

Senedd Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a
Materion Gwledig
Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i lifogydd
CCERA(5) FL 01
Ymateb gan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Caerffili

Welsh Parliament
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs
Committee
Welsh Government's response to flooding
CCERA(5) FL 01
Evidence from Caerphilly County Borough
Council

Background

The Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee will be running a scrutiny session with Lesley Griffiths focussing on last year's floods and preparedness as we head into the winter.

LA's have been asked to submit evidence to the Committee around the following areas:

Whether the current level of funding provided by the Welsh Government for flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM), and for relevant authorities to provide emergency flood response, is sufficient;

The current capital funding is insufficient. The funding is organised very well by the current WG team to support the delivery of schemes, however, LA's struggle with staff resources to project manage feasibility studies/design and construction schemes due to other flood risk management functions and work commitments. Additionally, the requirement to match fund 15% towards the schemes is a problem for LA's, further reductions or zero contribution are needed for the next 5-10 years. Further, LA's have a backlog of projects that need funding but due to unavailability LA's have to prioritise those schemes most likely to cause the most damage to properties as a result of flooding.

The restriction of the current FCERM funding criteria can sometimes hamper the ability of LA's to deliver schemes to protect them from surface water flooding. FCERM funding to make improvement to highways to reduce flood risk as the highway is not deemed as 'protecting homes and businesses. However, highways is often the biggest channel for the surface water flows.

LA's have serious concerns due to the lack of revenue funding allocation. NRW get £21M year and LA's only get £1.1M (£2.5M this year).

The lack of revenue funding restricts the ability of for LA's to be resilient, plan, inspect, investigate and maintain assets to a good quality standard. We also need longer settlements as the yearly allocation restrict employment opportunities and the long-term planning necessary in FCERM.

Whether more emergency funding will be necessary to assist local authorities to deal with flooding this winter;

A bit of an unknown until we see what this winter will bring.

We need more revenue funding at this time of the year to help prepare, investigate and maintain assets regularly ahead of the winter.

Whether local authorities are sufficiently supported to recover from a major flooding event, undertake any necessary investigations and make changes needed to manage the risk of a recurring event

LA's are still recovering from 15th & 16th February 2020 floods. There is still huge workload outstanding. We are still collating information, still doing analysis and developing s19 reports. Lack of staff is one issue and sufficient revenue funding to develop appropriate other urgent scheme works.

How effective the Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee is in providing an advisory and coordinating role to Welsh Government.

It is still too early to give an accurate assessment due to it only been in place 12 months.