

Wigton

Future Flood Risk Management

May 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.

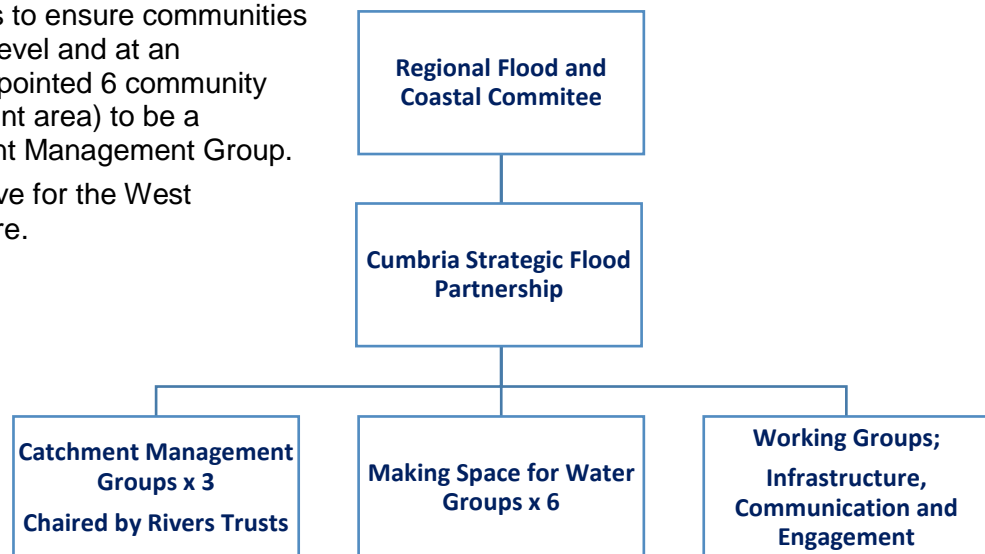
The CSFP is structured over two levels – the Board (strategic level) and Catchment Management Groups (operational/delivery level). The Board takes an overview of the whole Partnership, setting the direction and ensuring the three Catchment Management Groups deliver their objectives. The Board is currently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

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

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

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Work undertaken in Wigton

Following the flooding in December 2015, the Environment Agency has:

- Delivered recovery works including embankment and channel repair on the Wiza Beck storage basin.
- Undertaken appraisal work, which has incorporated community ideas to improve understanding of the catchment. This was used to identify a long list of options which was published during the summer of 2017.
- Continue to employ a catchment based approach through the Catchment Management Group and working groups.
- Engaged with communities to help explain the government rules on which funding for schemes relies upon.

What next?

In the summer of 2017, we published the “long list” of options for future flood risk management. 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

Using a new river model, we have a refined “short list” of options for Wigton and will share these with the local community in June. These options currently represent a sufficiently good return on government investment to allow the scheme business case to progress. We will continue to develop and refine the short list options required for the full business case, which will be used to secure the most viable flood risk management scheme using the four tests above.

A combination of four options is currently being considered. These include options such as re-establishing channel capacity, upstream storage, construction of flood walls, and natural flood management techniques. Wigton has an indicative allocation of public funding for some of these options.

We continue to seek and improve partnerships and explore additional funding opportunities to improve the standard of protection offered to the community.

The Environment Agency is supporting natural flood management (NFM) research and development throughout the catchment. We continue to employ a catchment based approach through the Catchment Management Group and working groups.

In addition, we run an annual maintenance programme which we have recently published for this year. If you would like to see what maintenance activities are taking place within or around your community you can access this on our interactive map here <https://environment.data.gov.uk/asset-management/>

Community Drop-in

We are holding a community drop-in which will take place in the Cumberland Room, Market Hall, Wigton on Tuesday 19th June 2018. Drop-in at any time between 3pm and 7pm. We will be formally sharing the “short list” options and next steps for flood risk management for Wigton.

