

ROTHERHAM MBC (LLFA) – ACTION PLAN**Objective 1 - Improve the level of understanding of local flood risk within the LLFA**

	Action	Action Plan	Responsibility	Target Date
1.1	Review the skills and knowledge of FRM officers and others and address any identified weaknesses.	Assess what skills are required to deliver effective flood risk management. If required skills and resources are not currently available, determine the best way to obtain them, e.g. develop in-house or buy in as and when necessary.	LLFA SAB	Dec 2013
1.2	Record Historical Flood Data	Capture historic flood data from Council's records in GIS format. Future flooding to be recorded on the same system.	LLFA	Mar 2013
1.3	Information from stakeholder engagement	Collect data from stakeholders about drainage systems and flood incidents.	LLFA	Aug 2013
1.4	Record Drainage and Flood Assets including critical assets	Identifying the location, capacity and condition of drainage assets is key to understanding how local flood risk is managed. Understanding the interaction between rivers, watercourses, sewers, highway drains, private drainage SuDS, reservoirs, land drainage, groundwater and overland flows is critical to understanding flood risk. The level of detail currently recorded varies greatly across these differing asset types.	LLFA	Majority by Dec 2013 but ongoing
1.5	Predicted flood risk	Review currently available models of flooding including The Environment Agency's flood maps and FMfSW and AStSWF.	LLFA	Mar 2013
1.6	Detailed assessment high flood risk locations identified in PFRA	Rotherham's PFRA identified 106 locations where critical infrastructure or 10 or more residential properties are at risk of surface water flooding, according to the modelling done by the Environment Agency. These areas will be investigated in detail to verify the risk and determine whether mitigation measures are required. If so, the feasibility of mitigation measures will be assessed, including an assessment of cost/benefit and therefore the likelihood of funding.	LLFA	Mar 2013 20% Mar 2014 60% Mar 2015 100%

1.6 cont	Detailed assessment high flood risk locations identified in PFRA (continued)	<p>The interaction between river and surface water flooding is particularly complex and needs to be better understood by the Environment Agency and the LLFA if flood risk is to be accurately assessed.</p> <p>The at risk areas have been prioritised by number of properties at risk and will generally assessed in priority order, but areas may be assessed before those with a higher priority if there is an operational reason to do so, e.g. they are in the same sub-catchment as a higher ranked area or if there is a flood or major development planned.</p> <p>4 number Surface Water Management Plans are currently being carried out in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town Centre / Forge Island ○ Wath ○ Aston / Aughton / Swallownest ○ Anston / Dinnington / Laughton Common <p>The SWMP areas include 26 of the 106 risk areas.</p>	LLFA	<p>Mar 2013 20%</p> <p>Mar 2014 60%</p> <p>Mar 2015 100%</p>
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Objective 2 - Improve the level of understanding of local flood risk amongst partners, stakeholders and communities.

2.1	Publish a clear strategy and publicise its existence	The strategy is by nature, a technical document addressing complex issues but it is imperative that the main priorities in the strategy are understandable by all stakeholders.	LLFA	Dec 2013
2.2	Develop information strategy to improve partner and stakeholder knowledge	<p>The Council needs to translate the technical information on flood risk into simple, readily understandable terms. Text and graphics should be used to allow partners and stakeholders to understand the risk relevant to their interests. Innovative means of conveying complex information will be investigated, sharing best practice from other LLFA's.</p> <p>Planned publication of predicted surface water flood risk areas will raise the profile of flood mapping with the general public. It is important that information about how the published information is interpreted is included with the published information.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2013

Objective 3 - Formalise arrangements between Risk Management Authorities

3.1	Agree protocols	<p>Risk Management Authorities are listed in section 6, with a description of their roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>Responsibilities of parties to be mutually agreed with agreed protocols for sharing of information, promoting joint works.</p>	LLFA	Jun 2013
3.2	Formalise arrangements with adjoining LLFAs. Cross Boundary Issues.	<p>Identify which catchments and/or watercourses extend beyond the borough boundary.</p> <p>Adjoining local authorities to be consulted on the strategy.</p> <p>FRM responsibilities on watercourses which cross or run along boundaries to be agreed with neighbouring authorities.</p> <p>Where possible, procedures and systems should be compatible with procedures of adjoining authorities. Data formats should be the same or easily convertible. Sharing of information and technology.</p>	LLFA Adjoining LLFAs	Jun 2013
3.3	Environment Agency	<p>Responsible for the management and maintenance of flows within Main Rivers.</p> <p>Strategic overview for all forms of flooding</p>	LLFA	Jun 2013
3.4	Water Companies	<p>Water companies (Yorkshire Water and Severn Trent) have a duty to maintain public sewers and ancillaries.</p> <p>Develop agreements with water companies</p>	LLFA	Jun 2013
3.5	Danvm (formerly Dearne & Dove) IDB	<p>Responsible for the management and maintenance of flows within Ordinary watercourse within their domain (i.e. part of Wath Upon Dearne area.</p>	LLFA	Jun 2013
3.6	Highways Agency	<p>The M1, M18 and associated junctions are the only highways in Rotherham Managed by the Highways Agency. Assess the effect of the motorway assets on flood risk and whether a formal arrangement is necessary.</p>	LLFA	Jun 2013

