

Lancashire County Council

External Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 10.30am in Committee Room 'A' - The Tudor Room,
County Hall, Preston

Agenda

No. Item

1. Apologies

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are asked to consider any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the agenda.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2022 (Pages 1 - 8)

4. Climate Change and Flood Risk in Lancashire (Pages 9 - 66)

5. External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22 (Pages 67 - 72)

6. Urgent Business

An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the minutes, the chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the chief executive should be given advance warning of any member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee will be held on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 10.30am in County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Lancashire County Council

External Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 January, 2022 at 10.30 am in Teams Virtual Meeting

Present:

County Councillor Peter Britcliffe (Chair)

County Councillors

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| R Swarbrick | N Hennessy |
| A Ali OBE | K Iddon |
| N Aziz | M Salter |
| L Beavers | J R Singleton JP |
| A Cheetham | M Tomlinson |
| S Clarke | |

County Councillors Alan Schofield and Ged Mirfin attended the meeting under Standing Order D13(1).

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 November 2021

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29 November 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record.

4. Universal Credit

a. Universal Credit in Lancashire - Department for Work and Pensions

The Chair welcomed Shane Byrne, Partnership Manager and Tracey Ellmore, Senior Partnership Manager (East Lancashire) from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to present to the committee on following topics:

- Lancashire Youth Hubs
- Plan for Jobs
- The Restart Scheme
- The Kickstart Scheme

Since January 2020, the External Scrutiny Committee had embarked on a themed review of Universal Credit in Lancashire with a specific focus to identify the key issues faced by the Department for Work and Pensions in the roll out of Universal Credit and helping the people of Lancashire.

Comments and questions from the committee after the presentation were as follows:

- It was clarified that clients could attend the nearest youth hub for them if there was not one in their immediate local area.
- The DWP were working closely with rural based hospitality employers to fill job vacancies. One example provided was an event which invited both employers and DWP customers. This was cancelled due to current Coronavirus complications. There was a dedicated employment advisor who supported hospitality employers to fulfil these roles supported by the Kickstart scheme.
- A new youth hub was due to open in Fleetwood hospital within the next few weeks.
- Concerns were raised about prison leavers. It was explained that payment could be made into post office accounts. Prison work coaches had returned full-time into the prison environments, and they would make emergency appointments at the Job Centre for any prison leaver leaving custody.
- It was questioned why prison leavers could not make advanced claims. It was understood that it was not within the Universal Credit platform, but members asked for this to be raised at policy level within the DWP and feedback to the committee.
- In relation to safeguarding new customers during the six-week wait for new claims, the DWP offered an advance payment from day one. Their partner voluntary organisations were also looked to, to support these customers during this period. There was also the Flexible Support Fund and Household Support Fund which the DWP would offer to provide support. Members asked for this topic to be raised at policy level within the DWP to improve and cut down the six-week wait.
- Members congratulated the Kickstart scheme. It was noted that the scheme would come to an end in March 2022.
- In terms of the DWP evaluating the Kickstart scheme, it was expected for the evaluation to be published. There would also be a further evaluation by the National Audit Office, which the DWP would use to move forward.
- It was explained that opinions had changed positively since the first digital offer and partners were asking for Attendance Allowance to now be moved online. The digital offer was the way forward for the DWP, whilst protecting the customers who did not have any access.
- In response to the request for data on how customers approach claiming benefits, there was a portal called Stat-Xplore which members could

access. The DWP also asked for feedback from their partner organisations.

- With regards to safeguarding vulnerable customers who could not make digital claims themselves, there was a Visiting Officer team who would go out to customer's homes rather than them needing to appoint someone to act on their behalf. Details of the Visiting Officer team would be shared with the committee.
- It was clarified that during the DWP Procurement process, social value was a large consideration and a key value.
- Members asked for details of the DWP Partnership Team to be shared with the committee.
- For people who had no recourse to public funds or could no longer work due to ill-health but could not access Universal Credit or apply for a pension, the DWP relied on the Home Office as a lead organisation and worked with third-sector organisations to help these customers obtain residency to open these funds. Concerns were also raised for those migrant workers from Europe who had a five-year visa and became ill during that period. It was highlighted that people in these circumstances were eligible for some support such as carers allowance, but Universal Credit.
- On whether there was scope for utility companies to access DWP vulnerable customer data when responding to emergency situations to help identify those people in need of assistance, it was reported that the DWP would not disclose an individual's details. The DWP actively promoted the support offer from the utility companies to help people manage their bills. As a possible fix, it was suggested that utility companies share any information with the DWP, so they could cascade information to their customers in the impacted areas.
- On how the DWP are coping with Coronavirus restrictions, the Job Centre's had always been open throughout the pandemic. It was noted that the DWP took the safety of their staff and customers as paramount. They did not require for proof of tests or vaccination before customers visit centres.
- In terms of targeting youth unemployment at the end of Kickstart and potential further education or vocational training, it was clarified that a replacement for Kickstart was not expected until earliest May 2023. Currently, the focus would be skills training to get customers into the job vacancies available.
- It was clarified that when the DWP started Kickstart, there was a lot of scrutiny on new employers to ensure they were not looking for cheap labour from young people.
- It was explained that throughout any Kickstart opportunity via the appointed Work Start Coach, if the young person was found to be performing a role different from the employer's description this was picked up immediately.

Members thanked Tracey and Shane for their presentation and answers to the committee's questions.

Actions:

- DWP to share details of the Visiting Officer team and Partnership team with the committee.

Resolved: That the Department for Work and Pensions' representatives be asked to raise the following matters at policy level within the department and feedback to the committee on potential support for:

- i. Help for migrant workers during periods of ill health;
- ii. Improving and reducing the six-week wait for new customers with new claims; and
- iii. Advance payments for prison leavers.

b. Universal Credit Update

Clare Platt, Head of Service Health, Equity, Welfare and Partnerships, Joanne Barker, Welfare Rights Manager, Debbie Thompson, Public Health Specialist (Stronger and Safer Communities), Adeel Khan, Finance Assessment Performance Manager, and Karen Jones, Care Finance Assessment Manager from Lancashire County Council attended to present and answer committee questions on a Universal Credit update for Lancashire.

The presentation provided an update on changes to Universal Credit and outlined the potential impact of the continued migration of people from legacy benefits onto Universal Credit on a range of Lancashire County Council service areas. This followed the initial findings of the report that was presented to the committee as part of the Chair's update at its meeting on 16 March 2021.

The Care Financial Assessment Team undertook financial assessments for those receiving adult social care services to determine how much service users were required to contribute to their care costs in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

It was anticipated that the changes would have a financial impact on a range of county council services including:

- Financial Safeguarding Team – Managed the financial affairs of vulnerable people assessed as lacking mental capacity.
- The Shared Lives Service – Supported adults who had a social care assessment and an identified need for support to live in the community. The Shared Lives Service matched those adults with a carer who shared their home and provided all the support required to live as independent a life as possible.

Comments and questions from the committee after the presentation were as follows:

- It was clarified that new claimants in Shared Lives placements for Universal Credit would lose £67 per week in income payments and £30 per week for rent allowance. Existing Shared Lives claimants when migrated to Universal Credit would slowly see a reduction in payments.
- In terms of county council officers spending lengthy times on the phone to the DWP with Universal Credit queries, it was queried why there was not a dedicated phone line or nominated person that officers could call to reduce these waiting times. It was noted that the DWP would not provide this service, however, county council officers could contact the DWP Partnership Managers for assistance.
- On the consideration if crisis loans could be used again, it was clarified this would be a DWP decision.
- It was explained that councillors could refer people into Lancashire County Council for a care assessment, if not known to social services. For people with capacity who simply required digital access support, they could make telephone claims such as Citizens Advice Bureau 'Help to Claim'. Appointees should only be made for people who did not have mental capacity, rather than struggling with the application.

Resolved: That Lancashire County Council officers monitor the transition to Universal Credit in Lancashire and accumulate statistics, to be reviewed with the External Scrutiny Committee in three months.

5. Electricity North West - Storm Arwen

The Chair welcomed Paul Bircham, Regulation and Communications Director and Helen Norris, Stakeholder Engagement Manager from Electricity North West (ENW) who attended the meeting to present on the impact of Storm Arwen across Lancashire and the organisations response.

Storm Arwen caused significant damage across the UK with railways, roads, buildings, and overhead electricity supply lines all damaged by thousands of falling trees, high winds, and ice accumulation.

The worst-hit area of Lancashire was the Ribble Valley and when final restorations were made here, engineering teams were released to assist other areas in south Cumbria that still had customers off supply.

Comments and questions from the committee after the presentation were as follows:

- Members suggested that part of the ENW risk management should focus on communication strategies and advising the county council and/or district councils so that councillors could be informed and put out messages on social media platforms to advise local communities.

- Members requested statistics on properties that were affected in Lancashire by district and how long they were affected for.
- On the age of infrastructure in rural areas and overhead lines, there was a national standard for resilience that related to tree cutting and clearance around overhead lines and that the standard was based on a risk-based approach. However, generally it did not work at a standard where a piece of infrastructure supplied less than 4000 individual properties, such as Ribble Valley. Whilst the network met or exceeded all the national resilience standards, ENW appreciated that some of those standards needed to be reviewed.
- It was raised that communication for people without access to the Internet when electricity is down, were not contacted by post. It was clarified that ENW were considering different ways of communicating in the future such as knocking on doors, leafletting, and were in discussions with the Post Office for support in the future.
- On communication with local councils, it was explained that ENW saw success in communication routes with stakeholders to vulnerable communities and MPs were provided with regular briefings, along with 35 television and radio interviews, however, accept that they can improve on building networks with local councils and would investigate how best to organise this such as a single point of contact.
- On the provision of generators, it was noted that there were 280 generator deployments, using 140 generators (some deployed more than once). Also, that it was not always safe to immediately use generators, as repairs were required to the network first. ENW were looking into fitting additional equipment to be generator-ready and enhance resilience.
- It was queried if there was a date for publication of the BEIS and Ofgem reviews, it was explained that ENW would like this to be timely, however, they needed to discuss with the government first as to when government release their review. ENW hoped to conclude its own review within the first quarter of this year.
- In terms of working with district council officers in partnership with ENW, to encourage private landowners to cut-back trees on their land where risk was presented to power lines, ENW had good relationships established with officers and arborists from both district and county councils but would investigate strengthening these.
- ENW agreed to take forward the suggestion raised by members of contacting the DWP to cascade information to vulnerable residents on their behalf. It was noted that vulnerable residents did voluntarily supply information to ENW to join their priority services register.

Members thanked Paul and Helen for their presentation and responding to the questions posed by the committee.

Actions:

- ENW to provide statistics on properties that were affected in Lancashire by district and how long they were affected for.

Resolved: That Electricity North West return to the External Scrutiny Committee after the three reviews have been published to present a summary and answer any resulting questions.

6. External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

The committee received a report which provided information on the work programme for the External Scrutiny Committee.

The topics included in the work programme were identified at the joint work planning workshop for Internal and External Scrutiny held on 9 July 2021.

Resolved: That;

- i. The External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22 be noted.
- ii. The two returning topics of Universal Credit in Lancashire and the ENW summary of review findings be added to the work programme.

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was noted the next meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 10:30am in County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Protecting our environment;

Climate Change and Flood Risk in Lancashire (Appendices A to E refer)

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, Tel: (01772) 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

This report aims to provide members of the External Scrutiny Committee with an understanding of the climate change and flood risk management in Lancashire. An update on the previous scrutiny review, 'Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness' is also included.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and determine how it can add value to current activities undertaken by the Lancashire Risk Management Authorities present on climate change and flood risk.
2. Note and comment on the progress report on the implementation of agreed actions following the recommendations of the 'Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness' task and finish group report as set out at Appendix E.

Detail

This report contains five appendices which aim to provide members of the External Scrutiny Committee with an understanding of the climate change and flood risk management agenda in Lancashire. The appendices cover the following areas:

Appendix A - Organisational response and resilience:

- Climate change, weather conditions and flood risk in Lancashire;
- An overview of the Lancashire Risk Management Authorities (RMAs);
- National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Investment Programme;
- Emergency planning/Lancashire Resilience Forum.

