

SUBJECT: LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 16th September 2026

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members on the outcome of the statutory public consultation on the revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) and the amendments made as a result of feedback received.
- 1.2 To present the final Local Strategy and Action Plan for approval before sending to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To consider the results and the review of the statutory public consultation on the draft Local Strategy, which was presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on 30th July 2026.
- 2.2 To note the feedback from Place Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.3 To adopt the Local Strategy.
- 2.4 To submit the Local Strategy to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA)¹, 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).

¹ [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

- 3.3 The draft revised Local Strategy focuses on these local sources of flood risk within Monmouthshire, but also 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.

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

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

- 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)² in October 2020, LLFA's in Wales are required to revise their Local Strategy to ensure compliance with the National Strategy.
- 3.6 The 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 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

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

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 revised Local Strategy integrates the two documents into one. This reduces complexity and enables MCC to communicate and manage local flood risk more effectively. The FRMP is referred to as the Flood Action Plan within the revised Local Strategy.

3.9 The structure of the revised 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

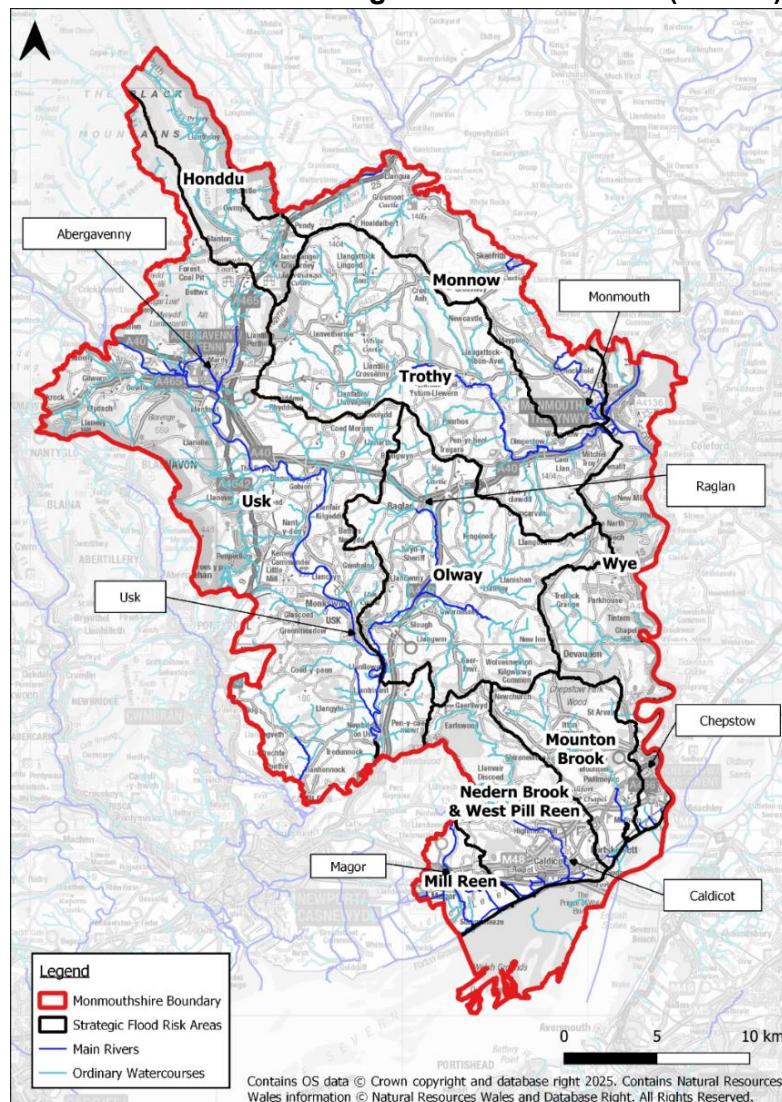
Outlines how this Local Strategy will contribute to wider environmental objectives.

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 mapping³, environmental datasets and Natural Resources Wales's Communities at Risk Register⁴. Additional sources of information include MCC's flood and drainage asset database, historic flood and land drainage records, Section 19 Flood Reports⁵, as well as local knowledge from communities and MCC staff.
- 3.13 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.
- 3.14 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.

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

- 4.1 The 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 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.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Option	Benefit	Risk	Comment
Do Nothing 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	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

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

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

⁵ [Flood Investigation Reports - Monmouthshire](#)

		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.	Community Plan 2022-2028.
Do Something 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 revised Local Strategy and Flood Action Plan has 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 25th July 2023 and 28th August 2023.
- 6.2 The online survey received 90 responses to 19 questions, which focussed on individuals' awareness, knowledge and understanding of flood risk. The survey, which was widely publicised via email, social media and the council's website, received responses from residents, elected members, town & community councillors and businesses from across Monmouthshire.
- 6.3 Feedback from this survey was used to inform the revised Local Strategy that was presented to the Place Scrutiny Committee on 10th July 2025 prior to statutory consultation.
- 6.4 Under Section 10 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the LLFA must consult with the public and any relevant risk management authorities who may be

impacted by the Strategy, as part of developing the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and its accompanying environmental assessments (HRA and SEA).

