

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Annual Report
July 2016 – June 2017

6th October 2017



List of Acronyms

CaBA	Catchment Based Approach
CC	Cornwall Council
CCFF	Cornwall Community Flood Forum
CCP	Cornwall Catchment Partnership
CCRN	Cornwall Community Resilience Network
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DCLG	Department for Communities and Local Government
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EA	Environment Agency
FCERM	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management
FDGiA	Flood Defence Grant in Aid
FWMA	Flood and Water Management Act
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
MTP	Medium Term Plan
PCO	Plymouth Coastal Observatory
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
PLP	Property Level Protection
PRF	Pollution Risk Forecast
RFCC	Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
RMA	Risk Management Authority
SWCG	South West Coast Group
SWRFCC	South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee
SWW	South West Water

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1 Introduction to the Report

This report provides an annual update on the activities of Cornwall Council in relation to its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Cornwall. The report covers the 12 month period from July 2016 to June 2017, inclusive.

Section 2 of this report explains the setting of the annual report within the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the legislative context for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have oversight of Cornwall Council's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) activities.

Section 3 explains the responsibilities of the LLFA and other risk management authorities within the FCERM framework as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). It also describes the national funding process for flood defence investment. This section also describes the structure of groups and committees through which the Council communicates with Defra on FCERM related activities and scheme funding.

Sections 4 to 7 provide an update on FCERM activities during the reporting period.

Section 4 provides an overview of significant flood events occurring in Cornwall between July 2016 and June 2017.

Section 5 lists FCERM schemes and projects that have been progressed or developed during this period.

Whilst not specifically a FCERM issue, Section 6 summarises the bathing water quality results for designated Cornish beaches for the 2016 bathing season.

Section 7 provides an update on the devolution activities in relation to strategic resilience.

Section 8 relates to the 2017 update of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment under the Flood Risk Regulations. The Committee is requested to endorse Cornwall Council's return.

Issues to be brought to the attention of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are discussed in Section 9. Recommendations to the Committee are made in Section 10.

2 Context

Cornwall Council is designated as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Cornwall under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).

As such it is incumbent upon Cornwall Council to formulate and publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The LFRMS was produced and went out to public consultation in 2014. It was adopted by Cabinet on 5 November 2014. As part of that Strategy it was stated that an annual report on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Cornwall would be issued.

Furthermore the FWMA added a new section (Section 21F) to the Local Government Act 2000 to provide powers to LLFAs to allow for the scrutiny of risk management authorities as to the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

In this context, in June 2015 Cornwall Council held a Select Committee examination of FCERM in Cornwall. The report of the Select Committee was accepted and approved by Cabinet in February 2016. An outcome of that report was to suggest the return of an annual report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This report addresses the requirements of both the Strategy and the Select Committee and enables the Neighbourhoods and Public Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee to examine Cornwall Council's role as LLFA. It is the second such annual report.

3 FCERM Framework

Flood and coastal erosion risk management activities are overseen in England and Wales by Defra. The national framework and division of responsibilities are mainly set out in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

3.1 FCERM Responsibilities

Table 1 lists the general areas of FCERM statutory responsibilities for each of the Risk Management Authorities in Cornwall with regard to managing flood risk from different sources of flooding, as set out in the FWMA. Whilst the named authority is responsible for taking the lead in investigating flood incidents, developing solutions and implementing interventions, in practice the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW) work closely in partnership on all flooding issues.

Table 1 FCERM statutory responsibilities

Responsibility	Risk Management Authority
FCERM strategic overview	The Environment Agency
Management of flood risk from Main Rivers	The Environment Agency
Management of flood risk from Ordinary Watercourses	Cornwall Council as LLFA
Management of flood risk from the sea	The Environment Agency
Management of coastal erosion	Cornwall Council as Coastal Protection Authority
Management of flood risk from surface water runoff	Cornwall Council as LLFA
Management of flood risk from highway drainage (except for the A30 and A38 trunk roads)	Cornwall Council as Highway Authority
Management of flood risk from highway drainage for the A30 and A38 trunk roads	Highways England
Management of flood risk from public sewers	South West Water
Management of flood risk from statutory reservoirs	The Environment Agency
Flood incident management	All relevant authorities, emergency services and other utilities under the Civil Contingencies Act
Flood recovery	Cornwall Council
National Environment Programme	The Environment Agency
Management of pollution from public sewers	South West Water
Management of watercourses on, or adjacent to, private land	Landowners

