Sefton Council Local Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

2022 - 2030




Sefton Council

Sefton 2030
Ready for the future

Contents




1 Introduction

1.1 What is a Local Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy?

The Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 established Sefton Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) making it responsible for the management of local flood risk. Under Section 9 of the FWMA, an LLFA has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The strategy provides an overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton and integrates the concept of sustainable development through careful consideration of the three fundamental pillars: people, place and productivity. These three pillars of sustainability are a global concept that is incorporated into international and national schemes such as the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the UK Government's 25-year Environmental Plan. Through sustainable development, the council aims to improve flood and coastal erosion risk management whilst aiding present and future environmental restoration.

The document gives information on who the risk management authorities are in Sefton, their relevant functions and how our approach to flood risk management is coordinated. It offers information on how wider environmental objectives will be achieved in Sefton and provides timescales of when our approach will be reviewed. The strategy is supported by a 'Business Plan' which outlines Sefton's future measures for managing flood and coastal erosion risk and provides detail on the process, timescales, benefits and costs associated with any proposed measures. This strategy will provide local communities and stakeholders with clarity on flood risk management in Sefton.

1.2 Legislative Context

The legislative framework defines the roles and responsibilities placed on flood risk management authorities. There are several overarching national legislative documents relevant to the management of flood and coastal erosion risk. The actions undertaken in Sefton must, therefore, align with national legislation. The hierarchy of the legislation and links to the relevant documents are provided in Figure 1.

Sefton's Local Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy is influenced by national, regional and sub-regional legislation, policies and strategic plans. The mirroring of these broader documents is essential to provide an integrated and, therefore, nationally coherent approach to sustainable flood and coastal erosion risk management.

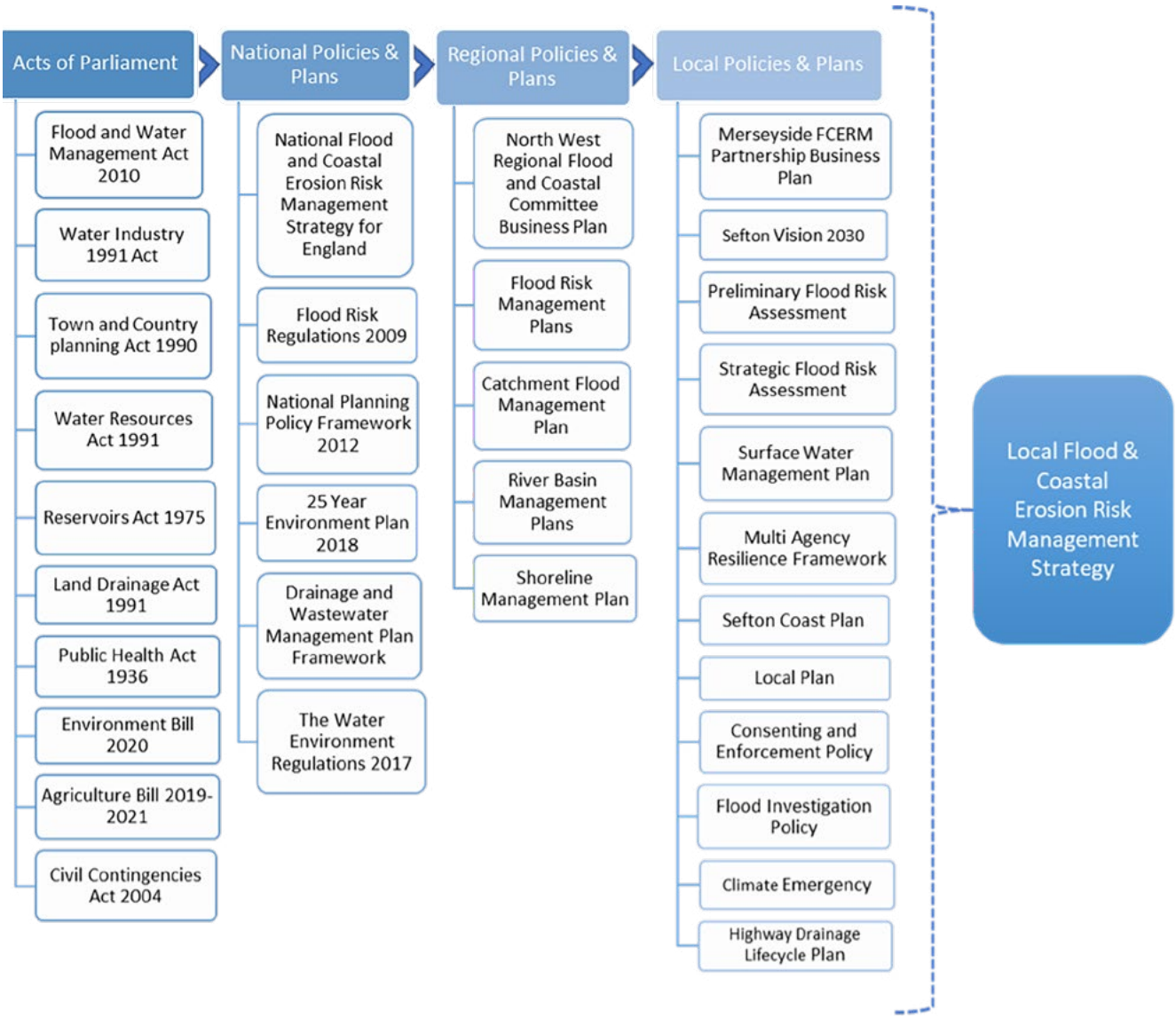

Figure 1: Legislative context. Links to the relevant documents can be found under Section 7: Useful Links.

