

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Service Delivery Plan



Document Information

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Why has this Service Delivery Plan been done?

Flood risk and coastal erosion are serious issues for Sefton and this is recognised within the Community Risk Register that places flooding in particular, as one of our most significant risks. Our approach to managing this is set out in the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy which is complimented by a supporting Investment Plan and this Service Delivery Plan.

1.2 What is the purpose of this Service Delivery Plan?

The purpose of this plan is to set out the approach the Council will take to the provision of this service area over the period from 2015-2018. Whilst the outcomes we are seeking are supported and shared by the whole Council the team primarily charged with delivering them is the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team which sits within the Investment Programmes and Infrastructure Division.

Whilst this plan provides transparency in relation to our approach for our communities it is primarily aimed at officers within the Council and within partner agencies. If we are to deliver outcomes in partnership we need to set out what we plan to do so that opportunities to coordinate can be identified and acted upon. It also allows Officers and Elected Members to monitor the delivery of the service.

The plan briefly sets out the current issues we are facing, and then sets out the actions we plan to take followed by how we will monitor and review this plan.

As a plan prepared by officers and approved by the Cabinet Member it sets out clear expectations for service delivery by the officers. However, as a number of the actions rely on working with partners and securing external funding there are elements of the Service Delivery Plan that are outside the control of Officers.



2.0 Aims and objectives

2.1 The Service Plan

The objectives of the Service Delivery Plan are to:

- Present an overview of the management of flood and coastal erosion in Sefton
- Set out how we will monitor performance
- Set out the review process
- Include activities that will contribute to continuous improvement of the service



3.0 How flood and coastal erosion risk is managed in Sefton

3.1 Overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton

Figure 1 illustrates how flood and coastal erosion risk is managed by Sefton Council from its vision, objectives, actions and influences of guiding principles from the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. An explanation of the diagram follows:

The vision for the management of flood and coastal erosion risk is set in the centre of the diagram. The circles linked to the vision set out the detailed outcomes we are seeking and each is accompanied by activities that support their delivery. Around the outside are the principles that we will seek to work to, these will apply across all activities.

The activities and how we will monitor and report on our actions are set out in more detail in section 5.0. The Investment Plan supporting this Service Delivery Plan details how the actions are funded, along with costs and benefits and the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy gives an overview of the management of the risk we face in Sefton.

Whilst the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, Service Delivery Plan and Investment Plan are separate documents it is only when considered together that they satisfy our legal requirements under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

