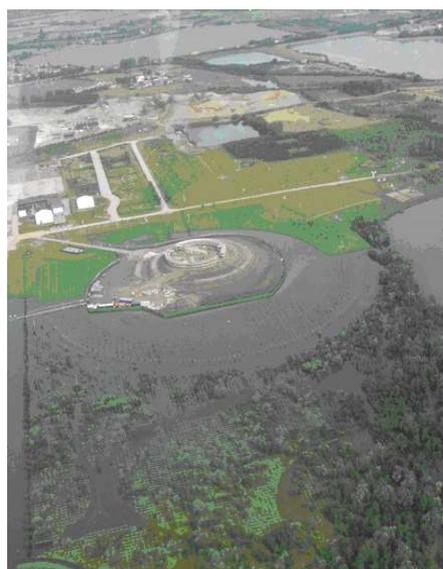


Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Summary

December 2015



Introduction

This Strategy is about managing flooding in Staffordshire. As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), we are required by law to produce a strategy for the management of local flood risk.

Flooding can come from larger rivers, smaller watercourses, groundwater, overland runoff following heavy rain (surface water), reservoirs and sewers. In Staffordshire there are over 10,600 properties that could flood from rivers and 11,700 properties that could flood from surface water in an event with a 1% chance of happening in any one year.

The main role the County Council have is to co-ordinate local flood risk management and by this we mean flooding from smaller watercourses, surface water and groundwater. However, so that we can manage flood risk in a joined up way we work in partnership with District and Borough Councils, the Environment Agency, Water Companies, Sow and Penk Internal Drainage Board, surrounding local authorities and the Peak District National Park Authority.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out roles and responsibilities for flood risk management, assesses the risk of flooding in the County, where funding can be found to manage flood risk, what our policies are as a Lead Local Flood Authority and what our objectives and actions are to manage flood risk.

We have worked jointly with Shropshire Council to produce our consultation Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This includes:

- Part 1: Our combined approach with Shropshire Council for managing flood risk
- Part 2: Policies and actions specific to Staffordshire
- Part 3: Strategic Environmental Assessment

A full version of the strategy is available to download from our website www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Legislation

Following the severe flooding during the summer of 2007, the government commissioned an independent review (the 'Pitt Review') which in 2008 recommended that local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, working in partnership with other organisations. Two key pieces of legislation have brought this forward; the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) which transpose the EU Floods Directive into UK Law and the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

The Council is now a Lead Local Flood Authority and has new powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities (shown on the table below). Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses).

Roles and responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority

Strategic	Operational
<p>Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>Co-ordinate partnership working between relevant organisations.</p> <p>Represent Staffordshire on the River Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.</p> <p>To comply with the European Floods Directive, produce a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and for nationally significant Flood Risk Areas, surface water mapping and a Flood Risk Management Plan.</p>	<p>Investigate flooding incidents and set out who has responsibilities and what actions can be taken.</p> <p>Hold a register of significant drainage/ flood alleviation assets.</p> <p>Power to designate third party assets acting as flood defences so they cannot be altered or removed.</p> <p>Powers to enforce land drainage legislation to ensure ordinary watercourses flow properly and a duty to consent to certain works on these watercourses.</p> <p>Powers to build new flood alleviation schemes for local sources of flooding.</p> <p>Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications for surface water drainage on major developments</p>

There are a number of different organisations in and around Staffordshire that have roles and responsibilities for flood risk management and these are shown below.

Roles and responsibilities for flood risk management

Risk Management Authority	Operational level role
Environment Agency	Main Rivers e.g. Severn, Trent Reservoirs (regulation role)
Lead Local Flood Authority (Staffordshire County Council)	Surface water Groundwater Ordinary Watercourses (consenting and enforcement)
District and Borough Councils	Ordinary Watercourses (works)
Internal Drainage Board(s)	Ordinary Watercourses in Internal Drainage Districts
Water Companies	Public Sewers
Highways Authorities	Highway drainage

Areas at Risk in Staffordshire

Shropshire and Staffordshire are both rural counties with similar flooding problems due to their topography. Major towns, such as Shrewsbury and Burton-upon-Trent, suffer from well documented flooding from the River Severn and River Trent. However, other areas are elevated with steep catchments and surface water flooding is often the major concern in these areas.

Flooding from larger rivers is well understood and has been managed at a national scale for many years by the Environment Agency. However, flood risk from local sources, including surface water runoff, groundwater and smaller ('ordinary') watercourses is less well informed, being very localised, often difficult to predict and with sparse historical records.

