

Audit Wales – A Picture of Flood Risk Management

30th March 2023

Verity Winn and Seth
Newman

A Picture of Flood Risk Management



Increasing risks



Increasing costs



Difficult decisions ahead



Greater urgency needed



Difficult to see how public services can keep pace

A Picture of Flood Risk Management: Summary of key issues



Workforce capacity



Funding in the context of climate change



Collective leadership and policy integration



Measuring performance

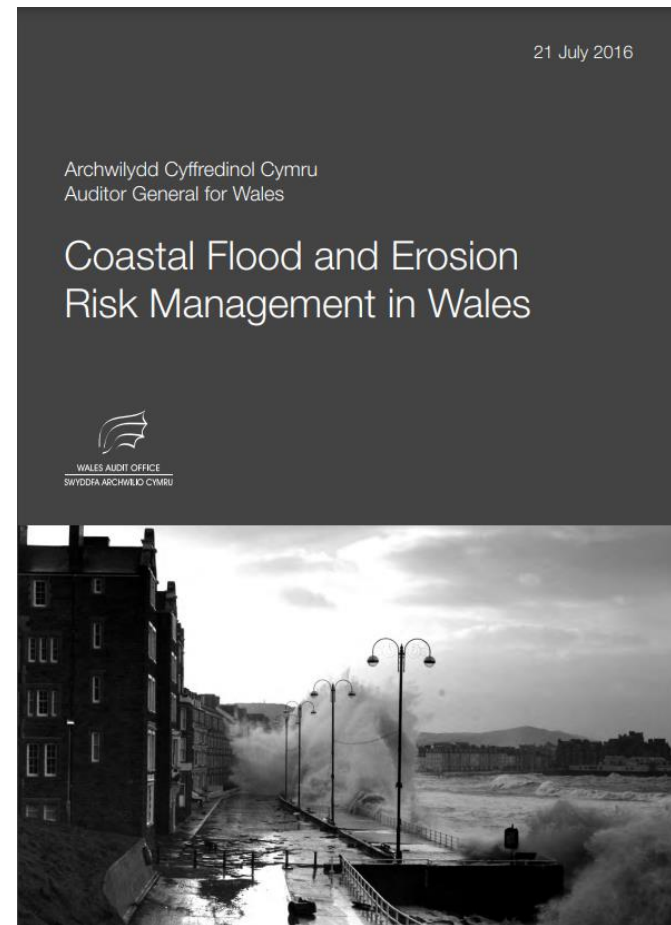


Building development

Our work on climate change



Our work on flood risk management



Workforce capacity



Increasing workforce capacity is the most immediate priority for the sector

Context: Roles and responsibilities



Welsh Government: Set direction and objectives, and prioritise funding

NRW Oversight: General supervision and communication of flood & coastal erosion risk management in Wales

Risk Management Authorities: Identify and manage risks

NRW

Manage flooding from main rivers, their reservoirs and the sea.
Coastal protection works as a coastal erosion RMA.

Local Authority, as **Lead Local Flood Authority** Manage flooding from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater. Coastal protection works as coastal erosion RMA.
Highway drainage as highway authority.

Welsh Government

as trunk road highway authority manage highway drainage

Water Companies

Manage flooding from water and sewage systems

Source: National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Welsh Government

