



# Business Plan

2019 – 2022

*Working together to manage the risks from flooding  
and coastal change*

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## **Version 1 – June 2019**

*A light touch review of this Business Plan will be undertaken in 2020 to take account of the new National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.*

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### **Website:** [The Flood Hub](#)

*This website is an online resource which has been funded by the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee as a one stop shop for flood advice and information across the North West. It includes more detail about the Partnership as well as tools to support local flood resilience and information to support planning for flood appropriate development.*

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# FOREWORD

BY COUNCILLOR PATRICK MCKINLEY, PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

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## A WARM WELCOME TO THE MERSEYSIDE FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT (FCERM) PARTNERSHIP

As partners and together as a Partnership we play an important role in helping to better protect our communities from flooding and coastal erosion and, ultimately, are responsible for delivering our Business Plan.

Our partnership is a collective grouping of the main authorities who manage flood and coastal erosion risks in Merseyside. We come together to take an overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management across Merseyside, to identify priorities and steer the use of our resources, to vote on changes to the Local Levy, and to support investment which is good value for money and benefits our communities.

We also work closely with the Mersey Rivers Trust in supporting the delivery of catchment scale environmental benefits and, increasingly, we're working with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to understand how we can work together to deliver flood and coastal improvements to strategic agendas.

This Business Plan focus our attention on our immediate priorities and identifies specific actions that we need to take to support enabling flood prepared communities that are increasingly resilient to the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in the immediate future.



COUNCILLOR PATRICK MCKINLEY

*Chair of Merseyside Strategic FCERM Partnership*

# CONTENTS

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1. Who We Are & What We Do.....	1
2. This Document in Context.....	6
3. Risks, Challenges & Opportunities.....	7
4. Aim & Priorities.....	15
5. Action Plan & Monitoring Our Delivery.....	24
Appendix A: Action Plan 2019 – 2022.....	25

# 1. WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

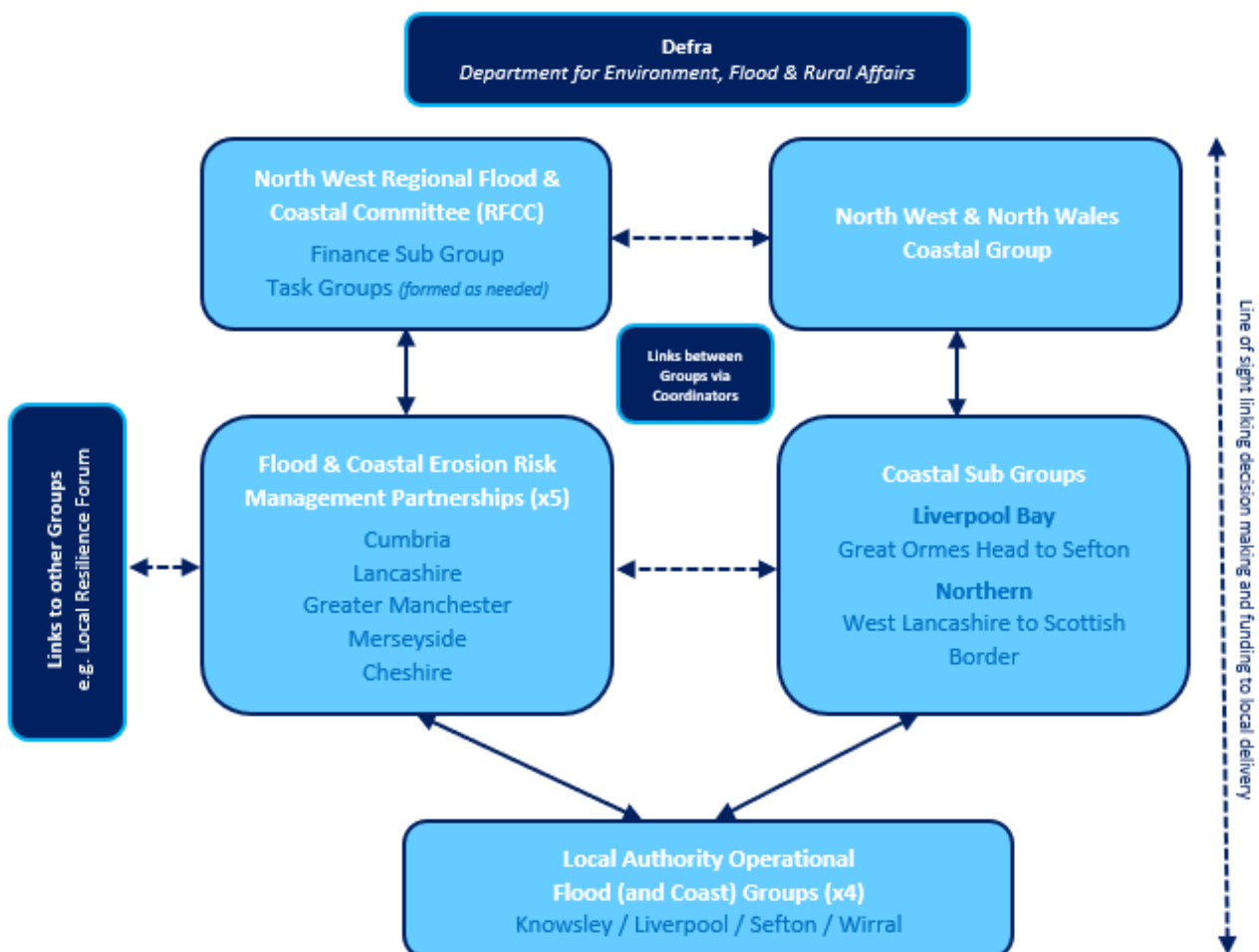
## WHERE DO WE 'FIT IN'?

### WITHIN THE NORTH WEST – “THE BIGGER PICTURE”

The [Merseyside Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management \(FCERM\) Partnership](#) is one five sub-regional FCERM Partnerships in the North West, alongside the Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Mid-Mersey FCERM Partnerships. The North West and North Wales Coastal Group which, although it operates under slightly different legislation and governance rules, effectively forms a sixth Partnership Group.

These sub-regional partnerships were created by the [North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee](#) (RFCC) to support the local governance of flood and water management and of coastal processes.

The North West RFCC is one of [twelve RFCCs in England](#) which govern flood and coastal erosion risk management. RFCCs were established under the [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) to bring together the authorities responsible for managing flood and coastal erosion risks. The North West RFCC has its own Business Plan which provides more information about the Committee and its work. You can download this from [The Flood Hub](#).



**Figure 1:** Structure of flood and coastal governance in the North West

Two Councillors represent our Partnership at the North West RFCC and their role is to ensure Merseyside’s voice is heard so that our needs can be balanced alongside those of the other sub-regional partnerships, as well as in the context of national investment requirements. They also ensure that Merseyside influences the regional priorities of the Committee and its investment of Local Levy. Specifically, the role of our Councillors at the RFCC involves:

- Reporting on our delivery of statutory flood and water management duties in Merseyside
- Provide scrutiny, support and consent to schemes within the FCERM Investment Programme
- Provide local democratic input
- Participate in voting for changes to Local Levy raised by the Committee
- Identify and share good practice of local flood and coastal erosion risk management

Councillors are supported at the Committee by the Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator, whose role it is to facilitate the governance of flood and coastal erosion risk management within Merseyside, across other sub-regional partnerships and up to the North West RFCC.

## WITHIN MERSEYSIDE – “AT A SUB-REGIONAL LEVEL”

The Merseyside FCERM Partnership is a collective of ‘risk management authorities’ who, together with the Mersey Rivers Trust and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, share a commitment to manage and reduce flood and coastal erosion risks in our area.

‘Risk management authorities’ are those with responsibilities for managing flood and coastal erosion risks under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These are the Environment Agency with a strategic overview, our Councils who lead on local flood risk management and on managing flood risks on our adopted highways, and United Utilities and Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water (for a small section of Wirral) as the water and sewerage companies.

Wirral Council and Sefton Council are also Coast Protection Authorities (CPAs) who, under the Coast Protection Act 1949, have the power to carry out any necessary or expedient coast protection work for the protection of any land in its area from erosion or encroachment by the sea.



The Partnership takes an overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management across Merseyside to identify priorities and steer the use of our resources, to vote on changes to the Local Levy, and to support investment which is good value for money and benefits our communities.

We also work closely with the Mersey Rivers Trust in supporting the delivery of catchment scale water and other environmental benefits and, increasingly, we're working with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to understand how we can work together to deliver flood and coastal improvements to strategic agendas.

