

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

What is a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?

A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a document each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must produce and maintain to set out how it will manage “Local Flood Risk” within its area. This document must set out the objectives that the LLLFA wishes to achieve and what measures will be taken to achieve these objectives.

What is a Lead Local Flood Authority?

The Council were made a Lead Local Flood Authority following the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, giving the Council a number of responsibilities and duties regarding local flood risk which were separated from the national flood risk responsibilities which were kept by the Environment Agency. These duties include: Maintaining a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; Investigating incidents of flooding in the borough and becoming for the consenting authority for any works within an ordinary watercourse. As well as this, the Council gained enforcement powers to require landowners to maintain ordinary watercourses and remove unconsented works.

What is “Local Flood Risk”?

Local Flood Risk is defined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 as flood risk from:

- Surface runoff
- Groundwater
- Ordinary Watercourses

Why doesn't this include flooding from Main Rivers such as the River Thames?

Fluvial flood risk, or risk of flooding from Main Rivers such as the River Thames, is not an area of risk managed by Lead Local Flood Authorities. It is instead managed on a Regional and National scale by the Environment Agency.

While the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will not set out ways to manage the fluvial flood risk of the borough, we understand that flooding from the River Thames is significant and cannot be ignored. We work closely with the EA and will be consulting with them on this process to ensure a close partnership is maintained and fluvial flooding issues in the borough are managed effectively.

Why a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?

The current strategy was published by the Council in 2014. Since this point there has been a number of changes both locally and nationally which mean we feel means that stock should be taken and the Councils approach to managing local flood risk is looked at. Since publication of the 2014 strategy a new National Flood Risk Management Strategy was published by the EA and DEFRA in 2020. All Local Flood Risk Management Strategies must relate directly to the National Strategy. More locally we are also seeing different flooding challenges that need to be looked at as Climate Change continues to alter frequency of storms and intensity of rainfall. As such an update is required.

Pre-consultation Phase 2

The second phase of the pre-consultation work being undertaken will be to gather feedback on the current draft principles and objectives of the update for the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

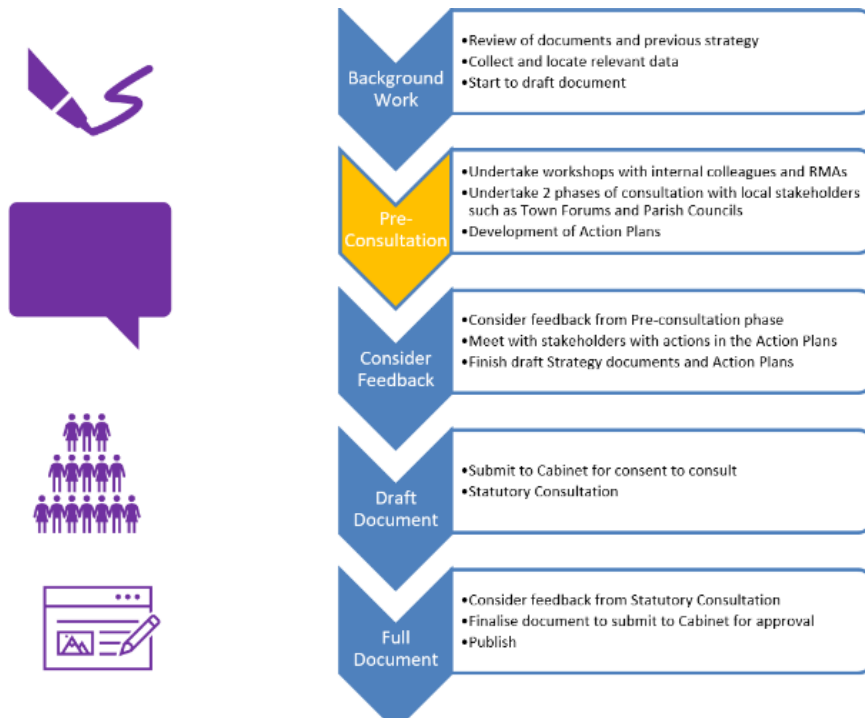
The strategy will be written around a number of principles and objectives which will detail the work that should happen in the Borough to manage local flood risk.

The principles will be the foundation of the strategy and will feed into each of the objectives and actions undertaken from the strategy. These principles have been determined through analysis of other documents such as the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and the Council's Corporate Plan.

The objectives of the strategy are the areas that the strategy will focus on to manage local flood risk in the borough. These objectives will then have Action Plans sat underneath them which will be the specific measures that will be undertaken over the course of the Strategy.

Feedback is being sought over the draft principles and objectives that have been worked up to date and seek ideas for the action plans that sit underneath them. In order give local stakeholders the chance to feed in their thoughts at as early a stage as possible.

The stages of development of the strategy can be seen below:



The current stage of development of the strategy will feed directly into the work needed to finish the draft strategy. Permission will then be sought from Cabinet to start the statutory consultation where residents, Risk Management Authorities and other interested parties can have another chance to have a say on the draft document.

If you have any further questions about the Council's plans to update the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, please contact us via flooding.enquiries@rbwm.gov.uk.