

SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

ANNEXE B – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT



SURREY

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. Topic of assessment

EIA title:	Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
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EIA author:	Thomas Pooley, Flood Risk & Network Resilience Specialist
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2. Approval

	Name	Date approved
Approved by	E&I Department Equalities Group	17/02/17

3. Quality control

Version number	1	EIA completed	14/02/2017
Date saved	14/03/2017	EIA published	28/03/2017

4. EIA team

Name	Job title (if applicable)	Organisation	Role
Thomas Pooley	Flood Risk & Network Resilience Specialist	Surrey County Council	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy project lead

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5. Explaining the matter being assessed

<p>What policy, function or service is being introduced or reviewed?</p>	<p>Surrey County Council (SCC), as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has a statutory duty to ‘develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Strategy for flood risk management’ in its area.</p> <p>The nature and contents of the Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) are determined by provisions in the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (2011).</p> <p>The aim of the Strategy is to provide a coherent overview of flood risk management in Surrey. Its ambitions and objectives are noted below. The Strategy applies to SCC and other partners including the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The Strategy is by implication a strategic document, undertaken in partnership. It reflects EIAs in plans, strategies and other documents undertaken by partners, where available.</p> <p>The Strategy was first published in December 2014. However, since this time there have been a number of changes to Central Government legislation which have altered the way in which Local Authorities must approach flood risk management. Therefore there is a need for SCC to refresh its existing Strategy. This EIA looks at the proposals associated with the refreshed Strategy.</p> <p>The EIA highlights the anticipated equalities and diversity implications arising from the Strategy. Where applicable separate EIAs will be undertaken on specific schemes and activities in the action plan as and when actions are implemented.</p> <p>This EIA is an update of the assessment that was attached to the original Strategy in 2014.</p>
<p>What proposals are you assessing?</p>	<p>The main objectives of the Strategy are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our understanding of local and strategic flood risk will be improved through clear data management and sharing between risk management authorities to ensure partnership delivery of works to high risk areas. 2. Risk Management Authorities will reduce flood risk by delivering an effective maintenance regime for drainage assets and managing their estates across the County in an environmentally sustainable manner. 3. We will agree with partners who the Risk Management Authorities in Surrey are, jointly define their responsibilities and establish clear lines of communication with them to support the delivery of partnership-based flood alleviation projects.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Private owners will be made aware of their riparian responsibilities to maintain drainage assets and watercourses. We will support, promote and enforce these responsibilities. 5. The residents of Surrey will be supported to improve community resilience. Local people will be empowered to reduce the risk of flooding on both an individual and community level. 6. We will reduce the risk of flooding to and from new and existing development through local planning policy and processes. 7. We will reduce flood risk from local sources via a programme of capital works, which will be integrated with the activities of other Risk Management Authorities. 8. We will investigate significant flooding incidents in order to make recommendations that help to reduce flood risk. <p>This reflects the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). Our objectives have also been informed by consultation with risk management authorities.</p> <p>The EIA highlights the equalities and diversity implications arising from the Strategy. The Strategy is accompanied by an action plan, to include activities to be undertaken by partners. The action plan will be refreshed annually. Where applicable separate EIAs will be undertaken on specific activities in the action plan as and when actions are implemented.</p>
<p>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</p>	<p>A flood event does not distinguish between the types of person/property liable to flood. The Strategy seeks to raise awareness and address flood risk in the areas most prone to flood risk across Surrey.</p> <p>The main beneficiaries are likely to be the residents and businesses most prone to flood risk in Surrey. It will also benefit residents, businesses, social and emergency services who risk disruption caused by flood events.</p> <p>Certain groups with protected characteristics are likely to benefit from the objectives in the Strategy:</p> <p>Older people, disabled people and pregnant people: these less mobile groups might require additional consideration and assistance in the event of a flood event. Measures which address flood risk are likely to disproportionately benefit the less mobile.</p> <p>Young people: access to schools and other services for young people are often disrupted by flooding. Work to make communities</p>

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more resilient and giving flood schemes that benefit schools a heavier priority score will benefit young people.

Race: initiatives which seek to raise flood risk awareness and improve communication will consider the needs of different races.

Gypsies and Travellers: Gypsy and Traveller sites are known to exist in areas prone to flood risk. The needs of this community are considered in an ongoing basis via current community resilience work (objective 5 of the Strategy).

Deprived communities: Deprived communities are more likely to contain vulnerable people and residents less able to help themselves. Economically and socially disadvantaged people are less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing flood barriers.

The negative impacts of a flood including physical and psychological health impacts are often greater in deprived communities. The Government recognises that a flood event might have a disproportionate impact on people from lower income groups. The funding criteria for flood risk schemes - Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) - prioritise deprived communities.

