



Shropshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Summary for Consultation

July 2014



Introduction

This Strategy is about managing flooding in Shropshire. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, 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 Shropshire there are over 1922 properties that could flood from rivers and 2094 properties that could flood from surface water in an event with a 1% chance of happening in any one year.

The main role the Council has 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 the Environment Agency, Water Companies, Internal Drainage Boards, surrounding local authorities and other organisations.

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 Staffordshire County Council to produce our consultation Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This includes:

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

A full version of the draft strategy is available to download from our website, www.shropshire.gov.uk/flooding

Consultation is open until the 30th September 2014 and responses will be used to finalise our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. You can provide comments online by visiting www.shropshire.gov.uk/flooding

Alternatively you can send your comments to: flood@shropshire.gov.uk or Flood and Water Management Team, Shirehall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY2 6ND

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).

Shropshire 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).

Shropshire Council's 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 Shropshire on the English Severn and Wye 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>Approve, adopt and maintain sustainable drainage systems on all new applicable developments (not yet law).</p>

There are a number of different organisations in and around Shropshire 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. River Severn Reservoirs (regulation role)
Lead Local Flood Authority (Shropshire Council).	Surface water Groundwater Ordinary Watercourses (consenting and enforcement)
Internal Drainage Boards	Ordinary Watercourses in Internal Drainage Districts
Water Companies	Public Sewers
Highways Authorities	Highway drainage

Areas at Risk in Shropshire

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 parts of the counties 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

- October 1998 – Severn Valley: Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth (Heavy rainfall and flooding),
- November 2000 – Severn Valley: Shrewsbury, Bridgnorth (Heavy rainfall and flooding),
- July 2006 – Albrighton and Cosford (Heavy rain causing flash floods),
- June 2007 – Shifnal (watercourse burst its banks),
- June 2007 – Ludlow (Burway Bridge on River Corve collapsed),
- June 2007 – Bridgnorth (Severn Valley Railway line from Bridgnorth was closed after landslips),
- June 2007 – Much Wenlock and Farley (Surface water and fluvial flooding),
- June to November 2012 – Prolonged period of wet weather resulting in numerous local flooding issues across Shropshire.

An indication of the settlements at highest risk of potential flooding from both surface water and watercourse within Shropshire is provided below. The full table can be found in Part 2 of the consultation Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Settlement	Total number of properties	Properties at risk in a 1 in 100 year surface water flood event
Shrewsbury	24,877	484
Oswestry	7,037	267
Bridgnorth	4,618	249
Ludlow	4,120	164
Church Stretton	1,546	125
Shifnal	2,133	73
Much Wenlock	623	70
Bayston Hill	1,587	61

Settlement	Total number of properties	Properties at risk in a 1 in 100 year surface water flood event
Whitchurch	3,554	61
Market Drayton	4,180	47

Consultation question (5)

In addition to the Preliminary Assessment of Properties at Risk of Flooding, do you have any other suggestions as to how we may prioritise our flood risk management activities? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 2 Section 5.

Funding

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 / Staffordshire County Council, can submit bids for national and regional funding.

Consultation question (6)

Given the need for partnership funding do you have any suggestions to improve funding opportunities? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 1, Section 8.

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 we will prioritise our approach based on the number of properties, businesses and infrastructure affected.
2. Register of Structures and Features (Asset Register)	We will take a risk based approach to prioritise data collection. We use asset information to raise awareness of the assets that exist and what to do in an emergency.
3. Designation of Structures and Features	We will consider the need to designate existing structures or features on a case by case basis taking the implications of property flood risk in to account.
4. Role of the Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB)	Staffordshire County Council and Shropshire Council will work together to administer applications for drainage design approval. The Councils will also share a Sustainable Drainage Handbook, providing guidance for applicants on the design and adoption process.
Policies relating to the Land Drainage Act (1991) relating to ordinary watercourses	
5. Maintaining, Improving or Constructing works	Where appropriate, we will use our permissive powers to construct flood alleviation schemes that reduce the risk of flooding to properties. We will work with partner organisations, community groups and landowners to look for innovative cost-effective solutions and seek external funding for schemes wherever possible.
6. Consenting Activities	We 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 our formal consent.
7. Enforcement Activities	When an issue is brought to our attention, we will take a risk based approach to determine if enforcement action should be taken.

Consultation question (3)

What are your views on our proposed policies in relation to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 2 Section 2.

Consultation question (4)

What are your views on our proposed policies in relation to the Land Drainage Act 1991? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 2 Section 3.