In addition the FWMA requires Cornwall Council to:

- Investigate and record details of significant flood events within Cornwall.
- Maintain a register of structures or features which are considered to have a significant FCERM function.
- Undertake works to manage flood risk from surface water runoff and groundwater.
- Designate structures and features that affect flooding or coastal erosion in order to safeguard assets.
- Consent works on Ordinary Watercourses.
- Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a local strategy for flood risk management in Cornwall.
- Be statutory consultee on surface water drainage for planning applications of over 0.5 ha in area or containing 10 or more properties.

3.2 FCERM scheme and project funding process

Cornwall Council bids for flood defence scheme funding through Defra's Capital Investment Programme, also referred to as the Medium Term Plan (MTP). The MTP is a six year programme of consented schemes. Each scheme is led by the relevant Risk Management Authority (RMA), as set out in Table 1. Schemes that are proposed but not consented sit as pipeline projects outside of the 6 year horizon until a case for funding based on need, effectiveness, cost-benefit ratio and sources of additional partnership funding, if required, are established.

Funding provided by Central Government through the MTP process is known as Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA). Not all projects meet the necessary cost-benefit ratio and set criteria to enable full funding through FDGiA. Additional partnership funding is often required for a scheme or project to be approved. Sources of match funding include Local Levy (see below), as administered through the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees, capital investment funding provided by the LLFA and match funding from other private or public organisations.

3.3 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management structure

FCERM in England is overseen by Defra, mainly through the Environment Agency, who manage the MTP on Defra's behalf. The main channels of communication between LLFAs and Government are described below.

Figure 1 shows some of the organisations and interactions involved in delivering FCERM.