Appendix B - Lancashire County Council Highways:

- Highways/£5m additional investment & future direction on highway drainage;
- Future-proofing the highway asset.

Appendix C - The role of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in planning:

- National Planning Policy Framework;
- Planning authority local plans and policies;
- LLFA advice on local plans, policies, and applications;
- Overview of other consultees' input to planning process in relation to flood risk.

Appendix D - Personal/household response and resilience:

- Watercourses/riparian responsibilities;
- Flood Action Groups and other community resilience groups;
- The Flood Hub;
- Flood insurance/Flood Re scheme;
- Property-level resilience/protection.

Appendix E - Progress report on the implementation of agreed actions following the recommendations of the 'Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness' task and finish group report.

The original draft task and finish group report along with the findings report from the scrutiny inquiry session on the future of flood action groups in Lancashire was presented to the External Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on [21 January 2020](#). A copy of the final task and finish group report along with the formal written responses to the recommendations from the former Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Rural Affairs and Waste Management were presented to the committee at its meeting held on [31 July 2020](#). Subsequent updates on progress on the implementation of agreed actions were reported to the committee at its meetings held on [12 January](#) and [16 March 2021](#).

Officers from Lancashire County Council, LLFA and Highway Authority, and the Environment Agency will attend the meeting to present on the climate change and flood risk management agenda in Lancashire.

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider and determine how it can add value to current activities undertaken by the Lancashire Risk Management Authorities present on climate change and flood risk. In addition, the committee is asked to note and comment on the progress report on the implementation of agreed actions following the recommendations of the 'Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness' task and finish group report as set out at Appendix E.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Legal

In considering how to add value committee will be aware that the authority powers are set out in statutory provisions and matters considered will need to be within said functions.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|-------|------|-------------|
|-------|------|-------------|

None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A



Lancashire County Council External Scrutiny Committee – Climate Change and Flood Risk

Organisational Response and Resilience

Date: 7 February 2022

Version: 2

We are the Environment Agency. We protect and improve the environment.

We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion.

We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work with businesses to help them comply with environmental regulations. A healthy and diverse environment enhances people's lives and contributes to economic growth.

We can't do this alone. We work as part of the Defra group (Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs), with the rest of government, local councils, businesses, civil society groups and local communities to create a better place for people and wildlife.

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Organisational Response and Resilience

I. Climate Change, weather conditions and flood risk in Lancashire

The latest climate change predictions for the UK, known as, the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18) illustrate a range of future climate scenarios until 2100.

In a 2 degrees temp increase scenario by 2080 we will see: winter rainfall increase by 8% summer rainfall decrease by 15%. If we don't keep any temperature increase to 2 degree's then this will raise to 30% or more. Intensity of rain both in summer and winter will increase by 25%. This is very significant for our urban drainage systems. Here in Lancashire, we will see significant changes in our rivers. The amount of water in the river and the speed at which it flows will increase by at least 30%.

A consequence of higher sea levels; more water in our rivers and faster flows in our rivers is that flood defences will be tested more often than ever before. Hence, they will need more maintenance than ever before. Our estimate is that maintenance costs will increase by at least 30%.

Sea Levels will rise and for the NW this could be 0.5m by 2300. In addition to overall level rise we will see increase height of storm waves as well. This increases the risk of flooding from the sea, and from other sources as drainage / river networks is inhibited by these raised levels. A further impact is that rates of coastal erosion will also increase.

Reducing emissions is critical to achieving a 1.5 or 2 degree's increase in average temperatures. Of equal is adaptation due to degree of changes that will happen irrespective of our degree of emission reduction. In November the Environment Agency published it's 3rd Adaptation Report under the Climate Change Act. [Climate adaptation reporting third round: Environment Agency - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). This report describes in more the critical need for effective adaptation, in relation to the areas of work within its remit, and how we must all go about this.

In terms of the current risk of flooding from rivers and sea the following figures summarise this by upper tier local authority level:

| PROPERTIES AT RISK BY LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| | Total High | Total Medium | Total Low | Total Very Low | Total at Risk |
| Blackburn with Darwen Council | 370 | 1,359 | 1,255 | 0 | 2,984 |
| Blackpool Council | 119 | 554 | 3,368 | 1,737 | 5,778 |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Lancashire CC | 3,988 | 11,867 | 37,371 | 22,048 | 75,274 |
| Lancashire total's | 4,477 | 13,780 | 41,994 | 23,785 | 84,036 |

Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (RoFRS)

Our Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea (RoFRS) product is a national flood risk assessment produced using modelling and local expertise. The modelling takes flood defences and their condition into account and maps the floodplain into 50m x 50m squares (cells). Each cell is allocated one of four flood likelihood categories to describe the chance of flooding each year.

Flood Likelihood Categories:

High - greater than or equal to 3.3% chance in any given year (1 in 30)

Medium - less than 3.3% (1 in 30) but greater than or equal to 1% (1 in 100) chance in any given year

Low - less than 1% (1 in 100) but greater than or equal to 0.1% (1 in 1,000) chance in any given year

Very Low - less than 0.1% chance in any given year (1 in 1,000)

PEOPLE AT RISK BY LEAD LOCAL FLOOD AUTHORITY

| | Total High | Total Medium | Total Low | Total Very Low | Total at Risk |
|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Blackburn with Darwen (B) | 363 | 1,819 | 1,491 | 0 | 3,673 |
| Blackpool (B) | 69 | 1,121 | 6,962 | 3,910 | 12,062 |
| Lancashire CCC | 5,667 | 19,185 | 70,402 | 41,428 | 136,682 |
| Lancashire total's | 6,099 | 22,124 | 78,856 | 45,338 | 152,417 |

II. All the Lancashire RMA's

Key Responsibilities, Dutes and Powers of Flood Risk Management Authorities

| Role | |
|--|--|
| Environment Agency | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic overview responsibility for all sources of flooding and coastal erosion. • Category 1 Responder. • Inform Government policy. • Develop the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. • Responsible for managing flood risk from main rivers and to the coast. • Powers to request information. • Regulating reservoir safety. • Working in partnership with the Met Office to provide flood forecasts and warnings. • Raise Local Levy for the Flood and Coastal Erosion Project. • Power to designate structures and features. • Identifying opportunities to improve the environment for people and wildlife. • Contribute towards sustainable development. • Developing long term approaches to Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. • Working with others to prepare and deliver Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs). FRMPs explain the risk of flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs, and set out how the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) and other Risk Management Authorities work with communities to manage those risks. • Provide advice on planning and development issues, including commenting on planning applications • Monitor and report on flood and coastal erosion management. • The Environment Agency has a strategic overview to ensure that decisions about the coast are made in a joined-up manner. |
| Lead Local Flood Authorities – Unitary and County Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. • Cooperate with relevant authorities in exercising flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. • Power to request information. • Maintain a register of structure and features affecting flood risk. • Contribute towards sustainable development. • Local Authorities are to manage flooding, water levels and coastal erosion in the interests of nature conservation, the preservation of cultural heritage or people's enjoyment of the environment. • Investigate incidents of significant flooding and publish the results, Section 19's • Designating flood risk assets • Ordinary Watercourse Consenting and Enforcement (by amendment to the Land Drainage Act 1991) |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a statutory consultee role providing technical advice on surface water drainage to local planning authorities major developments (10 dwellings or more) • Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event. |
| Unitary Authorities and County Council | <p>In addition to being Lead Local Flood Authority.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act and must have plans to respond to emergencies, and control or reduce the impact of an emergency. |
| District Councils | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 Responder • Attending local partnership meetings to discuss flood issues in their area • Providing information regarding flood events which are reported to them by members of the public to the LLFA or other relevant RMA • Using their existing responsibilities to undertake works on ordinary watercourses 17 • Maintaining watercourses for which they have riparian responsibility • Developing policies relating to flood risk management in their Local Plans. • Power to designate structure and features. • Contribute towards sustainable development. • Local Authorities are to manage flooding, water levels and coastal erosion in the interests of nature conservation, the preservation of cultural heritage or people's enjoyment of the environment. • |
| Highway Authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 Responder. • Responsibility for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches under the Highways Act 1980. The owners of land adjoining a highway also have a common-law duty to maintain ditches to prevent them causing a nuisance to road users. • Contribute towards sustainable development. • Responsible for ensuring that there is no increased flood risk from any roads and road projects. • Cooperate with relevant authorities in exercising flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. |
| Coastal Protection Authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Protection Authorities manage flood risk from the sea under the Coast Protection Act 1949. • District and unitary authorities in coastal areas lead on coastal erosion risk management activities in their area. They are responsible for developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) which provide a long-term holistic framework for managing the risk of coastal change on their section of the coast. |
| Water Companies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2 Responder. • Cooperate with relevant authorities in exercising flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. • Make sure their systems have the appropriate level of resilience to flooding, and maintain essential services during emergencies |

- | | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and manage their water supply and sewerage systems to manage the impact and reduce the risk of flooding and pollution to the environment. They have a duty under section 94 Water Industry Act 1991 to ensure that the area they serve is “effectually drained”. This includes drainage of surface water from the land around buildings as well as provision of foul sewers. • Provide advice to LLFAs on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk • Work with developers, landowners and LLFAs to understand and manage risks – for example, by working to manage the amount of rainfall that enters sewerage systems • Work with the Environment Agency, LLFAs and district councils to coordinate the management of water supply and sewerage systems with other flood risk management work. |
|--|---|

III. National Investment Programme

Total project expenditure for Lancashire in the last 6-year programme was £156m. This included £4m of Local Levy funding with £1.34m claimed by Local Authorities and £2.64m by the Environment Agency.

For the current 6-year programme the total project expenditure (indicative) will more than double to £325m. This includes £8.7m of Local Levey funding with £1.6m allocated to Local Authorities and £7.1m to the Environment Agency.

National investment rose from £2.6b in the last 6-year programme to £5.2b in the current 6-year programme.

- Investment in Lancashire in the last 6 years and current programme.
- Set in context in local and national programme
- Include the local levy programme.

FCERM Capital Investment Programme (*beyond 21/22 non-consented*)

| Year | Lancashire Local Authorities | Lancashire - Environment Agency |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2021/22 | £17,210,000 | £17,507,000 |
| 2022/23 | £23,399,000 | £36,554,459 |
| 2023/24 | £36,270,500 | £43,098,193 |
| 2024/25 | £37,441,000 | £27,218,539 |
| 2025/26 | £37,441,000 | £11,892,709 |
| 2026/27 | £31,341,188 | £34,005,350 |
| CSR Total | £154,625,688 | £170,276,250 |
| % of total TPE in partnership | 48% | 52% |

IV. Emergency Planning / Lancashire Resilience Forum

The Environment Agency works closely with the Lancashire Resilience Forum throughout every stage of the emergency planning cycle in relation to flooding. Much of this work is undertaken collaboratively within Lancashire Resilience Forum Sub-Groups (the Flooding and Severe Weather; and the Risk Assessment Working Group). The stages of emergency planning include:

| Stage | Description |
|-------|--|
| 1 | Reviewing and assessing the flood risk. Identifying actions required. |
| 2 | Agree and plan actions to be undertaken |
| 3 | Complete actions by making changes to emergency plans and procedures. Design and implement system or training/exercise improvements |
| 4 | Undertake internal training and exercising with Environment Agency staff and develop, support and lead Lancashire Resilience Forum training and exercising |
| 4b) | Enact training, exercises, and plans during live flood incidents |
| 5 | Measure performance, review and learn from exercises and incidents |

The main plan used by the Lancashire Resilience Forum in relation to flooding is the Lancashire Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP). The MAFP is reviewed at least annually or following activation or exercise. As this process runs on a regular cycle it can use the most up to date science. This enables the plan to be as robust as possible against the impacts of climate change. The Lancashire MAFP is split in to two parts. Part 1 covers generic information which is not area specific and applicable to all flood risk areas. It also includes information on how the plan is activated, notification cascade, stand down and recovery. Other relevant plans are linked within the main plan and references to those types of flooding not covered are made (i.e. flooding from sewers, burst water mains, reservoirs). Part 2 contains information relating to site/district flood plans, which includes information and procedures specific to the local authority area. The information found in Part 2 should be used in conjunction with Part 1 of the plan.

