

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Monday, 08 February 2021
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Environment and Regeneration
Report Title:	Flooding Event on 23rd December 2020
Purpose of Report:	To update Cabinet on the Flooding event which occurred in the Vale of Glamorgan on 23rd December 2020 and to advise of the Council’s role in such matters
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport
Responsible Officer:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing Services
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Accountant Environment and Housing Services Operational Manager, Property Head of Regeneration and Planning Operational Manager, Neighbourhood Services Principal Civil Protection Officer Legal Services (Committee Reports) Director of Education
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet
Executive Summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Report provides Cabinet with details of the flooding incident which happened on 23rd December 2020, causing internal flooding to many residential and business properties throughout the Vale of Glamorgan. • The Report details the current position and actions being undertaken by the Council in response to the incident, including details of the investigations that are ongoing. • The report outlines the Council’s legal duties, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, to produce investigatory reports under Section 19 of this Act and recommends that further reports be prepared for Cabinet’s consideration on completion of said reports. • It is recommended that this Report be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration due to the significant and widespread impact of the flooding experienced. 	

Recommendations

1. That the Cabinet note the contents of this Report.
2. That a further Report is received by Cabinet in respect of the Council's investigation under Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which the Council will prepare in conjunction with the appointed specialist consultants.
3. That this Report is referred to the Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To advise Cabinet of the flooding incidents on 23rd December 2020.
2. To advise Cabinet on the results of the Section 19 investigation which is the responsibility of the Council.
3. To allow this matter to be scrutinised.

1. Background

- 1.1 This Report provides Cabinet with details of the flooding incident which happened on 23rd December 2020 and of the current position, options and actions being undertaken by the Council.
- 1.2 On 23rd December 2020, the Vale of Glamorgan experienced an extreme rainfall incident, which led to a currently estimated average of 33mm of rain over an 11-hour period, albeit this is likely to change as investigation of the event continues. During this extreme rainfall incident residential and business properties across the Council's area experienced devastating internal property flooding. Both residential and business properties in Dinas Powys, Sully and Penarth were adversely affected by the rainfall incident.
- 1.3 Other areas affected by the flooding incident to varying degrees included: Barry (including St Richard Gwyn School), Wenvoe, Rhoose, Cowbridge, Bonvilston, Llantwit Major, Llandow, St Andrews Major, St Athan, Ewenny, Monkash, Peterston Super Ely, Llanmaes and Trerhyngyll. It is estimated that a total in excess of 100 properties and businesses suffered internal property flooding as a result of the rainfall incident.
- 1.4 The Civil Protection Unit activated the emergency room at the Alps Depot at 3:30pm on 23rd December 2020 to help coordinate the Council's response to the incident, liaising with partner organisations including South Wales Police and South Wales Fire Service. Reports of flooding and Council resources were then collated and prioritised by trained and experienced officers with an emphasis on road safety and the provision of advice to residents and communities threatened with flooding. The response to incidents of flooding on the highway and properties was hampered by the extreme weather conditions and the fact that

many of the main routes around the Vale of Glamorgan were severely flooded, with many roads impassable. The Flood Room remained open until after 10pm on 23rd December 2020.

- 1.5** Under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has a duty to investigate and publish reports on flood incidents that occur within its area to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate. A Section 19 flood investigation report is a public statement of the circumstances of a flood event and details of the parties that have a role in managing the risks. It contains details of the parties that have relevant flood risk management functions and investigates whether those risk management authorities have exercised, or plans to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
- 1.6** The Council's website provides detailed information in respect of flooding matters and contains details on the incident of 23rd December 2020. See: <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/Flooding/Flooding.aspx>

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** From initial investigations, it appears that the excessive rainfall incident on 23rd December 2020 in the Vale of Glamorgan occurred on already saturated land resulting in high levels of surface water runoff, with existing built and natural drainage unable to deal with the extreme flows that occurred over the 11-hour period.
- 2.2** The Council allocated additional resources to inspect and where necessary cleanse all highway drainage in areas affected by flooding. Further to help support residents affected by the flooding, the Council subsequently provided over 1300 sandbags and 64 skips (see below), as well as issuing regular updates on the situation via the Council's website and social media channels. The Council has also provided sandbags to be stored and made available in Penarth, Sully, Dinas Powys, St Athan and Llanmaes, after writing to all Town and Community Councils seeking their interest in storing and distributing sand bags for their particular areas.
- 2.3** As part of the Council's response to the flooding incident on the 23rd December 2020, Officers have been working in partnership with Natural Resources Wales and Welsh Water to investigate the incident. Investigation work has initially concentrated on Dinas Powys and Sully, where both residential and business properties were affected by flooding.
- 2.4** Meetings have also been held with both Dinas Powys and Sully ward members to discuss the flooding event as well as detailing the Council's response to the matter and ongoing investigation works.