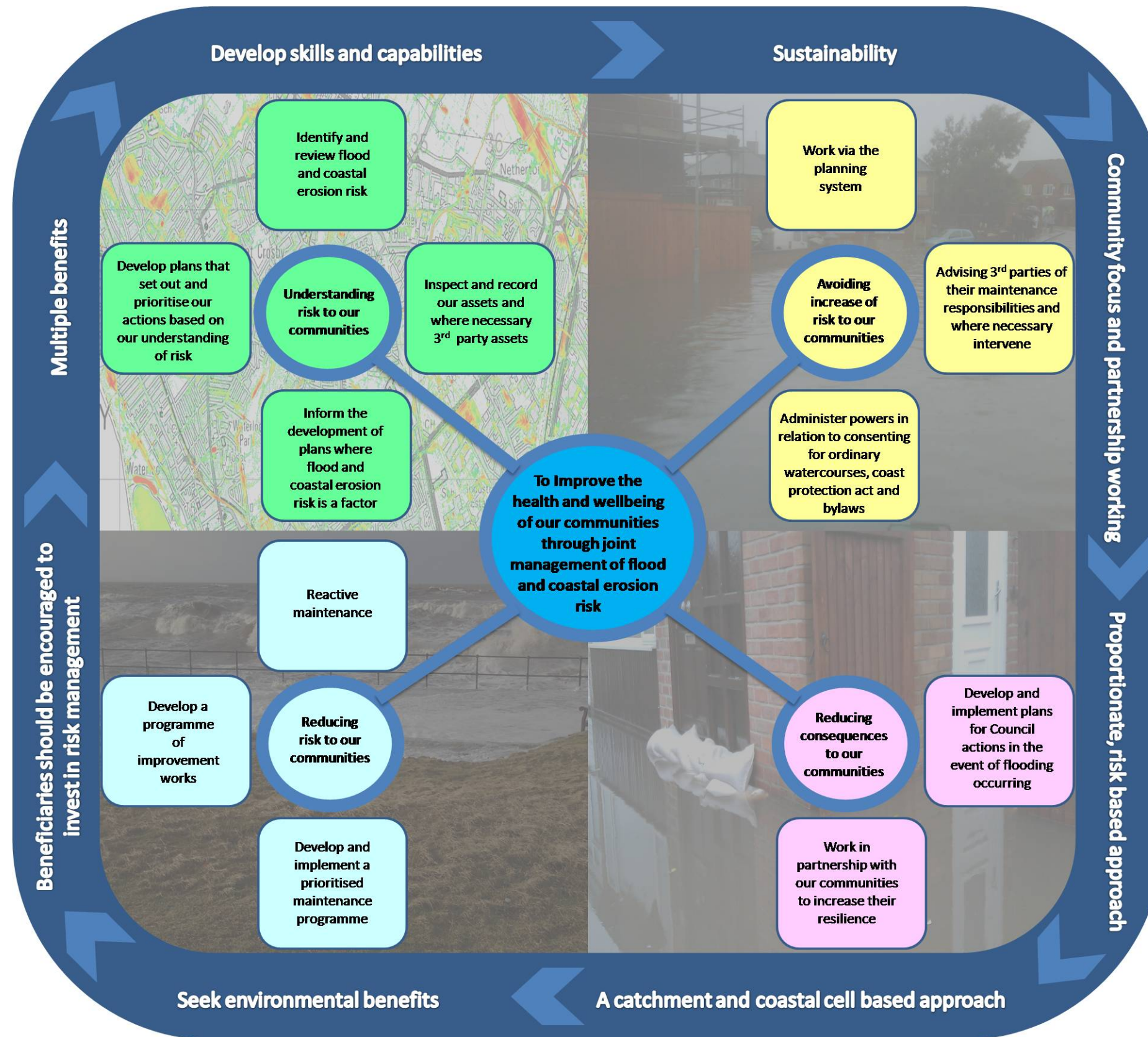


Figure 1: Management of FCERM in Sefton

4.0 Delivery of flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton

4.1 Why do we have a Service Delivery Plan?

We are undertaking this work at a challenging time, there are constraints on Council budgets, constraints on Government budgets upon which we rely for capital works, new duties relating to being a Lead Local Flood Authority and a SAB (Sustainable Urban Drainage Approval Body). Whilst we have not experienced any severe flooding since 2012 the issue of coastal and inland flooding remains high on the national political agenda because of flood events across the UK in general. Further to this there is an increasing awareness and acceptance that the climate is changing and that this will impact on the risk we face in the future.

We know that over the early part of the Service Delivery Plan period there will be significant cuts in Council resources and services will have to be prioritised in accordance with the Council vision. We don't know if there will be further cuts in the latter part of the period. This service area is delivered in partnership with the Environment Agency and United Utilities. As a government agency the Environment Agency is facing similar financial pressures to the Council with reduced revenue funding, increasing stresses on the systems we are trying to maintain. As part of their cost savings the Environment Agency are also looking to withdraw from some of their satellite pumping stations, it is unclear at this time if others will continue this activity and what the impact would be on Sefton if the activity ceased.

External funding is in the process of changing both to a system that encourages contributions to central government grant aid and one where there is more certainty of central government grant aid with approvals being given over a six year programme. The regulation of water companies has been relaxed in



certain respects allowing United Utilities greater freedom to work in partnership with the Council and Environment Agency; this is a positive move and opens up opportunities for jointly funded projects.