Through internal plans, procedures and incident management structures, the Environment Agency contributes to its MAFP responsibilities through its internal plans, procedures, incident management structures and multi-agency liaison roles. This means that the Environment Agency completes emergency planning roles including:

- information gathering of flood information
- assessing and sharing risks with multi-agency partners
- identify options to mitigate impacts
- undertaking actions such as on the ground operations
- warning and informing the pub

APPENDIX B: HIGHWAYS £5M ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT AND FUTURE DIRECTION ON HIGHWAY DRAINAGE

On March 4 2021, Cabinet approved £5m to address flooding as a consequence of the named storms of early 2020.

Of this, £3.5m is being used to address storm damage repairs and to prevent future flooding, including improvements to existing drainage systems.

The £3.5m funding also includes remedial works from flood damage to large and small structures, culverts, and to road and footways (schemes displayed in Tables 1 – 3 below). The scope of works also includes repairs and improvements to drainage systems to future-proof those schemes from flooding.

From the allocation of the remaining £1.5m from the £5m total, £250k has been assigned for remedial works for a landslip at Helks Brow, Lancaster, caused by the after-effects of severe flooding, which has resulted in the road being closed to vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Whilst a date for commencement on site is yet to be confirmed, the scheme is currently with the design engineers who are developing a permanent solution. There are some further site investigations to be undertaken following the removal of vegetation, which is scheduled to commence in mid-February. Once the vegetation is cleared, the design can be finalised.

The remaining £1.25m is being used specifically to prevent flooding to property and highways where analysis of the ongoing cyclical road gully and drainage cleaning programme has highlighted areas with flooding issues that require further investigation. These investigations are to identify whether drainage improvements or upgrades will prevent future flooding. These improvements are intended to reduce the amount of reactive/cyclical cleaning required in these locations. This programme is currently outsourced to WS Atkins, who are instructed to undertake design work to future-proof the highway network and to consider other methodologies to prevent flood water from entering the highway. Systems under consideration include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, which can use the green space surrounding the highway to disperse or store the water or allow infiltration. This methodology addresses the whole of the localised highway drainage system, rather than looking at isolated areas of flooding alone. The schemes currently being investigated are listed below in Table 4.

Another part of the £1.25m funding is being used to design, upgrade, and improve the drainage systems on a number of subway underpasses in Skelmersdale, which are not passable during heavy rain events. There is currently a prioritised list of ten schemes in Skelmersdale, where investigations are currently taking place to identify those issues that are causing flooding to underpasses. The list of underpasses is included below in Table 5.

Table 1 – Large Structures (allocated from £3.5m subtotal of the £5m total)

| Road No | Project Name | Scheme Extents | Treatment | Progress |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| A581 | 1523 Ackhurst Lodge – Phase 1 | 1523 Ackhurst Lodge | Commission Hydrology Survey | Initial flood modelling completed. Initial options identified. Currently carrying out detailed modelling of additional options. Design to be completed Q2 22/23. |
| U40299 | 33886 Wycoller Dean Ret/Wall | 33886 Wycoller Dean Ret/Wall | Re-construct 25m length of retaining wall. Improve foundations to prevent recurrence of scour | Completed |
| C357 | 6597 Rams Clough Culvert | 6597 Rams Clough Culvert | Increase capacity of existing culvert with installation of 1.2m span box culvert | Design in progress. Site Investigation being undertaken Feb 22. Works on site Q2 22/23 |
| U23221 | Henthorn Road | Henthorn Road | Increase capacity of existing culvert with installation of 1.2m span box culvert | Atkins carrying out modelling of options. Options limited due to construction of new housing estates either side of the road and small culvert already installed and adopted downstream, which restricts flow. If a valid option can be found works are expected to commence Q3 22/23. Possible alternative funding from Grant In Aid fund. |
| B6214 | 31131 Ox Hey Wood Ret/Wall | 31131 Ox Hey Wood Ret/Wall | Improve wall construction and foundations to prevent recurrence of scour by installation of 50m length sheet pile retaining wall | Design in progress. Area is Ancient Woodland which has delayed vegetation clearance. Expected to be on site Q2 22/23. |
| U7672 | 31050 Victoria Way No. 2 Ret/Wall | 31050 Victoria Way No. 2 Ret/Wall | Re-construct 10m length retaining wall. Improve foundations to prevent recurrence of scour | Works in progress on site but requires further finance. |
| B6246 | 1008 Nethertown | Nethertown | Replace existing inadequate trash screen | Initial design identified. Delivery Q1 22/23 |

Table 2 – Small Structures and Culverts (allocated from £3.5m subtotal of the £5m total)

| Road No | Road Name | Location description | Damage details | Required Actions | Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Progress |
|---------|----------------|---|--|--|---|------------------------------|
| U/C | Meadow Park | Outlet to River Irwell from FP, downstream of Lumb Bridge | Surcharging into pump chamber, damaging flap, pumps & triggers | Needs preventing with non-return valve & monitoring with telemetry | U/C; Meadow Park; Outlet to River Irwell from FP, downstream of Lumb Bridge; Needs preventing with non-return valve & monitoring with telemetry; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Further investigation needed |
| U/C | Private Road | O/S Woodland Manor | Culvert collapse, the road is closed. | Culvert repair is 8 to 10m deep and will require specialist drainage contractor. | U/C; Private Road; O/S Woodland Manor; Culvert repair is 8 to 10m deep 8 to 10m deep requires deep drainage contractor; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |
| U/C | Grimeford Road | 50m West of Grimeford Bridge | Surcharging culvert lifted carriageway | 200m2 C/W inlay & Culvert repair | U/C; Grimeford Road; 50m West of Grimeford Bridge; 200m2 C/W inlay & Culvert repair; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Further investigation needed |
| C161 | Higher Lane | Near to Windy Ridge | Stone culvert in footway damaged and lifted footway | Repair culvert and footway | C161; Higher Lane; Near to Windy Ridge; Repair culvert and footway; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |
| U444 | Tabby's Nook | Rear 15 Clovelly Drive | Damaged pipe connection into headwall | Repair headwall | U444; Tabby's Nook; Rear 15 Clovelly Drive; Repair headwall; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |

| Road No | Road Name | Location description | Damage details | Required Actions | Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Progress |
|---------|-------------------|--|--|--|--|------------------------------|
| A5209 | Course Lane | Grass verge on approach to The Ridings | Large number of sink holes appeared in verge adjacent to carriageway | Excavate and repair culvert in a number of locations | A5209; Course Lane; Grass verge on approach to The Ridings; Excavate and repair culvert in a number of locations; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |
| U3611 | Merscar Lane | Near 16 | Damaged Headwall | Repair headwall | U3611; Merscar Lane; Near 16; Repair headwall; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |
| C104 | Rosemary Lane | 140m west of Plex Lane | Damaged Headwall | Repair headwall | C104; Rosemary Lane; 140m west of Plex Lane; Repair headwall; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |
| C134 | Drummersdale Lane | Between Brookside and Sunnyside | Damaged Headwall and culvert | Repair both headwall and culvert | C134; Drummersdale Lane; Between Brookside and Sunnyside; Repair both headwall and culvert; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Further investigation needed |
| F4372 | Danbers | Rear 20 to 25 | Damaged culvert, footway and sink hole extending into private garden | Replace 80m of damaged culvert and repair footway | F4372; Danbers; Rear 20 to 25; Replace 80m of damaged culvert and repair footway; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |

| Road No | Road Name | Location description | Damage details | Required Actions | Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Progress |
|---------|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|
| U3657 | Carvers Brow / Shevington Causeway, Croston | Full length Carvers Brow and jtn. | Regular flooding and damage to flap valves | Replacement of flap valves to non-return valves and other drainage works. | U3657; Carvers Brow / Shevington Causeway, Croston; Full length Carvers Brow and jtn; Replacement of flap valves to non-return valves and other drainage works; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Awaiting further information |
| C224 | Railway Road, Brinscall | Jtn School Lane and Railway Rd. | Flooding to Houses and Carriageway | Drainage investigation and repairs | C224; Railway Road, Brinscall; Jtn School Lane and Railway Rd; Drainage investigation and repairs; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | To be programmed - possible capacity issues |
| C150 | Drumacre Lane West | Mid-section | Stream scoured out carriageway | Repair scour and carriageway edge | C150; Drumacre Lane West; Mid-section; Repair scour and carriageway edge; Flood Prevention - Small Structures Programme April 2021 | Completed |

Table 3 – Highway Schemes (allocated from £3.5m subtotal of the £5m total)

| Road Number | Road Name | Division | District | Location description | Progress |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|---------------------------|
| B5269 | Whittingham Lane | Preston Rural | Preston | Langley Lane to Cumeragh Lane | Completed |
| B6243 | Preston Road | Preston Rural | Preston | St Michaels Primary School to Oban Court | Completed |
| A6 | London Road | Preston City | Preston | Queen Street to New Hall Lane | Due to be delivered Q1 |
| A6 | Stanley Street | Preston City | Preston | New Hall Lane to Ribbleton Lane | Due to be delivered Q2 |
| B5269 | Moorside Lane | Preston Rural | Preston | Opposite Moorside Barn | Completed |
| C351 | Langley Lane | Preston Rural | Preston | Langley Lane | Completed |
| C358 | Horns Lane | Preston Rural | Preston | Adjacent to Horns Lane Cottage | Completed |
| C350 | Inglewhite Road | Preston Rural | Preston | Horns Lane to Scotch Green Lane | Commenced work 09/12/21 |
| C246 | Cop Lane | Penwortham West | South Ribble | Manor Lane to Liverpool Road | Completed |
| C176 | Moss Lane | Skelmersdale East | West Lancs | Courage Low Lane to Crow Orchard Road | Programmed in for Q1 2022 |
| U21562 | Woodland Avenue/ Trunnah | Cleveleys East | Wyre | Outside the Grade 2 Listed building | Civils work completed |

| Road Number | Road Name | Division | District | Location description | Progress |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------|
| C381 | Woodhouse/Tarn Road | Thornton and Hambleton | Wyre | Outside Raikes Barn | Work to be programmed |
| B5412 | Station Road, Thornton | Thornton and Hambleton | Wyre | Adjacent to Ellesmere Avenue | Work to be programmed |
| U5278 | May Lane, Cloughton | Wyre Rural East | Wyre | Between Walmsley Bridge Lane and Gonder Lane | Completed |
| U21394 | Wardleys Lane, Hambleton | Thornton and Hambleton | Wyre | By 50m dip in road | Work to be programmed |
| U47848 | Brock Road, Great Eccleston | Wyre Rural Central | Wyre | Outside Frog Hall Farm | Work to be programmed |
| B5268 | Fleetwood Road North, Thornton | Fleetwood East | Wyre | Outside Calla Gran | Work to be programmed |
| C403 | Knitting Row Lane | Thornton and Hambleton | Wyre | 60m of new highway drainage system including new gullies and inspection chambers along the system. | Completed |
| C404 | Cartgate, Preesall | Wyre Rural Central | Wyre | Adjacent to Sunnyside Terrace | Land Issues; currently on hold |
| C401 | Staynall Lane, Staynall | Thornton and Hambleton | Wyre | Full extent | Completed |

| Road Number | Road Name | Division | District | Location description | Progress |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--|---|
| A583 | Blackpool Road, Clifton | Fylde East | Fylde | A583 outside Dobbies Garden Centre | Survey required |
| C283 | Peel Road, Westby | Fylde West | Fylde | By the Electrical sub-station - Whitehills | Work to be programmed |
| C295 | Moorside/Cross Lane, Treales | Fylde East | Fylde | Near West View Farm | Monitoring |
| C270 | Mythop Road | Fylde West | Fylde | Mythop Road, near to the Blackpool boundary | Work to be programmed, possible Q4 delivery |
| U10708 | Nell Lane | Clayton with Whittle | Chorley | From the junction of Shady Lane to the junction of A49 Wigan Road | Remove from programme - Use money for London Road |
| A587 | Poulton Road, Fleetwood | Fleetwood East | Wyre | 60 yards section outside the One Stop | Work to be programmed |
| | 33566 Bank Brow Ret/Wall | Skelmersdale East | West Lancs. | Increase capacity of existing culvert with installation of 1.2m span box culvert | Liaising with Design team |
| C201 | Town Lane | Chorley Rural West | Chorley | A49 Preston Road to Town Lane | Completed |