Properties more prone to flood risk typically have higher insurance premiums and might have difficulty getting insurance. This impacts on low-income households more, with insurance costs taking up a larger proportion of smaller incomes. The Strategy seeks to promote the affordability and availability of insurance through objective 5 (community resilience).

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6. Sources of information

Engagement carried out

We carried out public consultation and developed an ongoing dialogue with partners and stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Strategy.

The Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board commissioned the Strategy. It is a partnership, which includes representatives from Surrey District and Borough Councils, the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, Thames Water and others.

We undertook consultation on the Strategy in two stages. The first stage was used to inform the drafting of the Strategy. This consisted of a workshop at the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board, where attendees helped to set the foundation and direction for the draft Strategy. Officers then considered this feedback and implemented it when confirming the Strategy's draft objectives. Once these were written, partner risk management authorities were then invited to comment on the proposals a second time, prior to public consultation.

The second stage consisted of a public consultation undertaken in accordance with SCC consultation best practice guidance. As the Strategy is a 'refreshed' document rather than an entirely new one, the consultation ran for six weeks and took the form of an online survey which was promoted through a variety of communication channels. Comments received during the consultation are reflected in the Strategy. A brief summary is contained below:

The most common themes/suggestions that emerged from the public consultation were:

- Greater access to flood map information
- Share more information on what Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) are doing to reduce flood risk and lessons learned
- Prioritisation of known problem areas for gully and drain cleaning
- Clarification around the roles of RMAs in Surrey
- Promotion of riparian responsibilities
- Supporting flood action groups across the County
- Controlling development on floodplains
- Encouraging the use of sustainable drainage
- Promotion of flood defence work to the communities affected
- Promotion and clarification of Section 19 reports and processes

For a more detailed analysis of the consultation, including an overview of how this feedback has been incorporated into the Strategy, please consult **Annexe G** of the main Strategy document.

Data used

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In accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) there is a suite of information available on community flood risks and helping vulnerable people in Surrey in a flood emergency. All local authorities are required to produce emergency plans to deal with civil contingencies. Some district and borough councils have specific flood plans.

Vulnerable people that are known to public services would be identified in an emergency incident. The Surrey Community Risk Register has been created to provide information about the hazards that exist within the county and the control measures in place to mitigate their impact. The Register has been published in response to the Civil Contingencies Act (2004). The hazards have been outlined in a generic format as this is the basis of response planning within the County, which follows nationally agreed best practice. The generic hazards have been assessed for the likelihood of the event happening and the potential impact. This is used to create a risk rating for the hazard. The likelihood and impact values are agreed through the multi-agency Risk Assessment Working Group on behalf of the Surrey Local Resilience Forum. As part of the hazard assessment process, a number of scenarios have been considered both in respect of the likelihood of them occurring and the economic, environmental, health and social impacts that would result if they happened.

A large amount of information exists on flood risk across Surrey in existing studies and strategies. Some of these include EIAs. Where relevant information has been reflected in the Strategy. Some key data sources include:

- Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- The Lower Thames Flood Risk Management Strategy (2009)
- Arun and Western Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- River Wey Flood Risk Management Draft Strategy (2010)
- River Mole Flood Risk Strategy Study (2006)
- River Hogsmill Integrated Urban Drainage Defra Pilot Study (2008)
- Caterham Bourne Study (2002)
- Chobham Flood Relief Study (2011)
- The Basingstoke Canal Authority Service Plan (2009)
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011)
- Epsom & Ewell Surface Water Management Plan (2011)
- Woking & Byfleet Surface Water Management Plan (2012)
- The Surrey wetspots flooding database, ongoing.
- There are also strategic flood risk assessments and multi-agency flood plans. These take account of how vulnerable groups would be assisted in the event of a flood.

EIAs will be undertaken on certain schemes and projects as and when detailed proposals come forward. This includes the River Thames Scheme.

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7a. Impact of the proposals on residents and service users with protected characteristics

The impacts of the Strategy itself are likely to be positive. All residents in flood risk prone areas, including the vulnerable, will benefit from improved knowledge about flood risk, efforts to involve communities in the process of identifying flood risk solutions and closer working between services and communities. The Strategy will help to ensure that those with protected characteristics are more fully considered as part of SCC's and its partners' approach to flood risk management.

