

Executive Summary

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 ('the Regulations') and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 ('the Act') have been enacted by Government in response to the 2007 flooding and the recommendations of The Pitt Review. This gave unitary and county councils, as Lead Local Flood Authorities, new responsibilities for leading and co-ordinating the management of local flood risk; namely the flood risk arising from surface water, groundwater and smaller watercourses and ditches, known as ordinary watercourses. This includes a statutory duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for the management of local flood risk.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for Southend-on-Sea. This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) outlines our long term plan for managing local sources of flood risk across the Borough.

As part of the South Essex Flood Risk Area, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is required to contribute to the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plan for the Anglian River Basin District. The LFRMS has been developed to meet the requirements of the Act as well as the Regulations.

Recently, Southend-on-Sea has experienced multiple events of extensive flooding, causing widespread disruption across the Borough. In these instances, flooding has primarily resulted from intense rainfall coinciding with high tidal levels resulting in flooding from surface water, sewer and fluvial sources.

In December 2013 the Environment Agency published the national surface water flood mapping, the Flood Risk from Surface Water Map. Utilising this mapping, it has been identified that within the Southend-on-Sea:

- Up to 813 residential properties and 249 non-residential properties could be at high risk of surface water flooding (for a rainfall event with a 3.3% probability of occurring in any given year).
- Up to 2,152 residential properties and 571 non-residential properties could be at medium risk of surface water flooding (for a rainfall event with a 1% probability of occurrence in any given year).
- Up to 7,084 residential properties and 1,434 non-residential properties could be at low risk of surface water flooding (for a rainfall event with a 0.1% probability of occurrence in any given year).

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, with the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services Ltd. (Anglian Water) has formed a Local Flood Risk Management Partnership. The aim of this partnership is to work together to manage local sources of flooding.

The LFRMS outlines the priorities for local flood risk management and provides a delivery plan to manage the risk over the next six years. The LFRMS complements and supports the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy published by the Environment Agency which outlines a National framework for flood and coastal risk management. The Environment Agency has a strategic overview role of all flood and coastal erosion risk management.

The following objectives for the management of local flood risk have been developed:

1. Improve understanding of flood risk including likely effects of climate change.
2. Encourage future development to provide a betterment to flood risk.
3. Pursue flood risk management measures using a risk based approach that provide multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to the borough.
4. Raise awareness of flood risk and available management measures to communities, residents and businesses.
5. Use knowledge of flooding to inform the emergency response.
6. Continue to manage local flood risk and coastal flooding & erosion.

The LFRMS is accompanied by an Action Plan setting out how Southend-on-Sea Borough Council will deliver the objectives of the Strategy over the next six years and a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) assessing the impacts of the Strategy on the environment.

The LFRMS will be reviewed periodically to ensure that its content and emphasis remains relevant.

This draft LFRMS will undergo a period of public consultation, offering the opportunity for residents, business and stakeholders to provide feedback. Following the public consultation the draft LFRMS will be updated with appropriate comments, before being adopted and published.