

Outcome 1 - To improve the understanding of local flood risk

Measure 1.1 Identify drainage and flood assets and develop asset management system (statutory requirement)

Further progress has been made in the past two years, although pressures to carry out more immediate and pressing work has had some impact on this activity. The Council has purchased a dedicated flood risk asset management system (AMX) and three members of staff have received training. The system is the same as that used by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), which simplifies the exchange of asset data between the two organisations. The Welsh Government is encouraging all Welsh authorities to adopt the same system and has suggested that it would be prepared to consider a grant application regarding further training and data collection. Overall, the measure is approximately 50% complete.

Measure 1.2 Designate flood risk management features (permissive power)

The Flood and Water Management Act made the Council the 'Designating Authority' within Denbighshire, with the power to designate a structure (defined as an artificial or natural feature of the environment in private ownership). If the Council identifies that a structure or feature potentially affects local flood risk, nobody can carry out works on the designated structure or feature without the Council's permission. This activity has yet to commence, due to the Council's resources being focused on more urgent matters, such as flood investigations, the development of flood risk management schemes and the Council's Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). The FRMP, which will be out to consultation before the end of November, will help the Council to target areas where private flood risk assets should be designated.

Measure 1.3 Record and map flooding incidents (statutory requirement)

All flooding incidents have been recorded. However, no progress has been made regarding the purchase of flood mapping software. The Flood Risk Manager considers that it is currently more efficient to use local specialist consultants to carry out flood mapping, due to the sporadic nature of flood incidents. Discussions have taken place with Conwy County Borough Council regarding a collaborative approach to flood mapping, although no formal arrangements are currently in place.

Measure 1.4 Carry out flood investigations (statutory requirement)

Whilst there hasn't been any significant flooding in the county during the past two years, there have been numerous minor incidents and near misses. Each of these has been investigated and the Council's understanding of local flood risk has improved as a consequence.

Measure 1.5 Develop Flood Risk Management Plans for areas of high flood risk (best practice)

Because there are no Flood Risk Areas in Denbighshire, as defined by the Flood Risk Regulations, there is no statutory requirement for the Council to produce a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). However, the Council agreed with the Welsh Government that it would produce a county FRMP by December 2015. The process has taken longer than expected, partly due to the large number of minor flooding incidents in the last two years. It is important that the increased understanding of local flood risk as a result of investigating these incidents is reflected in the FRMP. The draft FRMP will be out to consultation in November 2016. The Welsh Government is aware of the state of progress of the FRMP

Measure 1.6 Develop a regional Learning Action Alliance in partnership with neighbouring LLFA's, flood risk management authorities and other private and public sector specialists to share knowledge of flood risk management approaches (best practice)

Whilst no formal 'Learning Action Alliance' has been established, the Council attends quarterly meetings of the North Wales Flood Risk Management Group (Denbighshire has chaired the group for the past two years), which brings together experts from local authorities, Natural Resources Wales and Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, as well as representation from the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association. The meetings are an opportunity to discuss common problems, share examples of good practice and provide WG and WLGA with feedback on local issues and concerns, which will hopefully guide and inform WG's strategic direction on flood risk management.

Outcome 2 - Ensure that local communities understand their responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management

Measure 2.1 Publish a clear strategy and communicate it (statutory requirement)

The Council received Ministerial approval of its Strategy on 5th November 2014. The Strategy has been published on the Council's website. Further consideration needs to be given to how best to communicate the Strategy to maximise public interest, understanding and engagement. The Flood Risk Manager will work closely with the Destination, Marketing and Communication section in this regard.

Measure 2.2 Develop a communication strategy to improve stakeholder knowledge (best practice)

This work has been delayed. However, a communication strategy will be developed as part of the East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme and this will form the template for a county wide strategy.

Measure 2.3 Develop a dedicated flood risk management page on the Council's website (statutory requirement)

Flood risk management information is provided in various pages on the Council's website. The Flood Risk Manager would welcome the Committee's views regarding whether a dedicated 'one stop flood shop' webpage would be of benefit, or whether the existing format is adequate.