6.5 The revised Local Strategy has now been subject to public consultation which ran for a period of eight weeks from 1st August 2025 to 26th September 2025. The consultation was hosted on the 'Lets Talk Monmouthshire' platform and was widely publicised on MCC's social media channels and website. Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales, other Risk Management Authorities, elected members, town and community councils and neighbouring Local Authorities, are amongst those were notified directly of the consultation.

6.6 The purpose of the statutory public consultation was to gather views on the draft Local Strategy, the Action Plan, and accompanying environmental assessments.

6.7 As part of the consultation, the Flood Risk Management team hosted drop-in sessions in Community Hubs at the following times:

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

Hard copies of the consultation documents were also be placed in these locations and at County Hall for the duration of the consultation period.

6.8 A total of 80 consultation responses were received, comprising 65 online survey responses, 10 paper survey responses and 5 email responses.

6.9 The total number of attendees to the public drop-in sessions was 36.

6.10 The feedback from the public consultation online survey and resulting actions / amendments can be found in Appendix 6 of this report.

6.11 The feedback received from written responses and resulting actions and amendments can be found in Appendix 7 of this report.

6.12 A record of all the amendments made following the statutory consultation can be found in Appendix 8 of this report.

6.13 A summary of the consultation outcomes can also be found in Appendix C of the Local Strategy.

6.14 As result of the overall feedback received over 20 amendments / additions to the Local Strategy and 30 amendments / additions to the Action Plan have been made (see Appendix 8 of this report). These changes have been highlighted in red text in the attached copies of the Local Strategy (Appendix 1) and the Flood Action

Plan (Appendix 2). Following Cabinet approval and prior to being sent to Welsh Government, the amendments will be inserted correctly in the final version.

- 6.15 The Habitats Regulations Assessment (3 amendments) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (15 amendments) have also been updated following comments received during the statutory consultation.
- 6.16 In addition, references to Storm Claudia (Nov 2025) and the resulting impacts have been included within the revised Local Strategy.
- 6.17 Following the public consultation and the resulting amendments set out above, the final Local Strategy was presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on Thursday 30th July 2026. The related reports and draft minutes can be found here: [Agenda for Place Scrutiny Committee on Thursday, 30th July, 2026, 2.00 pm - Modern Council](#)
- 6.18 The resulting actions from Place Scrutiny mainly consisted of requests for information relating to wider flood risk management activities and information sharing. One action related specifically to the content of the Local Strategy, with a request for further information relating to the overall cost of delivering all of the Actions contained within the Local Strategy.
- 6.19 Costs related to the delivery of the Actions contained within the Local Strategy have been categorised into several bands as shown below.

Costs

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

- 6.20 The Monmouthshire wide Flood Action Plan contains 38 Actions with delivery timescales ranging from Short Term (1 - 3 years), Medium Term (3 - 6 years) and Long Term (6+ years). These Actions will be delivered through existing internal staff resources funded by existing revenue budgets. Detailed cost estimates for each Action have not been developed as they are mainly typical Lead Local Flood Authority duties and workstreams for which sufficient internal resource is available to deliver within the required timescales.
- 6.21 The 71 Actions within the Flood Action Plans covering the nine SFRA's have been categorised into the bands shown in 6.19 above. The Actions will be delivered through a combination of internal staff resource and revenue budget, supported by applications for additional Capital grant funding as appropriate. This will typically be through Welsh Government's Small Scale Works Grant or Capital Flood Grant programme. The breakdown of the cost bands for the 71 Actions is as follows:

- Low Cost (£1k – 20k) – 26 Actions
- Medium Cost (£20k – 250k) – 42 Actions
- High Cost (£250k - £1M) – 2 Actions
- Very High Cost (£1M+) – 1 Actions.

6.22 Following Feedback from Place Scrutiny Committee consideration has been given to improving the way in which readers of the Local Strategy access information for their local area. As a result, and when published on the Council's website, the Flood Action Plans for each individual SFRA will be made available in separate PDF's with supporting text to assist readers to easily access information relating to their area of interest.

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:

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

Place Scrutiny Committee
Statutory Public Consultation

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Appendix 1 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Appendix 2 – Appendix A Flood Action Plan
Appendix 3 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary
Appendix 4 – Strategic Environmental Assessment
Appendix 5 – Habitat Regulations Assessment
Appendix 6 – Statutory Public Consultation - Online Survey Report: Record of Responses Received and Resulting Actions / Amendments
Appendix 7 – Statutory Public Consultation: Record of Written Responses Received and Resulting Actions / Amendments
Appendix 8 – Record of All Amendments / Additions to the Local Strategy and Action Plan following Statutory Public Consultation

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