Selected Historical Flooding Events

- 2000 Oct/Nov – Central North West and South East band of county (combination of flood sources),
- 2004 August – Central North West and South East band of county (combination of flood sources),
- 2007 June/July – Whole county (interaction of all forms due to excess rainfall),
- 2010 October – Centred on North West corner of county (combination of heavy rainfall and trash screen blockage),
- 2012 June to November – Prolonged period of wet weather resulting in numerous local flooding issues across Staffordshire.

An assessment of the top 10 communities in urban and rural locations at risk of flooding from surface water and smaller watercourses within Staffordshire is provided below. This is based on surface water flood mapping which predicts areas which may flood in the future.

Rural Settlement	Properties at Risk	District/ Borough
Barton under Needwood	150	East Staffordshire
Armitage	129	Lichfield
Gnosall	97	Stafford
Whittington near Lichfield	79	Lichfield
Tutbury	69	East Staffordshire
Brewood	66	South Staffordshire
Endon	58	Staffordshire Moorlands
Leekbrook	53	Staffordshire Moorlands
Waterhouses	49	Staffordshire Moorlands
Forsbrook	45	Staffordshire Moorlands/Stafford

Top 10 Communities at risk of flooding in rural areas from surface water and small watercourses

Urban Settlement	Properties at Risk	District/ Borough
Cannock	1292	Cannock Chase
Burton upon Trent	1021	East Staffordshire
Tamworth	920	Tamworth
Lichfield	760	Lichfield
Rugeley	729	Cannock Chase
Stafford	643	Stafford
Newcastle under Lyme and Silverdale	632	Newcastle-under-Lyme
Burntwood	620	Lichfield
Perton	336	South Staffordshire
Biddulph	229	Staffordshire Moorlands

Top 10 Communities at risk of flooding in urban areas from surface water and small watercourses

Funding and Prioritisation

Funding for day to day work as a Lead Local Flood Authority has been allocated by the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) based on the individual risk each local authority faces up to 2015. Beyond this funding commitments are unclear.

Central Government's funding mechanism for flood alleviation studies and schemes operates on a 'Partnership Funding' basis. The amount of central funding that a scheme attracts is based on the benefits of a scheme (mainly based on residential properties protected) and the amount of funding secured from 'other' sources, including public and private funds and regional funding. The government's approach to Partnership Funding means that the more external funds that can be found, the better a scheme 'scores' and the more likely it is to be delivered and prioritised against other schemes nationally. Flood Risk Management Authorities, including Shropshire Council and Staffordshire County Council, can submit bids for national and regional funding.

There will always be limited resources for managing flood risk. So that we can spend the money that is there to greatest effect we need to take a proportionate and risk based approach.

We will need to prioritise both on the locations for further investment and investigation and the flood risk management actions that we and others will take going forward. This means taking appropriate action in terms of being proportionate to the level of flood risk and considering the actions that are likely to have the most effect on reducing flood risk. We will prioritise our activities based on:

- where there is risk to life e.g. in rapidly reacting catchments;
- historic and predicted flood risk and where there are frequent flooding issues;
- availability of funding and external contributions or opportunities to support economic growth;
- where there are known failing assets or health and safety concerns;
- where there is strong community engagement;
- where there are opportunities to work collaboratively with other Risk Management Authorities, and;
- the delivery of multiple benefits.

Policies

The policies detailed in Part 2 of our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy are summarised in the table below.

No	Policy
Policies relating to the Flood and Water Management Act (2010)	
1. Investigation and Reporting of Flooding Events	When Staffordshire County Council becomes aware of internal property flooding, it will endeavour to investigate the source of the flooding and notify the relevant organisations which have specific roles and responsibilities. After a major flood event the Council will prioritise its approach based on the number of properties, businesses and infrastructure affected.
2. Register of Structures and Features (Asset Register)	The council will take a risk based approach to prioritise the collection of data and will use asset information to help raise awareness of the assets that exist to improve community resilience.
3. Designation of Structures and Features	The council will consider the need to designate structures or features on a case by case basis taking the implications of property flood risk into account.
Policies in relation to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
4. Role of the Lead Local Flood Authority in the Consideration of Proposals for Sustainable Development	The council will seek to deliver sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as part of new development in its roles as statutory consultee for major planning applications and non-statutory consultee for non-major planning applications.
Policies relating to the Land Drainage Act (1991) relating to ordinary watercourses	
5. Maintaining, Improving or Constructing Works on Ordinary Watercourses	Where appropriate, the council will use its permissive powers to construct flood alleviation schemes that reduce the risk of flooding to properties. The council will work with partner organisations, community groups and landowners to look for innovative cost-effective solutions and seek funding for schemes wherever possible.
6. Consenting Activities relating to Ordinary Watercourses	The council will seek to preserve the natural state of land drainage systems and minimise the number of man-made alterations to watercourses. Any activity which may affect the flow of an ordinary watercourse

