

## Annex H

### Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

### Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Directorate	Economy and Infrastructure
Lead Officer	Doug Coyle
Cabinet Member	Keith Little

#### What is the EIA about? (Executive Summary)

**This strategy was published under Cumbria County Council's administration as the single Lead Local Flood Authority in Cumbria prior to 1 April 2023.**

Following the disaggregation of the former County Council as part of the Local Government Reorganisation in April 2023, Westmorland and Furness Council and Cumberland Council became the new Lead Local Flood Authorities in Cumbria. The contents of this strategy contain elements relevant to both new Authorities.

**Annex H** Contains the Equality impact assessment

Whilst some of the content of this Annex remain relevant, transitional arrangements are in place as a new Cumbria Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership is developed. This Annex will be updated once new partnership arrangements have been finalised.

The 2022 Strategy is due to be updated in 2027, at which time the content relevant to Cumberland Council will be removed.

<p>What the EIA covers and why it has been written</p>	<p>The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) established County Councils as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), charging them with a key role in managing local flood risk. The County Council is required to publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) to set out how flood risks from surface water run-off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses will be managed in the county, who will deliver them and how they might be funded.</p> <p>The Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is a risk assessment that is carried out to ensure that the LFRMS are not disadvantaging any sections of the population or have a negative impact.</p> <p>The EIA has been produced to ensure that the management of local flood risk meets the needs of all communities across Cumbria.</p>
<p>What the Council should consider</p>	<p>It has been identified that the following groups are particularly vulnerable because they may have restricted ability to respond to a flood incident: –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• elderly</li> <li>• disabled</li> <li>• rural isolation</li> </ul> <p>The EIA is being prepared to examine the ability of the LFRMS to respond to the needs of these groups. A significant amount of information is available to support the Strategy in mitigating impacts.</p> <p>Three of the five Strategy Policy Objectives (reduction in and awareness of flood risk; improving community resilience) of the LFRMS contribute to wide ranging positive impacts to these groups.</p> <p>Information gathered to inform the production of this EIA is as follows: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft LFRMS Public Consultation</li> <li>• Consultation on flood alleviation scheme design</li> <li>• Strategic Flood Risk Assessments</li> <li>• Adopting (and emerging) Local Development Plan Documents of the Local Planning Authorities within the County</li> <li>• Cumbria Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>• Cumbria Surface Water Management Plan</li> <li>• Cumbria Multi-Agency Flood Plan</li> <li>• Council Plan 2018-2022</li> <li>• Flood Investigation Reports</li> </ul>

## Background

The LFRMS proposes actions where there is a defined or proven flood risk to vulnerable groups. The LFRMS prioritises funding bids for investment to reduce local flood risk available from the Environment Agency, Defra or other Partnership funding.

2

**All/general:** All issues that cut across a number of protected characteristics

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	Less flooding of property	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy
Awareness of local flood risk	Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy
Improve community resilience	Involving communities to contribute with knowledge and funding to the development of local flood schemes	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

## Age

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	Reduced risk will have the greatest positive impact on the young and elderly. The very young and the very old can be particularly vulnerable during a flood as they may be less able to evacuate quickly and safely. However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact on these groups.	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

**Race**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

**Sex**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

**Gender Reassignment**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

**Religion/belief**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

**Sexual Orientation**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

**Marital Status**

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

### Disability

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	Reduced health and safety risk associated with impacts from flood event and recovery. People with a disability can be especially vulnerable in a flood as they may be less able to evacuate. There is an emotional recovery flooding. People suffering from mental illness such as depression and anxiety are particularly vulnerable and those who have experiences flooding before. However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact.	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

### Maternity

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

### Socio-Economic Status

Issue Required	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Actions
Awareness of local flood risk	<p>More information and support available to those living in rural isolation. Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding. More information and support available to those living in urban deprivation by using Indices of Deprivation for prioritizing partnership funding for flood risk reduction projects. They provide a means of identifying the most and least deprived areas and compare whether one area is more deprived than another area.</p> <p>Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding. Some of the worst flood risk in Cumbria is in areas where much of the population is on a low income, and therefore work to mitigate flood risk will particularly benefit those communities. Those dwelling in caravans rather than bricks and mortar houses are more at risk in the event of a flood. Therefore, the gypsy and traveller communities are potentially at a greater risk. However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact on these groups.</p>	<p>Flood awareness and warnings are largely provided through online information via the Environment Agency and Met Office. Rural isolation/poor connectivity/lack of IT skills and knowledge could result in people not getting the information they need about the level of alert affecting their property. Low income households will be more vulnerable to slow recovery from a flood incident.</p> <p>It can be difficult or expensive to get satisfactory insurance cover in areas of highest flood risk. When these areas overlap with low income households, these risks are compounded.</p>	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

## **Actions Proposed to Address any Implications:**

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Area for further action	Actions proposed	Lead Officer	When	Resource implications	Outcome
All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy	Strategy Action Plan, Annex D			Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
Liaison with Flood and Community Action Groups	Develop with involvement from Area Support Teams and the Environment Agency. Improve engagement with those group identified within this EIA who are expected to experience both positive and negative impacts from implementation of the Strategy.	D Coyle	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
Increase in regular monitoring of socio-economic data		D Coyle	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
Closer working with Public Health, Members and Community Groups	Regular meetings with Public Health, Members and Area Community Teams. Direct communication with communities through the Cumbria Innovation Flood Resilience project (CIFR).	D Coyle	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
Raise awareness of the LLFA role through Area Committee	Regular meetings with Area Committees meetings.	D Coyle	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.



Flood Investigation Reports	Identify vulnerable groups/individuals in Flood Investigation Report collation.	D Coyle	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
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## Recommendation

It is recommended that all actions/measures identified in the actions above are implemented in accordance with our service delivery policies and procedures. Looking forward to the Local Government Reform in April 2023, the Strategy will be prepared in order to be used by both Unitary Authorities.

### Documents appended to the Equality Impact Assessment:

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Public Summary

### Quality Assurance and EIA Sign Off

<b>Date completed</b>	<b>10 August 2022</b>
<b>DMT Approved</b>	
<b>CMT Approved</b>	
<b>Cabinet Approved</b>	