1.2.1 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2020)

The Environment Agency has a responsibility under the FWMA 2010 to develop a national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England. The national strategy for England outlines the duties of all risk management authorities involved in the reduction of flood and coastal erosion risk (further details provided in Section 1.3.2). The focus of the national strategy for England is to support all risk management authorities to manage the risk of coastal erosion and flooding in a coordinated and sustainable way across coasts and catchments.

The national strategy for England sets out a sustainable long-term vision:

"A nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100."

The vision is supported by a set of long-term ambitions focussed around the three pillars of sustainable development:

PEOPLE – A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change - ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change and know their responsibilities and how to take action.

PLACE – Climate-resilient places - working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change.

PRODUCTIVITY – Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate - making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change.

The national strategy for England provides the framework for LLFAs to produce their local flood risk management strategies and helps to guide operational activities and improvements to local flood and coastal erosion risk management. Under the FWMA it is essential that local strategies align with the vision of the national strategy whilst providing locally relevant actions for sustainable risk management.

1.2.2 North West Regional Flood & Coastal Committee Business Plan

The North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) Business Plan is one of the main influences on Sefton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The North West RFCC is one of twelve committees established across England under the FWMA 2010. The RFCC brings together the organisations responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management across the North West Region: The Environment Agency, Local Authorities and United Utilities. The committee has several functions, firstly, to ensure there are coherent plans for managing flood and coastal erosion, secondly, to encourage effective investment that benefits local communities and thirdly, to provide a

link between regional organisations involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management. The North West RFCC produces a three-year Business Plan which sets out the risks, challenges and actions for the region.

1.2.3 Merseyside Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership Business Plan

A subsidiary of the North West RFCC is the Merseyside Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Partnership which brings together the organisations that manage flood and coastal erosion risk in Merseyside. The aim of the partnership is to identify priorities, steer the use of resources and support good investments for our communities. The partnership uses the high-level actions outlined in the North West RFCC Business Plan to guide local actions. The Merseyside FCERM Business Plan sets out key risks, challenges and opportunities that face Merseyside in relation to flooding and coastal erosion. The Merseyside Business Plan is updated on a three-year cycle.

1.2.4 Sefton's 2030 Vision

In addition to the broader national and regional strategies, Sefton Council has a localised 2030 Vision which has eight overarching themes that form the founding principles of our work in Sefton (Figure 2). The eight themes of the Sefton Vision incorporate the three pillars of sustainability: people, place and productivity.

The eight themes of Sefton Vision help to guide our current and future actions and are used in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Business Plan to underpin our proposed future measures for flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Figure 2: Depiction of the eight themes that form the foundation of Sefton's 2030 Vision.

1.3 Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

1.3.1 What is Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk?

Flooding events can have devastating environmental, social and economic impacts making a sustainable flood risk management strategy essential. It is not often economically feasible or even desirable to prevent all forms of flooding in all locations. Therefore, Sefton Council uses its powers as an LLFA to reduce either the likelihood or consequences of flooding and works with other flood risk management authorities to ensure all powers and duties are being enacted.

Flood risk is a balance between probability and consequences. Generally, the less probable (likely) an event is the more severe the consequences (impacts) will be. Flood risk is dependent upon the presence of a flood source, a route for the flooding and an area that would be affected by the water. Without a route linking the floodwaters to a vulnerable area of human infrastructure, the flood would be a hazard but not a risk.

Return periods are often used to describe the frequency of a flood event and are an average of how often a flood event of a given magnitude will occur in a year. These return periods are a form of probability or chance – a 1 in 50 return period has a 2% probability of occurring in any one year.

Table 1 outlines the commonly used return periods with their equivalent percentage probabilities. High probability flood events are generally smaller in magnitude and are more likely to have localised impacts when compared to low probability flood events which are likely to have broader reaching and more severe impacts.

Table 1: Explanation of flood return periods

Chance of flooding occurring in any given year	Equivalent return period	Frequency of flood	Severity of flood
100%	1 in 1	High	Low
50%	1 in 2		
20%	1 in 5		
10%	1 in 10		
4%	1 in 25		
2%	1 in 50		
1%	1 in 100		
0.2%	1 in 500	Low	High
0.1%	1 in 1000		

Coastal erosion describes the persistent wearing away of the coastline. Land lost to erosion is difficult to recover and, once gone, has a lasting impact on the shape of the coastline. Erosion is generally a gradual process but can be dramatically increased during storm events. Larger scale erosion events

are a combination of extreme weather, tidal conditions and the susceptibility of a coastline to erosion. As climate change continues to raise sea levels and increase the severity and frequency of storms the management of coastal erosion and flood risk will become ever more challenging.

