

Hampshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Summary

What is this all about?

Hampshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is an important new tool to help individuals, communities, businesses and authorities understand and manage flood risk within the county. Its primary focus is on local flooding from surface water, groundwater, streams and ditches.

The Strategy will help us all better understand the risk of local flooding and how we will work together to manage that risk.

Further information...

This Summary highlights the key parts of the Strategy and gives an overview of the most important issues. The full Strategy, supporting documents and the feedback form can be downloaded from www.hants.gov.uk/floodriskstrategy

Hampshire's role in managing local flooding...

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Hampshire County Council now has new powers and responsibilities for coordinating local flood risk management. The County Council is now a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and will work in partnership with other organisations in Hampshire to better manage local flooding.

Key to Hampshire County Council's new responsibilities is the requirement to 'develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Strategy for local flood risk management' in Hampshire. The County Council will meet this requirement by preparing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) - referred to in this document as 'the Strategy'.

The Strategy is made up of a number of different documents, as illustrated below.

The development of the Strategy...

The development of the Strategy has been overseen by a Steering Group consisting of representatives from the County Council, the City, District and Borough Councils, the Environment Agency, Natural England, transport organisations, water companies and the Hampshire Association of Local Councils.

In addition, a workshop was held with interested parties, including businesses, landowners, flood organisations, community groups and parishes to seek their input to the Strategy.

The draft Strategy was published in November 2012 for wider consultation with the public and four drop in sessions were held to discuss the Strategy.

Feedback from the public consultation has been incorporated into the final strategy.

The documents that make up the Strategy	
Summary	This document! This provides an overview of the Strategy, including the background, the findings of the flood risk assessment and the proposed actions.
The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Report	This is the main Strategy document (we refer to it in this document as 'the main report'). It details our understanding of flood risk in Hampshire and sets out the measures and actions that will need to be taken to address these risks. This is supported by a series of Annexes which deal with some of the key issues in detail.
The Action Plan/s	A series of Action Plans have been produced for the most at risk wards. These explain the steps that need to be taken and by whom to address the identified flood risks.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report	The SEA is a process for considering what the potential environmental impacts of addressing local flooding issues might be. The Scoping Report is the first step in the SEA process - it details the main environmental aspects which may be affected.
All of these documents are available via www.hants.gov.uk/floodriskstrategy	

What is local flooding?

The County Council's responsibility, and the focus of this Strategy, is the management of local flooding. By this we mean flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary water courses. These types of local flooding are becoming increasingly common as we cover larger areas in hard surfaces (preventing water soaking into the ground) and as a changing climate affects rainfall patterns.

However, the most severe flooding is often caused when different types combine. Whilst developing the Strategy we will therefore be mindful of the impact of river, coastal and sewer flooding and we will work in partnership with the Environment Agency and local water and sewerage companies where there are combined sources of flooding.

Who else has a responsibility for flooding?

A wide range of organisations have a responsibility for flooding. These are shown on the next page.

In the future, there will be a greater need for everyone to work together to address flooding issues. This will involve those at risk of flooding taking responsibility to help themselves. Alongside this it will be important to ensure that the threat from flooding is reduced through robust planning policies, good land management practices, and regular maintenance of water bodies and water management structures.

Local community groups, businesses, parish and town councils and individuals all have a really important role to play in helping to deal with flooding.

What do we mean by local flooding?

Surface water flooding	This occurs when rainfall cannot soak into the ground, overwhelms the local drains and flows across the ground. It is often (but not exclusively) associated with high intensity rainfall and occurs very quickly during or after the rainfall event. Surface water flooding is often quite localised and is much more difficult to predict than river or coastal flooding. This means there is often limited advanced notice of this type of flooding.
Groundwater flooding	Water held within permeable rocks beneath the surface of the ground is known as groundwater. This can cause flooding when the water levels within these rocks rise above the surface. Levels of groundwater tend to respond to rainfall more slowly than water levels in rivers or on the surface. This slow response of groundwater levels also means that when groundwater flooding occurs it tends to last longer than other forms of flooding, often for several weeks or months.
Flooding from smaller rivers and streams	This type of flooding occurs when a river cannot hold the volume of water which drains into it from the surrounding land (known as a catchment).

Managing risk from all these types of flooding is the responsibility of the County Council in its role as LLFA.