**Table 1:** Role and responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities

Environment Agency	Lead Local Flood Authority (the Council)	Highway Authority (the Council)	United Utilities / Welsh Water
<p>Strategic overview of flood and coastal erosion risk management in England</p> <p>Responsible for managing flood risk from rivers and the sea</p> <p>Statutory consultee for planning applications in Flood Zones 2 and 3</p> <p>Permitting authority for works to Main Rivers</p> <p>Powers to undertake works on main rivers</p> <p>Emergency responder to flooding from rivers and the sea</p>	<p>Lead the partnership coordination and cooperation in relation to local flood risk management</p> <p>Responsible for managing 'local' flood risk; flooding from surface water, groundwater and from ordinary watercourses</p> <p>Prepare and maintain a strategy for local flood risk management in their area</p> <p>Statutory consultee on major development with surface water implications</p> <p>Consenting and enforcement authority for works to ordinary watercourses</p> <p>Maintain a register of flood risk assets</p> <p>Duty to investigate flooding incidents</p> <p>Powers to designate structure and features that affect flooding or coastal erosion</p> <p>NOT an emergency responder</p>	<p>Responsible for managing flood risk to and from the adopted highway</p> <p>Emergency responder to flooding on the adopted highway, and plays a lead in emergency planning and recovery</p>	<p>Responsible for managing flood risk from their adopted sewer network</p> <p>NOT a statutory consultee on planning applications</p> <p>Emergency responder to flooding from their sewer network</p>

The Partnership operates at two levels:



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP & AS A PARTNERSHIP

Both as a Partnership and as flood risk management authorities, we actively take a partnership working approach, aiming to collectively do our best for our communities across Merseyside. To support this, we have agreed key principles that guide how we work together both as partners and as a Partnership.

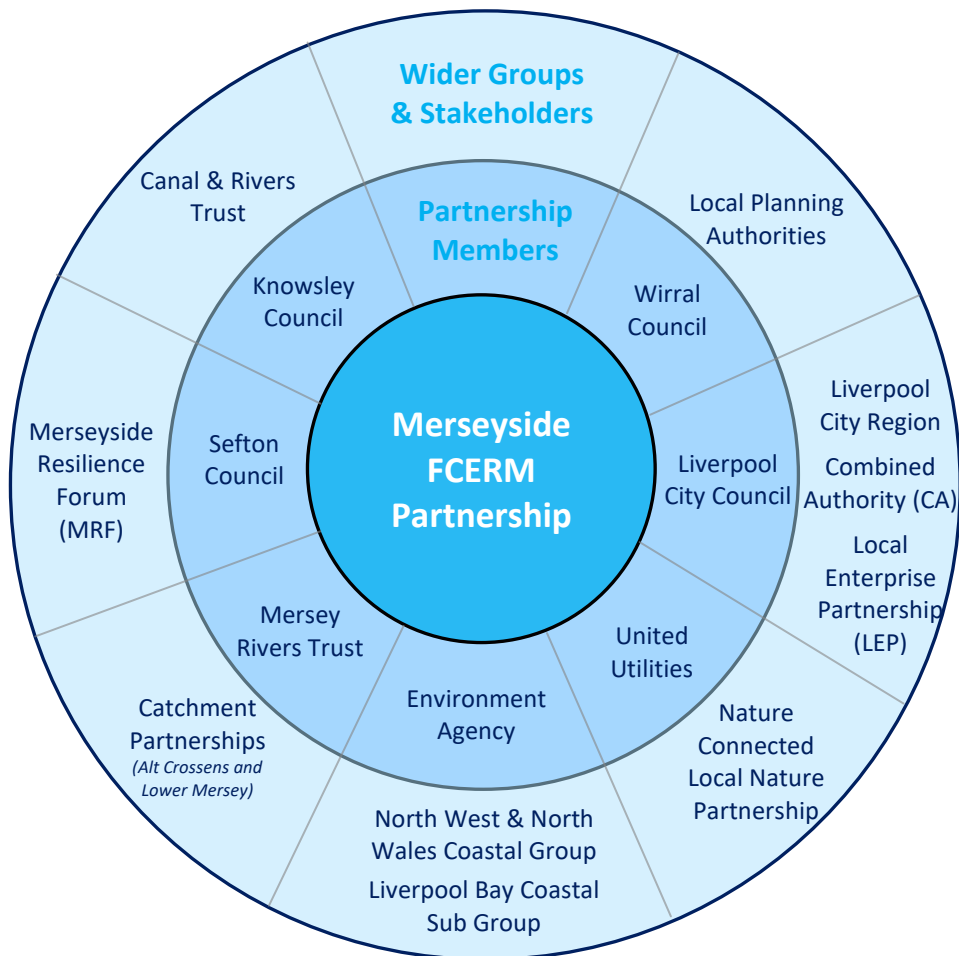




There is an increasing appreciation for the interconnectedness and multiple benefits that measures to manage flood and coastal risk management can bring to the wider environment, development, and community resilience.

This diagram shows the core partners which make up our Partnership and a wider group of partners and other partnerships with who we work with to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

We also welcome and support new partners in integrating flood and coastal erosion risk management with their agendas as a means to helping them and us achieve our goals, together delivering more benefits, more efficiently and effectively for our communities.



# 2. THIS DOCUMENT IN CONTEXT

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF OUR BUSINESS PLAN?

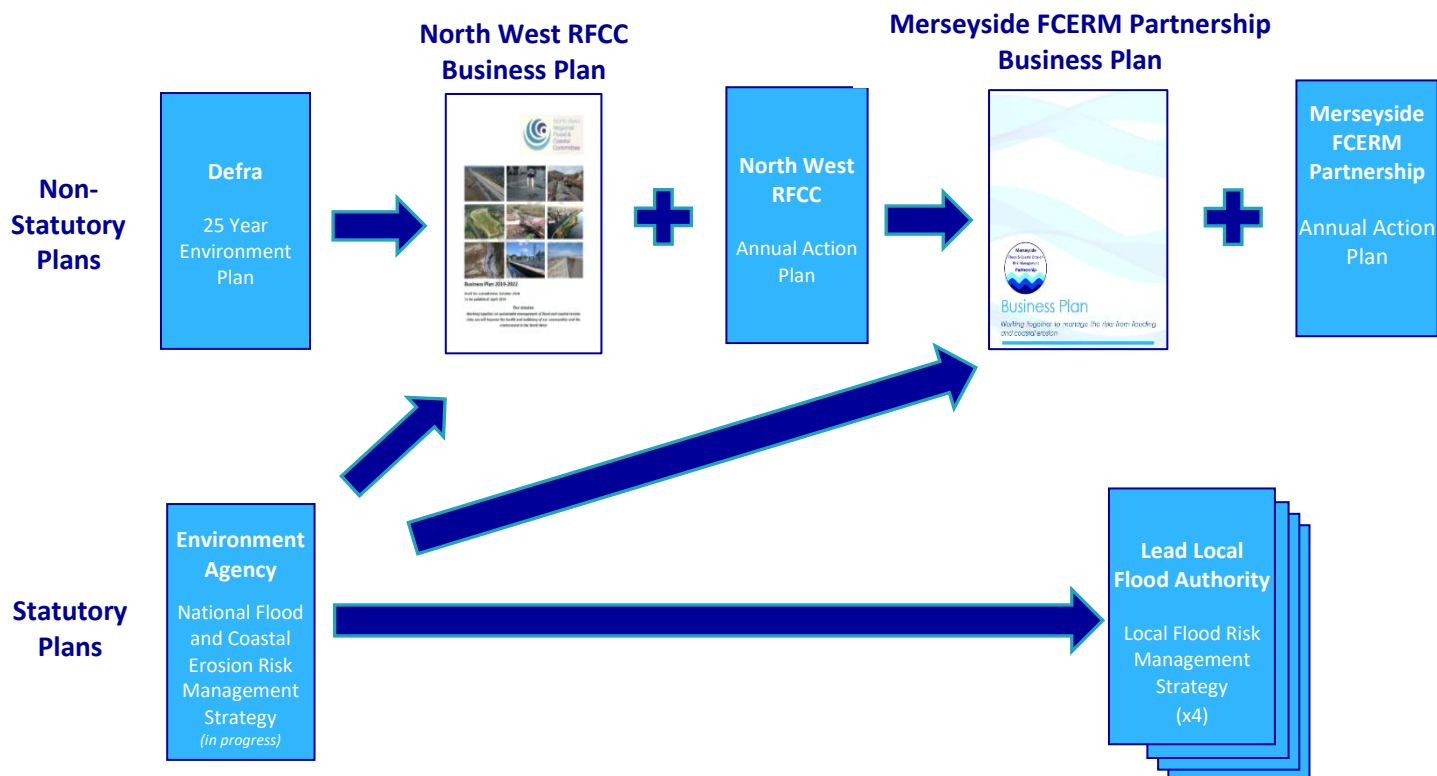
The purpose of this Business Plan is to set out the key risks and challenges facing Merseyside in relation to flooding and coastal change, and consequently, the priorities the Partnership intends to focus on and address through action in the short term – the next three years. Through the Business Plan we will:

- Prioritise our resources in a way that responds to local risks, challenges and needs
- Maximise opportunities to attract investment and involvement from wider stakeholders
- Increase awareness of flood and coastal erosion risks
- Work together to deliver multiple benefits to maximise outcomes wherever possible

The long term goals and ambitions for resilience to flooding and coastal change in our changing climate will be provided by the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England, currently being developed, and Lead Local Flood Authority’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategies. Both are reviewed on a 6-yearly cycle.