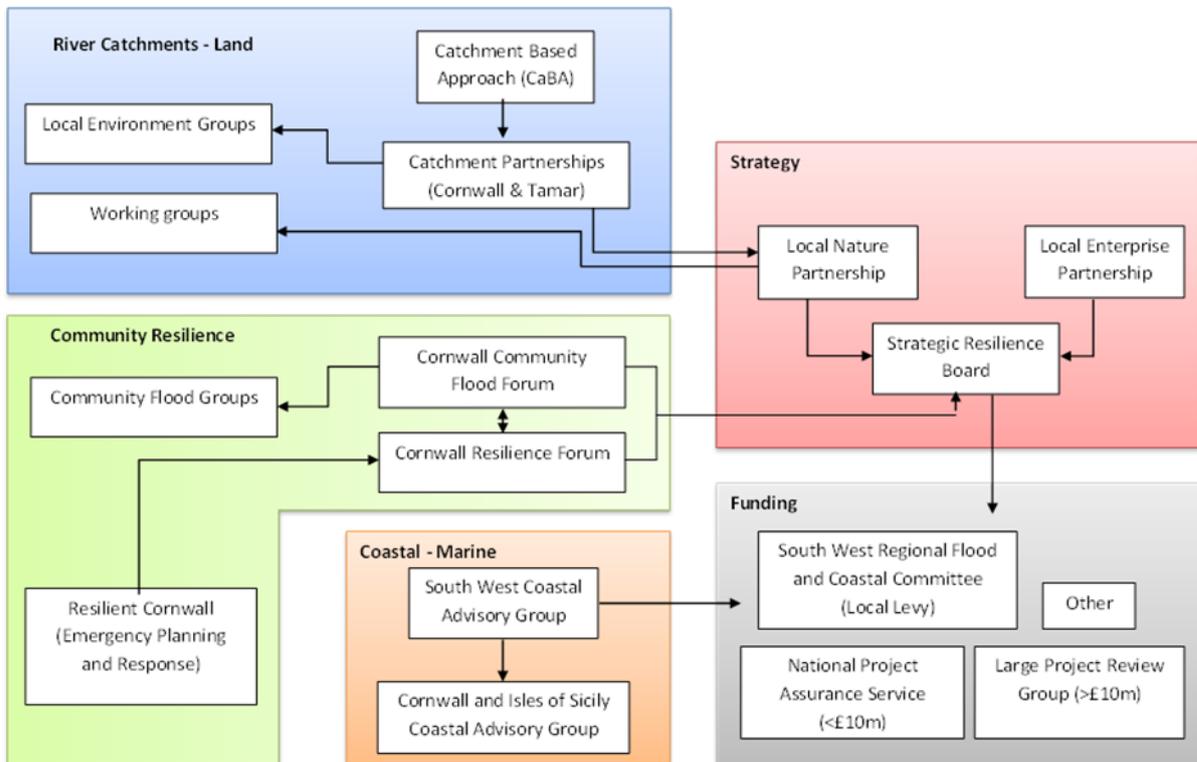


Fig. 1 Groups focussed on flood resilience in Cornwall

3.3.1 SW Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

Governance of FDGiA delivered by Central Government resources in England is provided by twelve Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC), as set out in the FWMA.

The Environment Agency must consult with RFCCs about flood and coastal risk management work and expenditure in their region and take their comments into consideration. RFCCs are also responsible for allocating Local Levy funds that can be used for commissioning specific projects or studies or as match funding for projects as required in order to release FDGiA, through an annual “local choices” meeting.

RFCCs are made up of independent members with relevant experience on specific aspects of FCERM, such as inland flooding, coastal flooding, ecology and environment, land management and utilities, Environment Agency officers and also elected members of each of the LLFAs within the region.

Cornwall Council is part of the South West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (SWRFCC). The LLFA membership for the SWRFCC is provided in Table 2 below. The three SWRFCC members representing Cornwall Council during this reporting period prior to the 2017 local elections were Cllr Joyce Duffin, Cllr Steve Chamberlain and Cllr Benedicte Jenkinson and post the elections are Cllr Sue James, Cllr Dominic Fairman and Cllr Carolyn Rule.

Table 2 Numbers of elected members representing LLFAs on the SWRFCC

LLFA	No of elected members
Cornwall Council	3
Devon County Council	4
Plymouth City Council	1
Torbay Council	1
Council of the Isles of Scilly	1

The Local Levy is a fund that is paid into by each of the LLFAs on a RFCC. As Local Levy is often used to match fund FDGiA, a highly beneficial rate of return is received. It can also be used to pump-prime project development in advance of FDGiA being received. The amount of Local Levy raised by each LLFA is based on a set rate per council tax band D property within each respective LLFA area.

The total Local Levy raised by the SWRFCC during 2016/17 was £957,521 of which £301,118 was invested by Cornwall Council. The agreed Local Levy contribution from Cornwall Council for 2017/18 is £331,230. The expected contribution from Cornwall Council for 2018/19 is £364,353.

The SWRFCC meets quarterly. In 2016/17 the following meetings were held:

- July 2016 Bideford
- October 2016 Exmouth
- January 2017 Exeter
- April 2017 Helston

Four additional meetings of the SWRFCC Finance Sub-group were also held, with officer representation from Cornwall Council.

3.3.2 SW Coast Group

The South West Coast Group (SWCG) is aligned with, and reports to, the SWRFCC. It is made up of the Environment Agency and the Coastal Authorities, which are not necessarily LLFAs. SWCG representation is through officer membership, rather than by elected Members of the Council.

The SWCG oversees the development and implementation of Shoreline Management Plans: the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly SMP2 as well as the South Devon and Dorset SMP2 and the North Devon and Somerset SMP2.

The SWCG also administers the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme delivered by the Plymouth Coastal Observatory (PCO), which is funded by Central Government, through FDGiA, to collect and distribute coastal survey data such as beach surveys, foreshore ecology, topographic and bathymetric surveys around the coast of SW England and provide an annual report. The PCO has been collecting consistent data since 2006.

Importantly, the PCO also conduct post-storm surveys of selected beaches in order to monitor beach erosion and sea defence vulnerability.

PCO, with the support of the SWCG, are currently conducting an asset condition survey of all coastal defences around Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

3.4 Partnership working

In addition to the statutory

3.4.1 Cornwall Community Flood Forum

Cornwall Council recognises and supports the important work of the Cornwall Community Flood Forum (CCFF).