Table 4 – Flooding to Highway and Property – Improvements to Drainage Systems including Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (allocated from the £1.25m subtotal from the £5m total)

| ROAD NUMBER | ROAD NAME | DESCRIPTION |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| B5251 | SPENDMORE LANE | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A680 | MANCHESTER ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| B6236 | HASLINGDEN OLD ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A680 | WHALLEY ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A678 | BURNLEY ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A679 | BURNLEY ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C671 | WHEATLEY LANE ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C340 | HOYLES LANE | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C541 | MELLOR BROW | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C549 | WHALLEY ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A671 | MARKET STREET | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C246 | COP LANE | Investigation and Design in progress |
| C309 | COPP LANE | Investigation and Design in progress |
| A588 | BRECK ROAD | Investigation and Design in progress |

Table 5 – Skelmersdale Underpasses (apportionment from the £1.25m subtotal from the £5m total)

| Structure Number | Name | Suggested Action |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 4083U | ASHURST NO.4 SUBWAY | Monitor - work has already been undertaken to rectify the issue |
| 4051U | EGERTON SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 5634U | CHURCH FARM SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4061U | WINSTANLEY SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4060U | WHITE HEY SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4069U | BIRCH NO.5 SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4013U | BROCK SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4070U | BIRCH NO.6 SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4043U | ELSWICK SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4044U | EVENWOOD SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |
| 4047U | ELMSTEAD SUBWAY | CCTV, investigation and remedial works if required |

FUTURE-PROOFING THE HIGHWAY ASSET

In addition to the £5m Flood Prevention Fund, in 2021, £1.42m from the Department for Transport (DfT) grant funding was allocated to improve drainage systems in Lancashire. This funding was divided into two elements.

£710k was assigned to address drainage issues identified in the development and delivery of the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Capital carriageway maintenance programmes. This includes drainage maintenance and improvements to existing drainage systems, where resurfacing schemes have been approved by Cabinet.

The other element of £710k was assigned to those areas that have been identified to have a risk of flooding to property and highways and is being used to improve drainage systems not associated with any currently planned resurfacing schemes. These locations were identified countywide using data analysis to ascertain locations of risk, with evidence to justify why these schemes were required.

Asset Management is committed to allocating a budget of circa £500k to £1m per annum to supplement any resurfacing schemes where the drainage system needs remedial works or improvements. This allocation is fully dependent on the funding allocated from central government. CCTV surveys are now completed on all resurfacing schemes approved by Cabinet to identify whether there is potential for flooding to the highway or property in the future. When remedial works or upgrades are identified as necessary to the existing drainage system, then the improvements are undertaken using the funding from this budget. These works are completed prior to the resurfacing works being undertaken in order to mitigate the risk of having to return and dig up the new road surface should a drain fail in the immediate future.

A proportion of the funding is to be used to identify areas of localised flooding to highway and property, which is not associated with any highway resurfacing schemes. This is a countywide programme of work and is being developed on a risk-based approach, using data gathered from both internal and external sources such as: the number of repeated visits to clean gullies, reports of flooding on the highway and or adjacent property from stakeholders. This risk-based approach allows the county council to demonstrate a transparent decision-making process with fair justification for schemes approved.

Over the last few years, we have had a number of high intensity rainfall events, which have overwhelmed antiquated drainage systems, that were not designed to cope with the increased rainfall encountered in recent years.

The latest UK State of the Climate report has identified the UK's climate as becoming wetter. For example, the total rainfall monitored over a five-day period demonstrated a 4% increase during the most recent decade (2008-2017), when compared to a similar period between 1961-1990. Also, the amount of rain encountered on extremely wet days has increased by 17% when compared to similar days within the same time period.

The winters of 2013/14 and 2015/16 were two of the wettest on record, with December 2015 being the wettest December ever recorded, with rainfalls two to four times the average for the north of England.

This trend has continued over the following years, with further severe weather events encountered during the winters of 2019/20 and 2020/21, which caused more than £5million worth of flood-related damage to highway assets (excluding structures and bridges) in the Lancashire region.

Existing funding streams received from central government (anticipated circa £20m for 2022/23, is apportioned to all highway assets). Also, additional funding from the DfT may be provided following some named storm events and is only ever sufficient to provide relief and improvement to local drainage systems. However, if more funding were to be made available, a more holistic approach to the wider catchment area could be undertaken. For example:

- Introduction of source control.
- Increase system capacity of a drainage system rather than an isolated area.
- Storing runoff and releasing it slowly (Attenuation)
- Allowing water to soak into the ground (Infiltration)
- Slowly transporting (conveying) water on the surface.

Currently, only localised drainage improvements are made in response to flooding events where resurfacing work is to be undertaken and where flooding to property is evident. However, the number of actual outstanding issues across the network is currently unquantifiable without significant funding for survey and investigatory work.

A long-term programme of works could be developed to improve drainage systems to cope with modern day flooding events if funding could be guaranteed. This funding would allow additional resources to identify and develop sustainable drainage systems to reduce flood risk on the highway and to adjacent property. In turn this should reduce the significant disruption caused to the public by extreme weather events thus facilitating continued economic growth and activity throughout the county.

Appendix C: The Role of the Lead Local Flood Authority in Planning and Development

Introduction

Planning and development go hand in hand, and it is a discipline comprised of plan making (the Local Plan) and the planning application process designed to manage development at a local level.

There are thirteen local planning authorities within Lancashire County Council's administrative area: twelve district councils and the county council. The county council is responsible for determining upper-tier planning matters such as minerals and waste, transport and school applications (often termed 'regulation three applications'). District councils process planning applications for everything else.

The Lead Local Flood Authority is just one risk management authority in Lancashire with a distinctly defined role in planning and development. Other risk management authorities similarly have a district role as set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Roles of risk management authorities in the context of flood risk for planning and development

| Risk Management Authority | Comments on (in planning) | Role in Planning Making | Role in Planning Applications |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) | Surface water flood risk Surface water sustainable drainage design | Not a statutory consultee, but national planning policy states the LLFA should be consulted. LLFA encourages plan makers to consult and seek their advice at the earliest opportunity. | Statutory consultee for major development with surface water drainage |
| Environment Agency | Fluvial (watercourse) and coastal flood risk | Statutory consultee during plan making | Statutory consultee for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development, other than minor development, on land in Flood Zones 2 or 3, or on land in Flood Zone 1 which has critical drainage problems. developments within 20 metres |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>of a main river (which may be outside the extent of a FZ 2/3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> major developments that do not use public sewers for the disposal of sewage |
| Water and Sewerage Company | Public sewer network (foul, surface water, combined) | Statutory consultee during plan making | <p>Not a statutory consultee.</p> <p>Proactively comments on planning applications which may impact on the public sewer network</p> |
| Highway Authority | Adopted highway drainage and other highway assets? E.g. culverts, trash screens, bridges etc | Statutory consultee during plan making | Statutory consultee for the laying out or construction of a new street and/or the formation, laying out or alteration of any means of access to a highway or trunk road |
| District Council | Support the management of local flood risk | As the Local Planning Authority, responsible for creation of Local Plans and guidance on flood risk | As the Local Planning Authority, responsible for deciding planning applications and enforcing associated conditions |

National Planning Expectations of Flood Risk in Planning and Development

The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It was most recently revised on 20 July 2021. Section 14 sets out policies for 'meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change'. Policies 159 to 169 cover 'Planning and flood risk' and set out expectations for both plan making and development decisions. In relation to surface water, Policy 167 and Policy 169 are the policies which are most frequently utilised by the Lead Local Flood Authority in the management of surface water and sustainable drainage systems as a statutory consultee.

The National Planning Policy Framework is supported by the Planning Practice Guidance which adds further context to the National Planning Policy Framework and

the two documents should be read together. The ['Flood risk and coastal change'](#) section provides guidance on interpreting the flood risk policies within the National Planning Policy Framework and is a material consideration.

The [National Model Design Code](#) was published on 20 July 2021 and revised on 14 October 2021. It provides detailed guidance on the production of design codes, guides, and policies to promote successful design. It forms part of the government's Planning Practice Guidance, expanding on the ten characteristics of good design set out in the national design guide. The code includes sections on sustainable drainage systems and flood risk promoting water sensitive design within planning and development.

Lead Local Flood Authority Role in Plan Making

The Lead Local Flood Authority is not a statutory consultee in plan making, including Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans. This means that the Local Planning Authority has no legal obligation to consult with the Lead Local Flood Authority on any part of plan making from collating the evidence base, such as the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, through to writing policies and guidance.

Paragraph 160 of the National Planning Policy Framework, which is primary national policy and has legal standing, states:

"Strategic policies should be informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, and should manage flood risk from all sources. They should consider cumulative impacts in, or affecting, local areas susceptible to flooding, and take account of advice from the Environment Agency and other relevant flood risk management authorities, such as lead local flood authorities and internal drainage boards."

The Lead Local Flood Authority recognises the importance of early involvement in the plan making process to ensure that local plans and policies, which ultimately steer development proposals that come forward in Lancashire, are appropriate to achieve improved surface water management and high-quality blue-green sustainable drainage systems, where possible and in line with the expectations set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Lead Local Flood Authority therefore strongly advises and encourages local planning authorities to engage us from the earliest opportunity and we work with planners to shape evidence base documents and respond to policy consultations, either directly or through the county council's 'one council' planning response.

Lead Local Flood Authority Role in Planning Applications

Under Schedule 4 of the Town and County Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 the Lead Local Flood Authority is a statutory

consultee on major¹ development with surface water drainage. This duty started on 6 April 2015.

This means that the Local Planning Authority has a legal obligation to consult the Lead Local Flood Authority prior to the grant of planning permission on development which meets this criteria.

As a statutory consultee, the Lead Local Flood Authority must provide a substantive response to the Local Planning Authority within 21 calendar days. A substantive response is one of three things; no comment, no objection, or a removal of an objection which can be subject to recommended conditions and informatives or not, or an objection.

The Lead Local Flood Authority does not 'approve' any part of planning applications (flood risk assessments, drainage strategies etc); this is the role of the Local Planning Authority. Statutory consultees are consulted by the Local Planning Authority to provide technical advice which the Local Planning Authority must consider in their planning decision, whether by through a delegated officer or through planning committee. The Local Planning Authority can go against the advice of any statutory consultee, this usually happens where in the interests of planning balance the flood risk concern may outweigh other benefits of development. The Lead Local Flood Authority is only aware of a handful of occasions where this has happened in Lancashire.

If developers do not comply with the conditions of their planning permission, only the Local Planning Authority has the power to take enforcement action.

The Lead Local Flood Authority is not a statutory consultee on minor development (i.e. less than 10 dwellings or equivalent) and it is not resourced to provide local planning authorities with technical advice on such applications. The Lead Local Flood Authority has, however, issued the local planning authorities with 'Lead Local Flood Authority Standing Advice' to provide planners with some technical surface water and sustainable drainage advice which planning case officers can apply to minor planning applications. This has been positively received and is an example of how the Lead Local Flood Authority has gone beyond its statutory remit to provide support to planning colleagues.

¹ Major development is defined in Part 1(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 Major Development means development involving any one or more of the following: (a) the winning and working of minerals or the use of land for mineral-working deposits; (b) waste development; (c) the provision of dwellinghouses where (i) the number of dwellinghouses to be provided is 10 or more; or (ii) the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5 hectares or more and it is not known whether the development falls within sub-paragraph (c)(i); (d) the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1,000 square metres or more; or (e) development carried out on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more.