The priorities and actions in this Business Plan also align with the developing direction for the environment as a whole, set out in the Government’s 25 Year Environment Plan, and with the direction of the North West RFCC’s Business Plan so we have a line of sight from how our local needs and priorities fit with those at a national and regional level.

Future reviews of the Business Plan may reflect the structure and themes within the new National FCERM Strategy more closely and our priorities will evolve accordingly.



# 3. RISKS, CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

## WHAT DO WE HAVE TO MANAGE AND OVERCOME?

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Our Partnership faces several key risks, including:

- Increasing flood and coastal erosion risks as a result of climate change
- Predominant surface water flood risk
- Ageing drainage infrastructure
- Rising groundwater levels
- Management of our coastline into the future

The risks we face are made more complex by a number of challenges, principally:

- Social deprivation in highly populated urban areas which can lead to lower uptake of flood insurance in at risk areas
- Long term sustainability of the Alt Crossens pumped river catchment
- Engaging effectively with diverse communities and the wider public to raise awareness of and resilience to flood and coastal risks
- Poor water quality of our watercourses
- Limited resources, particularly staffing levels in Local Authorities

There are also opportunities which we are keen to explore and maximise, including:

- A new regional governance in the form of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- The delivery of multiple benefits from flood and coastal schemes

## INCREASING FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISKS AS A RESULT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Our understanding of the likely impacts of climate change on river flows, rainfall and coastal change has developed with technological advances in climate scenario modelling. The [UK Climate Projections 2018 \(UKCP18\)](#) were released in November 2018 and illustrate a range of future climate scenarios until 2100. In relation to managing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion:

- Sea levels are projected to rise over the 21st century and beyond under all emission scenarios, meaning we can expect to see an increase in both the frequency and magnitude of extreme water levels around the UK coastline.
- Average summer rainfall could decrease by up to 47% by 2070, while there could be up to 35% more precipitation in winter. What rainfall does occur will be more intense over a shorter duration, which could lead to an increase in surface water flood risk.

UKCP18 can be used as a tool to guide decision-making and boost resilience – whether that's through increasing flood defences, designing new infrastructure or adjusting ways of farming and land management for drier summers. It will also help us at a local level to feed into future development plans to ensure they take account of and are resilient to flood and coastal erosion risks.

Merseyside Local Authorities and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority have declared a [climate emergency](#) committing to taking action to reduce carbon emissions, raise awareness about climate change and mobilise change through local action. Find out more [here](#).

## PREDOMINANT SURFACE WATER FLOOD RISK

Surface water flooding from short, intense storms can occur in urban areas and along our highways when drains are overloaded by the sheer amount of rainfall and/or runoff.

Sefton has the highest number of properties at high risk of surface water flooding both in Merseyside and in the North West, largely as a result of its urban areas generating surface water flows, flat topography meaning the water isn't easily moved away and the presence of sea defences.

The figures in Table 2 are 'with defences'. Those for rivers and the sea would be much higher were it not for these defences, especially in Wirral and Sefton. This underlines the importance of maintaining flood and coastal assets and periodically upgrading them.



**Figure 2:** Surface water flooding in Childwall, Liverpool

**Table 2:** Flood Risks in Merseyside

Local Authority Area	Total Properties	Total Properties at Flood Risk	Properties at Surface Water Flood Risk			Properties at River and Sea Flood Risk		
			Low 0.1% chance	Medium 1% chance	High 3.33% chance	Low 0.1% chance	Medium 1% chance	High 3.33% chance
<b>Knowsley</b>	67,120	8,096	5,915	1,196	306	96	453	130
<b>Liverpool*</b>	223,004	28,856	22,805	3,556	846	1,364	65	220
<b>Sefton*</b>	129,669	81,321	43,860	21,790	12,465	3,076	89	41
<b>Wirral</b>	152,064	18,619	13,550	2,898	987	853	322	9
<b>Merseyside Total</b>	<b>573,782</b>	<b>136,892</b>	<b>86,130</b>	<b>29,440</b>	<b>14,604</b>	<b>5,389</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>400</b>

**Data Sources:**

Surface Water: North West Surface Water Property Count Dataset based on National Receptor Database 2011 [July 2019]

Rivers and Sea: North West Flood Risk Management Plan [2015]

**Note:**

- 'Properties' includes both residential and non-residential property.
- \* Liverpool City Council and Sefton Council have benefited from additional local modelling of surface water flood risk, with support from United Utilities and the Environment Agency. Outputs from that work are not shown in Table 2.

## AGEING DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE

Merseyside has a large network of ageing culverts, sewers and drains, many dating from the 1800s when the city of Liverpool was expanding during the Industrial Revolution.

This ageing infrastructure, along with pressures from development and a tendency for increased paving such as driveways, poses particular problems to the drainage network. As a result, some areas have experienced flooding from sewers which occurs when their capacity is overcome by the amount of water trying to enter the network.



**Figure 3:** Knowsley Brook Culvert

Within Liverpool in particular, many watercourses are modified with straightened and walled channels, and there are many culverts; watercourses which have been re-directed through pipes and tunnels. At the lower reaches of our river catchments, river levels tend to rise slowly during heavy rain.

## RISING GROUNDWATER LEVELS AND PUMPED RIVER CATCHMENTS

Merseyside is situated on an aquifer, which for 150 years or so was heavily exploited. The water table was drawn considerably below its natural level. Upon near cessation of pumping, the aquifer has undergone recharge, which has resulted in rising groundwater levels in some areas.

This is causing greater seepage into property basements at Formby in particular, and increasing rates of pumping are needed to keep the transport tunnels under the River Mersey dry.

## MANAGING OUR COASTLINE INTO THE FUTURE

Tidal flooding and coastal erosion can affect places along the Mersey and Dee estuaries and all frontages within Liverpool Bay. More detail on these risks can be found in the [Shoreline Management Plan](#), [Sefton Coast Plan](#) and the [Wirral Coastal Strategy](#).



**Figure 4:** Coastal flooding at New Brighton, Wirral

The [Shoreline Management Plan](#) makes recommendations as to whether maintenance of coastal defences should continue as they are at present ('hold the line'), whether maintenance (if any) should cease ('no active intervention') or whether defences, perhaps in years to come, might be set back further ('managed realignment'). Walls and embankments are often designed to protect against both flooding (flood defence/sea defence) and erosion (coast protection).

Monitoring of the Merseyside coast is covered by the North West Regional Monitoring Programme which allows Coast Protection Authorities to gain an understanding of coastal processes and inform proactive management of the risks faced.

Here is a short summary of some coastal issues in the Merseyside area:

<b>Knowsley</b>	Has no coast; some watercourses are tidally affected.
<b>Liverpool</b>	Ground levels along the coastal frontage and docks in Liverpool City Council's area, and in Sefton just to the North, are high enough to avoid flooding of properties and this is similar in the Mersey estuary. There are occasions when high tides and storms cause spray overtopping onto areas such as Liverpool's Pierhead, but there is no real history of coastal flooding to properties in Liverpool in recent decades.
<b>Sefton</b>	<p><b>Southport</b> - Some water is expected to come over the sea wall fronting Southport's coast road in large storms, such as in 2013, but properties behind this have floor levels which are high enough to minimise their risk of flooding. The beach on the seaward side of the defence level is accreting – it's level is rising due to sediment movements and vegetation and these natural processes are helping to better protect against flooding and erosion.</p> <p><b>Formby Point</b> – The Point and its system of sand dunes is eroding. A caravan site now regularly gets inundated with wind-blown sand, a car park is much smaller than a few years ago and there are plans to relocate one hole of a golf course further inland. Properties are not threatened by this erosion, at least not for many years to come.</p> <p><b>Crosby</b> – The Council are developing a major scheme to counter coastal erosion along this frontage, protect an important United Utilities main sewer which runs close to the shoreline, reduce surface water flood risk and provide wider environmental benefits.</p>
<b>Wirral</b>	<p><b>West Kirby</b> – Wirral Council are constructing major works starting in 2019/20 to improve the standard of flood protection to properties behind the Marine Lake which are at risk when high tides coincide with major storms.</p> <p><b>Meols</b> – 91 properties are at risk of coastal erosion. The properties are currently protected by a Victorian seawall which, although receiving ongoing maintenance, has a residual life of less than 20 years. The wall suffered damage during the December 2013 storms with reconstruction to 25 metres of the seawall coping and promenade required.</p> <p><b>Wallasey Embankment</b> – This large embankment protects against coastal erosion and also protects 1000s of properties between Leasowe and Hoylake from flooding. Wirral Council are placing rock in 2019/20 to better protect the embankment's toe from erosion.</p>

It should also be noted that, if the coastline is managed as currently proposed, no properties are expected to be lost to the sea due to coastal erosion in Merseyside. This approach takes into account predicted sea level rise due to climate change up to the year 2100.

