

**Senedd Cymru**  
**Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a**  
**Materion Gwledig**  
**Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i lifogydd**  
**CCERA(5) FL 02**  
**Ymateb gan Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Rhondda**  
**Cynon Taf**

**Welsh Parliament**  
**Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs**  
**Committee**  
**Welsh Government’s response to flooding**  
**CCERA(5) FL 02**  
**Evidence from Rhondda Cynon Taf County**  
**Borough Council**

Rhondda Cynon Taff’s CBC Response to the Invitation to submit views on the Welsh Government’s response to flooding by the Senedd’s [Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee](#)

Question	RCTCBC Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 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;</li> </ul>	<p>The level of funding for capital investment is considered reasonable for what we currently know.</p> <p>However, the National Strategy being published soon, and this will trigger a review of RCT’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which in turn will feed into a review of Flood Risk Management Plans for completion by Dec 2021. Therefore, there could be further demand on the funding as programs and pipelines are developed over the next 12 months.</p> <p>In terms of revenue support to deliver the preparation of the Strategies, plans, regulation of the legislation and planning for emergency flood response, it is likely that further support is required. The Welsh Government funds each LA with revenue support annually. This was £70k in 2019/20 and increased to £105k for 2020/21 after the February Storms. This supports regulatory functions, asset investigation and assessment and maintenance. However, the funding is not allocated on a risk basis, that is all LAs get the same amount regardless of flood risk within their borough. For example, RCT receives 4.54% (1/22) of the national revenue funding. An estimate based on the Communities at Risk Register (CaRR) would suggest that RCT has 21% of the national surface water flood risk to manage. This would suggest that from a proportional risk position RCT is underfunded to support its flood risk</p>

	management functions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– whether more emergency funding will be necessary to assist local authorities to deal with flooding this winter;</li> </ul>	<p>RCTCBC is very grateful to the Welsh Government for the Emergency Funding received from FCERM. There is a strong likelihood that further funding may be necessary should the borough experience storm events. This is primarily to do with the fact that surveys and repairs to the damage infrastructure is ongoing which may increase the risk of flooding and further damage during the winter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 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</li> </ul>	<p>RCTCBC response from all departments has been enormous and challenging with over 1,400 properties internally flooded during Storm Dennis..</p> <p>The flooding within the borough has generated 28 unique flood investigation areas and likely 19 s19 regulatory reports under the flood and Water Management Act 2010. This invaluable information will feed into the Strategy, plans and projects to manage the risk from recurring events. This strategic work is generally supported by the revenue funding indicated in Question 1.</p> <p>There is no indication currently of additional revenue funding being made available by the Welsh Government to support the borough, and as further indicated in Q1, managing the risk is further hindered by linear and not proportional funding based on the flood risk.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– how effective the Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee is in providing an advisory and coordinating role to Welsh Government.</li> </ul>	<p>The FCEC committees annual report demonstrates how active the committee has been within their first year especially responding to national consultations. It highlights the use of the committee for independent review of documents/reports which is useful based on the different areas of expertise from its members. From a LA perspective, it is good to see good representation from local Authorities and WLGA.</p>