The CCFF was set up to consolidate and continue the work of various flood groups that arose from the severe flooding that occurred in the St Austell Bay area in 2010.

The CCFF is a community-led initiative committed to supporting communities, households and businesses at risk of flooding. It began as an association of Town and Parish Councils, community groups, businesses and individuals with an active involvement in flood risk management. Its aims are to promote partnership working within flood risk management and support communities before, during and after flooding.

Membership of the CCFF is open to all Town and Parish Councils, community flood groups, individuals and businesses within Cornwall. It is also open to all organisations with an interest in flood risk management.

In the last year the CCFF has moved from being an Association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is keen to hear from potential trustees to contribute as much as possible to the governance of the organisation and wherever possible become actively involved in the work done by the organisation to meet its charitable objectives.

3.4.2 Cornwall Community Resilience Network

The Cornwall Community Resilience Network (CCRN) is an initiative driven by the CCFF together with Cornwall Council. The aim is to help create a network of communities working together to share experiences and knowledge and to raise the level of community preparedness throughout Cornwall.

The CCRN helps communities to be prepared to respond to an emergency, like flooding, heavy snowfall or a major fire. It encourages communities to create their own emergency plan or community flood plan and provides a

toolkit to guide communities through the process and training for volunteers and flood wardens.

It is a partnership between the CCFF, the EA, SWW, Devon and Cornwall Police, Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service, and Cornwall Council's Emergency Planning, Localism and Strategic Environment Teams.

Nine Community Emergency Plans are currently shared on the CCRN website, with a further twenty under development. Recent additions for Community Emergency Planning currently include Portreath, St Ives, Hayle and Truro.

3.4.3 Cornwall Catchment Partnership

The Cornwall Catchment Partnership (CCP) champions the Catchment Based Approach (CaBA), which is a Defra policy that embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale to deliver cross cutting improvements to water environments through community partnerships, making use of local knowledge and expertise.

CaBA projects within the catchment management areas of West Cornwall and the Fal and of North Cornwall, Seaton, Looe and Fowey are managed by the Cornwall Wildlife Trust and the River Tamar catchment management area by the Westcountry Rivers Trust.

Participants in the CCP include the Local Nature Partnership, Environment Agency, South West Water, Natural England, The National Farmers Union, Country Land and Business Association, the Association of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities and Cornwall Council.

The CaBA promotes Natural Flood Management techniques that work with nature to control floodwaters over hard engineering techniques. During the last 12 months the CCP created a Soils sub-group to address issues of soil erosion and agricultural runoff.

4 Flood events during this period

Table 3, below, lists the numbers of properties in Cornwall that flooded internally since 2011. This list includes only those that Cornwall Council is aware of; undoubtedly there will be others of which we are not aware. The list does not include properties whose gardens only flooded, access only flooded or were flooded by incidents that are not part of FCERM such as burst water pipes or leaking roofs.

Under these circumstances, no properties were recorded as flooded during the 2015 calendar year. However, flood incidents not resulting in internal property flooding did occur. In the 2016 calendar year some 103 properties in Cornwall were recorded as flooding internally.

During the period covered by this report, 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017 the following significant flooding incidents have occurred:

13 September 2016

Three individual storms occurred in a little over 12 hours. These storms were highly isolated and particularly affected Falmouth & Penryn and Camborne & Redruth. The maximum 1 hour rainfalls appear to be in the order of 1 in 100 year probability but the 30 minute or 15 minute duration events may have been in excess of 1 in 200 year, or more, return periods. A rain gauge near Redruth recorded 27.5 mm in 15 minutes and 36.7 mm in 30 minutes. The rainfall radar measured 42.1 mm over 1 hour near Falmouth.

At least 60 properties are known to have flooded. The Strand in Falmouth was particularly affected, Tesco at Pool had to be evacuated and Camborne Railway Station had to be closed due to flooding.

24 October 2016

Flash flooding occurred in Falmouth and Penryn after torrential rain. No properties were reported to have flooded but the road network was badly affected. There were road closures on Draceana Avenue, Ponsharden Roundabout and Hillhead Roundabout. Standing water was said to be several feet deep according to a police spokesman. Runoff from recently ploughed fields may have exasperated the problem.