	will require the council's formal consent.
7. Enforcement Activities relating to Ordinary Watercourses	When an issue is raised, the council will take a risk based approach to determine if enforcement action should be taken.
Policies in Relation to Environmental Opportunities	
8. Environmental Opportunities	The council will seek to improve the local environment when delivering flood alleviation schemes, work with natural processes and take a catchment based approach when considering suitable options for flood mitigation. The council will also seek to secure flood risk management benefits through ongoing and future programmes of work primarily aimed at improving our natural environment, enhancing our landscape and the wildlife it supports, improving water quality and securing our cultural heritage assets for the future.

Objectives and Actions

Our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy objectives have been developed considering historic and predicted flood risk, relevant plans and strategies and the views of local residents, businesses and other Risk Management Authorities.

The supporting Action Plan brings together the actions and priorities set out in our Strategy and plans for investment in flood alleviation from all partners across Staffordshire and Shropshire. Progress will be monitored and annual reports will be published on our website. The Action Plan sits within Part 2 of the Strategy and a summary can be viewed below.

Objective 1

Develop a strategic understanding of flood risk from all sources

Actions:

- Manage local flood risk using a risk-based and evidence-based programme
- Investigate flooding incidents, working with all RMAs and local communities
- Produce local flood risk management plans for high priority locations.
- Improve evidence, information, and mapping and modelling tools to understand better the risks of flooding and to support better decisions and greater resilience (EA to lead)
- Support the Environment Agency to implement the Humber Flood Risk Management Plan and update the Staffordshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Objective 2

Promote effective management of drainage and flood defence systems

Actions:

- Use Land Drainage powers to manage the watercourse network
- Update and improve the Asset Register
- Maintain existing main river flood defences (EA to lead)
- Maintain the public sewer network (Sewerage Companies to Lead)
- Maintain watercourses in IDB areas (Sow and Penk IDB to lead)

Objective 3

Support communities to understand flood risk and become more resilient to flooding

Actions:

- Support communities at risk of flooding to take action to increase their resilience.
- Provide flood warnings to local communities
- Support communities at risk in fast responding catchments prone to flash flooding to take appropriate action

Objective 4

Manage local flood risk and new development in a sustainable manner

Actions:

- Seek the inclusion of Sustainable Drainage Systems wherever possible within new developments and prepare a Local Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Handbook
- Regarding Sustainable Drainage Systems, respond to planning applications within 21 days as Statutory / Non-Statutory Consultee
- Regarding river flood risk, respond to planning applications within 21 days as Statutory Consultee (Environment Agency to lead)
- Assist with the development of planning policies, site allocations, neighbourhood plans and identification of future infrastructure needs
- Work with developers and Local Planning Authorities to secure appropriate connections to sewers / IDB assets (water companies and IDBs to lead)

Objective 5

Achieve results through partnership and collaboration

Actions:

- Raise awareness of the roles of all Risk Management Authorities and work in partnership to effectively manage flood risk
- Work collaboratively with Shropshire Council
- Support the delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy

- Work with Infrastructure Plus, the Councils Highways Delivery Partnership, to integrate programmes of work
- Work with landowners, communities and other organisations to influence land management practices

Objective 6

Be better prepared for flood events

Actions:

- Work with the Staffordshire Civil Contingencies Unit to help inform flood preparedness, response and recovery planning
- Work with local communities to develop Local Flood Action Plans
- Maintain and, where possible, seek to improve accuracy of flood forecasting and warning where these services currently exist (Environment Agency to lead)

Objective 7

Secure and manage funding for flood risk management in a challenging financial climate

Actions:

- Work in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities to deliver flood alleviation schemes on a six year rolling programme.
- Maximise external fundraising opportunities
- Work with local communities to develop Flood Alleviation Schemes that meet local needs
- Work with other Risk Management Authorities in partnership where there are interactions with the sewer network (water companies to lead)