

Keswick

Future Flood Risk Management

January 2018

Background

Following Storm Desmond, flood risk management authorities were commissioned by Government to reduce flood risk not only at community level, but to look for options to reduce flood risk across the County from Source to Sea. This means we have taken a new approach, working at a catchment scale to integrate land management, development and resilience from the tops of the fells down to the coast. In order for us to deliver flood risk benefits across the County in this way we are now part of an established partnership called Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership (CSFP).

What does Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership do?

The CSFP aims to lead, coordinate and monitor the management of flood risk across the County. This Partnership brings together Flood Risk Management Authorities including the Environment Agency, Cumbria County Council, District Councils, United Utilities and representation from other organisations including land managers and community groups who have an interest in, or responsibility for, flood risk management.

The CSFP is structured over two levels – the Board (strategic level) and Catchment Management Groups (operational/delivery level). The Board takes an overview of the whole Partnership, setting the direction and ensuring the three Catchment Management Groups deliver their objectives. The Board is currently chaired by Cumbria County Council, and the West Cumbria Catchment Management Group is chaired by the West Cumbria Rivers Trust.

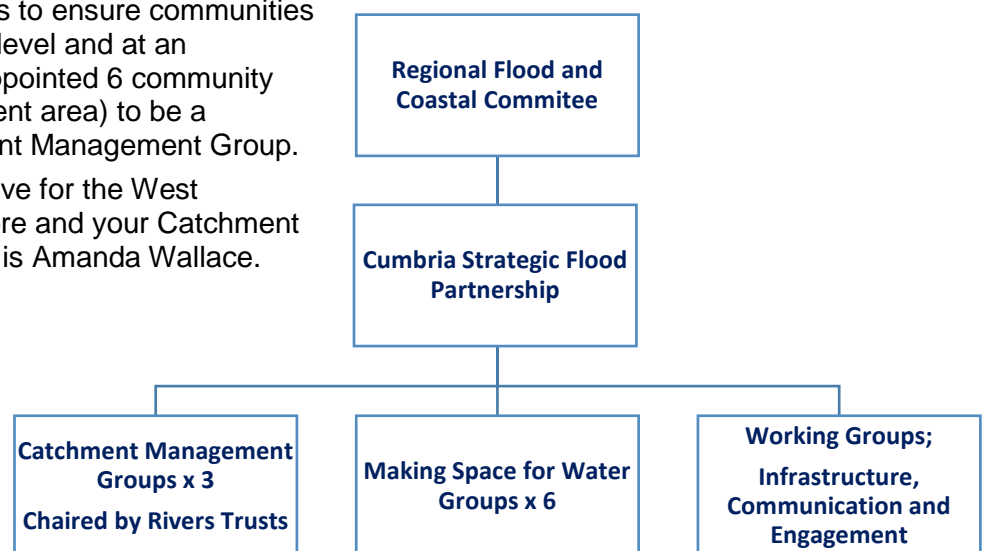
Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership Community representation

A key objective of this Partnership is to ensure communities are represented at both a strategic level and at an operational level. The CSFP has appointed 6 community representatives (2 for each catchment area) to be a member of the Board and Catchment Management Group.

Your community Board representative for the West Cumbria catchment is Sue Cashmore and your Catchment Management Group representative is Amanda Wallace.

If you have any queries on their role within the CSFP, you can send an email to the Environment Agency mailbox at CLfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will forward your email to the relevant representative.

For more information on the CSFP visit www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org or email CSFP@cumbria.gov.uk



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03708 506 506

incident hotline
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floodline
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Work undertaken in Keswick

Following the flood event in December 2015, the Environment Agency has:

- Delivered recovery works including repairs to the flood defences along the River Greta, including replacing the seals and glass panels on the defence on High Hill.
- Removed gravel on the River Greta at the Pencil Museum and adjacent to Penrith Road.
- Continued to monitor and remove gravel from upstream of Greta Bridge.
- Undertook tree debris clearing around the Low Briery area.
- Facilitated discussions between Keswick Flood Action Group and United Utilities with the core aim of reducing flood risk to communities downstream of Thirlmere.
- Undertaken appraisal work, which has incorporated community ideas and understanding of the town and catchment, to identify a long list of options which was published during the summer of 2017.
- Completed a review of the current defences. This is used to inform the ongoing appraisal process.
- Completed a river flows audit looking at changes in the river channel and identifying any new risks that may have emerged since the December 2015 floods
- Undertaken modelling work throughout the Derwent catchment, including Keswick. This new hydraulic model will improve our understanding of flood risk in the area.
- Added forecasts to Derwent catchment river gauges on the gov.uk website for community monitoring.

What next?

In the summer of 2017 we published the “long list” of options and since then we have been refining each option, measuring their viability against the following four tests;

1. Technical feasibility
2. Economic viability
3. Environmental sustainability
4. Community support

We have now refined the “short list” options for Keswick and using the four tests above our preliminary work is indicating that a viable scheme option(s) has not been identified. Keswick already benefits from flood defences and the costs of large scale improvements to the existing defences and/or large scale catchment options such as flood storage are not economically viable. We will be able to provide further information on this work at the ‘drop’ in session.

