



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	26 th February 2020
Report Author	Ellis Cooper
Service Area	Corporate
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	26 th February 2020

To: Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen

MTCBC Local Authority Hardship Scheme

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 A major incident was declared in South Wales following Storm Dennis on the weekend of 15th February. This was the second storm in less than a week and Storm Dennis resulted in some areas receiving 160 mm of rainfall in 48 hours with major concentrations on the Taff catchment.
- 1.2 The impact on residents and businesses that have been flooded is significant. A number of those affected are also uninsured and are now in particular difficulty.
- 1.3 For this Council to best support parts of its community facing significant hardship as a result of the flooding, it was felt prudent to create a hardship fund. This fund will extend financial support to the residents and businesses that have been flood affected
- 1.4 Given the urgent requirement to establish and publicise a fund to help our community the decision to create the fund was taken by the Interim Chief Executive in conjunction with the Section 151 Officer and the Group Leaders/Deputy Leaders of all parties.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that

- 2.1 The Actions to alleviate hardship of Merthyr Tydfil residents taken by the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Group Leaders/Deputy Leaders of all parties be ratified.

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A major incident was declared in South Wales following Storm Dennis on the weekend of 15th February. This was the second storm in less than a week and Storm Dennis resulted in some areas receiving 160 mm of rainfall in 48 hours with major concentrations on the Taff catchment.
- 3.2 The flooding resulting from Storm Dennis within Merthyr Tydfil has been significant. Approximately 300 homes and several businesses have been severely affected. There have been a number of landslides throughout the county borough and significant damage to our infrastructure.
- 3.3 The impact on residents and businesses that have been flooded is significant. A number of those affected are also uninsured and are now in particular difficulty.
- 3.4 For this Council to best support parts of its community facing significant hardship as a result of the flooding, it was felt prudent to create a hardship fund. This fund will extend financial support to the residents and businesses that have been flood affected.
- 3.5 Given the urgent requirement to establish and publicise a fund to help our community the decision to create the fund was taken by the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and the Group Leaders/Deputy Leaders of all parties.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The hardship fund will offer £500 to each residential home and £1000 to each business affected by flooding. This is in line with other Local Authorities offering a hardship grant in respect of flooding.
- 4.2 It is projected that the total cost to the Council will not exceed £200k with the monies identified from earmarked reserves.

5.0 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts	Not Applicable
1. Merthyr Tydfil Well-being Objectives	3 of 4	0 of 4	1 of 4
2. Sustainable Development Principles - How have you considered the five ways of working:	5 of 5	0 of 5	0 of 5

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long term • Prevention • Integration • Collaboration • Involvement 			
3. Protected Characteristics (<i>including Welsh Language</i>)	0 of 10	0 of 10	10 of 10
4. Biodiversity	0 of 1	0 of 1	1 of 1
<p><u>Summary:</u></p> <p>The main positive impacts are focused around our well-being objectives and delivering through the sustainable development principle.</p> <p>There are no negative impacts identified.</p>			

ELLIS COOPER
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR ANDREW BARRY
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
AND CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No

Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.