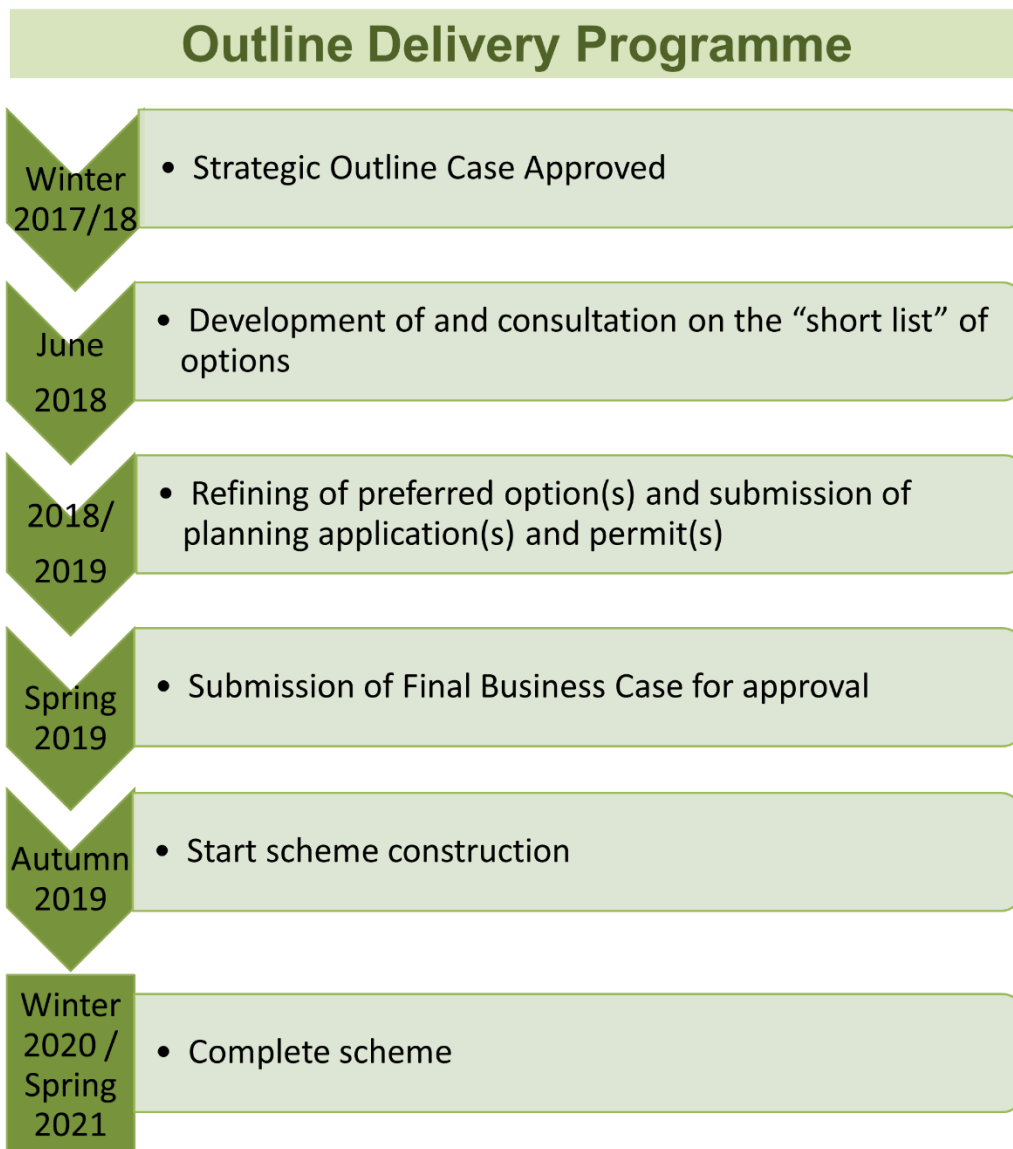
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The Strategic Outline Business Case provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working on a scheme and complete the Final Business Case.

The Final Business Case provides all the detailed technical, economic and environmental information to justify a compelling case to invest the money to build a scheme.

The appraisal 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, please 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>

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Wigton Flood Action Group

Residents within your town have produced a community plan to ensure the local response is coordinated and comprehensive in an emergency situation. If you would like to speak to your local flood action group about this work or another local issue, you can contact them by emailing the clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk mailbox and we will forward your queries to the flood action group.

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 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**.

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 **91% of properties** within Wigton 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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