

Cumbria Strategic FCERM* Partnership

*Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Inaugural Strategic Partnership workshop
19 September 2024

Wifi Network: CarlCC – Voucher

Password: gu35t-wifi

Guest WiFi Code: 6780742872



Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

Housekeeping

- No planned fire alarms
- Emergency exits / Muster Point
- Toilets
- Refreshments – Served in Caldew / Pettrill Room
- Eden Room

Wifi Network: CarlCC – Voucher

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Welcome



Councillor Denise Rollo
Cumberland Council

**Executive Member – Sustainable, Resilient and
Connected Places**

Opening remarks



Angela Jones
Westmorland and Furness Council
Director of Thriving Places

Workshop Aims and Purpose

- Inaugural meeting of Strategic Partnership Group
- Develop as an effective strategic flood partnership under new governance arrangements.
- Broaden our understanding of organisational roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints.
- To explore how we can work better together by improving our governance to facilitate effective communication and collaboration
- Develop understanding of flood risks at a catchment level.
- Improve outcomes through a partnership approach to manage and reduce the risk of flooding and deliver multiple benefits.

This meeting is not a forum to discuss specific issues, schemes or incidents although there is an opportunity to report these.



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Local Government Reorganisation

- 1st April 2023, 2 new unitary councils were formed.
- Each unitary authority has their own responsibilities for flood risk management, coastal protection, highways, planning etc.
- Ongoing work to disaggregate, aggregate and integrate.
- Both authorities collaborate across the Cumbria geography and with other authorities outside of Cumbria.



Why is this workshop important?



Up to **1.15m**
SEA LEVEL RISE
by 2100



There could be up to **59% more**
PRECIPITATION
in winters by 2050



The UK average temperature has
INCREASED
by **0.8 degrees**
since 1961-1990

In 2020 there are **5.2 million**
homes and businesses at risk of
FLOODING



The UK has seen a **16 cm**
SEA LEVEL RISE since 1900

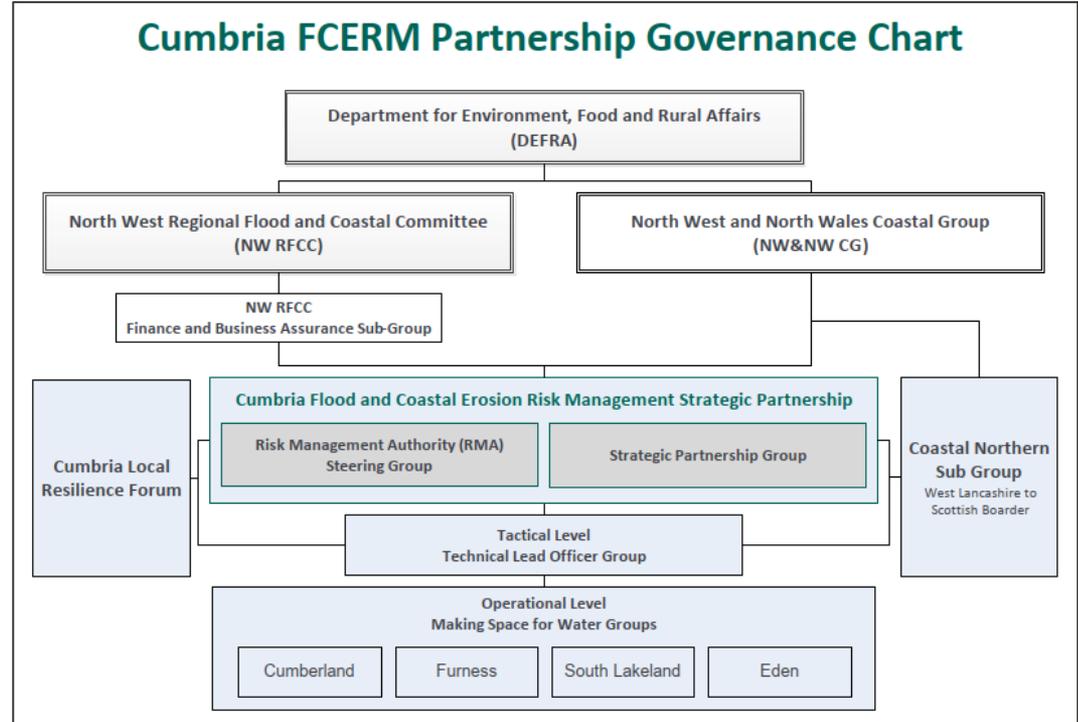
Cumbria Flood Partnership

One of 5 sub-regional partnerships across the North West.