Workforce capacity



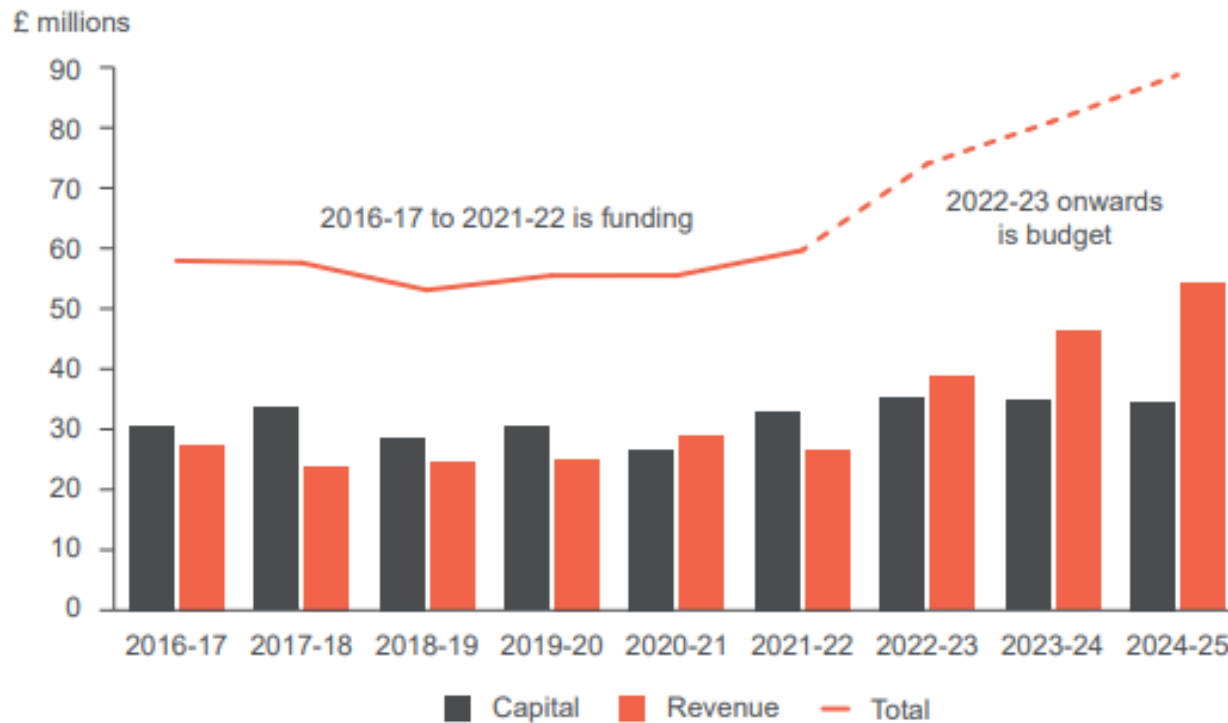
- Welsh Government – 12 staff
- Natural Resources Wales – 350 FTEs
- Local authorities typically one or more FTEs

Funding in the context of climate change



Significant long-term investment will likely be needed to tackle the increasing flood risks associated with climate change

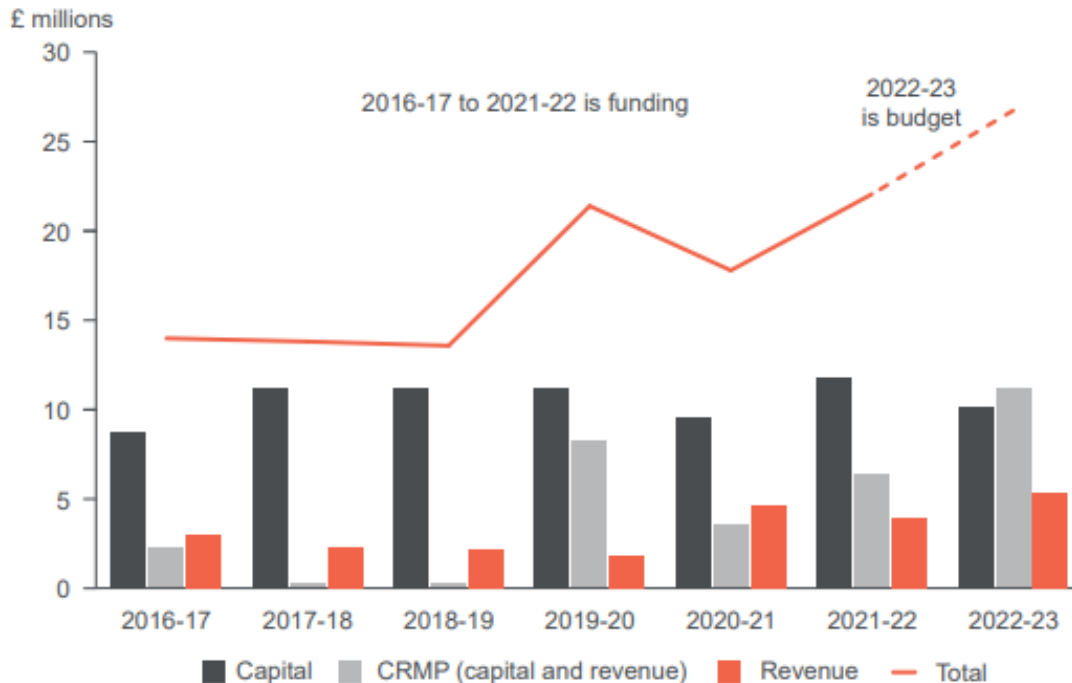
Welsh Government funding (real terms)



