

## Appendix C: Methods adopted by Gwynedd Council to manage risk of flooding and coastal erosion

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### Maintain

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Gwynedd Council are responsible for a variety of FCERM structures such as flood walls and overflow systems on rivers, and coastal walls and groyne fields. The Council retain a register of all FCERM assets within the Council's ownership and/or responsibility, which contains key information regarding the construction and function of each asset. The register is supported by a mapping system to display the location and extents of our assets and is updated to incorporate any changes in asset information as a result of improvement works.	<i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i>
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The condition of the Council's FCERM assets is assessed on a regular basis using industry standard techniques, for assurance that they remain in adequate condition to provide the desired standard of defence, and to identify any defects which could compromise integrity in the future. Routine inspections are supplemented by post-storm condition inspections.	<i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i>
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Additionally, a prioritised routine inspection schedule of the Council's flood risk management assets ensures that they remain unaffected by in-channel debris which could lead to asset failure and potential flooding incidents. Some assets are served by telemetry devices which enable asset status to be inspected remotely, and over time our aim is to develop our sensor network to incorporate more of our assets, and also to provide an alert to our staff when accumulation of debris may lead to asset failure (see Action ....).

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Responsibility for all bridges and culverts on the local highway network which are inspected on a regular basis to ensure that they remain functional and do not pose a flood risk. The Council also maintain all highway gulley's and drains on a cyclic programme and will undertake repairs or improvements as and when condition dictates in accordance with the Council's Highway Maintenance manual.	<i>GC Highways Department</i>
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### Plan

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Gwynedd Council deliver FCERM improvement schemes to minimise the risk of local flooding or coastal erosion to our most vulnerable communities. Capital support for schemes of this kind is offered through the Welsh Government's FCERM Programme (see section xxx). Application for Welsh Government funding is supported by business cases which demonstrate the level of flood and/or coastal erosion risk and provide clear and sufficient information to demonstrate that the preferred improvement option provides a sustainable, proportionate and economically viable solution to manage risk.	<i>YGC Water and Environment Service (as LLFA)</i>
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Further information of FCERM schemes delivered by Gwynedd Council can be found in [section XXX](#).

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By acknowledging that not all households can be protected from flooding through capital improvement schemes the Council also offer advice to concerned residents on measures that can be taken to reduce flood risk to their properties.	<i>YGC Water and Environment Service</i>
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### Respond

During a flood event Gwynedd Council will take all reasonable measures to ensure that their network of county roads remain passable for vehicles, although storm conditions, extent of flooding and availability of resources may dictate that some roads will need to be closed to ensure safety of the public.

*GC Highways  
Department*

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During severe rainfall events the Council will make every effort to distribute sandbags to residents that are at serious risk of flooding, although **residents are strongly advised to source their own flood risk management equipment when a known flood risk exists** as the ability of the Council to share sandbags could be severely compromised during periods of adverse weather when the priority is to keep the highway network open for emergency services.

*GC Highways  
Department*

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The Council will take appropriate action to support the emergency services and those engaged in emergency in response; will assist with evacuation by arranging transportation; set up and manage rest centre arrangements and carry out clear up work in affected communities following flooding.

*GC Highways  
Department*

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On becoming aware that a property has experienced internal flooding following severe rainfall or tidal events Gwynedd Council undertake investigations to determine source and cause of flooding. When flooding is from a source for which the Council is not RMA (see **sections XXX**), information for the investigation may be obtained through consultation with a partner authority (usually NRW or DCWW).

*YGC Water and  
Environment  
Unit (as LLFA)*

Post-event flood investigations are a vital tool in establishing source and cause of flooding to our residents. Investigations allow us to build up an understanding of flood risk to our communities and also provide us with an opportunity to advise our most at-risk residents of any methods to manage the risk of flooding in the future

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### **Regulate**

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Gwynedd Council (along with Snowdonia National Park Authority) act as local planning authority and in doing so must have regard to potential risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion when developing local policies and determining applications for development.

*GC Planning  
Department*

The flood and coastal erosion risk associated with all planning applications received by Gwynedd Council are assessed prior to determination, in accordance with the guidance provided in TAN15 (Development, flooding and coastal erosion), scheduled to be updated in 2023. Gwynedd Council consult with colleagues at NRW and YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA) on all proposed developments for which flooding and/or coastal erosion is a material consideration.

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Gwynedd Council as the SAB have a duty to approve SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) which follow the national statutory standards. SAB approval is required for any development with a footprint greater than 100m<sup>2</sup>. Apart from single-curtilage sites, the SAB also has a duty to adopt such drainage systems.

*YGC Water and  
Environment  
Unit (as LLFA)*

In accordance with Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act Gwynedd Council deliver the role of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) Approval Body for all qualifying developments. This ensures that all new developments with drainage implications meet the national SuDS standards to reduce the risk of surface water flooding and realise all

other associated benefits (ecological, amenity, water quality). Over time the SAB will become responsible for maintaining more SuDS systems and therefore existing asset management systems will be expanded to include all elements adopted by the Council.

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Under section 23 of the Land Drainage Act Gwynedd Council are responsible for authorising consent to individuals, developers or authorities who wish to carry out changes to an ordinary watercourse that may affect flow or flood risk. Gwynedd Council are provided further powers to regulate activities on or surrounding ordinary watercourses through the Land Drainage (Gwynedd Council) Bylaws. A copy of the bylaws and the Council's position statement can be found on our website.

*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*

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In many instances the partial or full blockage of a watercourse can result in flooding to land or in the worst case properties, businesses and/or critical infrastructure. Where Gwynedd Council have been made aware of a potential blockage or obstruction to an ordinary watercourse we will look to work with all parties involved to help resolve the problem before considering the use of permissive enforcement powers afforded under the Land Drainage Act.

*YGC Water and Environment Unit (as LLFA)*

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**Monitor**

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The Welsh Coastal Monitoring Centre is funded by the Welsh Government and delivers a standard, coastal monitoring programme on behalf of Welsh RMAs to provide the evidence necessary for FCERM decisions. Gwynedd Council monitor beach levels at critical locations along the coastline as part of the national programme. This programme is supplemented by some additional local surveys and also post-storm surveys to identify any large fluctuations in beach levels that may pose immediate risks to coastal assets.

*YGC Water and Environment Unit*