sources of information include MCC's flood and drainage asset database, historic flood and land drainage records, Section 19 Flood Reports<sup>5</sup>, as well as local knowledge from communities and MCC staff.
- 3.13 The draft revised Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan has also been informed by the results of a non-statutory public engagement exercise, in the form of an online survey, which was undertaken prior to the drafting of the revised Local Strategy, between 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2023.
- 3.14 The online survey received 90 responses to 16 questions, which focussed on individuals' awareness, knowledge and understanding of flood risk. The survey, which was widely published via email, social media and the council's website, received responses from residents, elected members, town & community councillors and businesses from across Monmouthshire.
- 3.15 The Flood Action Plan includes the results of the assessment of flood risk in each SFRA and sets out the proposed actions to address the most significant risks in each SFRA and county wide.

#### **4. INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT, (includes equality, future generations, social justice, safeguarding and corporate parenting).**

- 4.1 The draft revised Local Strategy ensures that MCC fulfils its statutory duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce, develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 4.2 The draft revised Local Strategy will make a significant positive contribution to the management of local sources of flood risk, in the short, medium and long term. It provides clear direction to MCC, elected members, community groups, other Risk Management Authorities, external organisations, and the general public. It outlines current and future flood risks, identifies those responsible for managing them, and sets out the financial, resource, and timeframe requirements necessary to achieve the Strategy's objectives.

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<sup>3</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / Check your flood risk on a map \(Flood Risk Assessment Wales Map\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Natural Resources Wales / How we plan and prioritise our flood risk management work](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Flood Investigation Reports - Monmouthshire](#)

## 5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
<b>Do Nothing</b>  Do not update the current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) or Flood Risk Management Plan (2016).	None.	There would be no clear strategic direction for the management of local sources of flood risk in Monmouthshire.  Section 10 of the FWMA requires Lead Local Flood Authorities in Wales to; develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management its area. By not updating the Local Strategy, MCC will not be compliant with this statutory duty, nor will there be a Strategy in place that takes account of the current National Strategy and related legislation.	This is not considered to be a feasible option given the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), nor would it align with the flood related actions set out in MCC's Corporate and Community Plan 2022-2028.
<b>Do Something</b>  Update the existing Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) and Flood Risk Management Plan (2016), to ensure compliance with Section 10 of the FWMA.	This will ensure MCC's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Flood Action Plan is fit for purpose and compliant with the FWMA, and that local sources of flood risk are effectively managed by MCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority.	None.	This is the preferred option.  The updated Local Strategy will give clear strategic direction for the management of local sources of flood risk in Monmouthshire.  It will provide a valuable and clear source of information on who is responsible for managing different sources of flood risk, and how local flood risk is to be managed over the next 6 years.

## 6. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 The draft revised Local Strategy will be subject to a six week public consultation. This is currently anticipated to run from 1<sup>st</sup> August - 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This consultation will be hosted on the 'Lets Talk Monmouthshire' platform and will be widely publicised on MCC's social media channels. Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, other Risk Management Authorities, elected members, town and community councils and neighbouring Local Authorities, are amongst those who will be notified directly of the consultation.

6.2 As part of the consultation, the Flood Risk Management team plan to host drop-in sessions in Community Hubs at the following times:

- 20th August, 9am – 5pm at Abergavenny
- 25th August, 9am – 5pm at Usk
- 26th August, 9am – 5pm at Monmouth
- 10th September, 9am – 5pm at Chepstow
- 11th September, 9am – 5pm at Caldicot

Hard copies of the document will also be placed in these locations.

6.3 Following the six week statutory consultation period, consultee responses will be taken in to account, and any necessary amendments will be made. The Local Strategy will then be presented to Cabinet for endorsement to adopt. Following this, publication of the Local Strategy will be subject to Welsh Government's Ministerial approval.

6.4 Once published, the Local Strategy will be reviewed within 2 years of the publication of the next National Strategy, approximately every 6 years. The Flood Action Plan (Appendix A) will be reviewed and updated every 3 years or as required.

## **7. REASONS:**

7.1 To ensure compliance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and consistency with Welsh Government's National Strategy.

## **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

8.1 The development, implementation and future monitoring of the Local Strategy is managed by the Council's Flood Risk Management team in its role as Lead Local Flood Authority.

8.2 The costs associated with the review of the Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan, as well as the facilitation of public consultations, are supported by revenue grant funding provided by Welsh Government.

8.3 Costs associated with the proposed measures and actions within the draft revised Local Strategy have been grouped as follows:

<b>Existing Resources</b>	No specific additional funding required, covered by existing budgets.
<b>Low Cost</b>	Additional cost of £1k- £20k
<b>Medium Cost</b>	Additional cost of £20k - £250k
<b>High Cost</b>	Additional cost of £250k - £1M
<b>Very High Cost</b>	Additional cost of £1M and above

8.4 Costs associated with the delivery of each measure and action will be met through either the Revenue Support Grant, which is supplemented with additional Welsh Government grant funding for flood risk management activities, or through capital grant funding from Welsh Government. This capital funding is delivered through Welsh Government's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management capital grants or their Small Scale Works Grant, with the latter applying to schemes with a construction value of less than £300k. Capital grant funding is subject to approval of LLFA grant applications.

## **9. CONSULTEES:**

Cabinet

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Appendix 1 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Draft)

Appendix 2 – Appendix A Flood Action Plan (Draft)

Appendix 3 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary (Draft)

Appendix 4 – Strategic Environmental Assessment (Draft)

Appendix 5 – Habitat Regulations Assessments (Draft)

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