

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16TH
FEBRUARY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET – 8TH FEBRUARY, 2021

“C473 FLOODING EVENT ON 23RD DECEMBER 2020 (NST) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) –

The report provided 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 detailed the current position and actions being undertaken by the Council in response to the incident, including details of the investigations that were ongoing.

The report outlined the Council’s legal duties, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, to produce investigatory reports under Section 19 of this Act and recommended that further reports be prepared for Cabinet’s consideration on completion of said reports.

It was recommended that the report be referred to the relevant Scrutiny Committee for consideration due to the significant and widespread impact of the flooding experienced.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services and Transport stated that Cabinet were aware of the incredible rainfall in December, culminating in flash flooding at various locations in our County. The event on 23rd December was a terrible time for such disruption to people’s homes and Cabinet passed on sincere and active concern to all those affected.

Bringing the report now was the earliest opportunity to capture the facts and to allow scrutiny of the situations that had arisen, the initial works undertaken, other help provided to date and to confirm that all the relevant organisations were cooperating.

The report noted the appointment of a specialist, independent consultant to investigate and produce a Section 19 Report. It was hoped that the report would be completed by 31st March, with a further report to be brought to Cabinet to consider its findings in more detail.

The contents of the report, however factual, did not convey the misery that such flooding could cause, nor the ongoing anxiety felt by those affected. Councillor King stated he found it hard not to think such extreme weather was a consequence of climate change and may not become so exceptional.

The Leader agreed that it had been thought that previous flooding in 2017 had been exceptional, but clearly it was becoming more of a regular issue, with the Vale experiencing more issues. Cabinet Members were anxious to see the findings of the Section 19 report and passed on commiserations to all those affected by the flooding so close to Christmas.

The Deputy Leader stated that two families had contacted her directly as a result of the flooding and she had contacted officers who provided support at speed for those families, passing on her thanks to those involved within the Neighbourhood Services Team.

Councillor King added that continuing prompt responses also applied to flooding claims where the Authority had received 42 applications, 20 of which had already been processed, 9 delayed whilst confirmation of bank details took place and 2 were awaiting inspection.

The Leader advised he had also spoken with the Minister for Housing and Local Government concerning available grant aid for support which was being processed by Offices in Finance, Environment & Housing and Regeneration.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T a further report be received by Cabinet in respect of the Council's investigation under Section 19 Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which the Council would prepare in conjunction with the appointed specialist consultants.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To advise Cabinet on the results of the Section 19 investigation which was the responsibility of the Council.
- (3) To allow the matter to be scrutinised.”