Coastal erosion does however pose a risk to the sustainability of current defences and infrastructure, as well as loss of important habitats (e.g. dune system at Formby point).



## SOCIAL DEPRIVATION IN URBAN AREAS

Statistics on deprivation in England are produced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and are published in its release [English Indices of Deprivation 2015](#). Social deprivation in Merseyside's urban areas is high. At local authority level, Liverpool and Knowsley are ranked in the 10 most deprived areas in the country. Of Liverpool City Region's 989 neighbourhoods, over 30% are within the most deprived 10% nationally.

The overall assessment of deprivation across the Liverpool City Region\* is influenced by concentrated pockets of high relative deprivation within areas throughout the Liverpool City Region. The Liverpool City Region has 16 areas in the most 100 deprived across all of England; 8 of which are in Liverpool, 4 are in Wirral, and 2 each are in Knowsley and in St Helens.

The Liverpool City Region was ranked as the most deprived out of England's 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) based on the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 based on the income, employment, and health and disability domains of the Indices of Deprivation 2015.

According to an [Environment Agency study](#) there is typically a correlation between deprived areas and those areas at flood and coastal erosion risk. Deprived communities may also be less able to support themselves in becoming flood resilient or flood prepared. For example, the financially deprived are less likely to have flood insurance despite being in an area at risk.

*\*Note: Halton and St Helens Councils sit within the Cheshire Mid-Mersey FCERM Partnership; this is because FCERM Partnerships are set up according to river catchments to manage water on a catchment scale.*

## LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF PUMPED RIVER CATCHMENTS

The main river network of the Alt Crossens Catchment has historically been maintained and drained by a network of pumping stations to prevent flooding. Whilst pump operation is currently funded by the Environment Agency, they are under no duty to continue to maintain the pumps and the regime is no longer economically affordable and will cease in the future.

The Environment Agency will continue to operate its very large pumping stations at Altmouth and Crossens but has served notice that it intends to cease operation of five 'satellite' pumping stations within the Crossens catchment from March 2021.

Environment Agency operation of pumps will cease at:

- Banks Marsh
- Boundary Brook
- Clay Brow
- Kew
- Rufford Causeway

This is because these pumping stations relate more to draining farmland rather than built property.

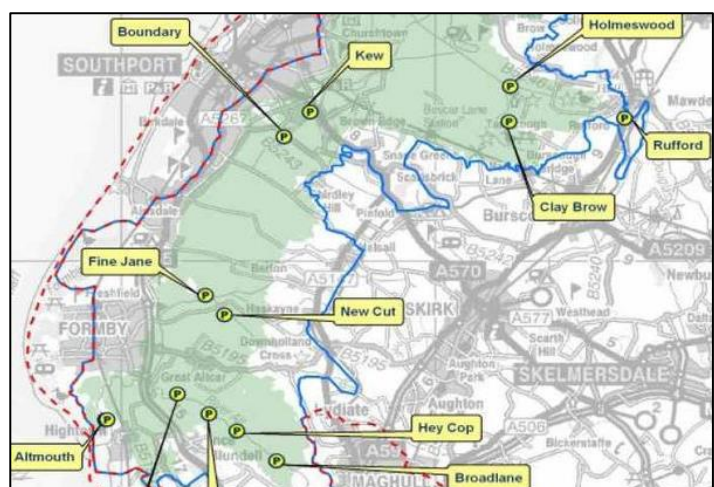


Figure 5: Alt Crossens Satellite Pumps

## POOR ENGAGEMENT WITH AND AWARENESS OF FLOOD AND COASTAL RISKS WITHIN COMMUNITIES

There are 30 flood warning areas in Merseyside and 23 communities at risk from fluvial and coastal flooding. Unlike other areas in the North West, Merseyside doesn't have many proactive Flood Action Groups (FAG) or other [community flood groups](#). Formby FAG and Netherley FAG are the two that exist within our area. There are community groups with interests in flooding and coastal erosion but which are not set up in a way that supports that community in taking direct action against those risks.

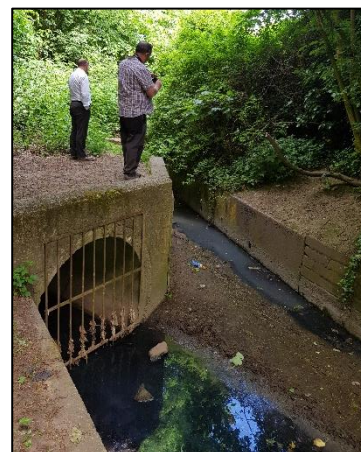


Awareness of flood risks within Merseyside is therefore also assumed to be relatively low. However, with support from the North West RFCC, [The Flood Hub](#) provides accessible resilience materials for those who are at risk flood and coastal risks.

## POOR WATER QUALITY OF OUR WATERCOURSES

The [Alt-Crossens and Lower Mersey river catchments](#) flow through Merseyside. These are low-lying areas that cover an area from Southport to the north, Warrington to the east and the Wirral to the west. A large area of these catchments is high grade farmland which is crossed by a series of highly modified watercourses and drains, whilst the remainder of these areas is urban.

The [Water Framework Directive \(WFD\)](#) classifies almost all surface water bodies as less than 'good overall potential' and all watercourses are heavily modified (data from latest classification in 2016). These river catchments are managed by the Alt Crossens and Lower Mersey Catchment Partnerships, hosted by the Mersey Rivers Trust, who work to deliver multiple water and other environmental benefits including improving the water quality of our watercourses and water bodies in Merseyside.



**Figure 6:** Pollution at Court Hey Brook, Knowsley

More information on this can be found within the Partnerships' [Catchment Plans](#).

## LIMITED RESOURCES, PARTICULARLY WITHIN LOCAL AUTHORITIES

As a result of cuts in budgets resources within local government, especially, are limited. Our Business Plan will ensure that, as a Partnership, we are prioritising work that will create the greatest impact and delivering the things that matter most to our communities.

The single biggest way in which we can do this collaboratively as a Partnership is by continuing to invest in reducing the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in an integrated way; this means delivering multiple benefits from one project to tackle as many risks and challenges as possible.



## A NEW REGIONAL GOVERNANCE IN THE FORM OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY



A Combined Authority is a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries. In 2014 the [Liverpool City Region Combined Authority](#) was established by Parliament through its Devolution Deal. The Combined Authority is led by [Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram](#) and brings together Liverpool City Region's six local authorities – Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The Combined Authority's aim is to create an environment which allows the economy to thrive for the good of everyone who lives and works in Liverpool City Region.

*Note: Halton and St Helens Councils sit within the Cheshire Mid-Mersey FCERM Partnership; this is because FCERM Partnerships are set up according to river catchments to manage water on a catchment scale.*

In September 2018 the Merseyside Strategic Partnership asked its Risk Management Authorities to establish a Task and Finish Group to investigate synergies between flood risk, potential/proposed flood risk management schemes, economic growth and infrastructure. Working in this way across all six Local Authority areas strengthens the Partnership's ability to promote schemes, gain extra funding at a city region scale and to influence the City Region's management of water.

