



Rebecca Pow MP  
DEFRA  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Councillor Sue Dann**  
Cabinet Member for Environment and  
Street Scene

Plymouth City Council  
Council House  
Plymouth PL1 2AA

T 01752 398451  
E [sue.dann@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:sue.dann@plymouth.gov.uk)  
[www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

Date 16th November 2020

Dear Rebecca Pow MP

## **FUNDING AND PLANNING FOR FLOOD DEFENCE**

In the shadow of climate change, it is widely accepted that the South West is at the forefront of changing weather patterns that hit our shores, arriving in from the Atlantic. During the last 10 years, the increase in rainfall and rising tides is contributing to an upsurge in incidents of flooding and our aging infrastructure is struggling to cope without major re-engineering and investment, a situation further exacerbated by years of austerity and a reduction in funding to local government.

It will come as no surprise to you that the Local Resilience Forum bases a significant number of their scenarios for major incidents on flooding. Excellent partnership working and response with the Environment Agency is tried and tested, but we are limited in what we can achieve without further investment in prevention. We are doing all we can and it is heart-breaking to see the real affect that this has had on people's lives, especially those who live in constant fear of seeing their homes ruined and their lives placed at risk. I can honestly say that in all my years as a councillor, I have never seen it as bad, with no signs of things improving.

We ask that you urgently work with the EA and ourselves to significantly increase funding and plan on sustainable investment in our infrastructure to prevent further unnecessary costs of doing nothing. Climate change is very real to us in the South West and we need to act now.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sue Dann'.

**Councillor Sue Dann**  
Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene

CC: Luke Hall MP  
Minister of State for Regional Growth and Local Government

OFFICIAL

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