

Cumbria Strategic FCERM* Partnership

*Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Inaugural Strategic Partnership workshop
19 September 2024

Facilitator's Pack

General instructions:

Please record the names of workshop participants in each group.

Whilst you will be using the maps and other resources to capture information during the workshops, please ensure these are transcribed into a summary for each workshop group. This should include key points discussed during each workshop and an overview of the level of support and engagement with the flood partnership. Please ensure any actions, recommendations or requests are highlighted.

There will be a de-brief meeting set up for facilitators to feed back to the RMA Steering Group the output from their group.



Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

Reporting Flood Issues

Some attendees may wish to raise local flood issues or matters outside of the meeting agenda.

The QR code below can be used as a mechanism to capture these issues without impacting the flow of the workshop.

Cumbria FCERM Partnership Reporting of Flood Issues



Agenda

9:20	Welcome and opening remarks	Cllr Rollo Angela Jones
9:30	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumbria Flood Partnership Governance • Managing Flood Risk – Who’s Involved 	Cllr Rollo Richard Knight
10:15	Workshop 1 – Interactive session. Understanding roles, responsibilities, opportunities and constraints at the catchment level	Jason Harte
10:45	Workshop 1 - Feedback	Facilitators
11:00	Refreshments	
11:15	Workshop 2 – Discussion session. Governance and communication before & after a flood	Jason Harte
11:45	Workshop 2 - Feedback	Facilitators
12:00	Lunch and Exhibits	
13:30	Workshop 3 – Interactive session. Developing ways to work together to deliver flood protection and resilience at a local level	Jason Harte
14:00	Any Questions?	Cllr Rollo
14:15	Closing Remarks	Cllr Rollo

Outcomes

Greater understanding of Roles and Responsibilities – Workshop 1

- Each organisation has a clear understanding of its role and responsibilities within the broader partnership, from the pan-Cumbria level down to local catchments.
- Identification and addressing of any overlaps, gaps, or duplication of responsibilities.

Improved Communication and Coordination:

- Establishment of clear communication protocols, defining who communicates what, when, and how, to ensure all partners are informed and aligned before, and after flood events.
- Identification of communication gaps and solutions to improve the flow of information within the partnership.

Strategic Alignment Across Regions:

- A shared understanding of how the partnership will operate across different regions (North West, Cumbria, catchment, and local levels), ensuring consistency in approach and outcomes.
- Demonstration of how both organisations work together with RMAs and other stakeholders across these levels.

Collaborative Problem-Solving on Key Issues:

- Participants collaborate to identify solutions to common challenges such as funding gaps, stakeholder engagement, and coordination during flood recovery
- A list of actionable recommendations or next steps is created to address these challenges strategically.

Feedback and Continuous Improvement Mechanism:

- Collection of feedback via QR codes or other mechanisms to assess the success of the workshop and identify areas for further improvement in partnership working.
- Agreement on a system for continuous feedback and improvement for flood risk management and partnership operations.

Workshop 1: Interactive Session

Understanding Roles, Responsibilities, Opportunities, and Constraints of each organisation from pan-Cumbria level to local catchments and communities.

Purpose:

To improve the understanding of the flood risk management roles and responsibilities of each organisation. Identify the areas where partners have opportunities to collaborate and the constraints that prevent this.

Activity (30mins):

Using the catchment map as a visual aid, identify areas within the catchment that partners have roles and responsibilities. This will help to visualise:

- Collaboration opportunities - areas where roles and responsibilities overlap
- Engagement opportunities - areas where roles and responsibilities have not been identified
- Constraints - areas where roles and responsibilities are uncertain or conflicting

Bonus Activity (time permitting)

- Provide examples of good practice – where collaboration/engagement is working. Can this practice be replicated locally, at a catchment scale, pan-Cumbria?
- What partnerships already exist within the catchment? Do they capture all the stakeholders?

Session Feedback:

As a group capture examples of

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

Resources:

- Large map of a theoretical catchment area on the table
- Sticky notes / markers
- Flip-chart paper
- RMA Roles and Responsibilities Slides

Questions for participants:

- a) **Who** within your organisation is responsible for flood risk management, and who are your key stakeholders and partners?
- b) **What** actions / responsibilities does your organisation take within the catchment (both before and after a flood)?
- c) **When** do you typically engage in flood risk management activities? (e.g., proactive measures before a flood, reactive during/after flood events)
- d) **How** does your organisation collaborate with others in the catchment area? (e.g., joint projects, shared resources, coordination efforts)
- e) **Why** are these actions and roles important to your organisation and the catchment area? What are your primary objectives?



