

Paper Title:	Flood Risk Management Committee (FRMC) update
Paper Reference:	20-11-B03
Paper Sponsored By:	Elizabeth Haywood – Chair of FRMC
Paper Presented By:	Elizabeth Haywood

Purpose of Paper:	Information
Recommendation:	To note the update

Issue

1. This paper provides a brief update to Board following the FRMC meeting of 26 October 2020.

Update

Flood Recovery and Review Programme

2. Committee members gave their thanks and appreciation to the staff involved with the Review work. The Committee reviewed the launch of the Review documents and the public and media reaction. Members underlined the value of the detailed planning approach to the Review and suggested it should be adopted for future work. A verbal update on the launch will be given at the November Board meeting.
3. Members discussed the plans for the implementation phase of the work, stressing the importance of delivery but noting the requirements for resource. It was agreed that the Committee would scrutinise implementation on behalf of the full Board through the quarterly Committee meetings.

Welsh Government's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

4. The Committee received a briefing on the main features this important new Strategy, and particularly noted the Measures that relate to NRW. It was noted that many of the Measures are either to be led by NRW or will require NRW involvement, with all the actions to be carried out in the first three years.

Committee Effectiveness Review

5. Members considered the report and recommendations. Reflections included the value of the independent review element of the Flood Review work, and there was

agreement that this option should be utilised in the future, where appropriate (for example, when independent technical expertise would be valuable). Members also agreed the need for horizon scanning sessions, and review of the risk register and risk management processes. It was agreed that in future the FRMC would meet four times a year rather than three.

Capital Programme

6. Members noted and approved the progress of the Capital Programme in 20/21 and the plans for future years. There was discussion on the need to ensure a good capital pipeline of projects is maintained, whilst noting the challenges in achieving this.

Reservoirs

7. An update on reservoir safety was presented to the Committee. This built on the very constructive and useful sessions on Reservoirs at Board and FRMC in recent months. The paper considered how the review into the Toddbrook reservoir incident has the potential to bring about significant change in how reservoir safety is legislated for, delivered and regulated. It highlighted how the discussions with Board and FRMC have prompted further consideration on what more can be done to ensure reservoir safety in Wales. It was agreed that an options paper will be brought to a future FRMC meeting, and that Reservoirs would be a standing item at all FRMC meetings for the foreseeable future.