Responsibilities for managing flood risk	
Hampshire County Council	The LLFA. Responsible for taking the lead in managing flood risk from local sources and also where there is an interaction between these sources and main rivers or the sea. The County Council also has other related roles in emergency planning and highway drainage.
The Environment Agency	Responsible for managing flood risk from main rivers, large reservoirs and the sea, and also has a strategic overview role over all flood and coastal erosion risk management. It also has a key role in providing flood warnings to the public, supporting emergency responders when flooding occurs, protecting and improving the environment and promoting sustainable development.
Water Companies	Responsible for foul flooding, or flooding from sewers. This often occurs at the same time as other types of flooding (particularly surface water flooding) and can be a result of blocked drains or the sewer network not being able to hold all the water flowing into it.
The Highways Agency	Responsible for managing flood risk on strategic roads within the county. The County Council is responsible for flooding on non Highways Agency routes.
The District and Borough Councils	Have powers to undertake flood risk management work on ordinary watercourses. They also have a role in responding to emergencies and preparing Local Plans.
Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Resilience Forum (HRF)	This is a multi-agency forum that coordinates work on risk assessment, contingency planning, training and exercises to enhance Hampshire's preparedness for emergencies.
Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC)	There are three RFCCs within Hampshire. These are primarily responsible for ensuring there are coherent plans to identify, communicate and manage the risk from all source of flooding and all coastal erosion risk.
Town and Parish Councils	Have a key role to play in encouraging and supporting local groups to prepare for flooding, providing information to their local community and preparing local community flood plans.
Land and home owners	People who own land which adjoins a watercourse (also known as riparian owners) have a responsibility to make sure that the flow of water is not obstructed (for example, by clearing gullies and vegetation) and maintaining existing flood defences.
Developers	Developers are responsible for properly considering flood risk so that they do not put occupants of new developments at risk or make things worse for existing neighbours.
Residents	Everyone has a role to play in reporting flooding problems and ensuring that they are themselves prepared for flooding, should it occur.

The Strategy objectives...

The aim of this Strategy is to produce a plan to reduce and manage flood risk in a way that will benefit people, property and the environment.

Eight objectives have been developed to support this aim. These objectives will be used to guide the development and implementation of the Strategy.

The Strategy aims to...

..produce a plan to reduce and manage flood risk in a way that will benefit people, property and the environment.

The Strategy objectives	
1	Improve our knowledge and understanding of local flood risk in Hampshire
2	Develop Strategy, policy and a LFRMS action plan to manage these risks, providing balanced social and environmental benefits for the identified investment need
3	Work in partnership with other flood risk management authorities to deliver the Strategy and action plan
4	Maintain, and improve where necessary, local flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce risk
5	Ensure that local planning authorities take full account of flood risk when allocating land and considering permitting development (by avoiding development in inappropriate locations and minimising flood risk wherever possible)
6	Engage with local communities to increase public awareness and reporting of flooding and promote appropriate individual and community level planning and action
7	Improve and support community level flood response and recovery
8	Identify all available national, regional and local funding mechanisms to deliver flood risk management interventions.

Timescales...

The Strategy has a 15 year timeframe, covering April 2013 to March 2028.

This has been chosen to ensure that the Strategy can take a short, medium and long term view of flood risk across the county. It will also ensure that it is valid over a period that matches the planning documents being developed by the Districts and Boroughs in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Wider benefits...

The Strategy provides an opportunity to deliver benefits to Hampshire beyond reduction in local flood risk, for example by improving water quality or creating green space.

The County Council have undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to make sure that the Strategy will not cause social or environmental harm and where possible will enhance the environment and wider society in Hampshire. The outputs of the SEA are incorporated throughout the Strategy.

Understanding potential local flood risk.....

An important part of the work on the Strategy to date has been to undertake a risk assessment. This has helped to identify the areas likely to be most at risk from local flooding now and in the future. We will use this information so that we can target investment where it will provide the greatest benefit. Chapter 4 of the main report provides full details of the risk assessment process. This page provides a summary.

Information used...

To identify the areas that may be likely to flood in the future we have used:

- **Flood maps for Surface Water** prepared by the Environment Agency - these provide predictions of the chances of surface water flooding occurring in Hampshire.
- Information from a **database of previous flood incidents** that has been kept by Hampshire County Council. This records events reported over the last 5 years and includes details of other significant events that have occurred historically.
- Records from the 2000-2001 **groundwater flooding** in Hampshire.

The methodology...

All this data has been analysed. For each electoral ward in the county we have looked at:

- The **likelihood** of flooding occurring
- The **consequence** of this flooding. In particular, how flooding might impact on homes, businesses and roads.

The findings...

The tables on the right show the wards that seem to be at the highest risk of flooding from different sources. Chapter 4 of the main report provides further detail. These results are also presented as a series of maps in Annex E of the main report.

Wards that seem to be at the highest risk of flooding from **surface water**

(based on the Environment Agency's flood maps)

St Mary's (Test Valley)
Popley East (Basingstoke & Deane)
Eastrop (Basingstoke and Deane))
Brookvale and Kings Furlong (Basingstoke and Deane)

Wards that seem to be at the highest risk of flooding from **groundwater**

(based on the groundwater flooding records)

Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon (Winchester)
Fareham East (Fareham)
Upper Meon Valley (Winchester)
Battins (Havant)
Cheriton and Bishops Sutton (Winchester)

Wards that seem to be at the highest risk of flooding based on **where floods have been reported in the past**

(based on Hampshire's database)

Tadley North (Basingstoke and Deane)
Eversley (Hart)
Totton East (New Forest)
Abbey (Test Valley)

Wards that seem to be at the highest risk of flooding from **combined sources**

(taking all data sources into account)

Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon (Winchester)
Fareham East (Fareham)
Penton Bellinger (Test Valley)
St Mary's (Test Valley)
Popley East (Basingstoke and Deane)

The Strategy includes detailed Action Plans for each of these high risk wards.