21 November 2016

Heavy rainfall in Falmouth led to surface water runoff from surrounding fields which caused ponding across both carriageways on Falmouth Road (A39) at Ponsharon roundabout.

2 February 2017

High tides and a storm surge affected the south coast. At Penryn there was overtopping at Exchequers Quay and surcharging drains that caused some localised flooding of the road. In St Mawes there was flooding to the Square and Kings Road and one property was reported flooded. In Kingsand there

was flooding of the road and some properties along the sea front. In Looe overtopping caused flooding on Buller Street and Hannafore Road and surcharging drains caused flooding between Quay Street and Fore Street. In Portmellon overtopping of the seawall led to flooding of the main through road. The quayside in Mevagissey was overtopped. In Seaton there was flooding to the car park and recreational areas and the road was flooded to a depth of around 400mm. The Promenade in Penzance was overtopped leading to flooding in Western Promenade Road.

5 February 2017

The Old Millhouse public house in Polperro was hit by flash flooding which saw firefighters from Looe and Polruan attend the village and used pumps to clear the water in the Mill Hill area.

13 May 2017

Police declared a major incident for Camborne and Redruth area due to surface water flooding. At least 5 properties flooded internally and were attended by the Fire and Rescue Service.

18 May 2017

Falmouth town centre flooded for a couple of hours after a severe rapid downpour. Sewage was reported to have flowed into Market Strand and dead rats were reported to have washed out of the sewerage system and onto the streets. Flooding also occurred at the Asda car park on Jennings Road and on the A39.

27 May 2017

Thunderstorms and heavy rain led to flooding in Looe. The Environment Agency reported that there were flooded properties, but no numbers or locations are known. Fire and Rescue Services attended a number of incidents throughout Cornwall.

The event at Coverack on 18 July 2017 falls outside of this reporting period. The event was high profile and featured in national media. We are working closely with the Environment Agency, post-event, and a study has been commissioned to determine whether there are lessons to be learned from the incident.

During this 12 month period, Falmouth appears to have been particularly affected by flash flooding. Cornwall Council (Highways) and SWW are working closely together to improve the sewerage system around the Market Strand area of Falmouth through an Integrated Urban Drainage project.

Two of the floods affecting Falmouth in this period saw rainfall intensities that were statistically in excess of 100 year return periods. These rare events seem to be occurring all too commonly.

The main types of flooding that affected Cornwall during this period are surface water flooding caused by intense downpours and tidal flooding along the coastline.

Table 3 List of properties affected by internal flooding since 2011

Year	Event (Location)	Properties flooded
2011	17 January (Praze)	1
	17 January (St Buryan)	2
	17 January (various other)	5
	26 August (Truro)	5
	24 October (Mevagissey)	10
	24 October (Par)	1
	Total	24
2012	17&18 October (Fowey)	5
	17&18 October (Looe)	20
	17&18 October (Mevagissy)	5
	24 November (Cawsand)	5
	24 November (Hessenford)	5
	24 November (Kingsand)	10
	24 November (Ladock)	13
	24 November (Millbrook)	23
	24 November (Newlyn)	15
	24 November (Perranporth)	5
	24 November (Polperro)	6
	24 November (Portmellon)	Not known
	24 November (St Just in Roseland)	Not known
	24 November (Trenear)	5
	14-16 December (Fowey)	4
	14-16 December (Looe)	50
	14-16 December (Mevagissey)	12
	22 December (Helston)	5
	22 December (Ladock)	10
	22 December (Lostwithiel)	13
22 December (Mevagissey)	13	
22 December (Mousehole)	7	
22 December (Porthallow)	9	
22 December (Porthleven)	3	
Total	243	
2013	18 January (Heamoor)	25
	18 January (Port Issac)	5
	21 March (Heamoor)	Not known
	21 March (Pendeen)	5
	21 March (Relubbus)	6
	5 August (Crantock)	5
	5 August (Helston and Breage)	8
	5 August (Perranporth)	5
	5 August (Scorrier)	1
6 September (Falmouth)	3	