A number of new duties have been placed on the Council but a key one to be introduced during the plan period will be the SAB. The approving process is one element of the new duty where by developers have to seek approval from the SAB for surface water drainage systems, the other element is that if approved the Council has to adopt and maintain these systems once constructed. By the end of the plan period the Council could be responsible for the provision of a service to maintain drainage systems serving anywhere from 1,000-2,000 properties. The liabilities, charging and maintenance funding for this whole process are not yet clear.

Despite awareness raising campaigns the most effective mechanism for making communities aware of the risk from flooding and coastal erosion is flood and storm events, especially as reporting by individuals has increased with the capturing of images on mobile phones and dissemination via the internet. Whilst this can be positive both in terms of increasing awareness of the risk now and the changing risk due to climate change it can also lead to emotional scenes as the gap between the service that can be provided and the service expected by communities becomes apparent. Communication of risk and an understanding of the limitations of the service we can provide will be a key step for us to take in supporting resilient communities over the plan period.

Given the context set out above it makes it increasingly important to be clear and transparent about what outcomes we are seeking, the activities we will undertake to achieve them and how we will ensure that we undertake them in an efficient, effective and customer focussed way.



5.0 Performance management

5.1 How will we monitor the delivery of our actions?

Table 1 sets out how flood and coastal erosion will be managed in Sefton and how we will ensure the service is delivered in the most effective, efficient and customer focussed way. The table is colour coded to relate to the outcomes and activities in figure 1.

The same table is used in the Investment Plan that sets out how flood and coastal erosion risk is funded and what would happen if we reduced or ceased the service. A summary table is also found in the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy to provide an overview of the management of this risk in Sefton.



Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
Understanding risk to our communities	Identify and review flood and coastal erosion risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of a range of conditions • Recording flood and coastal erosion events • Modelling of systems • Communicating the risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular technical and non-technical reports for coastal erosion and tidal flood risk Establish / extend monitoring network for groundwater based on highest risk areas to provide evidence base • Develop Investigations policy and reporting procedure (by 2015) • Consolidation of risk information for communication 	Time taken and quality of inspections will be the performance measures with a summary of risk provided as context
	Develop plans that set out and prioritise our actions based on our understanding of risk	Develop and maintain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Flood Risk Strategy • Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment • Flood Risk Management Plan • Shoreline Management Plan • Surface Water Management Plan • Coastal Change Study • Catchment Plans (Flood Risk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfy legislative requirements for a Local Flood Risk Strategy and Flood Risk Management Plans. • Develop, maintain and review other plans as necessary and take forward actions recommended in them on a prioritised basis 	Plans in place, acted on and reviewed to an agreed programme

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
		Management Plans)		
	Inform the development of plans where flood and coastal erosion risk is a factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan • Strategic Flood Risk Assessment • Green Space • Habitat Management • Coastal Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input fully to plans to maximise opportunities and minimise adverse impacts in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management 	Timely and quality response including feedback from the customer team.
	Inspect and record our assets and where necessary 3rd party assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain a database containing information about assets important to flood risk management • Develop and implement a risk based inspection programme for the assets • Identify and designate assets which are in third party ownership and although not their primary function are important for flood risk management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A database containing information on known assets • A prioritised inspection regime • A programme of work to complete documentation of assets 	Time taken and quality of inspections will be the performance measures with a summary of condition provided as context