1.3.2 Who is Responsible?

Flooding can be caused by different sources and there are designated risk management authorities that are responsible for flooding from certain sources. However, flooding can occur from a complex interplay of sources (combination of sources) meaning flood risk management authorities must work collaboratively to reduce and prevent flood impacts (National FCERM Strategy for England, 2020).

'Local Flood Risk' (the subject of this document) refers to flooding from ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water. Detail on who is responsible for the management of flooding from other sources and coastal erosion can be found in Table 2. More information can also be found on the The Flood Hub website.

The coast is a particularly dynamic environment and can be a risk for those living and working by the sea. The Environment Agency have a national strategic overview of coastal flood and erosion risks and sets the direction for how these risks should be managed. The North West coast is managed by the North West and North Wales Coastal Group which oversees the management of the coast through the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). The SMP identifies the most sustainable approach to manage the coastline and aims to reduce risk to people and the environment in the short-term (0-20 years), medium-term (20-50 years) and long-term (50-100 years). The SMP is reviewed every 10 years and has four policy options: Hold the Line, Advance the Line, Managed Realignment and No Active Intervention. Sefton Council is the coastal protection authority for the borough of Sefton and seeks to deliver the actions as set out in the SMP.

The North West Coastal Group website provides information on the relevant coastal risk management authorities and how we work in partnership to manage the coast sustainably.

Table 2: Flood sources and coastal erosion events defined plus the responsible authority.

Highlighted are the events that are relevant to the Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

Event	Responsible Authority	Description
Surface Water Flooding (Local Flood Risk)	**Sefton Council**	Occurs when water is forced to flow over land or ponds in low spots as it is unable to be absorbed by the soil or drain into the drainage network. This can occur after a heavy rainfall event.
Ground Water Flooding (Local Flood Risk)	**Sefton Council**	Occurs when water is forced to flow out of the ground due to high water tables in the surrounding area.
Flooding from Ordinary Watercourses (Local Flood Risk)	**Sefton Council**	Occurs when water flows out of smaller watercourses such as streams, brooks and drainage ditches. This can occur when the capacity is exceeded or due to a blockage.
Coastal Flooding	**Environment Agency**	Occurs when coastal areas are inundated by the sea. This can occur due to extremely high water levels or failure of raised coastal defences
Coastal Erosion	**Coastal Protection Authority - Sefton Council**	Occurs through the constant wearing away of the land or beach.
River Flooding	**Environment Agency**	Occurs when flood water originates from main river channels (designated by the Environment Agency), this can occur due to overtopping of river banks or a failure of a raised embankment
Sewer Flooding	**United Utilities**	Occurs when foul water surcharges from sewers. This can occur due to capacity exceedance or blockages.
Road, Drain or Gully flooding	**Highways England (Trunk Roads), Sefton Council Highways (Locally adopted highway)**	Flooding or ponding on the highway. This can occur due to capacity exceedance or blockages.
Canal Flooding	**Canal & River Trust**	Flood water originates from a canal. This can occur when the level of the water in the canal becomes too high and overtops or if there is a breach.

1.3.3 A Joint Approach to Managing Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk

The varied responsibilities for flood risk management and nature of flooding mean that Sefton Council works with other risk management authorities, communities and riparian owners to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk across Sefton.

Merseyside Partnership

We work in partnership with all Merseyside LLFAs and other partner risk management authorities to ensure we manage flood risk collectively. We also collaborate with wider stakeholders and groups (please refer to Section 6 of the Business Plan) to provide a broadscale approach to flood risk management. Figure 3 depicts the working relationships between these organisations across Merseyside and beyond.

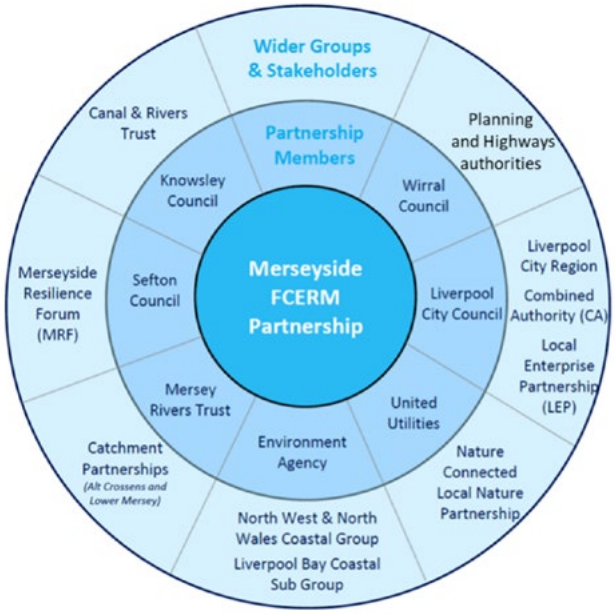

Figure 3: Partnership working to deliver Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management across Merseyside

The Strategic Merseyside Flood Partnership Group coordinates flood risk management across Merseyside and is supported by a Tactical Officers Group that coordinates activity and shares best practice. Furthermore, each Local Authority hosts a Local Operational Group where local issues are discussed in detail.