Year	Event (Location)	Properties flooded
	23 December (Bugle)	3
	23 December (Ponsanooth)	1
	23 December (Calenick)	5
	24 December (Luxulyan)	2
	24 December (Trenear)	2
	24 December (Perranwell)	7
	Total	83
2014	1 January (Perranporth)	1
	3 January (Fowey)	8
	3 January (Looe)	60
	3 January (Porthleven)	5
	9 January (Polperro)	60
	1-5 February (Mevagissey)	20
	3 February (Penryn)	5
	3 February (Penzance)	11
	3 February (St Ives)	15
	3-5 February (Fowey)	26
	3-5 February (Looe)	60
	3-5 February (Portmellon)	6
	4-5 February (Kingsand)	8
	5 February (Millendreath)	28
	14 February (Frogpool)	1
	14 February (Newlyn)	7
	8 October (Fowey)	5
	8 October (Looe)	3
	Total	329
2015	Total	0
2016	3 January (Menheniot)	1
	6 February (Blackwater)	2
	6 February (Portreath)	9
	6 February (Hayle)	12
	6 February (Chacewater)	2
	6 February (St Agnes)	2
	8 February (Mawgan Porth)	1
	8 February (Port Gaverne)	1
	8 February (Port Issac)	2
	12 February (Penryn)	1
	10 April (St Mawes)	2
	10 April (Flushing)	1
	10 April (Gorran Haven)	2
	10 April (Penzance)	3

Year	Event (Location)	Properties flooded
	13 September (Falmouth)	14
	13 September (Portreath)	4
	13 September (Bridge)	5
	13 September (Gilberts Coombe)	2
	13 September (Camborne)	16
	13 September (Redruth)	21
	Total	103
2017 to date ¹	2 February (St Mawes)	1
	5 February (Polperro)	1
	13 May (Camborne & Redruth)	5
	Total	7

¹ The Coverack incident of 18 July 2017 is within the period considered by the 2018 Annual Report.

5 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Schemes

5.1 Progress on projects

Listed below are FCERM schemes that have been concluded or progressed by Cornwall Council during the 2016/17 reporting period. This list contains only projects that are led by Cornwall Council; projects led by the Environment Agency and South West Water are excluded but in general contain some Cornwall Council involvement.

- A scheme to protect mobile homes at Landsdowne Park, near **Scorrier** has been completed with full funding from FDGiA.
- A scheme to reduce flooding from the highway was constructed at Methleigh Bottoms in **Porthleven**.
- Beach dune management plans have been completed for **Constantine Bay, Porthtowan, Summerleaze, Par, Widemouth Bay, Praa Sands** and **Portcothan** and re-visiting 2009 pilot plans for **Harvey Towans** and **Fistral Beach**. **Marazion** has been added as an additional management plan and is currently still being developed.
- A scoping study toward a management strategy for the **Hayle Estuary** was completed.
- Design works have been undertaken to Millpool Head at **Millbrook** to improve surface water drainage and an Ordinary Watercourse.
- A borehole investigation was conducted to guide coastal defence policy at **Coverack**.
- An assessment of the condition of coastal defence assets was undertaken at **Polperro, Penzance** harbour, **Penzance** Promenade, **Newquay** harbour and **Portreath** harbour.
- Coastal defence repair works have been undertaken at Long Rock, Castle Beach at Falmouth, Cremyl Quay at **Mount Edgecumbe, Portreath** harbour breakwater, **Looe** Quay wall and **Towan** sea wall.

5.2 Developing schemes

Below are listed FCERM schemes that have been developed or initiated during the 2016/17 reporting period but are yet to come forward to full funding approval.

A feasibility study of long term options for shoreline management of **Mount's Bay** has been developed and is expected to be carried out during the next reporting period with full FDGiA funding. Cornwall Council continues to work with a number of other agencies to develop FCERM schemes within Mount's Bay. Coastal protection and shoreline management featured prominently at the Penzance EXPO held in March 2017.



Fig. 2 Mount's Bay stand at Penzance EXPO

A major project for coastal improvements at Long Rock and Marazion Marsh in Mount's Bay has been developed and due to commence in July 2017.

Efforts to progress the **St Austell** Resilient Regeneration (StARR) Project have continued though the funding issue is challenging.