Changes to the partnership arrangements following Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Current Strategic FCERM Partnership Arrangements in Cumbria:

- **Risk Management Authority Steering Group** – established to meet statutory obligations and regional expectations
- **Strategic Partnership Group** – ongoing transformation provides an opportunity to develop the flood partnership collectively.



Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership

Mission Statement:

Working together to manage the risk of flooding across Cumbria

Strategic



Two groups form the Strategic Partnership for Cumbria.
These groups are chaired by an Elected Member on an annual rotational basis

Risk Management Authority Steering Group

Provides strategic direction for joint working and management of flood and coastal erosion risk across Cumbria with due regard to constraints including financial, resources, service delivery and continuity.

Strategic Partnership Group

Provide information, advice, guidance and direction of flood and coastal erosion risk management, monitors delivery of actions and identifies new opportunities for collaborative working.

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership: RMA Steering Group

- Inaugural RMA Steering Group meeting held in January 2024
 - Establishment of group supported by Northwest Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NWRFCC)
- RMA Steering Group
 - Chaired by elected member
 - Administered by Partnership Coordinator
- Terms of Reference and Partnership Handbook
 - Approved January 2024
 - Subject to annual review and update
 - Publicly available on The Flood Hub
- The need to build stronger strategic partnerships and develop our ways of working together across Cumbria is recognised.

RMA – Risk Management Authority

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management



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Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership: Strategic Partnership Group

The Strategic Partnership Group will contribute to the following actions:

- Be a forum to share flood information, best practice and knowledge.
- Celebrate scheme successes and communicate lessons learned.
- Increase awareness of flooding issues across Cumbria through engagement with stakeholders.
- Develop shared opportunities to deliver flood risk management activities at a local level.
- Facilitate communications and engagement with communities at risk of flooding.

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management



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Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership: Strategic Partnership Group

- Inaugural meeting of the Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership
- Together we have an opportunity to:
 - Collaborate with partners and communities
 - Develop strategies that focus on local needs
 - Ensure limited resources are used effectively
 - Listen, learn and evolve as a partnership
 - Innovate and empower to improve resilience and outcomes
- Understanding the possibilities for joint initiatives beyond traditional flood schemes is vital to implementing sustainable change.
- We must also acknowledge our changing climate and confront the challenges this presents for flood risk management.

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management



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Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is the policy lead for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England

The Environment Agency has a strategic overview of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion

Risk
Management
Authorities
Duty to
Cooperate

Lead Local Flood
Authorities

Lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses)

Coastal Protection
Authorities

Responsible for developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) which provide a long term holistic framework for managing the risk of coastal change on their section of the coast.

Water Company
United Utilities

Manage the risk of flooding to water supply and sewerage facilities and flood risks from the failure of their infrastructure.

Environment Agency

Responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities on main rivers and the coast, regulating reservoir safety, flood forecasts and warnings.

Highways
Authorities/National
Highways

Have the lead responsibility for providing and managing highway drainage and roadside ditches under the Highways Act 1980. The owners of land adjoining a highway also have a common-law duty to maintain ditches to prevent them causing a nuisance to road users.

Managing Flood Risk - Who's Involved



- In the UK, there is no one body responsible for managing flood risk and it requires a collaborative approach!
- Managing flood risk can be likened to a jigsaw puzzle. Each piece of the puzzle represents the different stakeholders involved in flood risk management.
- Everyone has a role in helping to address flood risk.

Community



- Consider forming a Flood Action Group.
- Support and assist vulnerable neighbours.
- Establish community communication channels (WhatsApp, FB Messenger etc).
- Work with Risk Management Authorities to manage flood risk.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk

Environment Agency



- Responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities on main rivers and the coast, regulating reservoir safety
- Work with LLFAs and coastal groups to oversee flood and coastal erosion risk management and reduce risk to communities, coastlines, and habitat.
- Deliver the Flood Warning Service to communities and areas at flood risk from rivers and the sea.
- Produce and update publicly available flood risk maps and information for main rivers, surface water, reservoir and groundwater flooding.
- Develop and deliver flood risk management projects to protect properties.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk



Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)



- Lead on managing flood risk from surface water, ordinary watercourses, and groundwater.
- Ensure partnership working between Risk Management Authorities in their area to manage flood risk.
- Maintain a register of flood risk assets.
- Undertake Section 19 flood investigation reports.