- 2.5** Further support was also provided by supplying waste disposal facilities for all the household items that had been damaged by the floods in the worst affected areas. On Tuesday 29th December 2020, the Operational Manager for Neighbourhood Services met with a local member for Dinas Powys and together they walked the main areas affected to assess the level of service required, to support residents. The worse areas affected by the flooding in Dinas Powys were in and around the Sunnycroft Estate and the area around Greenfield Ave and Cardiff Road.
- 2.6** Across these areas of Dinas Powys and after consulting with some of the residents, specific locations were agreed for positioning skips and the local members co-ordinated assistance from local volunteers to help residents remove and dispose of damaged household items. Dinas Powys was the most affected area of the Vale.
- 2.7** There were also areas of Sully affected by flooding, specifically around Winsford Close and Highbridge Close as well as the lower end of Conybeare Road. The Operational Manager along with a local member walked the affected areas on Wednesday 30th December 2020 and spoke to several of the residents. Similar to Dinas Powys, there were specific locations agreed that would act as disposal points, so residents could conveniently dispose of damaged household items.
- 2.8** There has also been subsequent collections of bulky white goods that could not be collected in skips and the Council's waste management team also provided a collection service on Sunday 3rd January 2021 to the residents that were not initially ready to dispose of their damaged goods mainly due to pending insurance assessments. There were also one-off collections to Cardiff Road, Dinas Powys, Penarth and Llandough to isolated properties that were also adversely affected.
- 2.9** There was a total of 64 skips (8-yard builder skips) provided to the affected areas (approximately 50 to Dinas Powys and the remainder to Sully) as well as the direct support provided by waste management vehicles.
- 2.10** The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport together with relevant technical Officers also attended a meeting to discuss the flooding event, on Tuesday 12th January 2021 with Lesley Griffiths MS the Welsh Government Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs. Also, in attendance at the meeting was Jane Hutt MS, representing her Vale of Glamorgan Constituency.
- 2.11** Due to the high number of flooding incidents on 23rd December 2020 and the impact of Covid 19 adversely affecting our ability to investigate face to face, officers issued over 800 letters (Appendix A refers) including flood incident report forms (Appendix B refers) to all residents who live within the flooded areas on 18th January 2021. Once the responses to these forms are received the

Council will have greater knowledge of the properties affected by the flooding incident.

- 2.12** To date, investigations and feedback from the issued letters have confirmed a total of 39 cases of internal property flooding within the Vale, including three businesses along Sully Moors Road and a church in Dinas Powys. It is expected that this number will rise to in excess of 100 properties as flood incident feedback forms are received and analysed based on anecdotal reports of flooding incidents in the areas referred above and discussions with ward members.
- 2.13** The Council has appointed a specialist independent consultant to technically assist Officers in investigating the flooding event as part of the Section 19 FWMA report(s).
- 2.14** The Section 19 Investigation Report(s) will consider the following matters:
- Background information on location of flooding;
 - Summary of rainfall event, detailed information on the extent of flooding;
 - Investigation findings;
 - The roles and responsibilities of each Risk Management Authority and details of any actions taken by those authorities in response to the flood;
 - Recommended actions following the investigation.
- 2.15** It is anticipated that the Section 19 FWMA report(s) will be completed by 31st March 2021 and will then be submitted to the Welsh Government for its consideration. A further report will be presented to Cabinet following the completion of the Section 19 FWMA report(s) in order that Cabinet can consider the reports' findings in more detail.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The actions detailed in this Report contribute to the Corporate Plan 2020 to 2025 Vision of "Strong Communities with a Bright Future." Also, the details in the Report assist the wellbeing objectives of to "work with and for our communities" and "to respect, enhance and enjoy our environment".
- 3.2** The implementation of flood alleviation schemes contributes to the prevention agenda by reducing the likelihood of flooding incidents in specific locations and properties as well as reducing risk of harm to residents. It also balances short-term needs to provide immediate protection to life and property whilst

contributing to the longer-term well-being of individuals and families within a community.

- 3.3 The investigation of previous flooding incidents ensures that through good design and prioritising resources life in the Vale is improved over the longer term for residents and visitors to the area. Preventative treatments assist in reducing flooding risk and are designed not to cause detriment to others.
- 3.4 The investigation will involve communication with the local community and action and involvement by other stakeholders who have major flooding responsibilities such as National Resources Wales, Welsh Water.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 The Council is currently awaiting a decision from Welsh Government as to whether this incident will be eligible for both revenue payments for households that suffered flooding as well as details of any additional capital funding that may be available.
- 4.2 The production of the Section 19 FWMA reports are currently being funded via the Council's own budgets. The cost of the waste disposal support for the residents provided by the Council to date is estimated at £17500.

Employment

- 4.3 Consultants have been commissioned to technically assist Officers with the completion of the Section 19 FWMA Report(s).

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.4 The Neighbourhood Services and Transport team will continue to liaise with the Council's Legal team on all legal matters associated with the production and publishing of the Section 19 FWMA reports.

5. Background Papers

None.