The Combined Authority works to make investments in key strategic areas, such as transport and housing. Of particular interest to our Partnership is:

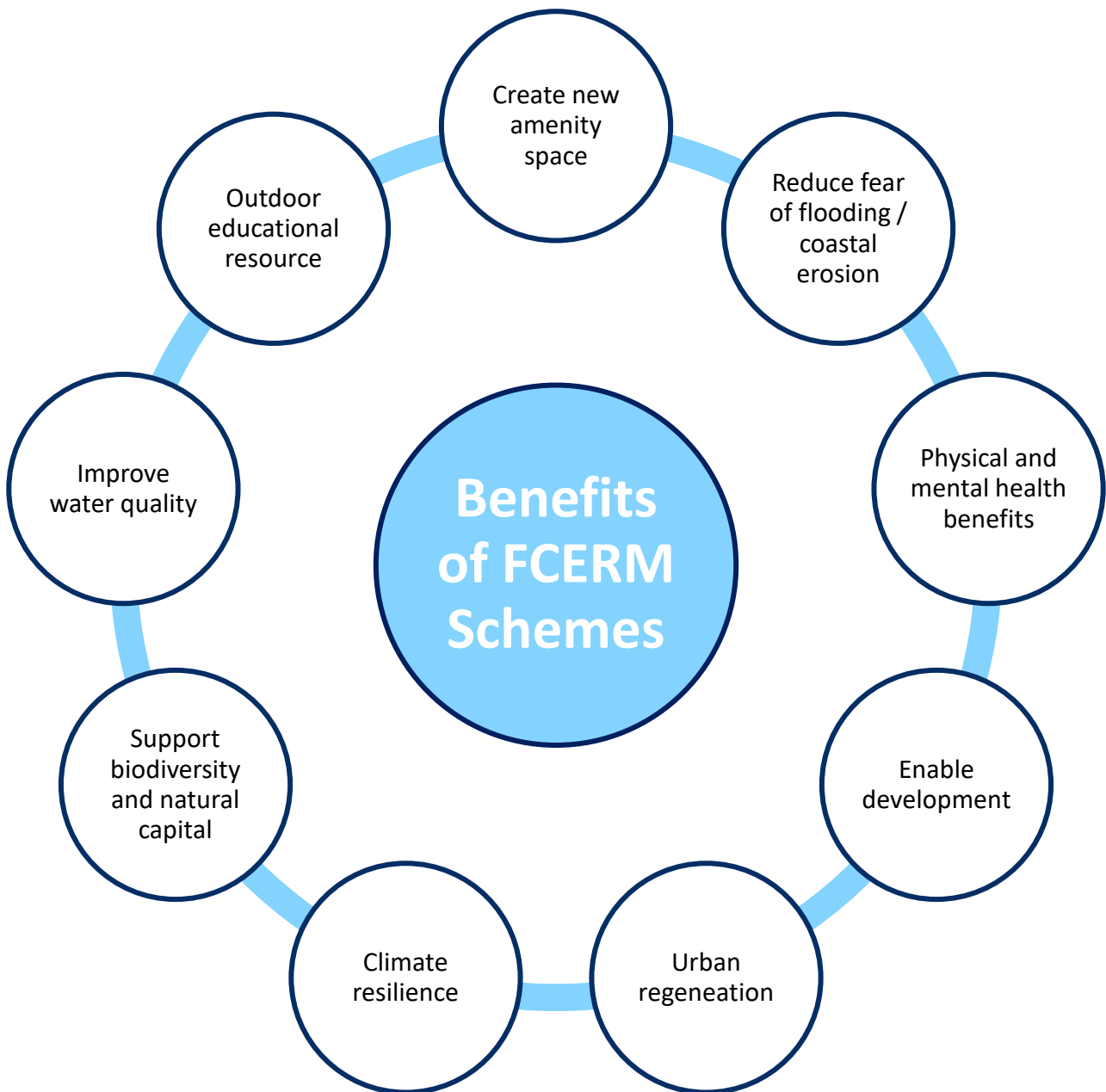
- [Spatial Development Strategy](#) - The Metro Mayor's Strategy for housing will to make sure every new home is built to a high quality standard and is fit for purpose. This includes through ensuring it is resilient to future risks such as flooding and coastal erosion. It also provides an opportunity to set out how this can be achieved through a strategic policy to drive resilience and better management of flood risk.
- [Key Route Network](#) – The Key Route Network (KRN) is made up of the strategic highway routes that are vital to growth in the Liverpool City Region. Responsibility for network was devolved to the Metro Mayor as part of the city region's devolution agreement with central government. Given its importance to the economy, building resilience within the KRN to surface water flooding, in particular, would be an areas of opportunity as well as looking to reduce pollution and runoff from the network.
- [Environment](#) – The Combined Authority's environment agenda is varied and the [Year of Environment 2019](#) highlights these agendas to our public. Key areas of interest for our Partnership include climate change and resilience, green spaces habitats and biodiversity, health and wellbeing and water.
- [Strategic Investment Fund \(SIF\)](#) - Underpinning these agendas is the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) which is the Combined Authority's fund to deliver its work. There is potential to align our future FCERM Investment Programme from 2021 to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's SIF where it makes sense to support our investment in flooding and coastal erosion. To do this, a clear understanding of flood and coastal risks these key agendas is needed.



## MULTIPLE BENEFITS OF SCHEMES

Measures to reduce flood and coastal erosion risks can provide a wide range of positive benefits for our communities, our economy and our environment. These multiple benefits present the opportunity to work with a wide range of partners who share these outcomes helping to pool skills, networks and resources to create better spaces and places together whilst managing flood risks and coastal change.

Our Partnership recognises, values and increasingly promotes these wider benefits to help support the integration of flood and coastal erosion risk management with our partners goals. We will support potential partners in making these connections and see flood and coastal erosion risk management as a means to help them achieve their goals.



# 4. AIM & PRIORITIES

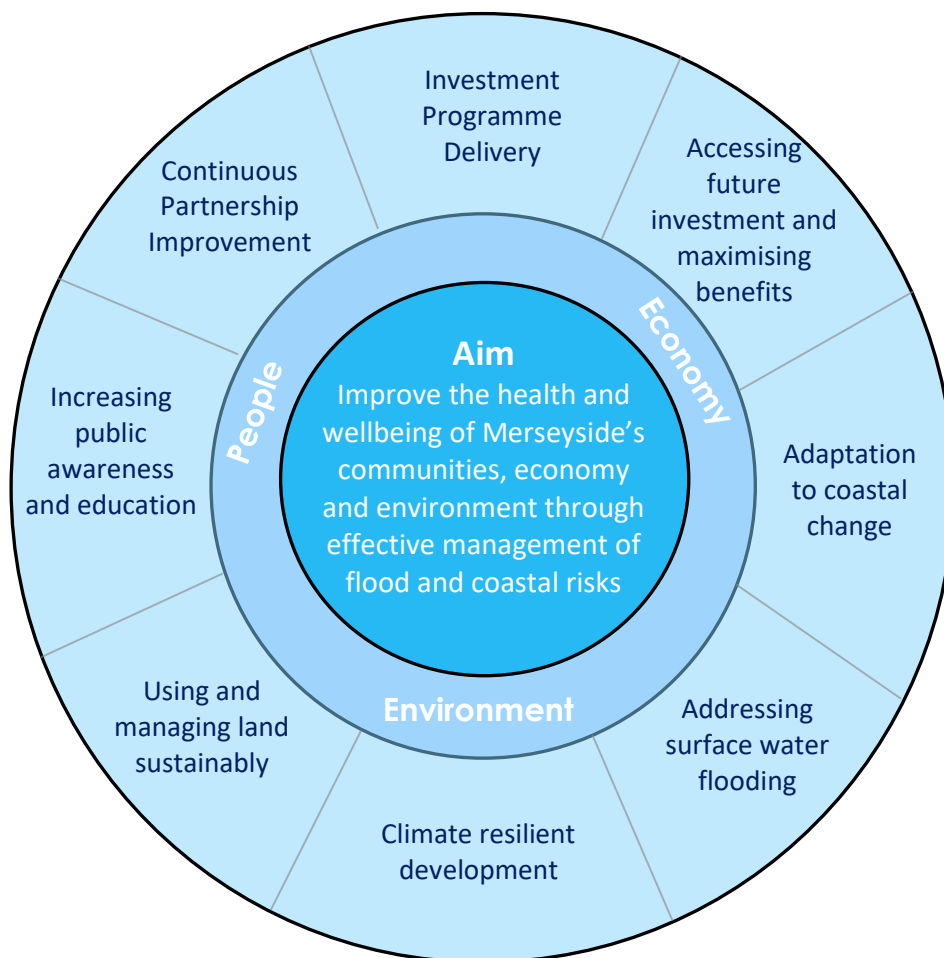
WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE AND HOW WILL WE DELIVER THIS?