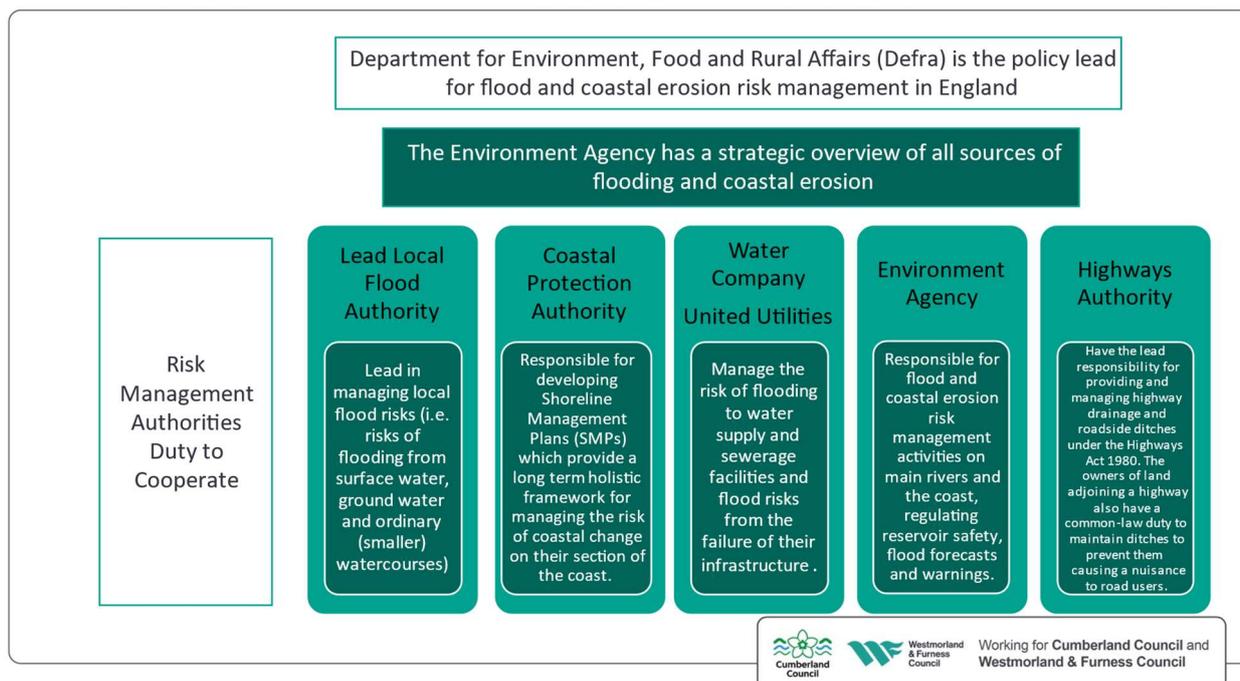
Workshop 1 Plan.

Visual representations of:

- Main River
- Ordinary Watercourse
- Coast
- Surface Water
- Town (large number of residential and commercial properties)
- Hamlet (few residential properties)
- Farmland / forestry / green spaces
- Steep catchments

Unseen:

- Sewer network
- Infrastructure (rail, major highway)
- School, hospital



Environment Agency

Role	Details
Strategic Overview and Coordination	The EA oversees flood and coastal erosion risk management for main rivers, estuaries, and the sea, ensuring a coordinated approach across England.
Flood Defence and Asset Management	Have powers to maintain and improve flood defences and managing flood risk from main rivers and the sea
Reservoir Safety Regulation	Regulates large raised reservoirs to ensure their safety, preventing structural failures that could lead to catastrophic flooding
Flood Forecasting and Warning	Works with the joint flood forecasting centre to forecast severe weather and lead organisation for the issuing of targeted flood warnings. Is a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act
Planning and Development Advice	Acts as a statutory consultee for development in the floodplain
Environmental Protection and Enhancement	Integrates environmental considerations into flood risk management, aiming to conserve and enhance natural habitats while reducing flood risks
Permitting and Compliance	Issues consents for works affecting main rivers, or potential to affect flood defence assets ensuring activities comply with environmental regulations and do not increase flood risk
Emergency Response Support	Provides technical support during flood events and assists with emergency response