Service Delivery

What the Lead Local Flood Authority Looks At

The Lead Local Flood Authority's statutory role in major planning applications is to assess the surface water drainage associated with the proposed development. This is achieved through assessing two key aspects:

1) Surface water flood risk to and from the development, both pre- and post-development.

This is assessed through a site-specific flood risk assessment, which the Local Planning Authority requires in accordance with footnote 55 of paragraph 167 of the National Planning Policy Framework, and/or in accordance with any local policy requirements that are more stringent.

The requirements of a site-specific flood risk assessment are set out on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

2) Surface water sustainable drainage proposals.

This is typically set out in a sustainable drainage strategy which is required by the Local Planning Authority through its validation checklist or local planning policy. The strategy should take account of any recommendations made in the site-specific flood risk assessment to manage surface water flood risk, using these to inform the design of a sustainable drainage system.

Sustainable drainage systems are designed to control surface water run off close to where it falls and mimic natural drainage as closely as possible. Paragraph 169 of the National Planning Policy Framework sets out that major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. You can find out more about sustainable drainage systems including recent case studies on [The Flood Hub](#).

Sustainable drainage systems should be designed to satisfy the relevant [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Non-Statutory Technical Standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems](#) and incorporate an [allowance of up to 40% for climate change](#). The Lead Local Flood Authority also expects an allowance for urban creep (extensions etc), typically 10%, to be incorporated within the design.

The Lead Local Flood Authority has also asked all 13 local planning authorities in Lancashire to adopt the North West Sustainable Drainage Pro-forma via their planning validation checklist for major applications. The pro-forma, recommended by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, does not replace the need for a site-specific flood risk assessment or sustainable drainage strategy; it is a tool which asks developers to summarise and confirm all aspects of surface water flood risk and sustainable drainage systems have been adequately assessed and designed appropriately in accordance with the requirements. It is particularly helpful to small-medium sized developers because it clearly sets out the requirements that need

to be achieved for the Lead Local Flood Authority to be satisfied. In doing so, it helps to ensure the right information is received the first time and, through following the proformas logic, should facilitate the design of higher quality blue-green sustainable drainage systems which are eligible for adoption by the water and sewerage company (United Utilities/Yorkshire Water), giving an option of maintenance by a risk management authority rather than by a private company.

How is Climate Change Considered with Regards to Surface Water?

To increase resilience to surface water flood risk, developers should make [allowances for climate change](#) in the design of the sustainable drainage systems. This is achieved by assessing what climate change allowance of between 5% and 40% for 'peak rainfall intensity' is most appropriate to apply based on the lifetime of the development. The lifetime for all residential development is 100 years and this is our presumption unless otherwise stated. For example, the development lifetime may vary for other use classes and/or may be capped by a time limited planning condition.

Through the site-specific flood risk assessment, developers assess both the central and upper end allowances and must evidence that the design of the sustainable drainage system ensures there is no increase in the rate of runoff discharged from the site for the upper end allowance.

Where on-site flooding for the upper end allowance presents a significant flood hazard (for example, where depths and velocities of surface water runoff cause a significant danger to people), developers need to take measures to protect people and property. This could include, for example, raising floor levels. As a minimum, there should be no significant flood hazard to people from on-site flooding for the central allowance.

What the Lead Local Flood Authority May Recommend

The response and comments provided to local planning authorities by the Lead Local Flood Authority including conditions, are advisory and ultimately it is the decision of the Local Planning Authority whether any recommendations are acted upon. Comments given are composed based on the knowledge of and information provided to the Lead Local Flood Authority with the application at the time of each response.

The Lead Local Flood Authority must provide the Local Planning Authority with an informed substantive response which is one of three things:

- **No comment.** These responses are typically given where there are no surface water implications with the development or where the Lead Local Flood Authority has been consulted on a minor application, in which case the Local Planning Authority is directed to apply the Lead Local Flood Authority Flood Risk Standing Advice.

- **No objection or removal of objection**, and this may be subject to recommended conditions and informatives or not.
 - All template conditions which the Lead Local Flood Authority may recommend comply with the conditions requirements set out in paragraph 56 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Conditions may be pre-commencement or pre-occupation. A clear reason is always given to justify any recommended pre-commencement condition. Planning conditions can only be required for matters concerning planning legislation.
 - Informatives are notes which enable the Local Planning Authority to draw attention to other relevant matters which are not included under planning legislation. For example, the requirement to seek additional consents (such as Land Drainage Consent) under other regimes and legislation. Informative notes do not carry any legal weight and cannot be used in lieu of planning conditions or a legal obligation to try and ensure adequate means of control for planning purposes. They may be used as non-binding best practice but lack a statutory basis.
- **Objection.** In cases where the Lead Local Flood Authority objects, a reason for objection is always given, linked to planning policy. If the objection is unless or until further evidence is provided or the drainage design is amended, then the Lead Local Flood Authority always advises how the objection can be overcome. If it is an objection in principle, this means that no matter what the developer proposes the principle of development in surface water terms is not advisable or supported by the Lead Local Flood Authority.

How We Communicate with Local Planning Authorities

Communication with local planning authorities occurs at various levels and through a range of means, including:

- **Meeting with all Lancashire Planning Managers** through the Development Control Officer Group and the Development Planning Officers Group. These meetings take place quarterly and the Lead Local Flood Authority has committed to attending both of these meetings at least once a year to provide a strategic update to all planning managers.
- **13 Planning Team Briefings** which have taken place between October 2021 and February 2022. These briefings were conducted for the first time on a 1-2-1 basis with each development management planning team to communicate to them the changes that have occurred within the team and to seek feedback on how they are finding these changes as well as what more can be done to continually improve our service delivery. Feedback has been

collected from these meetings which were positively received, with planners wanting this to become an annual event.

- **Planning Officer Training** opportunities are communicated ad-hoc via email. Feedback from the briefings above has also identified an ask for more planning officer training on sustainable drainage. The Lead Local Flood Authority will explore the feasibility of providing a 'lunch and learn' session on sustainable drainage and has signposted to further training at cost. Laura Makeating is also hosting Royal Town Planning Institute training in September 2022 on surface water and sustainable drainage in planning.
- **Planning Committee Training** has been offered by the Lead Local Flood Authority. So far this has been delivered to Preston City Council Planning Committee where it was positively received, and the team has been invited back to deliver a more detailed session on sustainable drainage components. A number of local planning authorities stated they will invite the Lead Local Flood Authority to deliver Planning Committee training in 2022.
- **Ad-hoc emails** of significant or relevant news or events that could impact on surface water flood risk and/or sustainable drainage systems through the planning process. The team also strives to inform planning colleagues of relevant training and development opportunities.
- **A new ringfenced mailbox** just for planning consultations was introduced in 2021 to separate planning consultations from other flood risk management business. This has resulted in planning consultations being quickly identified and logged, removing the potential for time lost at the start of the consultation process. Local planning authorities are aware of this mailbox and are clear all consultations must be sent here and not directly to flood risk officers.

The Lead Local Flood Authority is exploring other means of effective communication with local planning authorities, such as a newsletter, to continue to build and maintain the positive working relationships we have worked hard to progress.

Monitoring Service Delivery

Improvements have been made to the Lead Local Flood Authority's planning log and there has been a significant performance improvement in relation to planning responses. Data from the planning log is used to performance manage resources within the team as well as the team as a collective. Resources are now managed more dynamically to ensure peaks and troughs in supply and demand can be managed to maintain a consistent service level. This will continue to be monitored and any additional resource needs, for example because of legislative change, will be raised at the earliest opportunity.

Statutory consultees on planning are required, under Section 23 of the Town and County Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order

2015, to report their performance to the Secretary of State by 1 July each year. This reporting mechanism is in place for the Lead Local Flood Authority with a return filed for 2021 and an annual reporting progress now in place to ensure this is achieved.

Other Progress and Planned Work

There are actions within the Flood Risk Management Team's Service Plan which will drive continual improvement of our planning service delivery within the remit of current resources. These include actions to refresh template suites, update and revise the pre-application service, further explore communication methods, and deliver improvements to data use, such as increased use of GIS mapping.

The North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee has tasked the Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership to lead on Planning and Development for the region. As the partnership chair, County Councillor Stephen Clarke is working closely with Laura Makeating, Technical Lead for Planning and Development, Lorah Cheyne, Partnership Coordinator for Lancashire, and Chris Findley, independent member of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for Planning and Development to progress this.

In 2020, the county council became a member of the Association of Sustainable Drainage Systems Authorities (ASA) and the county council, through Laura Makeating, is now the Vice Chair and Reference Group Chair of ASA. ASA is a member paying group representing Lead Local Flood Authorities at a national level, liaising with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the national Environment Agency team in relation to surface water flood risk and sustainable drainage. There are many benefits to membership which can be found on [ASA's website](#).

The county council has been working closely with the Royal Town Planning Institute to develop a continuous professional development webinar for planners to be delivered on 8 September 2022. This will showcase progress, challenges, best practice, and tools to help planners in relation to surface water flood risk and sustainable drainage.

Looking to the future, the Lead Local Flood Authority is not resting on its laurels. As well as continuous improvement to service delivery, there is a focus on the personal and professional development of staff, dynamic partnership working, and the potential to explore working closely with the learning and development team to develop our own e-learning for partners and customers, such as our local planning authorities.

To conclude, the Lead Local Flood Authority has delivered significant improvements to its planning service over the last 18 months and feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive, but we recognise there is still more we can do. We strive to continue to deliver the county council's corporate priorities to deliver better services to protect our environment and support Lancashire's economy.

Appendix D: The Role of Lancashire's Risk Management Authorities in Supporting Personal and Household Flood Risk Response and Resilience

Introduction

In its National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (published May 2021), the government describes what needs to be done by all flood risk management authorities for the benefit of people and places. Very close to the start of the document, it identifies that the strategy will not be effectively delivered by the flood risk management authorities working on their own:

"We all need to take action now so that we are ready for what the future will bring. Everyone needs to contribute to planning and adapting to coastal change, including... individuals and communities".

More locally, the Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy (published November 2021) makes our local commitment to this theme of engaging with all affected people:

"We will increase public awareness of the effects of climate change and the implications on flood risk by engaging with those specifically at risk of flooding to encourage them to take action to manage and/or mitigate the risks that they face and to make their property more resilient."

This report sets out the key activities underway to help address this need for local households and communities to know and understand their own flood risks, and to take appropriate action to manage them. It also identifies some of the challenges in progressing these activities.

1. Watercourse Management Responsibilities

A watercourse is any river, stream, ditch, drain, brook, beck, cut, dyke, sluice, or other feature in which water may flow, and it may be constantly flowing there or only from time-to-time subject to weather conditions.

Watercourses may be 'culverted' (in a pipe), 'canalised' (with vertical constructed walls), or 'open' (with more natural sloping banks).

The Land Drainage Act 1991 gives regulatory powers over watercourses which are classified as main rivers to the Environment Agency, and over ordinary watercourses (simply meaning those that are not main rivers) to the Lead Local Flood Authorities including Lancashire County Council.

The regulatory powers are focussed on:

- a. Maintaining flows in the watercourses;
- b. Managing and minimising flood risks that might arise from obstructions of the watercourses.

Other legislation and regulations bring requirements to maintain appropriate ecological habitats in the vicinity of the watercourses.

The statutory main river map can be accessed from the government website. Ordinary watercourses are too numerous to document in the same way and can simply be identified by them NOT being on the main river map. Any local enquiries that might be accidentally misdirected are easily managed between the local Environment Agency and county council teams.

There are differences between the way that the Environment Agency regulates main rivers and the way that the county council regulates ordinary watercourses in Lancashire. These differences arise through the natural differences in the potential scale, context, impact, and resource required to regulate main rivers compared to the impact arising from ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency's permitting process for main river works and the county council's consenting process for ordinary watercourse works can be readily accessed from their respective websites.