## OUR AIM IS TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF MERSEYSIDE'S COMMUNITIES, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT THROUGH EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF FLOOD AND COASTAL RISKS

At the heart of this are the three pillars of sustainability and an emphasised move towards becoming a more adaptive and resilient Merseyside to ensure we are

- **PEOPLE:** Contributing towards a community of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation
- **ECONOMY:** Helping to ensure today's growth and infrastructure are resilient to tomorrow's climate
- **ENVIRONMENT:** Supporting the development of a climate resilient Merseyside

To manage our risks and challenges, eight priorities have been identified which will guide the actions we will deliver during the next three years.



## PRIORITY 1 – INVESTMENT PROGRAMME DELIVERY

We have bid to invest in areas at greatest flood and/or coastal erosion risk to reduce that risk through the 2015 – 2021 FCERM Investment Programme. Subject to the approval of successful business cases, we will better protect 2,799 homes in Merseyside by 2021.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Review progress of project delivery at each meeting and hold risk management authorities accountable against milestones. Issues/barriers to delivery will be advised by officers and the Strategic Partnership will support officers in overcoming issues as appropriate.	Strategic Partnership Group	2,799 homes are better protected in Merseyside as a result of the 2015 – 2021 investment programme  Deliver remainder of the investment programme to efficiency (10%) and partnership contribution (15%) targets	Quarterly, and by April 2021 all projects will be delivered
Conduct quarterly delivery confidence assessments of each project	Merseyside Project Advisor	Project update to be provided within every Partnership Report.	Quarterly and ongoing

## PRIORITY 2 – ACCESSING FUNDING FOR FUTURE INVESTMENT AND MAXIMISING BENEFITS

Risk management authorities are developing a pipeline of projects beyond 2021 for consideration in future programmes. We therefore need to look at what our investment needs beyond 2021 look like to understand what needs to be done and begin to identify and align funding sources.

The government is currently reviewing its partnership funding mechanism for flood and coastal erosion projects. Changes to it may be made for the post 2021 investment programme. This is likely to affect the relative priority of scheme proposals and the amount of government funding they can secure and will also drive the need for multiple benefit schemes.

The future programme, as with the current programme, will likely come with a condition to secure partnership contributions towards schemes. It is therefore vital that we look to the significant investment being made across the Liverpool City Region and the Northern Powerhouse as an important source of potential partners and collaboration opportunities.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Continue to actively engage with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership, infrastructure providers (e.g. Merseyrail) and other organisations to incorporate flood and coastal erosion risk as an issue affecting the environment, health and wellbeing, and to support the timely and effective development of place-based schemes and approaches.	Risk Management Authorities	Be recognised by the Liverpool City Region as key partners and an important Partnership to engage with	April 2021
Attract new partners and funding for integrated schemes which will reduce flood or coastal erosion risk and provide multiple benefits. Use our evidence base to support discussion to secure additional local investment in FCERM schemes from April 2021 and beyond	Risk Management Authorities	For the next phase investment programme from 2021, we increase the proportion of investment programme funding coming from non-FCERM Grant-in-Aid sources from the current minimum requirement for the 2015-2021 programme of 15%.	April 2021
Develop of a healthy pipeline of future FCERM schemes that will address risks and challenges and deliver multiple benefits, where possible, from 2021	Risk Management Authorities	By April 2021, each Local Authority area has a multi-agency prioritised list of future FCERM schemes that are costed, have funding streams identified and projected delivery dates.	April 2021

## PRIORITY 3 – ADAPTATION TO COASTAL CHANGE

The [Wirral Coastal Strategy](#) (2016) and [Sefton Coast Plan](#) (2017) set out how we will implement coastal management policies locally. Coastal authorities continue to use the [Shoreline Management Planning](#) process to establish management policies for stretches of coast into the future, to develop strategies to identify how policy implementation is best achieved, and to develop coastal management schemes.

There will be future challenges around how coastal change and the adaptation required can be funded into the future and our Partnership needs to be aware of this and support coastal authorities and coastal governance, as appropriate, including at a North West RFCC level.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Take steps to better integrate and align coastal matters and coastal governance to our Partnership in 2019/20	Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Increased coastal presence on the Partnership meeting agendas, as needed, from June 2019 onwards	September 2019
Understand updates of the Shoreline Management Plan and what they could mean in terms of our approach and adaptation for coastal communities	Shoreline Management Plan Coordinator	Shoreline Management Plan Coordinator to attend Partnership meetings following key updates of the Shoreline Management Plan	As required
Ensure coastal schemes are included within the future investment programme, as identified in the Wirral Coastal Strategy and Sefton Coast Plan.	Wirral Council Sefton Council	Coastal projects will be included on the future investment programme in line with coastal management policies.	April 2021
Coastal authorities to support the launch of the new Coastal Group website is launched, linked to The Flood Hub	Wirral Council Sefton Council	Coastal authorities support the launch of the new Coastal Group website is launched through their webpages and social media.	April 2021

## PRIORITY 4 – ADDRESSING SURFACE WATER FLOODING

Surface water flooding is the most unpredictable and least understood and mapped source of flooding. This makes it more difficult to manage and to communicate the risk to those potentially affected, and to warn them when surface water flooding is possible. By number of properties, it is also the largest flood risk in Merseyside.

Local Authorities and United Utilities play the lead roles in managing surface water flood risk, whilst the Environment Agency also plays an important part in supporting data and enabling access to government funding.

We recognise the need for us to continually improve our level of understanding of the risk that surface water flooding poses and take positive steps to address this, including through future capital investment from April 2021 and beyond.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Contribute to the North West RFCC's new Technical Advisory Group to bring together senior officers from the core partners to develop best practice approaches and tools across the whole North West, including addressing surface water flood risk as a key priority	Wirral Council <i>(deputised by Lead Local Flood Authorities)</i>	100% Partnership representation at the North West RFCC Technical Advisory Group	June 2019 onwards
Continue to develop an 'all source' flooding evidence base through the Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group to place surface water flood risk on a level footing with fluvial and coastal flood risk.	Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group	All source flood risk map for the Liverpool City Region is produced and accessible to all partners	April 2020
Deliver Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) included in the 2015 – 2021 FCERM Investment Programme, and identify further studies needed beyond 2021.	Wirral Council Sefton Council Knowsley Council	Delivery of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) within the 2015 – 2021 FCERM Investment Programme by April 2021	April 2021
Review Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Merseyside elements of the North West Flood Risk Management Plan to ensure we continue to manage and reduce local flood risks in the most locally appropriate way, taking into account the new National FCERM Strategy	Lead Local Flood Authorities	All Local Flood Risk Management Strategies are reviewed by April 2022	April 2022

## PRIORITY 5 – CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT

It is important that new development is designed in a way that doesn't make flood or coastal risks any worse. Risk management authorities seek to ensure new development is resilient and does not increase flood risk. They also influence development plans and strategic matters to take account of flood risk and coastal change by setting out what development is acceptable in specific locations.

The adoption of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) by water companies from 2020 presents an opportunity to resolve some issues of future maintenance. In Merseyside, we see great value in adopting a consistent approach to SuDS requirements and will continue to work with United Utilities to prepare for and maximise the benefits of adoption through the planning process. The RFCC is keen to see this approach taken across the North West and we will support delivery of this work.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
All Merseyside Local Authorities will adopt the SuDS pro-forma to require a consistent level of information and approach to SuDS for major development	Wirral Council  Liverpool City Council	SuDS pro-forma is adopted by all Merseyside Local Authorities	April 2020
Be represented on the North West RFCC's SuDS Task Group to work with United Utilities in ensuring planning (development management) processes are ready for water industry adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems in April 2020.	Participating Local Authorities	A minimum of one Merseyside representative attends the SuDS Task Group	April 2020
Review Flood Risk Asset Registers by April 2022 to ensure they capture new flood risk assets from development	Lead Local Flood Authorities	Flood Risk Asset Registers are reviewed, improved and better linked to the development process	April 2022
Support the development of appropriate SuDS policies and guidance within emerging planning documents, including in Local and Neighbourhood Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance, and Masterplans.	Risk Management Authorities	Adoption of appropriate SuDS policies within the local planning framework, either through the Local Plan and / or a Supplementary Planning Documents / Guidance	April 2022
Work with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to understand risk and increase resilience to flooding on the Key Route Network and to Growth Sites.	Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group	Workshop(s) held to support the identification of actions to build flood resilience into the Key Route Network and Growth Sites	April 2021
Ensure an appropriately worded policy covering flood and coastal erosion matters is included within the Metro Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region	Risk Management Authorities	Flood and coastal risk management is included within the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy and is acknowledged by the City Region as a key climate risk.	December 2020
Support the development of a Natural Capital Accounting approach for the Liverpool City Region, ensuring flood and coastal matters can be valued.	Environment Agency	Natural Capital Accounting approach for the Liverpool City Region takes account of flood and coastal benefits.	April 2020
Support the appointment of a specialist in development and planning for the North West RFCC who can help to bring together the aims of risk management authorities with those of planners, transport planners and infrastructure providers	Strategic Partnership Councillors	A Development representative is appointed onto the North West RFCC	December 2019



## PRIORITY 6 – USING AND MANAGING LAND SUSTAINABLY

The main river network of the Alt Crossens Catchment has historically been maintained and drained by a network of pumping stations to prevent flooding. These pumps have been maintained and operated by the Environment Agency, although they are under no duty to do so. Operation of five ‘satellite’ pumps will cease in March 2021 as they are no longer economically affordable and do not protect residential property from flooding. Risk management authorities are and will continue to support communities and landowners in adapting to this, helping them to take on the pump maintenance themselves where agreed.