It is important to note that the economically and socially disadvantaged are likely to benefit from the Strategy:

- The Strategy will ensure that the prioritisation of schemes considers areas of socio-economic deprivation. Government funding – Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) – makes allowance for deprivation in decision-making.
- By preventing and mitigating the harmful economic impacts of flooding, the Strategy will promote economic development.
- The level of flood risk awareness has been found to be lower among deprived socio-economic groups nationally. Economically and socially disadvantaged residents are less likely to be well prepared for flooding. The Strategy seeks to raise awareness of flood risk in all communities. It will reflect best practice such as direct awareness raising campaigns in the areas most prone to flood risk.
- Deprived communities are less likely to have the necessary social capital to prepare their own community flood risk plans. The Strategy will encourage community resilience in communities across Surrey including deprived communities.

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	<p>The impacts on older people are expected to be positive, because the Strategy will encourage more consideration of this group than is currently the case.</p> <p>The impacts on younger people are expected to be positive, because the Strategy will encourage more</p>	No negative impacts are expected.	<p>Addressing flood risk on the highway will ensure vulnerable residents continue to have access to key services on the event of a flood.</p> <p>Addressing flood risk on the highway will ensure younger people still have access to schools and other services in the event of a flood. Community resilience</p>

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	consideration of this group than is currently the case.		work will support local communities (including schools) to mitigate against the impacts of flooding. The Strategy notes that various publications will be provided. Where requested, all communication materials will be made available in formats accessible to elderly people.
Disability	The impacts on disabled people are expected to be positive, because the Strategy will encourage more consideration of this group.	No negative impacts are expected.	Addressing flood risk on the highway will ensure vulnerable residents continue to have access to key services on the event of a flood. The Strategy notes that various publications will be provided. Where requested, all communication materials will be made available in formats accessible to disabled people.
Gender reassignment	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/negative impacts.
Pregnancy and maternity	The impacts on pregnant people and those people with young children are expected to be positive, because the Strategy will encourage more consideration of this group.	No negative impacts are expected.	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no negative impacts.
Race	The impacts are expected to be positive because the Strategy will encourage proactive engagement and consultation.	No negative impacts are expected.	The Strategy emphasises the need to engage residents in flood risk management, particularly in areas most prone to flood risk. The Strategy will make it easier to access information on flood risk by publishing information in other formats and languages where requested.
Religion and belief	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

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Sex	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Sexual orientation	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Marriage and civil partnerships	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

7b. Impact of the proposals on staff with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Disability	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Gender reassignment	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Race	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Religion and belief	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Sex	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

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Sexual orientation	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Marriage and civil partnerships	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

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8. Amendments to the proposals

Change	Reason for change
None	<p>No negative impacts were identified.</p> <p>As this is an update of the EIA for the original Strategy, there are no major changes to the approach previously set out.</p>

9. Action plan

Potential impact (positive or negative)	Action needed to maximise positive impact or mitigate negative impact	By when	Owner
Communities are less able to help themselves because of economic and/ or social disadvantage.	Ongoing community resilience work includes engagement with economically/socially disadvantaged groups.	Ongoing	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities
Equality and diversity overlooked in the development of schemes and funding bids.	Data protection rules mean that we are unable to access information on people with protected characteristics when developing a scheme. However we will ensure that no potential group is negatively affected in the prioritisation of schemes/ funding bids.	Ongoing	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities
Communication material is not accessible to all.	All publications will be made available on request in languages and formats relevant to those with protected characteristics.	Ongoing	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities

10. Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated

Potential negative impact	Protected characteristic(s) that could be affected
No negative impacts which cannot be mitigated have been identified.	N/A

11. Summary of key impacts and actions

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Information and engagement underpinning equalities analysis	<p>We carried out consultation with both partner authorities and the public and developed an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Strategy.</p>
Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics	<p>The impacts of the Strategy itself are likely to be positive. All residents in flood risk prone areas, including the vulnerable, will benefit from improved knowledge about flood risk, efforts to involve communities in the process of identifying flood risk solutions and closer working between services and communities. The Strategy will help to ensure that those with protected characteristics are more fully considered during flood risk management.</p> <p>We will take action as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will actively seek funding to deliver flood alleviation schemes in Surrey. By preventing and mitigating the harmful economic impacts of flooding, the Strategy will promote economic development. • Surrey County Council will boost the score for wetspots where property flooding affects building that house vulnerable people, such as care homes, respite centres and shelters. • All publications will be made available on request in languages and formats relevant to those with protected characteristics. This will make communication material accessible to all. • We will continue to work with the National Flood Forum and Central Government to work with the insurance industry to guarantee the availability and affordability of flood insurance.
Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA	<p>None. No negative impacts were identified and as this is an update of the EIA for the original Strategy, there are no major changes to the approach previously set out.</p>
Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Surrey County Council Services to continue to work with the council's Emergency Management colleagues during flood events.
Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated	<p>None.</p>