More significantly for landowners: under the provisions of the Land Drainage Act 1991, the owners and occupiers of the land on which a watercourse flows are held directly responsible for maintaining the flow of water in a watercourse. This can mean that where two or more ownerships share the same watercourse, they will each be held responsible for what is understood to be 'their' length of watercourse, and/or to the middle of the watercourse if relevant. This is illustrated in Figure D.1.

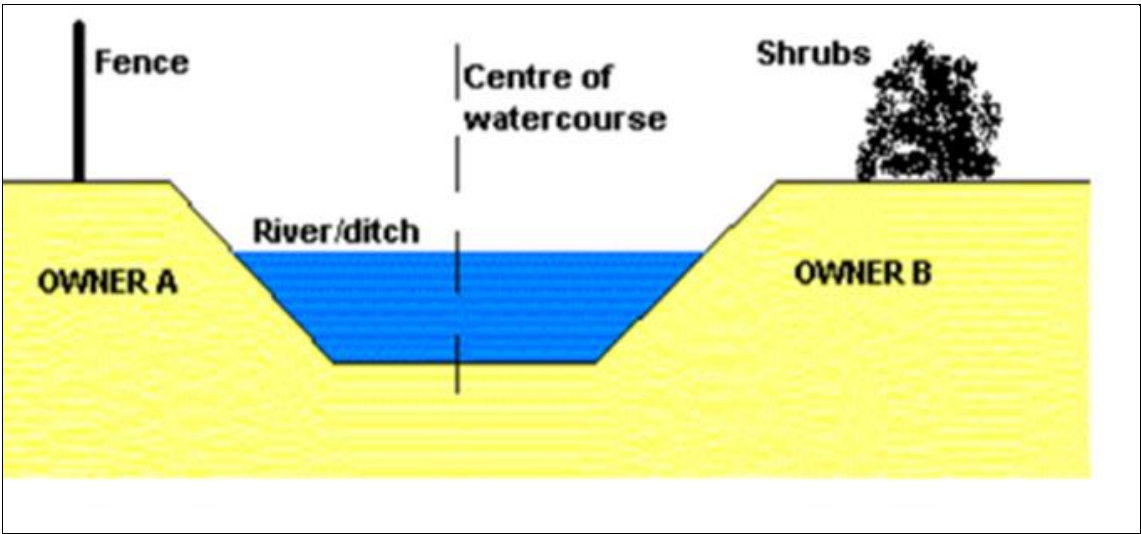


Figure D.1: The extent of riparian responsibilities

This responsibility is sometimes referred to as 'riparian' (word means 'relating to riverbanks'). The responsibility means that the landowner must:

- Keep any structures that they own such as culverts, trash screens, weirs, and mill gates clear of any obstruction; and
- Ensure water flows through the watercourse without obstruction, pollution or diversion which could affect the rights of others.

Should these obligations fail to the extent that the proper flow of the watercourse becomes impeded, then the landowner/s could face legal action and be held liable for any damages that occur through lack of maintenance, or changes to the watercourse.

These are significant responsibilities which, in the experience of county council officers, are relatively unknown or poorly understood by individual landowners and residential communities. This situation is compounded in locations where watercourses have been historically diverted and culverted resulting in little or no ground-level evidence of their location.

A further barrier to understanding is the situation that arises where a hedge or fence has been erected between a garden and a watercourse, and the landowner does not understand that they will be held responsible for defects up to the middle of the watercourse.

Because of the flood risk implications of a dysfunctional watercourse being on un-owned, un-claimed, or un-registered land, the county council refers to the Law of Property Act 1925 and does not accept the location of a boundary fence or hedge or copy plans from conveyances as sufficient evidence of the limit of land ownership where it is said to intend to exclude responsibility for the watercourse. We will accept supporting evidence in the text of the deeds if this makes it clear that it was the express intention of a previous landowner to exclude the watercourse from the sale of the land adjacent to the watercourse AND that previous landowner still retains ownership of the land between the boundary fence or hedge and the centre of the watercourse. We will look at the legal presumption known as "ad medium filum".

The Flood Hub website (see point 3 below) provides advice on these issues in accessible language and carries out periodic awareness-raising campaigns.

2. Flood Action Groups and Other Community Resilience Groups

A Flood Action Group is a voluntary group of local residents who meet on a regular basis to work on behalf of the wider community to help to try and reduce the impact of future flood events. The focus of the group can be based around emergency planning and local drainage management, whilst providing a unified voice for the community to communicate ideas and queries to others.

Each individual group can decide on its own roles, responsibilities, aims and objectives, and these could include:

- Spreading awareness of flood risk within the community;
- Monitoring local conditions e.g. community volunteers keeping an eye out for and reporting blocked drains;
- Developing and reviewing a community flood plan;
- Looking out for vulnerable members of the community;
- Preparing for and taking action during a flood event.
- Identifying key flooding issues within the community and who is responsible;
- Building relationships and lines of communication with key agencies;
- Lobbying of decision makers and commenting on government consultations;
- Influence the development of future flood scheme opportunities to better manage flood risk.

Many of the flood action groups in Lancashire have established themselves following severe local flooding, others have been sponsored or otherwise set up by local town or parish councils. The local flood risk management authorities highly respect the roles of the flood action groups. Representatives have commented on how much they value

the opportunity to engage at local level and to forge constructive relationships with the community without the confrontation that has readily arisen in some 'top-table-question-and-answer' events held directly in response to flooding incidents.

Advice and suggestions on how to form a Flood Action Group can be found on the Flood Hub website (see point 3 below). The National Flood Forum is a key national charity for the purposes of encouraging and supporting flood action groups.

Lancashire's flood action groups have been particularly engaged in organising 'drop-in' events and 'site walkovers':

- At a 'drop-in' event, the risk management authorities will bring knowledgeable staff and relevant material to a local hall or community centre for a few hours, enabling local people to 'drop in' to ask questions and to offer their local knowledge to assist in clearing long-running local drainage problems that impact on flooding.
- A 'site walkover' is a structured visit to a locality by representatives from the risk management authorities, led by the Flood Action Group. All parties visit points of interest or concern to enable discussions about options for managing flood risk and to reduce the risk of misunderstandings that can arise when conversations are managed through email or in more formal meeting settings.

Drop-in events have been particularly effective in enabling the Environment Agency's officers to engage with communities affected by the Environment Agency's major schemes (currently at Hambleton, Preston/South Ribble, and Padiham).

Wyre Council provides a dedicated resource to the Flood Action Groups located within Wyre district, enabling them to collaborate through the Wyre Flood Forum and to meet quarterly in Wyre's Civic Centre offices. This collaboration has been particularly valuable to the groups, as many of them share common flood risks and experiences associated with the River Wyre. It has also benefitted the flood risk management authorities, which all support the Wyre Flood Forum with prior information and officer attendance at meetings.

Without direct sponsorship and resources, the Lancaster Flood Forum has developed in a different direction. It provides shared learning opportunities, advice, and mutual support for the groups in Lancaster district, which are less geographically similar than is the case in Wyre.

The county council's Flood Risk Management team is in relatively frequent contact with the flood action groups via email (each time the Met Office releases severe weather warnings involving heavy rain and/or flood warnings) and less-frequent personal contact (relating to local needs and investigations).

To date there are 46 active flood groups and community emergency response groups on the county council's mailing list. 12 town or parish councils, and 3 individuals are also on the list. In the last two years we have lost contact with a further 14 groups due to changes in their personnel and/or leadership.

3. The Flood Hub

The Flood Hub is a public website resource, funded by Local Levy and governed by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. It is managed on behalf of all the region's flood risk management authorities by the third sector organisation Newground, with a steering group to provide direction and focus.

The website has been designed to be a one-stop-shop for flood information and resources to support householders, businesses, and communities across the North West in becoming more flood resilient. It holds multiple sources of guidance to produce a hub of information that gives an overview of flood resilience and its many related topics. By signposting a variety of other useful sources, visitors should easily be able to find all the information they need either within the website itself or by visiting one of the linked websites.

The Flood Hub's Knowledge Base includes a variety of downloadable resources that have been produced in collaboration with the flood team at Newground or sourced from external sites, to provide knowledgeable advice on flood-related topics. A recent addition that was proposed originally by the county council's officers is the 'Your Local Area' page of the website, which provides further information on community groups, flood schemes, natural flood management schemes, and events through an interactive map.

The Flood Hub engages with national flood risk management and awareness campaigns through social media, and periodically runs its own campaigns focussed on issues of regional interest and concern.

4. Flood Insurance / Flood Re

The Flood Re scheme is a joint industry/government initiative, designed to reduce insurance costs for thousands of households by passing on the flood risk element of home insurance premiums to Flood Re and charging a set premium for this based on council tax bands.

Since its launch in 2016, over 300,000 households have benefited from the initiative, with four out of five households with prior flood claims seeing reductions in their insurance premiums by more than half. It was anticipated at the time that the industry sector engagement would develop to become self-financing and allow the government support to cease around 2030.

In November 2019, over 760 households and businesses flooded in the Doncaster area. In the aftermath, it became clear that many affected people did not have sufficient insurance cover to restore their properties. In December 2019, the government commissioned an independent review of the reasons why this had occurred and what action might improve protection against future events.

The review found that a small but significant number of insurance policies for flooded property deliberately excluded flood cover, even though the location would naturally make this one of the most valuable covers to hold. This suggests that some people are missing out on the subsidised insurance made available through Flood Re and possibly

that many insurance companies, brokers and customers aren't fully aware of the opportunities offered by the scheme. The report acknowledges that:

"If this is replicated across the county, this could add up to tens of thousands of households going without flood protection unnecessarily. While there is no single point of blame, it is worrying that too many people are falling through the cracks and the system needs to be tightened up to ensure that no-one misses out on support to which they are entitled."

The review's findings and recommendations have been considered by ministers, and changes to the Flood Re system were proposed in February 2021. These aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the scheme and to accelerate uptake of Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures, including:

- The ability for Flood Re to offer discounted premiums to households that have fitted property flood resilience measures, such as airbrick covers or non-return valves;
- Permitting the payment of claims to include an additional amount to build back better, in a more flood resilient way;
- Exploring whether there's more that the Flood Re scheme could do to accelerate uptake of PFR, including whether the scheme's currently available funding could contribute;
- Exploring whether Flood Re premiums should be further reduced; and
- Technical changes to improve the scheme's efficiency.

5. Property-level Flood Resistance and Resilience

'Property-level flood resistance and resilience' refers to measures that reduce flood damage risk to people and property, enabling households and businesses to reduce the extent of damage and to speed up recovery and reoccupation after a flooding incident. Appropriate measures can reduce the amount of water entering buildings (known as resistance measures), or limit the damage caused if water does enter a building (known as resilience measures).

A flood resistance approach aims to prevent water entry or reduce the amount of floodwater that enters a property. It typically requires the purchase and installation of home flood defence products. These products can be permanent or temporary:

- Permanent products are fitted, left in place, and remain 'always ready' to work 24/7, with no action needed to activate them in the event of a flood.
- Temporary measures are usually stored away and then put in place when flooding is expected.

A successful resistance strategy ensures that every water entry point on the property is protected. If a single point is missed or a flood defence product fails, the property will begin to take in floodwater which compromises all other protection measures and results in a failed package of works. Government guidelines suggest 600mm (2ft) as a safe height to resist water entry, although many buildings in flood risk areas are protected to around 900mm (3ft).

A flood resilience approach aims to reduce the impact and damage caused by floodwater once it enters a property, resulting in quick and easy cleaning, drying, recovery, and reoccupation of the property. This could potentially eliminate the need for an insurance claim.

Resilient measures usually involve changes to the fabric of the building so no action is needed to activate them in the event of a flood. Undertaking a resilience approach directly after your home has flooded presents an opportunity to reinstate the property with water resilient materials and design.

The BRE Group is an international UK-based organisation that includes scientists, engineers, and technicians who carry out independent research into products, standards, and qualifications relating to the building industry.

