

STAFFORDSHIRE LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2024 Update

Objectives for Managing Local Flood Risk

1. Objectives for Managing Local Flood Risk

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) objectives have been developed taking into account:

- historic and predicted flood risk;
- the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy;
- the corporate priorities of Staffordshire County Council;
- objectives and aims set out in complimentary plans and strategies;
- funding arrangements and opportunities;
- the views of local residents, businesses, Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and Elected Members that have come to light as a result of our role as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

The previous LFRMS had Objectives, but these have been collected into 5 Objectives which include more than the previous Strategy.

The 5 LFRMS Objectives are:

1. Improve our understanding of flood risk and be prepared for flood events

We will continue to gather information on different sources of flood risk, and how various drainage systems interact. We will continue to provide better records for historic flooding through investigating the cause of flood events. This will provide

a clearer understanding of the overall flood risk in our area. We will continue to understand our key flood risks through larger scale studies.

The improved information on flood risk will be used to ensure that emergency responders, partner organisations and communities better understand the nature of local flood risk and can use the information to improve their preparedness for flood events. Communities and individuals will be encouraged and supported to take part in preparing for flood events, forming local action groups, and planning for future flood risks.

2. Manage flood risk and new development in a sustainable manner

We aim to manage flood risk and drainage associated with new development such that no new flood risk is created and, wherever possible, ensure that opportunities to reduce flood risk are taken through early engagement with developers. In addition, we will work with Local Planning Authorities and developers to ensure that new development is sustainable.

We aim to raise awareness of the responsibilities for both man-made and natural drainage systems. This will be achieved by a series of measures including publicly available information, engaging directly with those who are responsible, designation of features, consenting works and, where appropriate, using our permissive land drainage powers to manage the ordinary watercourse network.

We will work to understand the implications of the introduction of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (SuDS Approval Body).

3. Seek and secure funding for flood alleviation schemes and work with partners:

We will strive to achieve savings through collaboratively working with partner organisations and reducing duplication of effort. Funding for flood risk management will be directed to areas most at need and where solutions will be most effective. Opportunities to attract external funding for flood risk management projects will be actively pursued, and funding prioritised, taking into account the evidence of flooding and sustainability of the proposed solution.

Where local flood alleviation schemes are identified, communities will be engaged via local stakeholders in the project process to influence the design, bring in contributions and maximise the schemes potential.

We will adopt consistent methods of working and continue to work in partnership to enhance their resource capabilities for the better management of local flood risk. Partnerships with RMAs, other organisations, landowners, and community

groups will be strengthened to target resources and provide co-ordination of expertise and funding. Partnerships will be strengthened across catchment and authority boundaries (as required), to manage flood risk. A partnership approach will provide opportunities to build links with wider plans, avoid transfer of flood risk elsewhere and provide multi-benefit schemes for affected local communities.

4. Work with others to ensure communities are more aware, informed, and resilient to flooding

Our aim is to provide local communities with improved flood risk information as it becomes available (including information concerning courses of action) so that they can increase their understanding and allow them to make informed decisions on how they can make themselves more resilient. Communities will be engaged with to help them better prepare for, protect against, respond to, and recover from, flooding. We aim to provide strategic infrastructure to help communities do this for all at risk of flooding and via a targeted approach to identify communities and work with them.

5. Promote effective management of drainage and flood defence assets

We aim to raise awareness of the responsibilities for both man-made and natural drainage systems. This will be achieved by a series of measures including publicity information, engaging directly with those who are responsible, designation of features, consenting works and, where appropriate, using our permissive land drainage powers to manage the ordinary watercourse network.

2. Alignment to National Strategy

Local objectives must be consistent with the National Flood Risk Strategy and, in particular, the Environment Agency's National FCERM Strategy. Their 3 high level ambitions are:

- Climate Resilient Places;
- Today's growth and infrastructure – resilient to tomorrow's climate; and
- A Nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change

Table 2-1 highlights how these 3 ambitions will be achieved locally in Staffordshire.

Table 2-1 How the National FCERM strategy objectives will be locally in Staffordshire

Objective Number	Local Objectives	National Strategy Ambitions		
		1	2	3
1	Improve our understanding of flood risk and be prepared for flood events	✓	✓	✓
2	Manage flood risk and new development in a sustainable manner	✓	✓	
3	Seek and secure funding for flood alleviation schemes and work with partners	✓		✓
4	Work with others to ensure communities are more aware, informed, and resilient to flooding	✓	✓	✓
5	Promote effective management of drainage and flood defence assets		✓	✓

3. Complimentary Strategies and Plans

Wider key plans and strategies have been utilised to develop these key objectives from a flood risk management and environmental perspective. Key documents are outlined in our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Update Summary.