Note: Real terms figures are adjusted to take account of inflation. We used HM Treasury GDP deflators at market prices and money for 2022-23, September 2022.

Source: Audit Wales analysis of Welsh Government data

Welsh Government funding to local authorities (real terms)



Notes:

- 1 The chart does not include local authority funding of flood risk management from other sources including their contribution to infrastructure schemes. Sometimes, part of the contribution is provided by other beneficiary partner organisations but generally it is the local authorities who contribute.
- 2 Real terms figures are adjusted to take account of inflation. We used HM Treasury GDP deflators at market prices and money for 2022-23, September 2022.
- 3 Information on budget allocations beyond 2022-23 is not yet available.

Source: Audit Wales analysis of Welsh Government data

Collective leadership and policy integration



There are gaps in collective leadership and policy integration

Reminder of roles and responsibilities



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Context: Flood risk management forums



Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Programme Board

Flood and Coastal Erosion Committee

Regional Flood Groups: North, Southeast and Southwest Wales

Coastal Groups: West of Wales, Liverpool Bay, Severn Estuary, and Swansea and Carmarthen Bay

Wales Coastal Group forum

Measuring performance



There are gaps in flood risk data and the risks themselves keep changing with climate change

Sources of flood risk information in Wales



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

www.naturalresources.wales

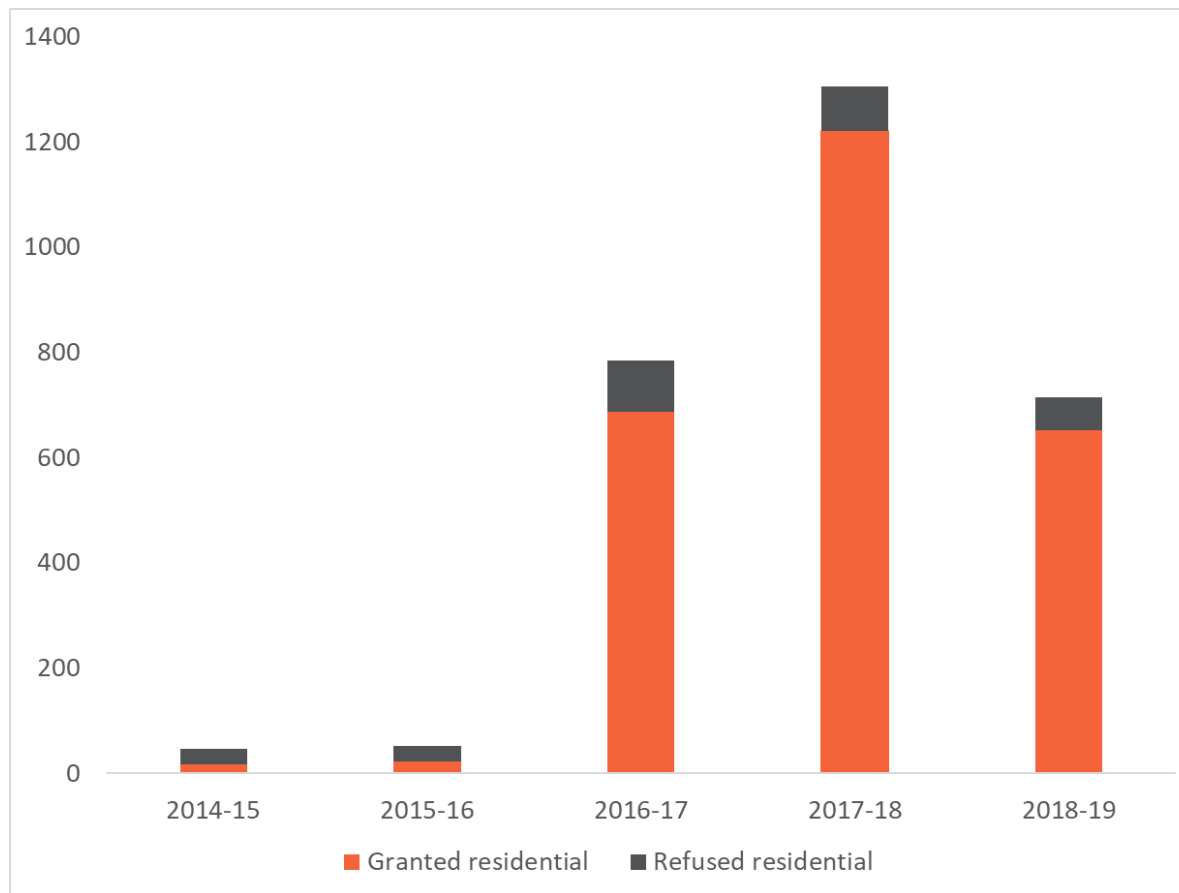
- Flood Risk Assessment Wales map
- National Flood Asset Database

Building development



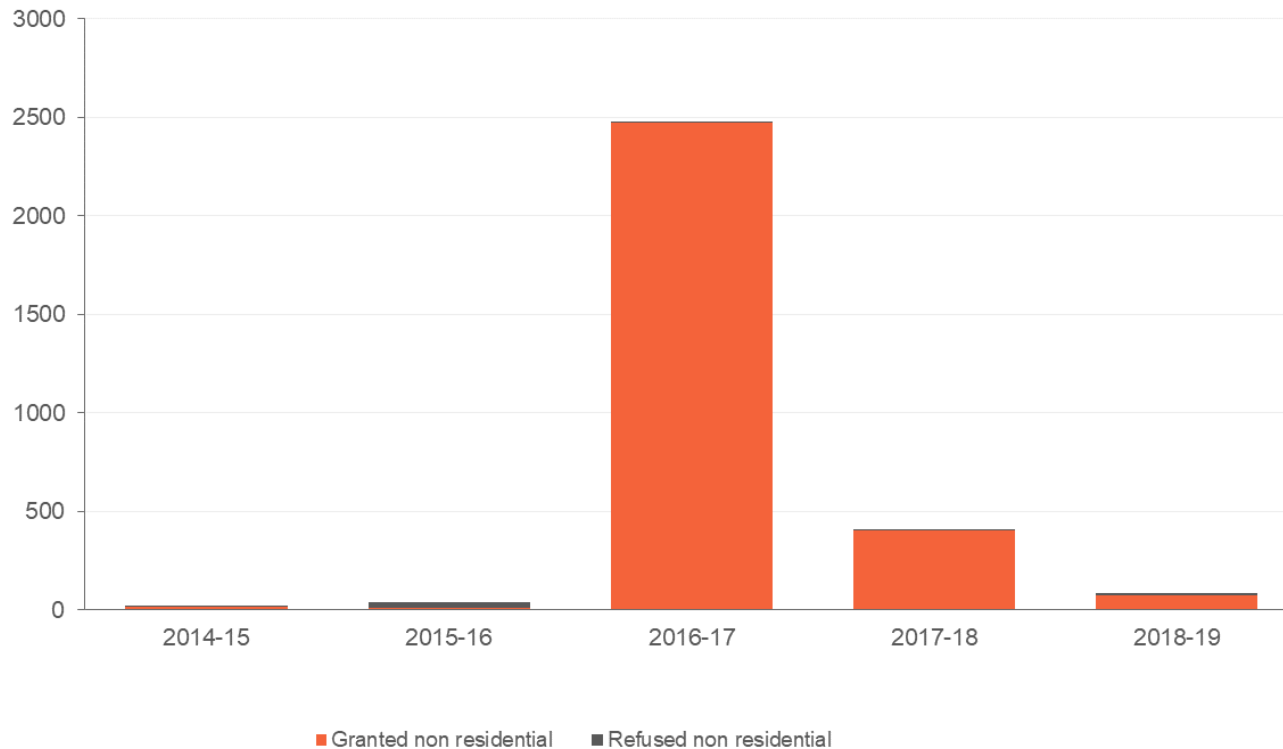
Building development in high risk areas could be exposing properties to avoidable flood risk