Objective 4 - Formalise Policies and Procedures for new responsibilities at set out in the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) and Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

4.1	Consenting Works Affecting Ordinary Watercourses	Produce a procedure for consenting of works affecting ordinary watercourses. The procedure to be an appendix to this strategy.	LLFA	Mar 2013
4.2	Carry out Flood investigations Section 19 Flood Investigations Other Investigations	<p>Produce local guidelines for public use</p> <p>Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 imposes a duty on Local Authorities to investigate flooding incidents to determine and publish which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions and whether these were exercised. A procedure / policy is required to define how this duty will be satisfied. The Council's will investigate all internal flooding but the criteria under Section 19 of the Act will be based <u>on 5 or more internal flooding to properties.</u></p> <p>The findings of Section 19 investigations will be published on the Council's website.</p> <p>In practice, the Council will investigate, to some degree, all reported flood incidents. As a minimum, locations and details from the report, will be recorded on the Council's mapping system The procedure to be an appendix to this strategy.</p>	LLFA	<p>Dec 2013</p> <p>Policy Mar2013</p> <p>Publish S19 Findings- Within 6 Weeks Of Flood</p>
4.3	Designating Flood/ Drainage Assets	The Councils current knowledge of 3rd party drainage features or structures is limited. Work carried out to deliver Objective 1 will allow the Council to judge the merits of designating such assets. The Council is obliged to designate new SuDS created by the SAB. The Council will formulate a procedure for the designation of non-SuDS features including criteria to determine which assets to designate. The procedure to be an appendix to this strategy.	LLFA	Procedure Jun 2013

Objective 5 - Create Asset Record and Register to record drainage infrastructure and FRM assets

5.1	Create Asset Record showing location of watercourses where consenting powers have been transferred to LLFA	Fundamental to undertaking flood risk management duties on ordinary watercourses is knowing the location and extents of these watercourses. Although the intention is to work towards a “definitive” watercourse map, it is not a priority to achieve 100% because doing so in areas of low flood risk would not be an efficient use of resources	LLFA	June 2013
5.2	Asset Register and Record Maintain a public Asset Register	Establish Asset Register and Record and update year on year. Determine what information from the record is to be made publicly available and the format for doing so. The procedure to be an appendix to this strategy.	LLFA	Procedure And Establish Register June 2013
5.3	Populate above record to include at least 90% of watercourses by length and all watercourses in identified flood risk areas	The Councils register of drainage assets will include the following structures or features <i>For pipes / culverts</i> <i>The diameter is greater than 600mm or cross sectional area is greater than 0.3m² or</i> <i>The pipe/culvert has a recorded history of flooding or</i> <i>The pipe/culvert is within 20m of a cluster of 5 or more recorded flood incidents (non-cellar) – excluding pipes of 225mm diameter or less</i> <i>For trash grilles</i> <i>The grille is council-maintained and is on the monthly clearance programme or</i> <i>The grille is privately-maintained and total blockage would cause flooding of adjacent infrastructure</i> <i>For surface water pumping stations</i> All pumping stations to be included <i>For SuDS</i> All new SuDS adopted by the LLFA	LLFA	90% by length Dec 2013

Objective 6 - Improve management of Council owned drainage and flood management assets

