

**DO: GACH BALL DE CHEANTAR BARDASACH DHÚN GARBHÁN/LEASAMHÓIR
TO: EACH MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF DUNGARVAN/LISMORE**

RE: OPW Flood Risk Management Plans

Introduction

The OPW Flood Risk Management Plans were formally adopted by the Commissioners of Public Works on 14th March 2018, and these were approved by Mr. Pascal O’Donoghue, T.D., Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, on 16th April 2018.

Nationally, there are 29 Flood Risk Management Plans, which are developed across 6 River Basin Districts, and provide for the development of 118 flood relief schemes. There are 4 schemes proposed for Waterford, which are for AGLISH; Ballyduff; Dungarvan and Environs; and Ringphuca. The development of these plans has been ongoing since 2012, and involved consultation by the OPW with affected communities and local authorities.

The Commissioner formally wrote to the Council on 9th May 2018, forwarding copies of the Flood Risk Management Plans with associated Strategic Environmental Assessment Statements and Natura Impact Statement/Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports, for the schemes in Waterford - **copy of letter attached.**

In accordance with Articles 20(1), 20(2) & 20(3) of the European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks), Regulations 2010, the County Council shall within three months examine and consider the Flood Risk Management Plans and decide whether to adopt or otherwise the said Plans. Therefore, in accordance with these statutory provisions the plans must be considered by Council before the 9th August 2018, and the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Commissioners of Public Works must be notified of the Council’s decision by the 9th September 2018.

Summary of Plans

The Plans were developed by River Basin/Units of Management (UoM) with individual Areas of Further Assessment (AFA) addressed in each of the River Basin Units as follows:

River Basin Units of Management (UoM)	Areas of Further Assessment (AFA)
Blackwater, Munster UoM 21	AGLISH AFA
	BALLYDUFF AFA
Mahon, UoM 17	DUNGARVAN AND ENVIRONS AFA
	RINGPHUCA AFA
Suir, UoM 16	NONE

Details of the schemes have been published on the OPW website at www.floodinfo.ie and a link to this website will also be included on the Council's website.

Strategic Environmental Assessments Statements, and Natura Impact Statements for the schemes have been prepared and are published on the OPW website.

The Flood Risk Management Plans, published on the OPW website, provide further details on the following:

- Legislative Background
- Flood Risk Management Objectives
- Scope of the Plans
- Overview of the River Basin
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Flood Hazard and Risk Assessment
- Environmental Considerations
- Methods of Flood Risk Management
- Development and Appraisal of Flood Options
- Outcomes of the Appraisals

While these plans are at a strategic level, the next stage will be for the OPW to develop them into "Schemes". These Flood Risk Management Schemes will contain the details of both structural and non-structural works and measures. The Schemes may be progressed under either the Arterial Drainage (Amendment) Act 1995 or Part VIII/X of the Planning & Development Regulations or the Strategic Infrastructure Act, 2006.

Launch and Funding Commitment

Following the adoption, by the Commissioners of Public Works, of the Flood Risk Management Plans, Mr. Kevin Moran T.D., Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, also recently launched a 10 year funding programme, providing €1 billion in investment in flood relief measures.

An initial allocation of €257million was announced for 50 of the 118 schemes to proceed to detailed design and construction stage, including two schemes in Waterford as follows:

Ballyduff
Aglish

Also included in the overall 118 schemes are Dungarvan and Environs and Ringphuca, to be implemented under the 10 year €1 billion investment programme.

All of these schemes will be managed by Waterford City and County Council, involving finalising designs and flood protection measures, further public consultation, completing the Part 8 Process, appointment of contractors and proceeding to construction.

Also under the Minor Works Scheme the Local Authority will have the opportunity to progress other schemes outside the CFRAM study Area.

Recommendation

I recommend the adoption by Council of the OPW Flood Risk Management Plans for Ballyduff, Aglish, Dungarvan and Environs and Ringphuca.

**Gabriel Hynes,
Senior Engineer Roads.
9th July, 2018.**



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9th May 2018

**Mr Michael Walsh,
Chief Executive,
Waterford City & County Council,
City Hall,
The Mall,
Waterford.**

Re: Flood Risk Management Plans

Dear Mr Walsh,

I would like to acknowledge your Council's co-operation and support, during the past six years, to the Office of Public Works' (OPW) Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme. In particular, I would like to thank the officials from your Council who have been members of the CFRAM Study Progress and Steering Committees. Their local knowledge has been invaluable to developing and finalising the flood maps and Flood Risk Management Plans.

As you are aware the CFRAM Programme involved detailed engineering analysis and assessment for those 300 identified communities, selected in 2012 as they were most likely to be impacted from future flooding. These included 90 coastal communities.

Nationally, the CFRAM Programme studied 80% of our primary cause of flooding in communities that house almost two thirds of our population. While the Programme assessed flood risk in all our major cities, approximately half of the communities assessed had populations of less than 2,000 people and one quarter had populations of less than 500 people.

The CFRAM Programme is now providing us with the evidence to plan nationally to address flood risk, including more evidence to inform planning and development decisions and emergency response planning.

The Commissioners of Public Works formally adopted the Flood Risk Management Plans on 14th March 2018. These Plans were approved by Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform on 16th April 2018. The Plans were launched on 3rd May 2018 by Mr. Kevin "Boxer" Moran TD, Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief, in the presence of An Taoiseach, Mr. Leo Varadkar TD.

I have made arrangements to forward a copy of the Flood Risk Management Plans with the associated Strategic Environment Assessment and Natural Impact Statement for each of the Units of Managements within your area. This will allow your Council, through reserve function, meet its statutory obligations in accordance with Regulation 20. (1), (2) & (3) of the European Communities (Assessment & Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010-2015. As you are aware, this Regulation requires *that the County Council or Local Authority shall within three months examine and consider the Flood Risk Management Plans and decide whether to adopt or otherwise the said Plans*. These documents and all associated flood maps are available on a new Map and Plan viewer at www.floodinfo.ie. Other key reports and county summaries are also available on this new website.

Your Council is further required to notify the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government and the Commissioners of Public Works of its decision within one month following the expiry of the three month consideration period, from today.

I am also sending two further sets of Plans and environmental assessments and I would be grateful if these could be made available for the public to access.

The CFRAM was a national study, the largest study of flood risk ever undertaken and followed best practice. The Flood Risk Management Plans set out the flood relief schemes that have already been constructed and those that are currently underway and provide the outline of 118 new proposed schemes. Together these schemes can protect 95% of properties assessed to be at risk. The Flood Risk Management Plans provide the evidence to inform how future Government investment can return greatest benefit nationally.

On 3rd May the Minister of State for the Office of Public Works and Flood Relief announced he was making €14m available to the Local Authority sector to lead on progressing 31 of these 118 schemes to detailed design. Each of these schemes has an estimated budget of less than €1m and are 100% funded by the OPW. Officials from this office, as appropriate, will contact your Council in relation to those schemes for your area. The Minister also announced OPW is starting work to progress 19 additional schemes to detailed design. The OPW is establishing Steering Groups for each of these schemes and will contact your Council, as appropriate.

While I appreciate and acknowledge the good understanding of these maps and Plans within your Council, as you further consider these Flood Risk Management Plans, officials in the OPW and myself are available to meet and discuss any details that you and your Council may require. In this regard, you may contact Vincent Breen, Assistant Principal Officer; vincent.breen@opw.ie or (046) 9426086.

Yours sincerely



John Sydenham
Commissioner
Flood Risk Management