Water Company – United Utilities

Role	Details
Managing Sewer Flooding Risks	The water company is responsible for managing the risk of flooding from sewers and water pipes. This includes maintaining and upgrading the sewer network to prevent flooding from heavy rainfall and overloading.
Maintenance of Sewerage Infrastructure	Ensuring the maintenance and operational efficiency of sewerage infrastructure to reduce the risk of sewer overflows and flooding caused by asset failure
Collaboration with Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs)	Works closely with LLFAs to coordinate flood risk management efforts, sharing data on sewer networks and flood incidents to support local flood risk strategies
Sustainable Drainage Solutions	Collaborates on the development and implementation of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to reduce surface water runoff and alleviate pressure on the sewer system.
Flood Event Response and Recovery	Plays a key role in responding to sewer flooding events, including emergency repairs, and providing support to affected communities
Water Quality Protection	Manages the quality of water discharged from the sewerage network into watercourses, ensuring compliance with environmental standards to protect water quality
Infrastructure Investment	Invests in infrastructure improvements to enhance the resilience of the sewer network against flooding, particularly in response to catchment growth, climate change and increasing rainfall intensity.



Westmorland & Furness Council

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Local Authorities (LLFA and Highways)

Role	Details
Investigation of Flooding Incidents	Analysing causes and impacts of flood events to shape future management strategies. Publish formal flood investigation reports (section 19 reports).
Identification of Areas at Risk	Use available datasets, reports and assessments to pinpoint flood -prone regions, allowing prioritisation of interventions
Implementation of Flood Mitigation Projects	Executing a range of projects, including traditional flood schemes involving physical barriers, natural solutions and sustainable drainage systems and hybrid schemes, to build in resilience
Ordinary Watercourse Consenting	Assessing consent applications for watercourse alterations based on flood risk and environmental impact
Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement	Ensuring adherence to environmental and flood risk regulations; rectifying unauthorised watercourse alterations
Statutory Consultee Requirements	Advising local planning authorities on developments affecting flood risk areas and watercourse management
Highways	Highway Authorities (National Highways and Unitary Authorities/County Councils) have responsibility for providing and managing highway drainage under the Highways Act 1980



Westmorland & Furness Council

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Other responsibilities

Role	Details
Local Planning Authorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumberland • Westmorland and Furness • Lake District National Park • Yorkshire Dales National Park 	Planners and developers have a responsibility to ensure future developments are sustainable and do not increase flood risk to the site or surrounding area. This is steered by national and local policy, and developers are required to consider all types of flooding and use sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water.
Emergency Planning and Response	Emergency planning in Cumbria is managed by the Cumbria Local Resilience Forum (CLRF). CLRF is a multi-agency partnership made up of representatives from local public services, including emergency services, local authorities, NHS, the Environment Agency and others. These agencies are known as Category 1 responders, who are supported by the Category 2 responders, such as the LLFA, National Highway and public utility companies
Coastal Protection Authority	Leading on coastal erosion risk management activities

Workshop 2: Discussion Session

Governance and communication before and after a flood

Purpose

To explore how flood and risk management governance at a local, catchment and county levels can be improved to facilitate better communication before and after a flood. This includes developing strategies to engage with:

- Stakeholders who may not have been exposed to flooding directly but who can affect flood risk (positively and negatively) through their actions
- Stakeholders at risk of future flooding as a consequence of climate change
- Stakeholders in high risk areas where repeated flooding is anticipated.

Note: this exercise excludes emergency response and associated communication during a flood incident.

Activity (30 minutes)

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

Things to discuss / consider:

- Who is best placed to have these conversations and improve collaboration?
- What gaps in communication currently exist?
- What barriers are in place that prevent effective communication?
- What are the challenges engaging stakeholders?
- The need for transparency whilst maintaining commercial confidentiality and sensitive information.
- How are two-way / multi-way conversations with local, catchment, Cumbrian, regional groups facilitated that make the best use of limited resources?
- What examples of best practice exist at organisational, local, county, and regional levels.
- What methods and frequency of communication are most effective at engaging with stakeholders? What strategies have been ineffective?
- Once provisions for communication have been provided, effectiveness is reliant on update. What can be done to help encourage this?

Session Feedback:

As a group capture:

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

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

Workshop 3: Interactive Session

Developing Ways to Work Together for Flood Protection and Resilience in Cumbria

Purpose:

To apply the insights from the previous workshops to 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.

This recognises the challenges in funding flood risk management schemes that is beginning to come to forefront in Cumbria as flooding moves up catchment and fewer numbers of properties are at risk

Activity:

Compare options for theoretical flood scenarios involving:

- a) a town with a large number of properties affected,
- b) a hamlet with a small number of properties affected.

Both communities have a long history of flooding, each facing distinct challenges related to funding and flood management.

The map from Workshop 1 can be annotated to indicate areas of flooding to facilitate discussion if required.