Individuals and Communities

Individual property and business owners have a responsibility to protect their property from flooding. Land, property and business owners should take appropriate steps to ensure that their property and contents are protected.

The Flood Hub is a North West regionally funded website to support our communities in understanding how they can become more resilient and resistant to flooding.

Riparian Owners

Under common law, riparian owners have responsibilities for the stretch of watercourse they own. A riparian owner possesses land in which a watercourse runs on, through, beneath or adjacent to it. If the land is adjacent to a watercourse it is assumed that the landowner owns up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is owned by someone else (confirmation through a land registry check). Under the Land Drainage Act (1991), riparian landowners have a legal responsibility to maintain the free passage of water through the section of watercourse that flows through their land. The responsibilities of landowners are outlined in the GOV.UK webpage. The Flood Hub provides advice and guidance on riparian ownership.

Developers

Developers have a responsibility to ensure developments are sustainably drained. Sustainable drainage must be considered both during and post-construction. It is the responsibility of the developer to demonstrate that new developments do not increase flood risk to the site or surrounding area. It is then for the Local Planning Authority, and associated statutory consultees, to determine whether suitable flood risk mitigation has been demonstrated or not. The type and location of the development will determine whether a flood risk assessment and/or sustainable drainage strategy is required to manage flood risk. The LLFA is a statutory consultee on all major planning applications (≥ 10 properties). The Local Planning Authority is responsible for ensuring the development is undertaken in accordance with the approved plans such as Sefton's Local Plan. The Local Plan is used to shape development in Sefton between 2015 and 2030. The plan encourages sustainable development and economic growth and it gives current and future generations more opportunities to live and work in Sefton's outstanding environment. Sefton Council's robust planning procedures ensure developments do not increase flood risk elsewhere, but instead attempt to deliver betterment to the flood risk in the area.

2 Flood and Coastal Erosion in Sefton

2.1 Sefton's Recent History of Flooding and Erosion

Sefton has experienced several significant flooding and erosion events over recent decades. The borough is within a low-lying pumped catchment which contains three estuaries, a canal and is bordered by the Irish Sea – all these factors place Sefton at increased risk of flooding and erosion. Table 3 details some of the significant events to occur in the last 60 years:

Table 3: Historic flood and erosion events in Sefton

Period	Event
1970s	The breach of a secondary sea defence in Crossens resulted in the inundation of 110 properties.
1990s	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal burst its banks flooding over 200 properties in Maghull.
2010	50 properties were flooded in Seaforth after heavy and prolonged rainfall
2012	40 properties in Maghull were flooded after heavy and prolonged rainfall.
2013/2014	Winter storms resulted in the loss of 11 m of coastline at Crosby (average erosion rate of approximately 1-2 m per year).
2015	Extensive flooding across the borough was prevented from entering properties due to actions undertaken by the local community and fire service.
2019	Significant flooding from Dover's Brook, Maghull, as a result of heavy rainfall causing the highest recorded water levels on the brook since a gauge was installed in 2012 at 2.51m. Flood waters were prevented from damaging properties due to quick action from the local community, Sefton Council and the Environment Agency
2020	- High groundwater levels in the borough and flooding incidents in Formby and Maghull following the wettest February on record for the UK. - Storm Ciara caused a loss of approximately 10.3 m of coastline from Cabin Hill, south of Formby point. -Summer storms caused significant flooding in Maghull and Thornton.
2021	Two Severe Flood Warnings were issued to 439 properties on the evening of 20 January 2021, with evacuations proceedings initiated from some residents. A new peak level was recorded at Dover's Bridge gauging station of 2.55m on 20 January 2021 which saw Dover's Brook overtop its embankments at low points flooding Sefton Lane. The increased river levels also prevented surface water drains discharging into Dover's Brook and flooding Sefton Drive. The record river levels experienced during Storm Christoph breached flood defences on the River Alt next to the Environment Agency's Lunt Meadows Flood Storage Basin and nature reserve, managed by Lancashire Wildlife Trust. The breach resulted in river levels dropping rapidly. The Severe Warnings were downgraded in the early hours of 21 January as we received less rain than forecast, along with river levels dropping rapidly. This appears to have been key in preventing the extensive flooding forecast in Maghull.