One of BRE's recent projects has been to design a Flood Resilient Repair Home to show alternative replacement products in building repairs that will not be affected by subsequent flooding.

Standard practice for builders following a flood currently includes stripping off damaged plasterboard, flooring, and saturated kitchen units. Then once the house has dried out, it would be normal to put plasterboard back in, install a new chipboard kitchen, and use non-water-resistant flooring and insulation materials, which would be similarly damaged if the home were to flood again in the future.

The BRE Flood Resilient Repair Home also shows how simple measures such as placing electrical outlets higher up walls and using doors and windows with flood resisting seals can help minimise future damage. And, if water were to get in, an automatic 'sump pump' connected to drains in the floor quickly gets water out of the house again.

It is important to acknowledge that any specialist materials and products will be more expensive to buy, fit, and maintain than standard materials and products. The additional costs can be minimised if works are carried out as part of planned refurbishment.

In certain tightly controlled circumstances, public funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs flood and coastal erosion risk management Grant in Aid can be made available to install property-level flood resistance and resilience measures. This may happen in situations where there is no prospect of a flood risk management scheme at community level (for example raised river defences as in the current Preston/South Ribble project, or attenuation as in the 2016 Croston dam project). In line with all Grant in Aid project requirements, evidence would be needed of both the required cost-benefit analysis (to demonstrate value for money from the investment), and a financial contribution from other interested parties (called the 'partnership contribution').

Apart from these two significant requirements in order to access Grant in Aid generally, a third requirement specific to this type of scheme is the understanding by property owners that the new features once installed will be theirs to maintain and to

replace when they come to the end of their useful life. The flood risk management authorities will not take on responsibility in perpetuity for domestic assets.

To date there is very little experience in the country of completing successful public sector property-level resilience projects, and few householders seem to have the appetite for making the required investments using their own sources of funding.




Also, the UK insurance industry is not yet sufficiently mature to always 'build back better' after a flooding incident.

Another delaying factor is that country does not yet have a sufficiently widespread resource of appropriately informed and skilled tradespeople who could offer the services required to manufacture, supply, fit, and maintain complex property-level flood resilient/resistant measures as a matter of course and on the scale that may be required in coming years.

However, as climate change brings increased flood risks to places where conventional schemes are difficult to fund and/or build, or the impacts of building them sufficiently protective become unpalatable (such as higher walls along coasts and riverbanks), our communities may decide that property-level flood management solutions are the preferred way forward. As with the national move to adopting electric cars, a combination of leadership, governance, and normalising will all contribute to a change in market and acceptance.




Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

| Reference | Recommendation | Proposed Response | Action by | Timescales | Progress RAG |
|-----------|---|--|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Short term | | | | |
| S1 | Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities, local flood action groups and other beneficiaries to define the role and responsibilities of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and all Risk Management Authorities in Lancashire and to publicise this accordingly. | The Head of Service Highways will ensure that clarity on this will be included in the refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. | Head of Service Highways | Target date was amended from 'late 2020' to 'spring 2021' to ensure sufficient attention to consultation responses and to accommodate formal approval cycles in 3 x LLFAs. | Complete Roles and responsibilities have been clearly defined in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire, published November 2021. |
| S2 | Increasing staffing levels within the county council's Flood Risk Management Team to support the need for a resource on service delivery for the people of Lancashire and to explore joint working opportunities with all Risk Management Authorities, including possible agency arrangements with district councils. | The need for and opportunities to increase staffing levels in the team will be reviewed by the Head of Service Highways following introduction of the new Highways Service Management Team (April 2020). | Head of Service Highways | Review to be complete by March 2021. | Complete |
| S3 | Providing sufficient resource within the Flood Risk Management Team to enable timely and detailed reviews of all Strategic Flood Risk Assessments to support Local Plan reviews, and of the developers' site-specific Flood Risk Assessments, on which the LLFA is consulted by the local planning authorities. | The need for and opportunities to increase staffing levels in the team will be reviewed by the Head of Service Highways following introduction of the new Highways Service Management Team (April 2020). | Head of Service Highways | Review to be complete by March 2021. | Complete |

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| RAG Key |  Halted/problems |  Newly revised dates |  Complete/going to plan |
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|-----------|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| S4 | Increasing the highways drainage budget. | Head of Service Highways to review with Cabinet. | Head of Service Highways | Review to be complete by March 2021. | Complete |
| S5 | Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities and Newground Community Interest Company to develop the county council's Flooding in Lancashire webpages and the Flood Hub Lancashire webpages and provide simplified advice, information, and signposting in relation to the role and purpose of the county council as LLFA; how to form a local flood action group; riparian ownership and responsibilities; rules, regulations and exemptions for obtaining licences to carry out work; funding and dedicated webpages for specific flood events whilst being mindful of the Flood Hub's website content. | This is a complex project to be developed with partner organisations. As part of any restructure, the Head of Service Highways will identify a project and resources to take this forward including traditional communications and media strategies – see response to recommendation M3 below. | Head of Service Highways | To be in place by June 2022. | In Progress New Partnership Coordinator is collating material for Lancashire Partnership web pages in the Flood Hub. |
| S6 | Formalising and maintaining a central register of local flood action groups across Lancashire and to make accessible through The Flood Hub website via all Risk Management Authorities in Lancashire. In addition to publicise the register with the local Met Office and other pertinent organisations. | Underway. In regard to accessing Met Office weather warnings, groups and individuals may self-register for warnings and other updates by following the instructions available via this link . | Head of Service Highways | To be completed by Dec 2020. | Complete |

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| RAG Key |  Halted/problems |  Newly revised dates |  Complete/going to plan |
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| S7 | Creating a culvert policy with a view to it being adopted by all district councils in Lancashire as a supplementary planning document. | Draft policy already prepared. To be reviewed and used as the basis of internal and external consultation. Timescales to adopt a culvert policy will depend on consultation responses, so not necessarily a short-term measure. | Head of Service Highways | Consultation was requested to be completed by March 2021; timescale adjusted to 2022/23. | <p style="text-align: center;">In progress</p> <p>Undertaking policy updates for watercourse consenting and enforcement, and for flooding investigations. This action will be progressed alongside these policy reviews.</p> |
| S8 | Writing to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to request that Network Rail, Highways England, Canal and River Trust, Limited Companies appointed by Ofwat (New Appointments and Variations) and property management companies become Risk Management Authorities and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter. In addition to give consideration to request district councils in Lancashire to develop relationships with those organisations and to invite them to future Making Space for Water meetings and any other flood risk management related events and meetings. | <p>Work with the district councils will be progressed through the existing partnership meetings.</p> <p>Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with Lancashire County Council procedures.</p> | Head of Service Highways | To be completed by Dec 2020. | <p style="text-align: center;">Complete</p> |
| S9 | Collaborating with the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the Local Government Association | The council's Lead Member for Flooding (Cllr Stephen Clarke) has investigated this situation with United Utilities plc, and has | Lead Member for Flooding | Ongoing. | <p style="text-align: center;">Complete</p> |

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| RAG Key |  Halted/problems |  Newly revised dates |  Complete/going to plan |
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| | in writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to request that right of connection, mandatory adoption and water companies as statutory consultees on planning applications be reviewed. | submitted a brief report and recommendations to the Chair of the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee NW RFCC). He will progress further activity for Lancashire County Council subject to the decisions of the NW RFCC. | | | |
| S10 | Writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing concern that approved surface water drainage provisions including sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) are not being implemented within developments as approved through the planning process, and that additional resources or legal provisions are required so that implementation of surface water drainage systems within new developments including SuDS can be properly monitored and enforced and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter. | Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with Lancashire County Council procedures. | Head of Service Highways | To be completed by Dec 2020. | Complete |
| S11 | Writing to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to consider publishing consistent guidance on when flood resilience grants would be made available to flooded homes and businesses for the installation of property | Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with Lancashire County Council procedures. | Head of Service Highways | To be completed by Dec 2020. | Complete |

RAG Key



Halted/problems



Newly revised dates



Complete/going to plan

Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | resilience measures and to collaborate with the Local Government Association on this matter. | | | | |
| S12 | Writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking that he collaborates with the Local Government Association over potential amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework so that LLFAs be paid to carry out developers' Flood Risk Assessments so that development proposals will accommodate consistent practice and sustainable management of local drainage conditions and flood risk within and outside of all development sites. | Letter to be prepared and issued in accordance with Lancashire County Council procedures. | Head of Service Highways | To be completed by Dec 2020. | Complete |
| S13 | Engaging with United Utilities to agree a mechanism for receiving advice on SuDS that are planned in a particular application that might be at a level to be adopted. | United Utilities plc has launched its SuDS adoption procedures (April 2020). The NW RFCC has engaged with all local planning authorities in the region to promote take-up, and to establish a pro-forma to enable standardised assessment of developers SuDS proposals. Lancashire County Council will continue to engage with these processes as 'business as normal'. | Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure to monitor. | Ongoing. | Complete |

RAG Key



Halted/problems



Newly revised dates



Complete/going to plan

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| S14 | Promoting the educational programme established by United Utilities via the Lancashire County Council Schools' Portal. | The Head of Service Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions between United Utilities and Lancashire County Council Education Service to enable decisions on this to be made by the appropriate decision-makers. | Head of Service Highways | Introductions to be made by October 2020 – Recommended this be set back to October 2021 in recognition of schools' Coronavirus management demands. | Complete Schools have been informed of this opportunity, also of additional Key Stage 2 material produced by the NW RFCC available direct from the Flood Hub. |
| | Medium term | | | | |
| M1 | Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities to formalise the walk-around offer currently offered in a limited manner within the Environment Agency and to notify all local flood action groups of its launch. | Already triggered by local business need through Making Space for Water partnerships. Flood Action Groups to be contacted and assured this will continue. | Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure | In place by September 2020. | Complete |
| M2 | Promoting the flood risk management pre-application service. | The Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure has commissioned a review of the pre-app service and charges, seeking to promote it more positively alongside pre-application services provided for highways advice. Improvements will be established once the review concludes. | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | In place by December 2020. | Complete |
| M3 | Producing a guide on how to setup a local flood action group to enable those people who wish to do so and for existing groups to flourish. It is suggested that the guide should include a template constitution; | The additional resource required to achieve this will be taken into account in the reviews identified in response to recommendation S5 above. | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | To be completed during 2021/22. | Complete Advice available from the Flood Hub. |

RAG Key



Halted/problems



Newly revised dates



Complete/going to plan

Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | advice on creating emergency plans and who to share these with; key contacts and advice on who to build working relationships with and examples of what funding could be used for and for the guide to be publicised and shared with all tiers of councils and councillors, Risk Management Authorities, and libraries throughout Lancashire. | | | | |
| M4 | The flood risk management team assessing every project for the scope to include upstream storage and increasing natural flood risk management activities. | This is a significant piece of work, beyond a simple design check, requiring cross-service collaboration. The Head of Service Highways will identify key stakeholders to take forward as a corporate initiative. | Head of Service Highways | To be completed during 2022/23. | In Progress |
| M5 | Providing maximum surface water attenuation for new highways sponsored by Lancashire County Council through the implementation of tree pits and other attenuation features. | The relevant Head of Service to hold an internal review to identify current best practice | Head of Service Highways | To be completed during 2022/23. | In Progress |
| M6 | Reviewing how powers can be delegated to enable local flood action groups to place road closure and other related signage on the highways in the event of a flood. | This proposal raises significant health and safety and legislative risks for all parties. The Head of Service Highways will review options including identifying any current practices elsewhere in the country. | Head of Service Highways | Target was March 2021. Recommend this is extended to 2021/22 in recognition of the significance of the legal and safety issues. | In Progress Lancashire County Council Highways have established a pilot project to be pursued March 2022. |
| M7 | Exploring opportunities with the Fire and Rescue Service to embed a flood preparedness | The Head of Service Highways will facilitate a discussion with the appropriate officers of the | Highways Service | Timescale was March 2021; adjusted to 2021/22 to | Complete |