Riparian owners are responsible for ensuring that water flows through the watercourse naturally, and for maintaining it by removing blockages that may impede the flow of water or cause flooding. Riparian owners are not always aware of their responsibilities and supporting a North West wide campaign to raise awareness of this is a positive step forward.

In recent years there has been a growing body of evidence to work with the natural environment to reduce the risk of flooding (natural flood management measures) and coastal erosion (dune and beach management), taking opportunities to improve the environment as a whole. While this will only be part of the solution, there is now an opportunity to better manage flood flows while also greatly benefitting the environment and wildlife, re-connecting communities to their watercourses, and creating valuable green space for them to enjoy.

Our long term expectation is that flood flows in both rural and urban areas are reduced and managed, working with natural processes as part of an integrated whole catchment approach, including relevant coastal considerations.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Continue to be aware of the situation regarding future maintenance of the pumping stations within the Alt Crossens Catchment and support the facilitation of sustainable water level management within the catchment.	Strategic Partnership Group	Risk management authorities to support riparian ownership campaign through social media.	April 2022
Support the delivery of a North West wide campaign to raise awareness of riparian responsibilities.	Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Reduced enforcement actions on riparian owned watercourses and/or increased number of permits/consents issued for qualifying activity on watercourses.	April 2022
Deliver a pilot Natural Flood Management (NFM) project in Court Hey Park, Knowsley, to demonstrate how such schemes can work in urban environments taking a multi-agency approach to address multiple issues.	Knowsley Council	Delivery of Court Hey Park Natural Flood Management Pilot Project by April 2021	April 2021
Using the Natural Flood Management Modelling commissioned by our Partnership, work with the Alt Crossens Catchment Partnership and the Lower Mersey Catchment Partnership to support targeted use of natural flood management techniques in catchment projects.	Mersey Rivers Trust Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Appropriate natural flood management techniques are used in prioritised sub-catchment areas to deliver multiple benefit projects.	April 2021

## PRIORITY 7 – PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION

We want our communities – homeowners, landowners and businesses – to say they understand flood and coastal erosion risk better and are helped to adapt to reduce their fear of flooding or coastal erosion. We will continue to work to increase resilience of those affected by flooding and coastal erosion.

A flagship initiative by the North West RFCC, and supported by our Partnership, was the launch of The Flood Hub website on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018. The Flood Hub is a one-stop shop for the public, communities, businesses and partners on resilience to flood and coastal erosion risks. Continuing our support in helping to maintain and develop this website is a priority for us.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Raise awareness of flood and coastal risks in targeted communities at risk in Merseyside, using the Year of Environment 2019 as an opportunity to do so	Environment Agency	More homes and businesses are signed up to Flood Warnings in targeted communities at risk following a community engagement exercise delivered by April 2020.	April 2020
Raise awareness of surface water flood risks in Merseyside and the wider North West through a social media campaign with support from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and led by The Flood Hub.	The Flood Hub, via Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Pre- and post- surface water campaign survey to measure awareness of surface water flood risks	April 2021
Continue to support the maintenance and development of The Flood Hub website as a key communication and engagement tool, including the launch of a new Education section providing up-to-date educational resources aligned with the National Curriculum	Risk Management Authorities  Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator  Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	All Local Authority flooding webpages link to The Flood Hub  Develop a Communications Plan to ensure Merseyside Local Authorities continue to support The Flood Hub through social media  Input into the delivery of the Education section of The Flood Hub	April 2021
Support regional work to agree standards for community and public engagement to be adopted by our risk management authorities and our Partnership	Risk Management Authorities	Adopt community and public engagement standards, developed through the North West RFCC, to ensure this is consistent across Merseyside and the wider North West	April 2022

## PRIORITY 8 – CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP

Continuous improvement has and will continue to be at the heart of what we do as a Partnership.

We will continuously improve the way that we work and our delivery our partnership roles and governance.

Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Produce and monitor progress against an annual action plan to support the delivery of this Business Plan	Strategic Partnership Group	The approved Action Plan is in place at the start of each financial year	December 2021
Hold a Partnership Governance Review in 2021 to 'take stock' and collaboratively identify and agree actions to further improve our Partnership	Strategic Partnership Group and Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Partnership Governance Review workshop held by December 2021	December 2021
Support and participate in the development of the North West RFCC's Local Levy Strategy.	Councillors	At least one political representative attends all relevant discussions.	April 2021

# 6. ACTION PLAN & MONITORING OUR DELIVERY

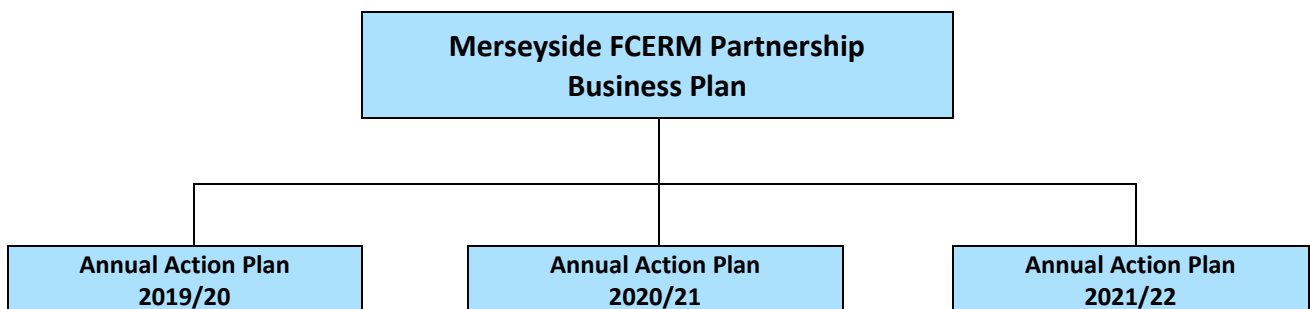
## *DELIVERING AND MONITORING THE DELIVERY OF OUR ACTIONS*

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To implement our Business Plan we will deliver our actions over three years; a collated summary of all actions we will complete by April 2022 can be found in Appendix A. As a partnership, we will hold each other and ourselves accountable for the delivery these actions, and therefore, for the delivery of our Business Plan.

At the start of each financial year we will collate, produce and monitor the delivery of 'Annual Action Plans'. Actions within each Annual Action Plan will be decided by the Strategic Partnership Group in the context of the resource available to us, local need, risks and challenges at the time, and delivery timescales set within this Business Plan. The Annual Action Plan will be agreed each March in time for the forthcoming financial year.

Each Annual Action Plan will be published separately as an annex to the Business Plan and will identify action owners, delivery milestones and tangible success measures that our work will deliver.



Progress in delivering the Annual Action Plan will be recorded and reported by the Tactical Officer Group and reported to and monitored by the Strategic Partnership Group through our quarterly Partnership Report. We will also report progress annually to the North West RFCC at the end of each financial year.