Flood risk is not equal across the Sefton borough – Figure 4 displays the current understanding of borough-wide flood risk in Sefton (more detail can be found on the GOV.UK website). Figure 4 displays the extent of flood risk based on a 1 in 1000 event (0.1% probability in any given year) taking into account climate change allowances and the number of houses at risk of inundation. Furthermore, a 1 in 100 event (1% probability in any given year) (includes climate change allowance) could result in approximately 72,000 being impacted by external flooding in their gardens or adjacent roads and

15,600 are at risk of internal flooding. Areas at higher risk of flooding are Maghull, Formby, Crosby (Figure 4).

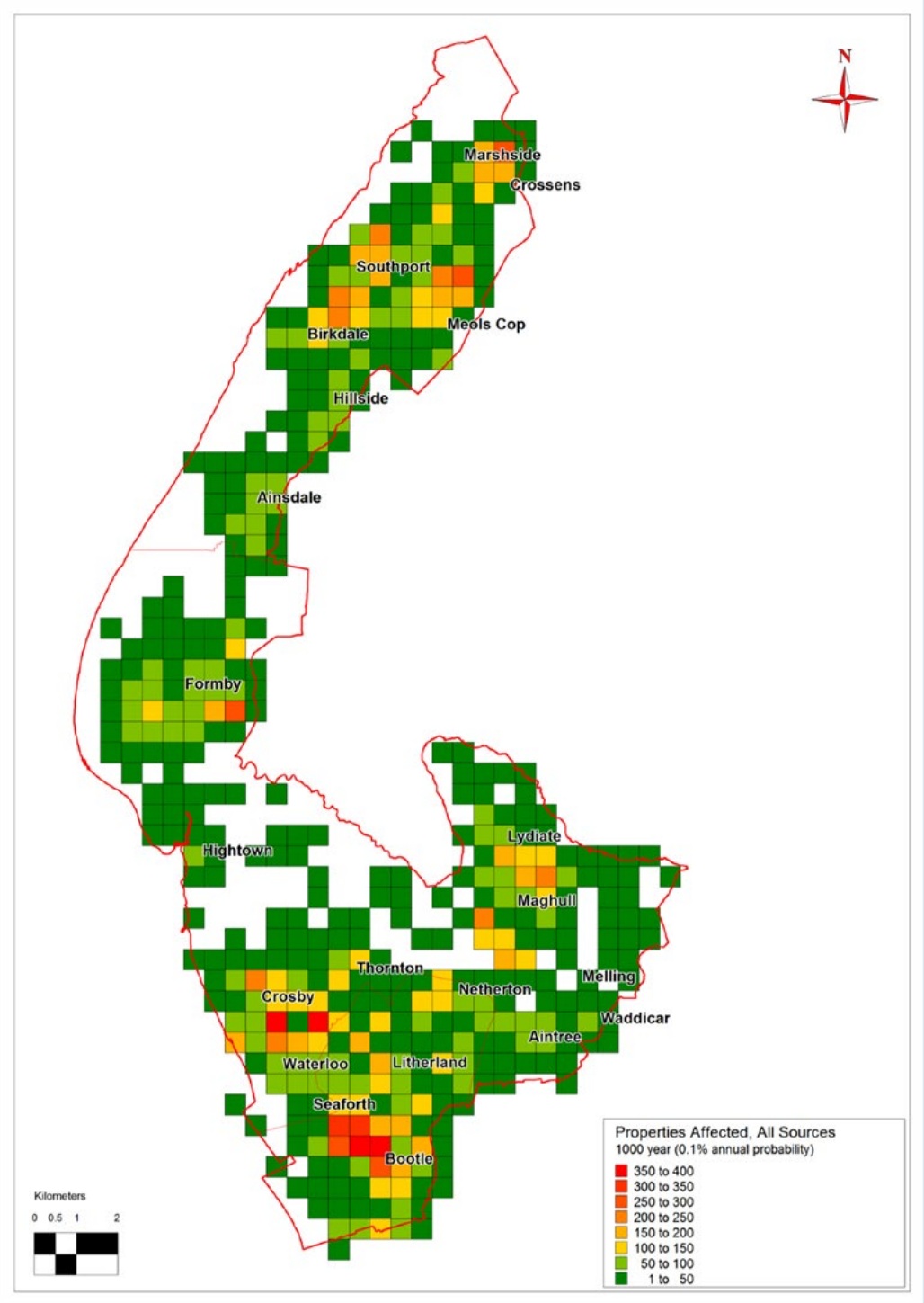

Figure 4: Flood risk from all sources in Sefton for a 1 in 1000 (0.1%) event.

Sefton currently has both an eroding and accreting coastline - Figure 5 displays the areas currently at risk of erosion. The coast is protected by a variety of hard and soft sea defences. Soft defences, such as the sand dunes in Formby, offer a degree of protection but can be vulnerable during storm events, which can erode several metres of dunes during a single event. Saltmarsh environments, such as those present in Southport, also offer useful natural defence by reducing the energy of incoming waves. Current hard defences, such as the sea wall in Crosby, has provided excellent protection to local communities but some of these assets are reaching the end of their design life and potentially pose a risk if they are not maintained or replaced. The SMP provides the policy context for the long term future of these assets.