Measure 2.4 Publish and distribute information explaining responsibilities, local flood risk, property protection and resilience (statutory requirement)

The Council has provided advice to residents regarding riparian responsibilities, individual property protection and resilience on a case by case basis. The advice is based on national guidance, which is currently being updated by Natural Resources Wales. There is an opportunity to include a link to this guidance on the Council's website.

Measure 2.5 Involve local communities in local initiatives and schemes (best practice)

The Council consults with communities affected by flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes as a matter of course and will involve communities in local initiatives as these arise.

Measure 2.6 Promote and support Community Flood Plans (best practice)

The Council continues to work in partnership with Natural Resources Wales to develop and promote Community Flood Plans. Plans are currently in place in Ruthin (Glasdir estate), Ruthin Town, Rhyl, Prestatyn and St Asaph.

Measure 2.7 Promote and support property based resilience (best practice)

The Council continues to provide advice to residents, usually on a case by case basis, regarding property protection and resilience.

Measure 2.8 Visit schools in flood risk areas (best practice)

The Flood Risk Manager has given a talk to pupils at Llandyrnog School and further school visits will take place as part of the East Rhyl Coastal Defence Scheme, Llanbedr DC Flood Risk Management Scheme and Dyserth Flood Risk Management Scheme.

Measure 2.9 Annual flood awareness event and/or flood awareness roadshow (best practice)

Further effort is required to plan and prepare for a flood awareness event/roadshow. The previous event, which took place in Rhyl in 2009, was a collaborative affair involving various Council departments, Natural Resources Wales, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and numerous other agencies. There might also be opportunities to work with neighbouring authorities in this regard.

Measure 2.10 Promote and support Dangerpoint (best practice)

Dangerpoint is a facility near Talacre which provides information to visitors, particularly children, regarding dangers within the home and community, including flood risk. The facility relies on visitor numbers to remain viable. The Council provided funding to Dangerpoint in 2015/16 to support the attendance of Year 5 and 6 pupils, but there have been insufficient funds available in 2016/17 to continue this support. An option that the Council has discussed with Dangerpoint is to only pay for the attendance of pupils from schools in flood risk areas, which would cost around £12,000 per annum.

Measure 2.11 Actively engage with the private flood sector to develop innovative techniques to raise awareness (best practice)

The Council is in discussions with a local consultant regarding a partnership approach to raising awareness, particularly in schools and colleges. In addition, the programme of capital works provides an opportunity for the Council to benefit from the extensive knowledge and expertise of the consultants involved in delivering those schemes.

Outcome 3 - Work in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities and stakeholders

Measure 3.1 Work closely with the Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to develop cost effective solutions to flooding issues (best practice)

The Council has regular meetings with Natural Resources Wales and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to discuss possible solutions to known flooding issues. Whilst this has led to a better collective understanding of flood risk, it hasn't resulted in any particular solutions. What it has done is to reinforce the good working relationship the Council has with NRW and DCWW.

Outcome 4 - Actively manage flood risk associated with new development proposals

Measure 4.1 Develop and apply a robust local policy for the drainage of new development sites (statutory requirement)

The Council is still awaiting guidance from the Welsh Government regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the role of the SuDS Approval Body

(which would most likely be the Council) Also, the Welsh Government has yet to issue an order for the commencement of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act, which relates to sustainable drainage. In the meantime, it would be prudent for the Council to delay the development and application of a local policy. In the absence of a policy, the Council has managed to build a good working relationship with local developers and sustainable approaches to surface water management are generally adopted as good practice.

Measure 4.2 Develop a process with the Planning Department to create clear advice and direction to developers on FRM and Drainage. Encourage developers to adopt a 'best practice' approach to site drainage (statutory requirement)

This needs to be formalised in conjunction with the Planning department but, as with Measure 4.2, it would be prudent for the Council to wait until the Welsh Government issues its guidance.