An application for FDGiA has been submitted to fund repairs to **Bude Canal** sea wall.

We are developing a Property Level Resilience (PLP) programme across Cornwall in terms of preferred approach, properties to be included and procurement routes and we are looking to deliver the project over a 2 year period i.e. 2017-19 in order to benefit around 50 properties that are at risk of flooding but cannot benefit from flood alleviation schemes.

In addition, Cornwall Council is working closely with the Environment Agency on the development and appraisal of potential future FCERM schemes at:

- Bude
- Camel Valley
- Fowey
- Looe
- Mousehole
- Newlyn
- Penzance
- Portreath
- Wadebridge

6. Bathing water quality issues

Whilst not strictly a FCERM issue, the Select Committee that met in June 2015 was keen to be kept abreast of developments relating to bathing water quality and combined sewer overflows (CSO).

Cornwall has presently 81 beaches designated as bathing waters under the Bathing Waters Regulations. One beach, at Rock, was de-designated as a bathing water in 2016 on the grounds of safety. Cornwall Council has consulted on the potential designation of a number of new bathing waters for the 2017 season (15 May – 30 September).

Bathing water quality is assessed through a fairly complex process involving regular monitoring and signage to report alerts.

CSO alerts are provided by SWW. A Pollution Risk Forecast (PRF) is also provided by the Environment Agency for certain beaches. These are available where the Environment Agency has sufficient data to imply a link between rainfall across a catchment and reduced river water quality. PRF is a tool that could be utilised on any beach with a river flowing onto it but the system is typically only used on sites struggling to meet the 'sufficient' classification. This means the picture is not as comprehensive as it could be. Reduced water quality can be due to agricultural runoff, for instance, not just CSOs. If a PRF is issued it does not necessarily mean that water quality is poor, just that it is statistically likely to be.

Of the 81 bathing water beaches monitored in 2016, pollution alerts were available on some 44 of them: 26 with CSO alerts and 29 with PRFs. Of the remaining 57 bathing water beaches not included in CSO alerts SWW have CSO assets associated with 22 of them where no notifications are presently issued.

Live pollution alerts can be accessed from SWW's Beach-live site (<http://www.beachlive.co.uk/>), on the Environment Agency website or through Surfers Against Sewage's Safer Seas app.

Overall bathing water quality results are based on the data from four consecutive years. In 2016 in Cornwall no beaches recorded a "poor" rating, 2 beaches a "sufficient" rating, 9 beaches a "good" rating and 69 beaches gained an "excellent" rating.

7. Devolution

The Strategic Resilience Board inaugural meeting was held in December 2016 and a further meeting has been held since, in March 2017; the next meeting was due for July 2017 and then in November and should then follow a 3 month cycle.

The aims of the board are:

1. To govern the delivery of the Resilience Work Programme and the Cornwall Devolution Deal (CDD)
2. To provide strategic leadership for a long term approach to resilience in Cornwall Council
3. To optimised partnership working across Cornwall to manage flood risk and coastal change.

Progress

- A strategic resilience officer has now been employed to assist in the delivery of the boards aims.
- A governance and group mapping structure has been drafted and the board have agreed with the Strategic Vision.
- A consultant (WSP) to provide a triple bottom line risk assessment for Cornwall has been contracted. This risk assessment will look at the social, economic and environmental impact of flood risk on Cornwall and highlight priority communities to help guide the structure of the 25 year investment programme.
- A work stream for the 2 year Devolution Deal cycle has been created and agreed by the board.
- Greater partnership working has begun with both the Environment Agency (EA) and South West Water (SWW) to align the 6 year medium term plans of the EA and Cornwall Council (CC) and the PR19 investment planning of SWW. Using information from partners and the completed consultancy will allow CC to target priority areas which have the greatest opportunity for match funding and the greatest need in the short to medium term and create a methodology to build a pipeline (7-25 years) for the longer term. This long term planning will give flood resilience a more sustainable future.
- An initial analysis of the medium term plan has exposed a large degree of uncertainty with funding. The MTP will need to be refreshed or further sources of funding found to deliver the current plan.
- The Performance Indicator (PI) for the Devolution Deal has been aligned to the Key (PI) for the Business Plan – “increase the number of long term community resilience plans in active development”. This was done to consolidate reporting requirements.

8. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) was introduced in 2011 through the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) as a requirement of meeting the EU Floods Directive. It required each LLFA to submit an analysis of flood risk, with an emphasis on surface water flooding, in order to determine whether any communities within the area met the criteria of being designated as a Flood Risk Area.

The Regulations require this exercise to be repeated every 6 years and so 2017 is a PFRA year. All PFRAs in England had to be submitted to Defra for collation by June 22 2017. It is a requirement of the PFRA that it be approved by Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the LLFA.

Defra took a light touch approach to PFRA in 2017 (PFRA17). PFRA17 consists of three documents:

- A PFRA Review self-assessment form
- A spreadsheet with assessment of past floods, future flood risk and potential Flood Risk Areas.
- An update of Table 8 of PFRA11, listing major flood events within the LLFA area.

Flood Risk Areas may be designated where large numbers of properties are at risk within relatively small areas. As such they only apply to relatively dense conurbations. No Flood Risk Areas are proposed within Cornwall.

The self-assessment form and Table 8 update are included as appendices to this report (the spreadsheet is large and contains technical detail on national data systems and is available on request).

The Committee is asked to formally approve the PFRA17 for Cornwall.

9 Discussion

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) sets out management policies and preferred approaches for coastal defences. It is a material planning consideration but is not well understood by planners or developers. In order to clarify the application of the SMP2 in Planning, we are about to draft a Supplementary Planning Document on coastal erosion to provide consistency and clarity on what we expect of developments in areas vulnerable to coastal erosion.

FCERM has been represented on the Penzance Place Shaping Group during the reporting period. It is anticipated that more Place Shaping Groups will be initiated for strategic communities during the next reporting period and FCERM issues should be an essential element of these.

One of the duties of the LLFA under the Section 21 of the FWMA is the need to produce a publically accessible register of FCERM assets (public and private). This is one area in which we have not made significant progress but will be a subject for attention in the next 12 month period.

Whilst the bathing water quality results for the 2016 bathing season are good, there is always room for improvement.

In particular, we would like to see:

- All year round reporting of sewage spill alerts, rather than just during the bathing water season.
- All sewage spills to be reported and identified, rather than just those impacting on bathing waters or in close vicinity to coastal assets.
- Monitoring of spill flow rates or volumes, rather than just reporting whether a spill has occurred or not, so that the significance can be assessed.
- An increase in the number of sites that benefit from notifications (both CSO and PRF) to help give the public an informed choice about when and where they bathe.

We were disappointed when the Government cancelled Schedule 3 of the FWMA relating to the centralised maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). We have supported the CCFF in lobbying the Floods Minister, Therese Coffey, on this matter and will continue to monitor and actively influence governmental decisions in this area.

We also support the CCFF in lobbying the Agriculture Minister, George Eustace, to use the post-Brexit farms subsidies systems to encourage agricultural practices that minimise runoff from farmland to reduce flooding. We continue to work with the Catchments Partnership to promote good farming practice to improve agricultural runoff issues.

10 Recommendations

It is recommended that Cornwall Council continues to issue annual reports on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

Cornwall Council to continue to liaise with the Environment Agency and South West Water to collaboratively tackle issues of flooding and coastal erosion in Cornwall.

Cornwall Council to seek to maximise the amount of funding it can receive from Central Government for FCERM activities and also pursue alternative sources of funding.

Natural approaches, such as improved land management practices and catchment storage, are always explored even where there are hard engineering solutions.

Cornwall Council to work collaboratively with other public and private organisations and partnerships to deliver effective flood risk management.

Cornwall Council to strive to participate at national and international levels in strategic initiatives and academic research on Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, especially in respect of the challenges presented by climate change and sea level rise.

Cornwall Council to lobby both the Environment Agency and South West Water to take actions to sustain and improve bathing water quality in Cornwall in real terms.

Cornwall Council to continue to develop resilience to flooding and the effects of coastal erosion through opportunities brought about by devolution.

To ensure that the FCERM activities of Cornwall Council are adequately resourced.

The Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee to formally approve the PFRA17.