Things to discuss / consider:

- Possible funding routes: Explore alternative funding streams and mechanisms for filling funding gaps.
- Strategic problem-solving: Encourage participants to identify challenges and propose solutions.
- Understanding complexities: Discuss how each unique situation may require tailored approaches.
- Actionable outcomes: Develop a structure for ongoing communication and understanding of funding needs and coordination strategies across the region.
- It will not always be possible to protect a property from flooding. Opportunities to improve flood resilience before it is required should be taken. This relies on effective communication and understanding of flood risks as a local level.
- Whilst traditionally the LLFA has taken responsibility for the delivery of flood schemes, there may be alternatives that expediate delivery of schemes in rural areas or where small number of properties are affected. However, the impacts of implementing schemes that divert water into another property should be avoided.

Curveballs:

Some suggested scenarios to highlight problems that arise during flood risk management scheme delivery

Scenario: The local community protests against the project despite being consulted 12 months earlier.

Outcome: Re-modelling delays project 12 months and project costs increase by 25%

Scenario: Design plans need to be adjusted due to changes in legislation.

Outcome: Project costs increasing by 30% due to additional requirements.

Scenario: A major subcontractor goes bankrupt after contract award.

Outcome: Project costs increase by 25%, requiring emergency budget adjustments and leading to a 6-month delay.

Scenario: Heavy rains cause site access roads to be flooded.

Outcome: A 3-month delay as labour slows and causes work stoppage for 2 months.

Scenario: A key stakeholder demands a complete project redesign due to land agreements.

Outcome: A 6-month delay is imposed as construction is halted while the redesign is completed.

Scenario: The material supplier changes material quality, which turns out to be substandard.

Outcome: Quality impacts the expected output, causing project costs to increase by 30% and a 12-month delay.

Scenario: A neighbouring landowner files a lawsuit over potential transboundary water impacts.

Outcome: Legal action forces the project to pause until additional funding is found, leading to a 6-month delay.

Glossary of Acronyms:

CiFR: Cumbria Innovative Flood Resilience – A project aimed at enhancing flood resilience through innovative techniques tailored to specific local conditions.

CPA: Coastal Protection Authority – Local authorities responsible for managing coastal erosion and assisting the Environment Agency in developing the shoreline management plans.

DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – The UK government department responsible for environmental protection, including flood and coastal risk management.

EA: Environment Agency – A public body responsible for environmental protection and flood risk management across main rivers, estuaries, and coasts in England.

FCERM: Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – A comprehensive approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risks in the UK.

FCRM: Flood and Coastal Risk Management – Refers to strategies and actions aimed at managing both flood risks and coastal erosion.

GiA: Grant in Aid – A funding mechanism provided by DEFRA to support flood and coastal risk management projects.

LGR: Local Government Reorganisation – Refers to the restructuring or merging of local government authorities to improve efficiency, including flood risk management responsibilities.

LHA: Local Highways Authority – Local authorities responsible for highway drainage and flood management associated with roads.

LLFA: Lead Local Flood Authority – Local authorities with specific powers and responsibilities for managing flood risks from surface water, groundwater, and ordinary watercourses.

LPA: Local Planning Authority – Local government bodies responsible for managing planning applications, including those affecting flood risk.

NFM: Natural Flood Management – Strategies that use natural processes to reduce flood risk, such as restoring floodplains or planting trees to slow water flow.

NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework – UK government guidelines that include requirements for flood risk management in the planning process.

NW: North West – Refers to the geographical region in the UK, often used in relation to regional planning and flood risk management.

OFC: Our Future Coast – A project funded under DEFRA's Flood Coastal Resilience Innovation Programme, focusing on innovative approaches to coastal resilience.

RCP 8.5: Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 – A high-emission scenario used in climate modelling to project future changes in the climate.

RFCC: Regional Flood and Coastal Committee – Committees that provide leadership and coordination on flood risk management at a regional level.

RMA: Risk Management Authority – Organisations involved in flood and coastal risk management, including local councils, water companies, and the Environment Agency.

SAB: Sustainable Drainage Approval Body – Responsible for approving and overseeing Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in new developments.

SMP: Shoreline Management Plan – A long-term strategy for managing coastal risks and erosion for specific stretches of coastline.

SuDS: Sustainable Drainage Systems – Drainage solutions designed to manage surface water in a sustainable way, reducing flood risks and improving water quality.

UU: United Utilities – A water and wastewater company responsible for managing flood risks from sewers and water pipes.

**Cumbria Strategic FCERM Partnership
Inaugural Strategic Partnership Group Meeting
19 September 2024**

Event Feedback

The event organisers would be grateful if you could complete an event feedback form for this event. This includes an opportunity to identify themes for future events.

**Cumbria Strategic Flood
Partnership Workshop Feedback**