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
Avoiding increase of risk to our communities	Work via the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and maintain evidence relating to flood risk to inform the Local Plan, in the format of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The most recent update of the SFRA has been completed in 2013 • As and when the relevant sections of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 are enacted the Council will establish and operate a SuDS (Sustainable Drainage) Approval Body (SAB). It is anticipated that this will include adopting and maintaining SuDS • Develop and maintain local guidance for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) which sets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the establishment of a SAB • Production and application of local FRA guidance • Advise on Planning applications in accordance with legislation and guidance 	<p>These activities are all responding to requests whether they are from planning, an applicant for consenting of works or arising from a request to investigate a flooding issue. As such we need to record the volume of requests (number and scale), the quality and timeliness of our response and the immediate outcome we have achieved.</p> <p>Measures will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number Scale Response time achieved Quality of responses acceptable Impact

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
		<p>out what we will expect in such assessments and how we will consider them over and above what is set out in National Planning Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise the Local Planning Authority on planning applications in relation to flood risk 		
	<p>Administer powers in relation to consenting for ordinary watercourses, coast protection act and bylaws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish consenting procedures and raise awareness of need for consents • Review and enact bylaws • Review procedures and enact recommendations relating to the Coast Protection Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place procedures for consenting works to ordinary watercourses and raise awareness of the need to seek consent for such works. • Put in place procedures for consenting works controlled under the Coast Protection Act and raise awareness of the need to seek consent for such works (by 2015) • Review bylaws that it would be beneficial to 	

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
			enact and commence the process of enactment (by 2016).	
	Advising 3rd parties of their maintenance responsibilities and where necessary intervene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicate riparian duties • Identify issues or receive in complaints relating to lack of maintenance • Identify and enter into negotiations with riparian owners • Where negotiations fail commence enforcement proceedings • Where necessary undertake works ourselves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear procedures for dealing with riparian issues (by 2015) 	

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
Reducing risk to our communities	Develop and implement a prioritised maintenance programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify catchments and associated critical infrastructure • Develop and implement an asset management plan which will include a prioritised maintenance plan based on the number of properties at risk and the vulnerability of the resident 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and re-tender works contracts (by 2016) • Develop and start a programme of work to identify critical infrastructure in each drainage area • Commence development of an asset management plan (by 2015) 	As planned works we will develop programmes and budgets, we will review progress against these and have a project sponsor / project manager arrangement in place to monitor quality. We need to consider how to measure
	Develop a programme of improvement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify capital maintenance and improvement works • Develop a forward plan and bid for funding to undertake the work • Implement works when funds become available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a justified forward plan listing proposed works (by 2015) • Submission of forward plan for grant aid (indicative stage only) • Implementation of works granted funding 	performance in relation to partnership working and drawing in external funds.
	Undertake reactive maintenance	Respond to reactive maintenance needs on a prioritised basis		Time of response and quality of response will be key indicators with £ spent providing context

Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures
Reducing consequences to our communities	Work in partnership with our communities to increase their resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share our understanding of flood and coastal erosion risk • Discuss with communities options for increasing their resilience • Provide advice and support on what to do before during and after a flood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a communications strategy (by the end of 2015) • Development of basic communication materials • Commence implementation of communication strategy 	Performance measures will be developed as part of the communications plan.
	Develop and implement plans for Council actions in the event of flooding occurring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Plan • Resilience Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the emergency and resilience plans for flooding (annual) 	We have to have plans in place and be confident that they will work. The performance measure will be that annual training, testing and review of the plans has been undertaken to a pre-agreed programme.

Table 1: Details of how the council will deliver flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton.

6.0 Monitoring and review

7.1 How often will this Service Delivery Plan be reviewed?

There will be an annual report to the Cabinet Member which will then go on to Overview and Scrutiny. Internally there will be more frequent reviews at officer and Cabinet Member level to monitor performance and delivery between these annual reports.

As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process monitoring is recommended, this monitoring will be incorporated in the above report.

The officer responsible for delivery of these reports is the Team Leader for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.



7.0 Further reading

Sefton Council Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

<http://www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/crime-and-emergencies/flooding-advice.aspx>

Sefton Council Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Plan

Web address

<http://www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/crime-and-emergencies/flooding-advice.aspx>

National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england>