Planning consents in floodplains - residential



Source: Welsh Government Annual Planning Performance Reports.

Planning consents in floodplains: non-residential




Source: Welsh Government Annual Planning Performance Reports.

Welsh Government planning policy

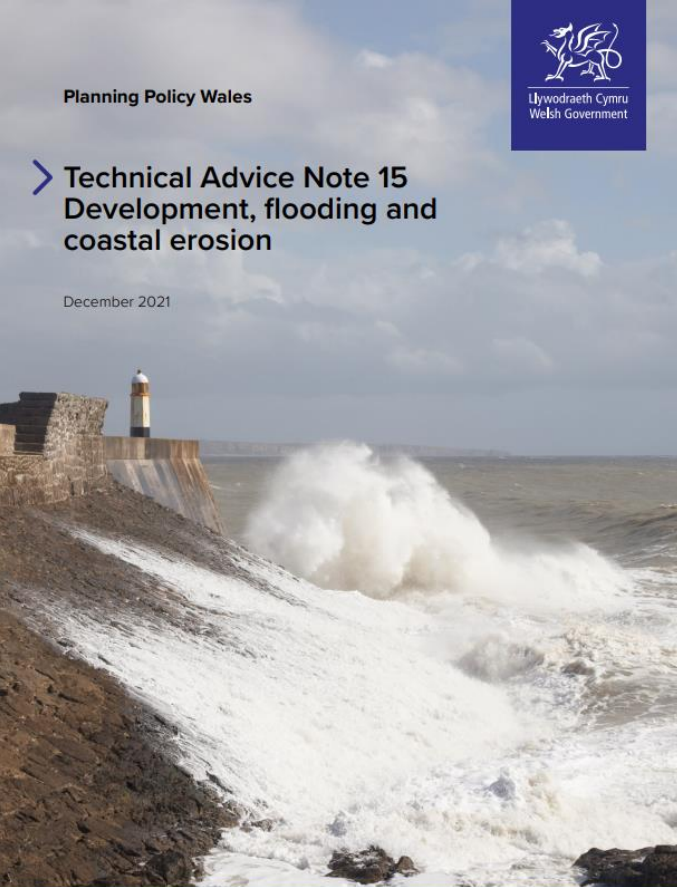


Planning Policy Wales



> **Technical Advice Note 15**
Development, flooding and coastal erosion

December 2021



This document is available for information purposes.
It is due to become adopted policy advice on 1 June 2023.

Next steps



- The Welsh Government formal response
- Consideration by Senedd Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee
- Potential further audit work in the next few years

Any questions?



All our reports can be found at www.audit.wales

Verity Winn – Audit Lead
verity.winn@audit.wales

Seth Newman – Senior Auditor
seth.newman@audit.wales