In addition to erosion, there is also large sections of accretion where sediment gathers and builds out towards the Irish Sea. These accreting sections cause beach levels to rise, sand dunes to increase and saltmarshes to form and improve the coastal defences function they provide.

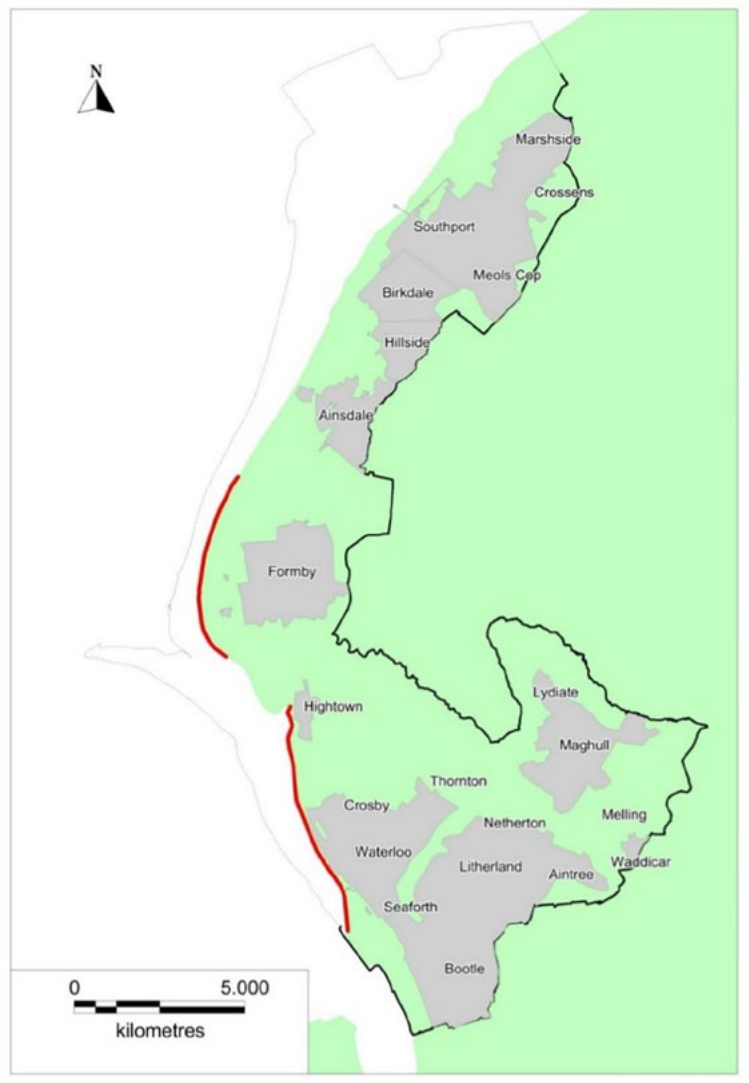

Figure 5: Coastal erosion risk in Sefton (Red lines show areas at highest risk). Please see SMP for more details.

2.2 Challenges to Risk Management in Sefton

Flooding and coastal erosion are significant risks to our borough. These risks can be influenced and exacerbated by several overarching factors which make flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton more challenging. These are:

Climate Change

Climate change is having a significant impact on future river flows, rainfall and coastal dynamics. The UK's average temperature has increased by 0.8 degrees since 1961-1990, with a sea-level rise of 16 cm for the UK since 1900 (National FCERM Strategy for England, 2020). The UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) illustrate a range of future climate scenarios up to 2100 which are relevant to the management of flood and coastal erosion risk:

- Sea levels are projected to rise over the 21st century and beyond under all emission scenarios. Therefore, we can expect to see an increase in both the frequency and magnitude of extreme water levels around the UK coastline.
- Average summer rainfall could decrease by up to 47% by 2070, while there could be up to 35% more precipitation in winter. What rainfall does occur is predicted to be more intense over a shorter duration, which could lead to an increase in surface water flood risk.

The projections provided in UKCP18 can be used as a tool to guide national and local decision-making and boost resilience – whether that is aiding future developments plans, increasing flood defences, designing new infrastructure or adjusting land management for drier summers.

As a result of the UKCP18 projections, several Merseyside Local Authorities, including Sefton and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, have declared a climate emergency. The declaration commits us to tackle carbon emissions, raising awareness of climate change and activating change through local action. This strategy will support the delivery of adaptation where necessary.

Predominant Surface Water Flood Risk

Surface water flooding has the potential to occur anywhere but is particularly prevalent following short, intense storms. These surface water flood events can occur in all areas of Sefton. Sefton has the highest number of properties at high risk of surface water flooding, both in Merseyside and in the North West. The increased risk of surface water is largely a result of Sefton's naturally flat topography, coastal boundary, large areas of urban development and the reliance on pumping stations to drain the catchment.