Strategy

The guiding principles from National Strategy and Shropshire Council's corporate priorities have been taken into account when setting the following objectives for the management of local flood risk.

Objective 1

Develop a strategic understanding of flood risk from all sources

Actions:

- Make the public aware of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and associated responsibilities and procedures,
- Use the settlement risk assessment to prioritise future activities,
- Work collaboratively with Staffordshire County Council,
- Keep flood incident data up to date and share this information with other Risk Management Authorities,
- Update and improve the Asset Register,
- Report and investigate future flood incidents,
- Produce or keep up to date Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) for significant flood risk areas. These will identify issues at a local level, allowing partner organisations and communities to identify problems and empower them to take action,
- Develop the SuDS Approval Body (SAB) which will promote sustainable development.

Objective 2

Promote effective management of drainage and flood defence systems

Actions:

- Minimise the number of man-made alterations to watercourses,
- Promote sustainable land management practices,
- Take a risk-based approach when considering the need for enforcement,

- Take a proactive role in making riparian landowners aware of their responsibilities,
- Develop a better understanding of the location and condition of important flood defence and drainage assets,
- Maintain the Register of Structures and Features, and use to inform maintenance activities where appropriate,

Objective 3

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

Actions:

- Make the public aware of our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy ,
- Gain an improved understanding of the interactions between the various drainage systems that drain communities,
- Engage with communities to raise awareness of the drainage assets in their area to help them be prepared for future flood events and to take a more proactive role in flood monitoring and maintenance,
- Work with local communities which have been affected by flooding to promote local capital schemes to reduce the risk of flooding.

Objective 4

Manage local flood risk and new development in a sustainable manner

Actions:

- Minimise the number of man-made alterations to watercourses,
- Encourage developers, statutory consultees and local planning teams to work closely with the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) from the outset,
- Continue to work collaboratively with Staffordshire County Council with regard to the processes required to administer and determine sustainable drainage applications,
- Prepare a SuDS handbook collaboratively with Staffordshire County Council which will provide guidance for developers on the design and adoption process,
- Promote sustainable drainage systems which provide green infrastructure, require minimal excavation and ongoing maintenance and also avoid the need for major and disruptive replacement works,
- Manage local flood risk using a risk-based and evidence-based programme, incorporating proportionate and practical measures taking into account the effects of climate change,
- Seek to achieve multi-beneficial solutions to enhance the natural and built environment,
- Continue to act as a non-statutory consultee to the planning process to advise on matters regarding local flood risk management and surface water drainage,

- Continue to work with Local Planning Teams to provide advice on local flooding matters and assist with the development of policies that ensure that the type and quantity of development is commensurate with the risk of flooding as determined through this Strategy.

Objective 5

Achieve results through partnership and collaboration

Actions:

- Fulfil our role as Lead Local Flood Authority in accordance with the spirit of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010,
- Seek to achieve common objectives based on a culture of partnering and trust and sharing of ideas and resources,
- Seek to support other functions such as community resilience, emergency planning and climate change and adaptation strategies,
- Work in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities at both a strategic and operational level,
- Establish a governance structure to scrutinise the progress of this strategy,
- Work with landowners and representative organisations to promote changes in agricultural land management practices.

Objective 6

Be better prepared for flood events

Actions:

- Produce Operational Flood Response Plans, giving specific information on the location of important drainage and flood defence assets in a particular area and engage with communities to raise awareness of these plans,
- Identify areas where regular maintenance of drainage assets is critical,
- Working with Risk Management Authorities and emergency planning teams to engage with local communities, parish councils and businesses to encourage and support them to take appropriate local action to prepare for flooding. This will include the formation of local flood action groups and the preparation of community flood plans.

Objective 7

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

Actions:

- Find innovative ways of working and funding,
- Maximise external fundraising opportunities for all projects such that more flood risk management projects can be delivered in the long term,
- Target funding based on a prioritised approach,
- Actively explore opportunities to jointly deliver flood risk management schemes in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities,
- Attract funding for the implementation of flood risk management schemes by working collaboratively with landowners and community groups to deliver the most cost effective solutions.

Questions

- Q1 What are your views on our proposed objectives for the management of local flood risk across Shropshire and Staffordshire? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 1, Section 5.2.
- Q2 Do you have any comments on the actions we have proposed to deliver our objectives? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 2 Section 4.
- Q7 We have outlined how we would like to work more effectively with local communities, Risk Management Authorities and other organisations. Are there any specific areas where you feel additional collaborative working would be of benefit? Refer to Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Part 1, Section 6.
- Q8 Do you have any other comments in relation to our Flood Risk Management Strategy?