6.1	Identify highest risk open and closed watercourses, highway drains and other drainage/flood features	The Council has a statutory duty to maintain highway drains but only a riparian responsibility to keep watercourses within its ownership clear of obstructions. Some watercourses create a high flood risk for nearby communities and would benefit from a more structured and targeted maintenance regime. The council will carry out a comprehensive, methodical survey of all known, non-Environment Agency or Water Company, assets	LLFA	Dec 2014
6.2	Watercourses in Council Land	<p>As a major landowner, the Council has riparian responsibility for many watercourses. The extents of these will be identified, and the department responsible for their maintenance will be determined.</p> <p>Currently there are culverted watercourses where the department responsible may not even be aware of the existence of the culvert. CCTV surveys of surface water culverts carried out following recent flooding incidents has shown that some of the culverts are in poor condition. The extent of the potential liability is not currently known. A culvert in Council owned land in Swallownest, the existence of which was not known 3 years ago, collapsed and the cost of replacing just 80m of this was in excess of £250k.</p> <p>A plan for inspection and maintenance of open watercourses and culverts in Council land will be produced.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014
6.3	Highway Structures	<p>Many highway structures have an effect on watercourses, bridges, culverts and walls. All structures are inspected periodically, but the inspections are infrequent and concentrate on the condition of the structure, rather than the effect on flow due to silt and vegetation etc.</p> <p>The Design Manual For Roads and Bridges, Volume 1, Section 1, Part 1 BD/2/12 Paragraph 3.3 states that culverts or bridges with a clear span or diameter greater than 0.9m require technical approval, and once constructed, require periodic inspection.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014

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6.3 cont	Highway Structures (continue)	Rotherham Streetpride inspects and maintains many smaller assets in the same way, but pipes smaller than 450mm diameter are generally not classed as highway structures. Responsibility for their maintenance should be determined.	LLFA	Dec 2014
6.4	Highway Drainage Systems	Historically, highway drainage systems within Rotherham have not been well recorded, if at all. A highways asset register is currently being created, which includes recording the locations of assets visible on the surface, such as manhole covers and gullies. Highway drains will be recorded as part of the data gathering for the asset record.	LLFA	Dec 2015
6.5	Private Drainage Systems	<p>Since the transfer of the majority of private sewers to the water companies, the number of private sewers has decreased massively, however surface water sewers did not transfer.</p> <p>Private drainage systems which remain the responsibility of the Council will be identified, and the department responsible for their maintenance will be determined.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014
6.6	Develop an affordable cyclical inspection and maintenance regime based on risk	Maintenance budgets are limited and need to be targeted at those areas where the risk of flooding is highest. The extent of flood risk and the asset type, condition and vulnerability to temporary blockage will influence the type and frequency of maintenance required. The maintenance of the watercourses to maximise the drainage of surface water will be balanced with sensitive treatment of the biodiversity elements. Maintenance plans will incorporate appropriate direction on responsible management of the local water environment. Cyclical maintenance plans will be reviewed for trash grilles protecting council-owned culverts, highway gullies and open watercourses where regular clearance would be beneficial in protecting downstream properties and infrastructure. Plans will be adapted as new information is collected.	LLFA	Dec 2014

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6.7	Implement a responsive, reactive maintenance regime based on risk	The Council cannot afford to carry out planned, preventative maintenance to all the drainage assets it is responsible for. There will be some situations where the Council may have to respond reactively to situations which arise suddenly or are reported directly by the public. The speed and type of response will be determined by the level of flood risk and the resources available. Existing council systems for receipt of, and response to, requests for maintenance work will be re assessed to ensure a risk-based approach is followed.	LLFA	Dec 2014
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Objective 7 - Encourage proactive, responsible maintenance of privately-owned flood defence and drainage assets

7.1	Identify highest risk private flood defence and drainage assets	<p>The vast majority of watercourses are in private ownership. Whilst riparian owners have a general responsibility to keep watercourses free of obstruction, a higher level of maintenance, which might help in maximising capacity, will need support and encouragement for private landowners. More often than not, landowners will be unaware of the level of flood risk associated with their watercourse. The Council will filter information collected under for the asset record to identify private assets. The assets will be allocated a flood risk significance level, to highlight the private assets of greatest concern. A database of higher-risk private assets, with details of the risk and suggested maintenance regimes will be compiled.</p> <p>Historically the Council has had powers (but no duty) under the Land Drainage Act to take enforcement action against riparian owners. These powers have been little used and have only been used reactively. The new duties require the Council to take a more proactive role, particularly with regard to inspecting and recording of third party assets.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014
7.2	Develop technical advice for owners to guide them in preparing local maintenance plans	Improving knowledge of the location and condition of private drainage assets, acquired through Measures 1.1 and 1.3, will allow the Council to suggest appropriate proactive maintenance measures to reduce the risk of flooding to themselves and adjacent landowners. Maintenance plans will manage and maintain both the efficient flow of water along the watercourse and a healthy and attractive biodiverse environment. A general advice note on riparian rights and responsibilities is available from the Environment Agency.	LLFA	Dec 2014
7.3		Maximise the benefits from partnership working with flood risk partners and our stakeholders	LLFA	Dec 2014

Objective 8 - Co-ordinate Flood Risk Management and Planning functions to reduce flood risk to existing and proposed developments.