Outcome 5 - Encourage proactive, responsible maintenance of privately-owned flood defence and drainage assets

Measure 5.1 Identify highest risk private flood defence and drainage assets (statutory requirement)

Further progress has been made, with the assets being recorded on the AMX system. The measure is now approximately 40% complete. The Welsh Government has suggested that it might make funding available during 2016/17 to support this activity, although with only 5 months remaining of the financial year and winter approaching, it is unlikely that this funding could be used effectively. It is anticipated that this measure will be completed within the next 24 months.

Measure 5.2 Develop technical advice for owners to guide them in preparing local maintenance plans (best practice)

No progress has been made in terms of developing formal technical advice, due to other flood risk management priorities. However, technical advice has been provided to landowners on a case by case basis.

Outcome 6 - Investigate opportunities to reduce surface water run-off from the upper catchments and for flood storage in flood plain areas

Measure 6.1 Develop a register of land ownership for Denbighshire and neighbouring authority areas with shared catchments (best practice)

Further progress has been made, the measure is now 70% complete. In some respects, the final 30% of landowners could be the most difficult to identify due to unregistered land and ambiguity of land ownership. As a consequence, the

measure could prove impossible to fully complete. Nevertheless, the register of landowners in areas of greatest flood risk should be reasonably comprehensive.

Measure 6.2 Develop proposals to engage with significant landowners to employ land management techniques and initiatives which help to reduce the rate of surface water run-off (best practice)

Most of the owners of large land holdings within areas of potential flood risk in Denbighshire have been contacted. The measure will be reviewed periodically, but is substantially complete.

Outcome 7 - Identify affordable, sustainable flood risk management projects

Measure 7.1 Review the Council's programme of flood risk management schemes (best practice)

Complete, with the result that future fluvial and coastal flood risk management schemes have been prioritised.

Measure 7.2 Use Flood Risk Management Plans to identify further measures to manage and reduce flood risk (statutory requirement)

This measure will be developed in conjunction with the preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans.

Measure 7.3 Encourage and promote community and private contribution towards the costs of flood schemes (statutory requirement)

This will form an integral part of the schemes in development at St Asaph, Dyserth, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, East Rhyl and Rhyl Yacht Club. The schemes are currently in the early stages of the development, so the techniques and methods which could be used are unclear. If necessary, the Council will seek the assistance of specialist consultants in this regard and will consider examples of where community and private contribution has helped to bring about the success of a project

Measure 7.4 Continue to promote flood risk management schemes that might be eligible for Welsh Government grant aid (best practice)

The Council has received approval from the Welsh Government to develop flood risk management schemes at St Asaph, Dyserth, Llanbedr Dyffryn Clwyd, East Rhyl and Rhyl Yacht Club.

Outcome 8 - Ensure local FRM knowledge is aligned with the Councils emergency planning procedures.

Measure 8.1 Embed the LFRMS into flood response and recovery plans and use developing knowledge on flood risk to “tune” emergency procedures (statutory requirement)

One of the aims of the Strategy, and a statutory requirement for the Council, is to improve the Council's understanding of local flood risk. This knowledge is subsequently fed into flood response and recovery plans. An example of this is at east Rhyl, where procedures were reviewed and amended to reflect our improved knowledge of flood risk following the December 2013 storms. The Council has subsequently carried out work to reduce flood risk in the area, such as the installation of flood gates on the promenade and improvements at Rhyl Golf Course. These have been taken into account and the response plan adjusted accordingly.

Measure 8.2 Continue to develop Denbighshire County Council's Multi Agency Flood Plan (statutory requirement)

The current revision of the Multi Agency Flood Plan was issued by the North Wales Resilience Forum in March 2014 and will be reviewed and updated if necessary in March 2017. The Council attends regular meetings of the Local Resilience Forum Severe Weather Group, which has a broad attendance, including representation from the North Wales Councils Emergency Planning Service, Dwr Cymru Welsh Water, Natural Resources Wales, Network Rail, North Wales Police, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service and the utility companies. All well as contributing to the Council's discharge of its responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act, attending the meetings provides a valuable opportunity to discuss flood risk matters with other agencies, who sometimes have different priorities, but often share common aims.