RAG Key



Halted/problems






Newly revised dates



Complete/going to plan

Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | element to their existing fire safety checks in homes. | Fire and Rescue Service to enable the feasibility of this recommendations to be explored and taken forward if possible. | Manager - Infrastructure | accommodate resources review by all parties. | Opportunities have been discussed. Identified that Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (LFRS) have core role relating to fire and rescue; there is a significant resource implication for adding 'home flood safety' to the activity, and a risk of giving an incorrect message suggesting that LFRS might intervene to prevent flood waters ingressing. Other opportunities for public information and awareness will be pursued through the Flood Hub. |
| M8 | Write to all district councils in Lancashire to request that all future agendas for Making Space for Water meetings include an opportunity for local flood action groups to address those meetings and raise any issues of concern; and to publicise dates of all future meetings on their websites. | The Making Space for Water meetings in Lancashire are the established forum for technical partners to discuss matters of common concern within a district area. They are not generally open to members of the public, community groups or their elected representatives, to ensure technical progress is shared and made on matters of joint concern which of necessity includes sharing of confidential data. Flood action groups are always welcome to raise queries direct with the drainage authorities for a | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | Timescale was March 2021; adjusted to 2022/23 to accommodate resourcing needs for this activity. | In Progress February 2021: the NW RFCC announced a change to the Partnership Coordination role, and a key Flood Risk Management team member announced their planned resignation effective May 2021. These circumstances mean that Lancashire County Council resources for this |

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| RAG Key |  Halted/problems |  Newly revised dates |  Complete/going to plan |
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Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | | joint response outside of Making Space for Water meetings. | | | activity have to be reviewed and redirected to ensure all aspirations are reflected by any changes in the Making Space for Water format. |
| M9 | Write to all Risk Management Authorities to take steps to: a) Enable local flood action groups to contribute a local touch to funding applications for large scale projects submitted by them. b) Consult with local flood action groups as an essential step in the decision-making process on flood risk management project planning. | This recommendation will be discussed with all impacted flood risk partner organisations and progressed through the tactical partnership meetings. | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | Timescale was March 2021; adjusted to 2021/22 to accommodate resourcing needs for this activity. | Complete Local community consultation is now built into Lancashire County Council Flood Risk Management project procedures, also to United Utilities plc and Environment Agency project management procedures. |
| M10 | Hold an annual forum/ conference/ workshop/ scrutiny inquiry or symposium to invite and bring together all the Risk Management Authorities and local flood action groups across Lancashire to discuss flood risk management and preparedness matters. This could be facilitated by the External Scrutiny Committee in its obligation to scrutinise flood risk management on an annual basis. | The benefits of this are recognised. Unfortunately, this is an action that can not easily be delivered remotely. The Highways Service Manager – Infrastructure will research options with other LLFAs and develop proposals to hold a future event when safe to do so. | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | To be completed during 22/23 | In Progress Linked to M8 above. |
| M11 | Exploring opportunities to utilise social media platforms, | The Flood Risk Management team currently circulates | Highways Service | Ongoing | In Progress |

RAG Key



Halted/problems



Newly revised dates



Complete/going to plan

Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | 'In the Know' alerts or other real-time communication sources to provide preparedness and action messages around flood and weather warnings, successes, and post-event advice supplementary to any Met Office forecast, warnings, and advice issued. | Met Office weather warnings and other general communications messages relating to flood risk on an informal basis with flood action groups and other community groups who have asked to be included. It is acknowledged that more work should be done to make the communications with the team as meaningful as possible and to work with new and forthcoming technological advances. A lead officer will be nominated within the team to develop and deliver initiatives. | Manager - Infrastructure | | Data and Communications Officer is progressing. |
| M12 | Collaborating with all Risk Management Authorities' communications teams and Newground Community Interest Company to explore opportunities to display flood resilience information where there is high foot fall in public spaces and buildings; via social media platforms. | Whilst the country manages the Coronavirus crisis, physical communication measures are considered to be unreliable and have a low priority. It is acknowledged that more work should be done with physical measures to complement the emerging digital communication channels identified in M11 above. A lead officer will be nominated within the team to develop and deliver initiatives. | Highways Service Manager - Infrastructure | Ongoing | In Progress Data and Communications Officer is progressing. |
| *** complete? RVC to check with Kevin Topping M13 | Reviewing accessibility of emergency respite centres and other activities taking account of children and pets. | The Head of Service Highways will raise this issue through the Lancashire Resilience Forum to enable the Rest Centre procedures to be reviewed and adapted where appropriate. | Head of Service Highways | To be completed during 2021/22. | In Progress Agenda item proposed for next meeting of the Lancashire Resilience Forum Community Resilience Group (March 2021). |

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| RAG Key | Halted/problems | Newly revised dates | Complete/going to plan |
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Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

| | Long term | | | | |
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| L1 | <p>Taking steps to integrate culvert locations including those identified under rights of way within the county council's Highways Asset Management System (HAMS). Should no solution be found, to then consider the implementation of an alternative web application/ software suitable for the task and capable of integrating with HAMS.</p> <p>Funding a temporary post to support the recording of culvert location data into HAMS.</p> | <p>Initial investigations have identified that a Geographical Information System (GIS) product is required as HAMS does not offer a sustainable solution to this need. The operational requirements a suitable GIS product are to be considered and a corporate solution developed.</p> | Head of Service Highways | Ongoing. To be completed during 2022/23. | <p>In Progress</p> <p>New ways of working with GIS are under review between officers and the corporate GIS team, and new systems are expected in 2022/23.</p> |
| L2 | <p>Collaborating with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and the National Farmers' Union (NFU) to encourage their members from Lancashire to report locations of any known (historic) culverts to assist the county council in developing its flood risk asset register. This could be carried out on a district-by-district basis.</p> | <p>The Head of Service Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions with these organisations, to establish a procedure for simple reporting mechanisms to capture new information on culverted watercourses. The same mechanism can then be used to capture and record information received from any source.</p> | Head of Service Highways | To be completed during 2022/23. | <p>In Progress</p> <p>Officers are developing the GIS specification to store and use this data.</p> |
| L3 | <p>Collaborating with United Utilities and district councils to find suitable and reliable mechanisms for enforcing current regulations on impermeable paving of front gardens.</p> | <p>The Head of Service Highways will facilitate the necessary discussions with the local planning authorities.</p> | Head of Service Highways | To be completed during 2022/23. | <p>In Progress</p> <p>Progress underway through work with the NW RFCC and United Utilities plc.</p> |

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| RAG Key | | Halted/problems | | Newly revised dates | | Complete/going to plan |
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Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| L4 | Exploring the possibility of establishing shared or pooled budgets for contribution by Risk Management Authorities on complex flood risk management projects as and when needed. | There is a mature understanding locally, regionally, and nationally that many benefits can be unlocked by sustainable flood risk management schemes including economic or job security, continuity of public services including education and transport, health and wellbeing, and habitat/conservation. All potential beneficiaries from a flood risk management scheme are engaged and bespoke funding structures are designed to share or pool the available funds and to maximise the achievable benefits. We commit to maintaining and developing this approach. | Head of Service Highways | Complete. | <p style="text-align: center;">Complete</p> <p>Driven through partnership funding requirements of the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (national funding programme from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).</p> |
| L5 | Exploring the possibility of a shared casework system to which all Risk Management Authorities could access and contribute to. | Each drainage authority has its own legal obligations and corporate commitments, with casework systems developed to deliver these and to provide performance data for the individual organisations. We share data relating to shared interests between the relevant Risk Management Authorities under a formal data-sharing protocol, which also protects personal data from being shared inappropriately. Shared caseworks requiring more attention are also considered in the operational partnership meetings. These arrangements | Head of Service Highways | Complete. | <p style="text-align: center;">Complete</p> <p>Captured through operational partnership 'issues and actions' logs.</p> |

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Appendix E: March 2022 Progress Report – Flood Risk Management and Preparedness

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| | | are continuously reviewed and adapted where all parties affected can agree the changes. | | | |
| L6 | Where appropriate encouraging relevant district councils to establish Internal Drainage Boards should the relevant bills in Parliament receive Royal Assent (Environment Bill and Rivers Authorities and Land Drainage Bill). | When new legislation is in force, the Head of Service Highways will work with all affected partners to progress Internal Drainage Boards or Surface Water Management Boards where these will work to reduce flood risk for homes, properties, and agricultural land. | Head of Service Highways | Complete. | <p align="center">Complete (Subject to developing Environment Agency project)</p> <p>Current relevant parties have been briefed, and relationships with Association of Drainage Authorities are established to support progress at the appropriate time.</p> |

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| RAG Key | | Halted/problems | | Newly revised dates | | Complete/going to plan |
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External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 1 March 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
N/A

External Scrutiny Work Programme 2021/22

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, 01772 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

Brief Summary

The draft work programme for the External Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The topics included in the work programme were identified at the joint work planning workshop for Internal and External Scrutiny held on 9 July 2021.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Discuss and agree the draft work programme for 2021/22.
- ii. Consider key lines of enquiry for future meeting topics.
- iii. Discuss any additional representation required from key officers, cabinet members and partners.

Detail

A draft statement of the work to be undertaken by the External Scrutiny Committee for the 2021/22 municipal year is set out at Appendix 'A'.

The work programme will be presented to each meeting for consideration by the committee.

Members are requested to discuss and agree the draft work programme, discuss any additional representation from key officers, cabinet members and partners and consider key lines of enquiry for future meeting topics.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

| Paper | Date | Contact/Tel |
|-------|------|-------------|
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22

The External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled or extraordinary committee meetings, task group, events, and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the committee following the work programming session at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees Terms of Reference detailed in the county council's Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of county councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the chair and deputy chair of all of the scrutiny committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the External Scrutiny Committee will:

1. Review and scrutinise issues, services or activities carried out by external organisations including public bodies, the voluntary and private sectors, partnerships and traded services which affect Lancashire or its inhabitants, and to make recommendations to the Full Council, Cabinet, cabinet members, cabinet committees, or external organisations as appropriate
2. Review and scrutinise the operation of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership in Lancashire in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 and make reports and recommendations to the responsible bodies as appropriate
3. In connection with 2. above, to require an officer or employee of any of the responsible bodies to attend before the committee to answer questions
4. Co-opt additional members in accordance with the Police and Justice Act 2006 if required, and to determine whether those co-opted members should be voting or non-voting
5. Review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the scrutiny committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda.

The dates are indicative of when the External Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however, they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.

| Topic | Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, evidence, initial outcomes) | Lead Officers/organisations | Proposed Date(s) |
|---|---|--|------------------|
| Community Safety Partnerships – Lancashire Strategic Assessment 2022-2025 | Review the key themes within the Strategic Assessment, as the main elements that will feature in the Community Safety Agreement | Debbie Thompson, LCC | 29 November 2021 |
| Supporting Lancashire Businesses during COVID-19 | Review of the funding made available from Government and to identify lessons learned to help inform recommendations for future joint working with District Councils | CC Aidy Riggott, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Growth, Andy Walker, LCC | |
| Universal Credit in Lancashire | Update from LCC Welfare Rights Service on the implications on county council frontline services and budgets. | LCC and DWP representatives | 11 January 2022 |
| Electricity North West | Response to Storm Arwen | ENW representatives | |
| Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness | Progress report on agreed actions arising from recommendations of scrutiny task and finish group review. | Rachel Crompton and Laura Makeating, Flood Risk Managers, LCC and CC Shaun Turner, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change | 1 March 2022 |
| Community Safety Agreement 2022-25 | Review the proposed agreement for 2022-2025 | Debbie Thompson, LCC | 12 April 2022 |

Topics to be scheduled at the request of the committee:

- Universal Credit in Lancashire – Welfare Rights Services
- Electricity North West – Storm Arwen review outcomes

Topics for potential inclusion on the programme:

- Transport for the North – infrastructure and routes
- Decarbonisation in Lancashire
- Road Safety Partnership (Community Safety Partnerships) - Review of strategy/policy and preparations for the new changes to the Highway Code
- Greater Lancashire Plan
- HS2