Ageing Drainage Infrastructure

Sefton has a large network of ageing culverts, sewers and drains which may need significant investment to replace or upgrade them. This ageing infrastructure, along with pressures from development and a tendency for increased paving, such as driveways, poses problems to the drainage network. Furthermore, ad-hoc modifications to watercourses such as culverting and flow redirection can increase pressure on the ageing network, particularly when modifications are undertaken without consent.

Rising Groundwater Levels

Merseyside is situated on an aquifer that, for approximately 150 years, was heavily exploited. The water table was drawn considerably below its natural level. Upon cessation of pumping, the aquifer has undergone recharge, which has resulted in rising groundwater levels in some areas. The rising groundwater can cause groundwater flooding which also means that there is less capacity for the absorption of rainfall into the ground which can also exacerbate surface water flooding. Groundwater levels also interact with tidal levels along the coast resulting in variability in the level of dune aquifers and subsequent flooding.

Coastline Dynamics

Coastal flooding and erosion are serious considerations for the management of Sefton's 22-mile coastline. Sefton's coastline varies between hard engineered defence structures and natural soft sea defences.

The North West and North Wales Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides recommendations on whether to maintain Sefton's current coastal defences ('hold the line'), whether to allow to coast to evolve naturally ('no active intervention') or whether defences should be set back further ('managed realignment'). Current sea walls and embankments are designed to protect against both flooding and erosion. Coastal erosion does pose a risk to the sustainability of current natural defences, as well as the potential loss of important habitats (e.g. dune systems at Formby point). Furthermore, some of Sefton's hard defences are reaching the end of their design life and potentially pose a risk if they are not sufficiently maintained or replaced. The coastline is also susceptible to changes in the coastal process dynamics driven by climate change. Rising sea levels and changes to weather patterns will likely see the eroding areas expand and a reduction in those that are accreting.

3 Future Ambitions for Sefton

When looking to Sefton's future the vision and ambitions for FCERM must take a holistic approach by integrating national and local ambitions.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is aligned to the Sefton Vision 2030 and the work delivered through the strategy will aid all aspects of life in the borough. The Sefton Vision 2030 has a clear commitment to sustainability and all our future FCERM actions must incorporate this vision to ensure long-term viability. By working with and supporting local communities and businesses we aim to ensure a strong, knowledgeable and resilient community. By continually seeking technological advances we aim to be at the forefront of a sustainable future that uses evidence-based decision making in the management of flood and coastal erosion risk.

On a local level, the Sefton 2030 Vision provides the ambitions for a sustainable Sefton Borough and these are combined with the ambitions of the National Flood Risk Management Strategy for England. The integration of national and local agendas provides a locally sustainable but nationally coherent approach to flood risk management in Sefton.

The Business plan details the specific actions that will be delivered to reduce the risk of flood and coastal erosion in Sefton. It also gives information on the relevant funding sources and timescales on when these actions will be completed. The Business Plan is kept as a separate document so it can be updated regularly to reflect changes in revenue budgets, funding progress and new scheme identification. The Business Plan provides transparency for our communities but is primarily aimed at Council decision-makers and partnered agencies.

4 Potential Funding Sources

Under the FWMA 2010, Sefton Council has allocated annual revenue funding to undertake its duties and maintain watercourses in its ownership. The annual funding is spread across several services depending upon who is responsible for the land or watercourse.

However, Sefton Council seeks additional funding to enable it to better manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion. The following funding sources are available:

- Flood Defence Grant in Aid (GiA): This is money from Defra which is administered by the Environment Agency. The amount of GiA a scheme is eligible for is determined by the outcomes and benefits it will deliver, with a focus on homes being better protected from flooding and coastal erosion. Outcome Measures reflect financial, environmental, health, social and FCERM benefits. Where there is a shortfall in GiA, partnership funding contributions from other sources or a reduction in costs is required to achieve project viability. Funding allocations for these sources are subject to a successful and approved business case.
- Local Levy: The North West RFCC can choose to support projects that are either not eligible for GiA, or to support projects where there is a shortfall in GiA by the allocation of Local Levy.
- Partnership Funding: Where GiA in Aid and/or Local Levy does not fully support the delivery of a project, the LLFA can provide additional funding through their contributions or by seeking external contributions from partners and communities who may benefit from the project. Funding allocations for these sources are subject to a successful, approved business cases.
- Quick Win Funding: The Merseyside FCERM Partnership has an annual allocation of £50,000 for small interventions that can improve the management of risk.
- Prudential Borrowing: The Council may undertake prudential borrowing to enable an essential capital scheme to progress, but this is dependent upon identifying revenue budget efficiencies in future years to make funding available to meet the cost of repaying the loan.
- Other Grants: Sefton Council will seek to secure funding from other grants as and when they become available.
- Highways Funding: The Council is responsible for keeping the highway free from flooding and invests money in its Highway Drainage Asset to achieve this. There are opportunities to use this funding to achieve wider outcomes relating to flooding as well as keeping the highway free from flooding.