Date/Dyddiad 15th January 2021
Ask for/Gofynwch am Michael Clogg
Phone number/rhif fon 01446700111
e-mail/e-bost

The Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA

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www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk



Dear Owner / Occupier
2 MILLBROOK CLOSE
DINAS POWYS
CF64 4DD

Dear Owner/Occupier

Re: Flood Incident December 2020

Following the extreme weather event on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and the subsequent flooding, the Council in its capacity as Lead Local Flood Authority is investigating the full details of this event.

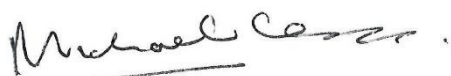
This investigation is being undertaken jointly with Natural Resources Wales (NRW). The information collected may be shared with other flood risk management agencies and a report submitted to the Welsh Government.

Attached is a Flood Incident Report form which the Council would request all residents affected or those who have information regarding the extent of flooding to complete and return in the pre-paid envelope enclosed.

When completing the attached form, please enclose or attach any evidence such as photos, videos or sketches to indicate the extents and source of flooding in your area.

Alternatively, the Flood Incident Report form can be accessed via the Vale of Glamorgan website.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Clogg

Operational Manager Engineering
Rheolwr Gweithredol Pheirianneg

Date/Dyddiad 15th January 2021
Ask for/Gofynwch am Michael Clogg
e-mail/e-bost fcerm@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Annwyl Berchennog / Deiliad

Ynglŷn â: Digwyddiad Llifogydd Rhagfyr 2020

Yn dilyn y digwyddiad tywydd eithafol ar ddydd Mercher 23ain Rhagfyr 2020 a'r llifogydd dilynol, mae'r Cyngor yn rhinwedd ei swydd fel Awdurdod Llifogydd Lleol Arweiniol yn ymchwilio i fanylion llawn y digwyddiad hwn.

Mae'r ymchwiliad hwn yn cael ei gynnal ar y cyd a Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (CNC). Gellir rhannu'r wybodaeth a gesglir ag asiantaethau rheoli risg llifogydd eraill a chyflwynir adroddiad i Lywodraeth Cymru.

Ynglwm mae ffurflen Adroddiad Digwyddiad Llifogydd y byddai'r Cyngor yn gofyn i'r holl breswylwyr yr effeithir arnynt neu'r rhai sydd â gwybodaeth am faint y llifogydd ei chwblhau a'i dychwelyd yn yr amlen ragdaledig amgaeedig.

Wrth lenwi'r ffurflen atodedig, amgaeuwch neu atodwch unrhyw dystiolaeth fel ffotograffau, fideos neu frasluniau i nodi maint a ffynhonnell llifogydd yn eich ardal.

Gellir hefyd cael gafael ar y ffurflen Adrodd am Ddigwyddiad Llifogydd trwy wefan Bro Morgannwg.

Yn gywir,

Michael Clogg

Operational Manager Engineering
Rheolwr Gweithredol Pheirianneg

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Flood Incident Report Form



Name

Address (please include the postcode)

Current contact address / details (if different to the above)

Telephone number

E-mail address

Date(s) of flooding incident

Where did the flooding occur to the property?

House (*inside*) Garden (*outside*).....
Outbuilding.....

Please could you indicate approximately how deep the water was?

What is the estimated cost of the damage?

Where did the flood water come from? e.g. river bursting its banks; overflowing drains / manholes; water run off?

- Please turn over -

Were you in the property when the flooding occurred?

Yes..... No.....

Do you have any photographs of the flooding?

Yes..... No.....

Are there any additional comments or observations relating to the flooding incident which you would like to make? Or would you like to provide a sketch explaining how the flooding occurred?

Please return this questionnaire to the following address:

**Lead Local Flood Authority
Visible Services & Transportation
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wenvoe
CF5 6AA**

Or email a copy of this form to fcerm@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk along with any pictures or videos you may have

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Ffurflen Adroddiad Digwyddiad Llif



Enw

Cyfeiriad post (yn cynnwys cod post)

Manylion cyfeiriad cyswllt (os wahanol o uchod)

Rhif ffôn

Cyfeiriad e-byst

Dyddiad(au) o digwyddiad llif

Yn lle oedd y llif ar eich eiddo?

Tŷ (tu mewn) Ardd(tuallan).....
Adeilad tu allan.....

Tua pa mor ddwfn oedd y dŵr ?

Tua faint ydi'r cost or niwed?

O le ddoth y dŵr? e.e. afon yn torri ei glannau; draen/twll archwilio yn llifeiriol; dŵ yn rhedeg l lawr?

- Please turn over -

Oeddech chi yn y eiddo pan digwyddod y llif?

Oeddwn..... Na.....

Oes ffotograph genych or llifogydd?

Oes..... Na.....

Oes unrhyw sylwadau neu arsylwi eraill fasach chi yn hoffi gwneud sydd yn addas i'r llif? Mae'n bosib hefyd darparu darlun yn esbonio sut digwyddod y llif os mae'n addas.

Anfonwch y holiadur at:

**Lead Local Flood Authority
Visible Services & Transportation
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Wenvoe
CF5 6AA**

Neu anfonwch y ffurflen yn ol ar e-bost i: fcerm@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk gyd unrhyw lluniau neu videos.