# APPENDIX A: ACTION PLAN 2019 – 2022

Priority	Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Investment Programme Delivery	Review progress of project delivery at each meeting. Issues/barriers to delivery will be advised by officers and the Strategic Partnership will support officers in overcoming issues as appropriate.	Strategic Partnership Group	2,799 homes are better protected in Merseyside as a result of the 2015 – 2021 investment programme  Deliver remainder of the investment programme to efficiency (10%) and partnership contribution (15%) targets	Quarterly and all projects to be delivered by April 2021
Investment Programme Delivery	Conduct quarterly delivery confidence assessments of each project	Merseyside Project Advisor	Project update to be provided within every Partnership Report.	Quarterly and ongoing
Accessing Funding for Future Investment	Continue to actively engage with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership, infrastructure providers (e.g. Merseyrail) and other organisations to incorporate flood and coastal erosion risk as an issue affecting the environment, health and wellbeing, and to support the timely and effective development of place-based schemes and approaches.	Risk Management Authorities	Be recognised by the Liverpool City Region as key partners and an important Partnership to engage with	April 2021
Accessing Funding for Future Investment	Seek to attract new partners and funding for integrated schemes which will reduce flood or coastal erosion risk and provide multiple benefits. Use our evidence base to support discussion to secure additional local investment in FCERM schemes from April 2021 and beyond	Risk Management Authorities	For the next phase investment programme from 2021, we increase the proportion of investment programme funding coming from non-FCERM Grant-in-Aid sources from the current minimum requirement for the 2015-2021 programme of 15%.	April 2021
Accessing Funding for Future Investment	Develop of a healthy pipeline of future FCERM schemes that will address risks and challenges and deliver multiple benefits, where possible, from 2021	Risk Management Authorities	By April 2021, each Local Authority area has a multi-agency prioritised list of future FCERM schemes that are costed, have funding streams identified and projected delivery dates.	April 2021
Adaptation to Coastal Change	Take steps to better integrate and align coastal matters and coastal governance to our Partnership in 2019/20	Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Increased coastal presence on the Partnership meeting agendas, as needed, from June 2019 onwards	September 2019
Adaptation to Coastal Change	Understand updates of the Shoreline Management Plan and what they could mean in terms of our approach and adaptation for coastal communities	Shoreline Management Plan Coordinator	Shoreline Management Plan Coordinator to attend Partnership meetings following key updates of the Shoreline Management Plan	As required

Priority	Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Adaptation to Coastal Change	Ensure coastal schemes are included within the future investment programme, as identified in the Wirral Coastal Strategy and Sefton Coast Plan.	Wirral Council Sefton Council	Coastal projects will be included on the future investment programme in line with coastal management policies.	April 2021
Adaptation to Coastal Change	Coastal authorities to support the launch of the new Coastal Group website is launched, linked to The Flood Hub	Wirral Council Sefton Council	Coastal authorities support the launch of the new Coastal Group website is launched through their webpages and social media.	April 2021
Addressing Surface Water Flooding	Contribute to the North West RFCC's new Technical Advisory Group to bring together senior officers from the core partners to develop best practice approaches and tools across the whole North West, including addressing surface water flood risk as a key priority	Wirral Council <i>(deputised by Lead Local Flood Authorities)</i>	100% Merseyside FCERM Partnership representation at the North West RFCC Technical Advisory Group	June 2019 onwards
Addressing Surface Water Flooding	Continue to develop an 'all source' flooding evidence base through the Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group to place surface water flood risk on a level footing with fluvial and coastal flood risk.	Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group	All source flood risk map for the Liverpool City Region is produced and accessible to all partners	April 2020
Addressing Surface Water Flooding	Deliver Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) included in the 2015 – 2021 FCERM Investment Programme, and identify further studies needed beyond 2021.	Wirral Council Sefton Council Knowsley Council	Delivery of Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) within the 2015 – 2021 FCERM Investment Programme.	April 2021
Addressing Surface Water Flooding	Review Local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Merseyside elements of the North West Flood Risk Management Plan to ensure we continue to manage and reduce local flood risks in the most locally appropriate way, taking into account the new National FCERM Strategy	Lead Local Flood Authorities	All Local Flood Risk Management Strategies are reviewed by April 2022	April 2022
Climate Resilient Development	All Merseyside Local Authorities will adopt the SuDS pro-forma to require a consistent level of information and approach to SuDS for major planning applications.	Wirral Council Liverpool City Council	SuDS pro-forma is adopted by all Merseyside Local Authorities by April 2020	April 2020
Climate Resilient Development	Be represented on the North West RFCC's SuDS Task Group to work with United Utilities in ensuring planning (development management) processes are ready for water industry adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems in April 2020.	Participating Local Authorities	A minimum of one Merseyside representative attends the SuDS Task Group	April 2020
Climate Resilient Development	Review Flood Risk Asset Registers by April 2022 to ensure they capture new flood risk assets.	Lead Local Flood Authorities	Flood Risk Asset Registers are reviewed, improved and better linked to the development process	April 2022

Priority	Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Climate Resilient Development	Support the development of appropriate SuDS policies and guidance within emerging planning documents, including in Local and Neighbourhood Plans, Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance, and Masterplans.	Lead Local Flood Authorities	Adoption of appropriate SuDS policies within the local planning framework, either through the Local Plan and / or a Supplementary Planning Documents / Guidance	April 2022
Climate Resilient Development	Work with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to understand risk and increase resilience to flooding on the Key Route Network and to Growth Sites.	Liverpool City Region FCERM Task Group	Workshop(s) held to support the identification of actions to build flood resilience into the Key Route Network and Growth Sites	April 2021
Climate Resilient Development	Ensure an appropriately worded policy covering flood and coastal erosion matters is included within the Metro Mayor's Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region	Risk Management Authorities	Flood and coastal risk management is included within the Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy and is acknowledged by the City Region as a key climate risk.	December 2020
Climate Resilient Development	Support the development of a Natural Capital Accounting approach for the Liverpool City Region, ensuring flood and coastal matters and included and can be valued.	Environment Agency	Natural Capital Accounting approach for the Liverpool City Region take account of flood and coastal benefits.	April 2020
Climate Resilient Development	Support the appointment of a specialist in development and planning for the North West RFCC who can help to bring together the aims of risk management authorities with those of planners, transport planners and infrastructure providers	Strategic Partnership Councillors	A Development representative is appointed onto the North West RFCC	December 2019
Using and Managing Land Sustainably	Continue to be aware of the situation regarding future maintenance of the pumping stations within the Alt Crossens Catchment and support the facilitation of sustainable water level management within the catchment.	Strategic Partnership Group	Risk management authorities to support riparian ownership campaign through social media.	April 2022
Using and Managing Land Sustainably	Support the delivery of a North West wide campaign to raise awareness of riparian responsibilities.	Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Reduced enforcement actions on riparian owned watercourses and/or increased number of permits/consents issued for qualifying activity on watercourses.	April 2022
Using and Managing Land Sustainably	Deliver a pilot Natural Flood Management (NFM) project in Court Hey Park, Knowsley, to demonstrate how such schemes can work in urban environments taking a multi-agency approach to address multiple issues.	Knowsley Council	Delivery of Court Hey Park Natural Flood Management Pilot Project by April 2021	April 2021
Using and Managing Land Sustainably	Using the Natural Flood Management Modelling commissioned by our Partnership, work with the Alt Crossens Catchment Partnership and the Lower Mersey Catchment Partnership to support targeted use of natural flood management techniques in catchment projects.	Mersey Rivers Trust Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Appropriate natural flood management techniques are used in prioritised sub-catchment areas to deliver multiple benefit projects.	April 2021

Priority	Action	Action Owner	Success Measure	Delivery Milestone
Public Awareness and Education	Raise awareness of flood and coastal risks in targeted communities at risk in Merseyside, using the Year of Environment 2019 as an opportunity to do so	Environment Agency	More homes and businesses are signed up to Flood Warnings in targeted communities at risk following a community engagement exercise delivered by April 2020	April 2020
Public Awareness and Education	Raise awareness of surface water flood risks in Merseyside and the wider North West through a social media campaign with support from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and led by The Flood Hub	Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Pre- and post- surface water campaign survey to measure awareness of surface water flood risks	April 2021
Public Awareness and Education	Continue to support the maintenance and development of The Flood Hub website as a key communication and engagement tool, including the launch of a new Education section providing up-to-date educational resources aligned with the National Curriculum	Risk Management Authorities Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	All Local Authority flooding webpages link to The Flood Hub  Develop a Communications Plan to ensure Merseyside Local Authorities continue to support The Flood Hub through social media  Input into the delivery of the Education section of The Flood Hub	April 2021
Public Awareness and Education	Support regional work to agree standards for community and public engagement to be adopted by our risk management authorities and our Partnership	Risk Management Authorities	Adopt community and public engagement standards, developed through the North West RFCC, to ensure this is consistent across Merseyside and the wider North West	April 2022
Continuous Improvement of our Partnership	Produce and monitor progress against an annual action plan to support the delivery of this Business Plan	Strategic Partnership Group	The approved Action Plan is in place at the start of each financial year	December 2021
Continuous Improvement of our Partnership	Hold a Partnership Governance Review in 2021 to 'take stock' and collaboratively identify and agree actions to further improve our Partnership	Strategic Partnership Group Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator	Partnership Governance Review workshop held by December 2021	December 2021
Continuous Improvement of our Partnership	Support and participate in the development of the North West RFCC's Local Levy Strategy.	Councillors	At least one political representative attends all relevant discussions.	April 2021