5 Monitor and Review

The Local Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy will remain in place up to 2030 with bi-annual reviews that will allow new regulations or evidence to be incorporated to ensure the Strategy remains fit for purpose. The Strategy will also be subject to annual review by Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Furthermore, each of the actions proposed in the accompanying Business Plan will have a project programme which will be reviewed monthly.

Our knowledge base will be kept up to date through our asset inspections and survey programme for both coastal and inland assets. Information on coastal evolution will be provided by the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

6 Wider Environmental Context

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been produced based on the principle of sustainability. Therefore, Sefton Council aims to ensure any actions outlined in these documents do not produce detrimental impacts to the environment and, instead, encourage sustainability. Consequently, a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Opinion were required to highlight any potential areas of concern.

The HRA found that due to the strategic high level of the Strategy and nature of supporting Business Plan actions, it is concluded that the Strategy will have no likely significant effects on the national site network and Ramsar sites. It is, however, recommended, where appropriate, subsequent plan / project-level HRAs will likely be required (the HRA is available on request).

The SEA Screening Opinion was undertaken to establish whether a full SEA would be required for the Strategy and Business Plan. The screening opinion considered whether the Sefton Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and Business Plan is likely to lead to significant environmental effects in conjunction with the SEA Regulations. The screening has considered a number of potential environmental effects that may arise as a result of the Strategy and Business Plan. Whilst some limited environmental effects have the potential to take place as a result of the Strategy and Business Plan, it is considered that these are unlikely to be significant in the context of the SEA Regulations and their requirements.

The SEA topics where effects have the most potential to be significant relates to climatic factors. This is unsurprising given that the remit of the Plan is to manage flooding and coastal erosion (which should help to improve resilience). However, the effects would no doubt be positive, and further examination of the strategy through an SEA process would offer little insight into the nature of effects. A key factor in determining this SEA screening opinion is the high level nature of the Strategy and Business Plan; meaning that there are no policies or measures that will directly affect land use. Where there are references to specific projects and actions, these are related to existing Plan actions or will be delivered in lower tier plans, programmes, strategies and projects. As was concluded in the HRA screening, it is considered that a more appropriate level for assessment would be for subsequent plan / project level SEA / EIA.

For these reasons, it is considered that the Strategy and Business Plan is not subject to the requirements of the SEA Regulations. As such, a full SEA process meeting the requirements of the SEA Regulations is not deemed to be required to accompany the development of the Sefton Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and Business Plan (the SEA is available on request).

7 Useful Links

- Flood and Water Management Act 2010:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents
- Water Industry 1991 Act:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/contents
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990:
  https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents
- Water Resources Act 1991:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents
- Reservoirs Act 1975:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/23
- Land Drainage Act 1991:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents
- Public Health Act 1936:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5and1Edw8/26/49
- Environment Bill 2020:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-bill-2020
- Agriculture Bill 2019-2021:
  https://services.parliament.uk/bills/2019-21/agriculture.html
- Civil Contingencies Act 2004:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/contents
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england--2
- Flood Risk Regulations 2009:
  http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made
- National Planning Policy Framework 2012:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2
- 25 Year Environment Plan 2018:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan
- Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan Framework:
  https://www.water.org.uk/policy-topics/managing-sewage-and-drainage/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plans
- The Water Environment Regulations 2017:
  https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents/made
- North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Business Plan:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/north-west-regional-flood-and-coastal-committee

- Flood Risk Management Plans:
  https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-responsibilities
- Catchment Flood Management Plans:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/catchment-flood-management-plans
- River Basin Management Plans:
  https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015
- Shoreline Management Plans:
  https://www.mycoastline.org.uk/shoreline-management-plans
- Merseyside FCERM Partnership Business Plan:
  https://thefloodhub.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Merseyside-FCERM-Partnership-Business-Plan-2019-2022-Version-1-June-2019-4.pdf
- Sefton Vision 2030:
  https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/vision-and-core-purpose/
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and Surface Water Management Plan:
  www.sefton.gov.uk/advice-benefits/crime-and-emergencies/flooding-advice.aspx
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:
  https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/2389/en3-strategic-flood-risk-assessment-capita-symonds-march-2013.pdf
- Surface Water Management Plan:
  https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/1442/sefton_swmp.pdf
- Multi Agency Resilience Framework:
  https://merseysideprepared.org.uk
- Sefton Coast Plan:
  https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s70764/Appendix%201.%20Sefton%20Coast%20Plan.pdf
- Local Plan:
  https://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan
- Consenting and Enforcement Policy:
  https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/documents/s72513/Enc.%203%20for%20Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20Policies.pdf
- Flood Investigation Policy:
  https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s71150/Enc.%204%20for%20Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20draft%20policies.pdf
- Climate Emergency Declaration:
  https://www.sefton.gov.uk/environmental-protection/energy-and-environment/climate-emergency


JCB
8025ZTS

Sefton Council