Action Plan...

In the future, there will be a greater need for everyone to work together to address flooding issues. This will include those at risk of flooding taking responsibility to help themselves. Alongside this it will be important to ensure that the threat from flooding is reduced through robust planning policies, good land management practices, and regular maintenance of water bodies and water management structures.

Overarching action plan...

The table below shows the general measures that Hampshire County Council has/will put in place to achieve the Strategy objectives. Some of these measures are already being delivered, others are new commitments.

Summary of Hampshire County Council's key actions (see Chapter 5 of the main report for full details)	
Objective	Hampshire County Council will....
Improve our knowledge and understanding of local flood risk in Hampshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the ward based risk assessment developed by this Strategy as a solid evidence base for understanding flooding and for prioritising future activities. • Investigate significant flood events and ensure that lessons learnt are shared with partners and the public. • Continue the development of a consistent approach to the recording and designating of flood management structures.
Work in partnership with other flood risk management authorities to deliver the Strategy and Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with partners to further develop this Strategy and related plans and strategies. • Facilitate the Hampshire Strategic Flood and Water Management Group.
Maintain, and improve where necessary, local flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider designating features which play a significant role in flood prevention/mitigation. • Develop a risk based approach to the maintenance of assets that help manage flood risk. • Maintain a database of assets so that responsibility can be established in the case of a problem or a failure to maintain.
Ensure that local planning authorities take full account of flood risk when allocating land and considering permitting development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Districts/Boroughs to prepare guidance and procedures to ensure that new development will not increase runoff entering water bodies. • Ensure that planning authorities are made aware of the risk of local flooding. • Encourage district and borough councils to develop policies that ensure that the type, quantity and location of development in their area is appropriate given the risk of flooding as determined through this Strategy.

Summary of Hampshire County Council's key actions (see Chapter 5 of the main report for full details)

Objective	Hampshire County Council will....
Engage with local communities to increase public awareness and reporting of flooding and promote appropriate individual and community level planning and action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with local communities and businesses to encourage them to take appropriate local action to prepare for flooding. • Work with its partners to encourage and support the formation of local flood action groups where they do not already exist in the highest risk areas.
Improve and support community level flood response and recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As above • Encourage the preparation of flood action plans in high risk areas.
Identify national, regional and local funding mechanisms to deliver flood risk management interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop a funding strategy for local flood risk management. Details of the draft funding strategy are contained within Annex F of the main Strategy. • Work with its partners to seek additional funding for flood risk management, using the funding strategy contained in Annex F.
Develop strategy, policy and a LFRMS action plan to manage these risks, providing balanced social and environmental benefits for the economic investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to deliver the actions and measures outlined in the detailed Action Plans produced as part of this Strategy for the areas at the highest risk of flooding. • Ensure that the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment are taken into account when delivering this Strategy.

Detailed action plans...

In addition to this overarching action plan, detailed action plans have also been prepared for the most at risk wards. These are all available on the website www.hants.gov.uk/floodriskstrategy

Each detailed action plan considers the measures that have previously been put in place to address local flood risk and the additional measures that may be required in the future to further reduce flood risk.

Environmental considerations...

The SEA identified potential environmental and social impacts and enhancements which helped to guide the development of the action plans. For example, managing flooding through the use of green spaces can help improve the environment and create attractive open spaces.

When further developing and delivering the detailed action plans, the County Council will carry out more detailed environmental studies to prevent or mitigate environmental harm and incorporate wider benefits into flood management activities.

What next?

The Strategy has been adopted by the County Council who will now use it to help manage the local flood risk in Hampshire.

The final adopted Strategy is publically available on our website, where you will also find lots of other information about flooding.

The County Council will monitor the Strategy and action plan. There will be a formal update of the Strategy in 2017. We have also identified a number of triggers that would require an early review of the Strategy. For example if there is a significant flood, or if new data becomes available. The action plans will be reviewed on a two yearly cycle.

What can you do?

The County Council is working to manage flood risk in Hampshire but can not do this alone. It is important that people also make efforts to prepare for and reduce their own risk from flooding.

You can find more information about how to prepare for or recover from flooding in annexes G and H of the Strategy. Alternatively further information about local flooding is available on the Hampshire County Council website. The Environment Agency website (www.environment-agency.gov.uk) has information and flooding from rivers and the sea.

You can also help by reporting local flooding to the County Council.

To request this document in large print, on audio media, in Braille or in some other languages email fwm@hants.gov.uk or call 01962 846766

Further information:

For further information, or to request this document in an alternative format, please contact Pete Errington at the County Council:

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www.hants.gov.uk/floodriskstrategy