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Highways Department



- National Highways manage highways drainage and maintenance on motorways and major A roads.
- Manage highway drainage and maintenance.
- Liaise and cooperate with risk management authorities to ensure flood risk management activities are coordinated.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk

Borough & District Councils



- Undertake partnership work with RMAs.
- Act as local planning authority in respect of planning and development decisions.
- Lead on the development of shoreline management plans (SMPs) for their section of coastline.
- Lead on flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in their area.

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Riparian Owners



- Maintain their section of watercourse, including bed and banks.
- Maintain any structures or flood risk assets for which they are responsible, such as trash screens, culverts, weirs, and mill gates.
- Let water flow naturally and without obstructing the flow of a watercourse to the detriment of neighbours.
- Only undertake work to watercourses in accordance with regulations and obtaining licenses, consents, and permits.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk

Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs)



- Manage water levels in ordinary watercourses, low lying areas, and groundwater.
- Improve and maintain ordinary watercourses, drainage channels and pumping stations to manage flooding.

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Water Companies



- Maintain and manage clean and wastewater services, infrastructure and assets within their region.
- Liaise and work in partnership with risk management authorities to coordinate water and sewer system works with flood risk management works.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk

Property Owners & Tenants



- Have a warning trigger and create a home flood plan.
- Obtain good flood insurance cover.
- Ensure good maintenance of property.
- Refrain from putting fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) down the sink.
- Only Pee, Poo, and Toilet Paper down the toilet.
- Protect property with Property Flood Resilience (PFR) measures.

www.thefloodhub.co.uk

Workshop 1 – Interactive Session

Understanding roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints at the catchment level

Lead Facilitator: Jason Harte

Workshop 1 – Roles and responsibilities

Purpose:

To create a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities, opportunities and constraints of each organisation within the partnership, from the pan-Cumbria level down to local catchments and communities. This workshop will explore how each organisation contributes to flood risk management, identify overlaps, and address gaps in responsibilities.

Activity:

Using the catchment map as a visual aid, identify areas within the catchment that partners have roles and responsibilities. Highlight on the map

- Collaboration opportunities
- Engagement opportunities
- Constraints

Workshop 1 – feedback

Capture examples of

- a) collaboration / engagement opportunities and
- b) constraints to delivery of flood risk management at local, catchment, county scale

Refreshments

11:00 - 11:15



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Workshop 2 – Discussion Session

Collaboration, partnership and governance before and after a flood.

Lead Facilitator: Jason Harte



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Workshop 2 – Collaboration, Partnership and Governance

Purpose:

To explore how flood risk management governance at a local, catchment and county level can be improved to facilitate better communication, collaboration and engagement before and after a flood irrespective of flood history.

The focus is not on preparing for a flood but on developing practical solutions that improve collaboration and partnership working, recognising that good communication is an essential component of effective collaboration.

Activity:

Using the opportunities and constraints identified in workshop 1 discuss what partnership arrangements are required to improve collaboration, communication and stakeholder engagement at a local level and on catchment and county footprints

Workshop 2 – Feedback

As a group capture:

- a) effective communication strategies, and
- b) improvements in governance to

that promote effective two-way communication and multi-level engagement that provide opportunities for inclusion at local, county and regional level.

Lunch

12:00 – 13:30

**Please use this time to review the exhibits and
as a networking opportunity**

Workshop 3 – Interactive Session

Developing ways to work together to deliver flood protection and resilience at a local level

Lead Facilitator: Jason Harte



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Workshop 3 - Flood Protection & Resilience

Purpose:

Working collaboratively solve complex challenges in flood recovery and management. The session will encourage participants to think strategically about funding, stakeholder engagement, and practical solutions for long-term flood resilience.

Activity:

Participants will work through a theoretical flood scenario that highlights common issues such as funding gaps, landowner engagement, and conflicting stakeholder interests. They will collaboratively:

- Identify potential solutions to these challenges.
- Discuss routes for funding and strategic improvements.
- Propose actionable recommendations to improve flood resilience and coordination.

Any questions?



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

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Closing remarks



Councillor Denise Rollo
Cumberland Council

**Executive Member – Sustainable,
Resilient and Connected Places**

Feedback

Cumbria Strategic Flood
Partnership Workshop Feedback



Thank you for attending this inaugural Cumbria Strategic FCERM partnership event.

Please provide your event feedback using the feedback form