As a result, work on this project will not progress beyond short listing, the stop point being the completed modelling and final Strategic Outline Business Case report (SOC), which will be available in spring 2018. The SOC report will be used as the basis for any future work such as small improvements to the existing defences and we will review alternative options as and when new information becomes available or additional funding secured. This work forms part of an annual review process to try and obtain funding for all the identified flood risk problems in Cumbria. Ongoing work includes:

- Completion of the hydraulic model of the Derwent catchment is due in early 2018. This will improve our understanding, inform the current appraisal work, and support applications for public funding.
- Continue to work with other flood risk management authorities and partners to identify opportunities for joint working to reduce flood risk. One such example is our work with United Utilities in their work to change the management of Thirlmere Reservoir.
- Although no allocation of funding has been made by government we continue to seek and improve existing partnerships and explore additional funding opportunities.
- The short list of appraisal options is due to be published in early 2018.
- A review of gravel management and triggers will be based on the outputs of the revised model.

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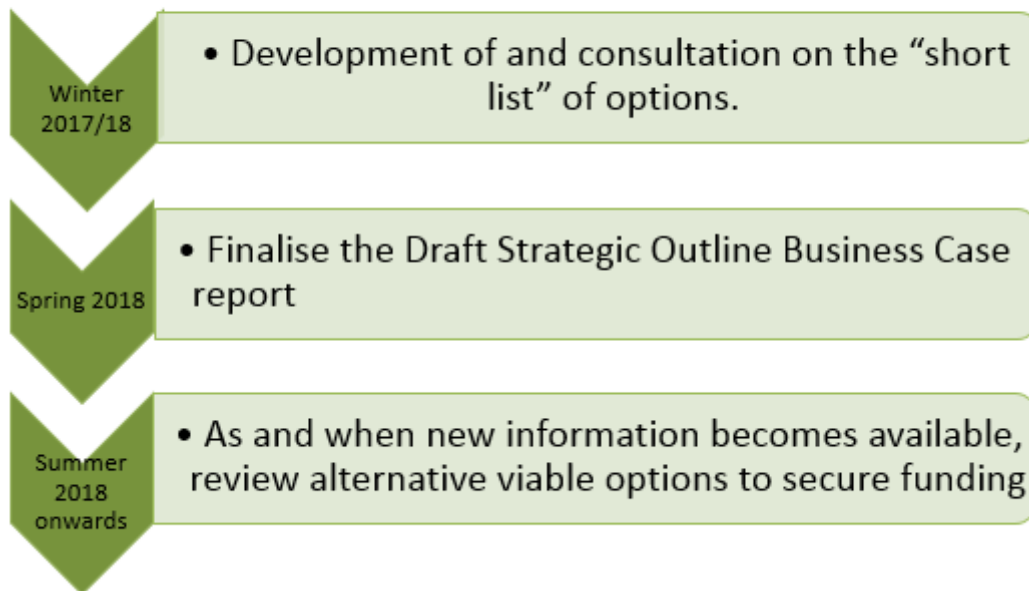
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- We will continue to support Natural Flood Management (NFM) research and development throughout the Derwent catchment.
- Riddings Wood (to replace Low Briery) and Portinscale gauging stations are to become operational in winter/spring 2018.
- Upgrades to the Portinscale rain gauge to improve the accuracy of high intensity rainfall data.
- We will continue to employ a catchment based approach through the Catchment Management Group and working groups.

Outline Delivery Programme



The Strategic Outline Business Case provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working on a scheme and complete the Final Business Case.

This process takes time. As we are spending Government's money in providing flood risk management we must follow their rules and procedures. For further information on the funding process and the rules we must follow, read the "guide on how the Environment Agency fund and deliver flood risk management schemes" under the 'Funding' section of the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership website <http://www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org>

We are currently organising a community drop-in which will take place in Keswick on the 13th of March 2018 at the Skiddaw Hotel. Drop in between 2pm and 7pm. We will formally share the "short list" of options with you and will have plans showing where each option could be located. We will provide an update on the next steps.

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Keswick Flood Action Group

The Keswick Flood Action Group distributed a newsletter in November to residents in Keswick, with a Flood Re leaflet and an update on the Keswick emergency plan. If you would like further information, or an electronic copy of this newsletter, please get in touch with Lynne Jones at info@hazelmerekeswick.co.uk

Keswick Community Emergency Recovery Partnership have a group of volunteers available to help in the event of a flooding emergency. If you would like to register for assistance in an emergency or you would like to volunteer to help others - contact them on keswickfloodrecovery@gmail.com or 017687 80826

If you would like to speak to your local flood action group or emergency group about this work or any other local issue, you can contact them using the details above, or by emailing the clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk mailbox and we will forward your queries to the relevant party.

Contacting the Environment Agency

If you would like to contact the Environment Agency about future flood risk management you can email CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk. If your query relates to community or personal resilience please contact clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Be flood ready

We will never be able to guarantee a completely flood-free future, and so we encourage anyone living or working in a flood risk area to be aware and to be prepared. We can support you by signing you up to receive free **flood warnings**, helping you to produce a **personal flood plan**, offering **property resistance and resilience** information and supporting the ongoing work of the **community flood action group and emergency response group**.

It is important that you are prepared for flooding and we encourage you to take 4 simple steps:-

1. Sign up to receive free flood warnings

Over **34% of properties** at risk within Keswick have not yet registered to receive flood warnings. The Flood Warning Service is a free system which is used to warn you of imminent flooding to land and property.

2. Know what to do when a flood warning is issued. Have a personal flood plan for you and your family.

3. Keep an eye on the situation. You can monitor the river levels online at <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/river-and-sea-levels> and search for your nearest river gauging station.

4. Keep up to date with early warnings of heavy rain which could lead to flooding by registering for Cumbria Community Messaging. This is a free e-mail service and is complementary to our Flood Warning Service. To register visit www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

For information on the above, visit
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>
or ring Floodline on 0345 988 1188



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