8.1	Develop and apply a robust local policy on FRM and drainage solutions on new development sites	The development of new sites and redevelopment of existing sites gives the Council an opportunity to reduce flood risk within the sites and upstream and downstream of the sites. National planning guidance exists which encourages the Council to adopt a consistent approach when recommending appropriate flood risk measures for new development sites. The national guidance is currently under review but the Council is committed to adopting a similar, local approach in the future which will replicate the national guidance. The council will continue to set stretching targets for developers in relation to permitted discharges from new or redeveloped sites, reassessing the targets as the council acquires more evidence of local flood risk. The Council's advice on flood risk and drainage for new development sites, based on the national guidance, will be reviewed against the developing legislation and strengthened to give clear and robust advice to developers.	RMBC Planning	April 2014
8.2	Develop a process with the Planning Department to create clear advice and direction to developers on FRM and Drainage	Flood management and drainage solutions for development sites can be space-intensive and it is vital that early discussions with developers and planning officers take place to allow appropriate provision to be designed into the development. It is essential that the local guidance to be produced in Measure 5.1 forms part of an internal council procedure that integrates technical advice with the planning application process. Agreement and application of FRM and Drainage advice has to be translated into appropriate conditions attached to planning approvals. The Council will develop a procedure to ensure that appropriate and timely advice is given to planners and developers and that planning approvals and conditions are clear and enforceable.	RMBC Planning	April 2014

<p>8.3</p>	<p>Use available information on flood risk to identify appropriate development potential</p>	<p>The Council, as Planning Authority, has a responsibility to direct development towards areas where flood risk is lowest and any proposed development is appropriate to the flood risk present at the site. An increasing amount of evidence is available to identify and quantify the flood risk that exists across the borough. The evidence base for flood risk will be used alongside environmental, social and financial factors to determine sustainable solutions for local issues. The relevant previous and developing plans and strategies will be reviewed. The Councils Core Strategy for the Local Plans is complete and flood risk is presented in broad terms. The aspirations of this strategy, and the related plans and policies, will be embedded in the future land allocation processes required by the Local Plans.</p> <p>Incorporating policies and recommendations within Rotherham MBC LDF, through the development of a water management and flood resilient design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).</p> <p>Actively manage flood risk associated with new development proposals. Influence land allocations in Local Plans to reflect flood risk.</p>	<p>LLFA RMBC Planning</p>	<p>Dec 2014</p>
<p>8.4</p>	<p>Establish the SuDS Approval Body (SAB) PENDING</p>	<p>The timetable implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 in relation to SuDS and the establishment of SABs is currently unknown but it is now expected to come into force from April 2014.</p>	<p>Defra RMBC</p>	<p>Possible April 2014 Prepare April 2013</p>

Objective 9 - Take a sustainable approach to FRM, balancing economic, environmental and social benefits from policies and programmes, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment

9.1	Carry out a strategic assessment of the environmental impact of the strategy	<p>The Council considers that the LFRMS is a significant local strategy and, consequently requires appraisal under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations. Specialist, independent advice to be sought to ensure a robust assessment of environmental effects are considered as the strategy is developed and implemented</p> <p>Where possible, opportunities should be sought to enhance the river corridor habitats, landscape, access and amenity facilities to support the local planning policy drive to develop green infrastructure and increase access to the riversides.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2013 Dec 2014
9.2	Climate Change	<p>The effect of the strategy on the Council's carbon emissions, and hence climate change, will be part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>The Councils Climate Change Adaptation Plan identifies specific measures which are targeted at managing the consequences of more frequent severe rainfall events. These measures have been addressed by complementary measures in this Strategy.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014
9.3	Water Framework Directive (WFD)	<p>Assess the effect of the WFD on existing policies and practices and develop guidelines for applicants and public. Consents for works on ordinary watercourses will require assessment against the WFD.</p> <p>Ensure that all actions within the strategy are compliant with the WFD</p>	LLFA EA	June 2013 Dec 2013

Objective 10 - Identify and promote schemes to reduce flood risk which are viable considering practicality, cost benefit and funding potential.

10.1	<p>Develop a programme of schemes and initiatives which have a realistic prospect of being funded</p>	<p>The strategy describes a suite of measures which can be taken to manage local flood risk. Some measures are more affordable than others with larger capital improvement schemes offering the greatest challenges for funding. The national funding administered by the Environment Agency targets schemes with evidenced high risk of property flooding, preferably with contributory funding from partners and stakeholders benefiting from the scheme. The Council's immediate priorities, using the outputs from the SWMP work carried out under Measure 1.6, are to establish an evidence base for the location and the extent of the risk of local flooding, quantify the size and potential effect of the risk and then identify costed options for appropriate and affordable mitigation measures. A programme of suitable projects which may attract capital funding will gradually develop over time. The council will deliver the actions detailed in the SWMP to help identify projects for the higher priority areas in the district.</p> <p>Funding applications often require feasibility or outline design to have been completed, to enable an accurate assessment of costs and benefits. Finance</p> <p>Identify projects and programmes which are affordable, maximising capital funding from external sources</p> <p>Define an <i>action plan type</i> for all the flood risk areas E.g. Do nothing Maintain existing systems Promote flood alleviation schemes Promote Property Level Flood Protection</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014
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10.1 cont	Develop a programme of schemes and initiatives which have a realistic prospect of being funded (continued)	<p>Rotherham Specific Flood Management Schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Green Ings Culvert (Station Road) Wath-Upon-Dearne ○ Whiston Brook ○ Catcliffe Pumps ○ Aldwarke Lane 	LLFA	Dec 2014
10.2	Develop and implement a policy on de-culverting	<p>The presence of culverts has been identified as a key factor in limiting the achievement of good ecological potential/ status as defined by the Water Framework Directive. Culverts can impact negatively on watercourses by creating:</p> <p>Flood risks from issues of capacity, blockage and collapse</p> <p>Potential barriers to fish migration</p> <p>Impeding the operation of natural geomorphological processes</p> <p>Limitations on presence of aquatic flora and fauna</p> <p>A 'separation' of the community from the watercourse</p> <p>Determine the extents of culverted watercourses as part of the asset record and identify which of these may be suitable.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2014

Objective 11 - Identify potential sources of funding.

11.1	Determine all other funding sources, Council, partners and other external, and maximise “match-funding”	<p>Potential sources of funding are covered in detail in Section 9.0.</p> <p>Manage expectations we will need to set out clearly the aims of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2013
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Objective 12 - Co-ordinate Flood Risk Management and Emergency Planning procedures

12.1	Embed the LFRMS into response and recovery plans and use developing knowledge on flood risk to “tune” emergency procedures	<p>The Corporate Emergency and Safety team have responsibility for the planning for and management of the Council’s response to emergencies, through the Emergency Plan.</p> <p>The increasing knowledge of flood risk will be used to feed into the plan, particularly in the following areas: Production of flood hazard maps combining depth and velocity information. Improved assessment of flood risk to critical infrastructure, principal highways</p> <p>Business continuity.</p> <p>Inundation plans.</p> <p>Determine in greater detail the risk of flooding to utilities, i.e. gas, electricity, water and telecommunications installations and the consequences of the loss of these installations during flooding.</p>	LLFA	Dec 2013
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Objective 13 - Take into account equalities by carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment

13.1	Equality Impact Assessment of completed strategy	The process will be in line with the guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission. An Equality Analysis and consultation process will be carried out in accordance with the Council's Equality Policy.	LLFA	Dec 2013
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Objective 14 - Promote buy-in by stakeholders by consulting during Strategy preparation and on completed Strategy

14.1	Consultation	<p>Consultation will be carried out in 2 stages. The primary consultation will be carried out as part of the strategy development. This consultation will be targeted at stakeholders who have a major involvement with the strategy and will be carried out</p> <p>The secondary consultation will be carried out when a draft strategy has been completed.</p> <p>Rotherham Council has engaged with the public and Community Action Groups regarding future flood risk management, to build trust, raise awareness, and gain local knowledge.</p>	LLFA	Feb 2013
			LLFA	June 2013

Objective 15 - Secure commitment from all Flood Risk Management Authorities to act in accordance with the Strategy by official acceptance by the relevant Boards, Committees, PSOC etc.

15.1	Present draft strategy to PSOC	The Strategy should be presented to the Scrutiny and Overview Committee as a draft and also on completion.	LLFA	Feb 2014
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