

# Derbyshire County Council's

## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

**December 2014**

### Part 1



**Part 1** of Derbyshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been designed to provide you with general information about flooding and flood risk, who to call and how you can help yourself become more resilient to the impacts of flooding.

**Part 2** of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy focuses on the more technical details for understanding flood risk in Derbyshire, our action plan for how we intend to coordinate the management of the future risks and how we can fund our flood risk management functions and initiatives.

There are a number of **Guidance Notes** that support the information within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. They can be viewed on our website [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding).

The screenshot shows the Derbyshire County Council website. The header includes the council's logo and name, a search bar, and a navigation menu with categories like Business and economy, Community and living, Education and learning, Environment (selected), Leisure and culture, Social care and health, Transport and roads, Working for us, and Your council. The left sidebar lists various links related to the Environment and Flooding sections. The main content area is titled 'Flooding' and provides information about flood risk areas, a list of responsibilities (including managing flood risk, identifying risk, reporting, protection measures, and cleanup), and details about the council's role as the Lead Local Flood Authority. On the right, there are two sidebars: 'Get prepared!' with a 'DERBYSHIRE PREPARED' logo and a link to the preparedness website, and 'Flooding in Midlands' showing a status of 0 Severe Flood Warning, 0 Flood Warning, and 0 Flood Alert, along with a sign-up link for flood warnings.

**DERBYSHIRE**  
County Council  
Improving life for local people

I'm looking for...

Business and economy | Community and living | Education and learning | **Environment** | Leisure and culture | Social care and health | Transport and roads | Working for us | Your council

Environment

**Flooding**

Responsibilities

Reporting flooding

Identifying flood risk

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Strategy

SUDS

Ordinary watercourse consents

Asset register

Emergency preparedness for flooding

Enforcement section 25 LDA

Land Drainage Consent

Formal flood investigations

### Flooding

Many people within Derbyshire live in flood risk areas.

Here we provide information on:

- Organisations involved in [managing flood risk in Derbyshire and their responsibilities](#)
- [identifying](#) if you are at risk from flooding
- [reporting](#) flooding
- flood protection and resilience measures
- cleaning up after a flood.

As well as this you can find information about our new role, responsibilities and duties as the Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood And Water Management Act 2010 including:

- Our [Local Flood Risk Strategy](#) for Derbyshire
- Derbyshire's [Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment](#) (PFRA)
- Our responsibility for consenting changes to [ordinary watercourses](#) under the Land Drainage Act (1991).
- Our duty to create and maintain an [asset register](#) of all structures deemed to have a significant flood risk impact.
- Our [duty to investigate flood events within Derbyshire](#).
- Our upcoming role as the Sustainable Drainage Systems ([SuDS](#)) Approval Body ([SAB](#)).

**Get prepared!**

**DERBYSHIRE PREPARED**

Visit Derbyshire Prepared to keep informed and prepared for possible emergencies.

**Derbyshire Prepared website (opens in a new window)**

**Flooding in Midlands**

- 0 Severe Flood Warning
- 0 Flood Warning
- 0 Flood Alert

Tue Dec 9 10:18:09 UTC 2014

► Sign up for flood warnings



## Foreword

*“Communities within Derbyshire have over the years been subjected to the severe physical, emotional and economic impacts and consequences of flooding. It is now widely believed that flood events are likely to become more frequent as the effects of climate change develop. The consequences of this flooding will likely see greater risks to life, the wider economy and the environment of Derbyshire. Therefore we must look for ways in which we can adapt and become more resilient to flooding. In response to this, Derbyshire County Council has developed its first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.*

*This strategy is a key milestone for the County Council; the newly defined Lead Local Flood Authority for Derbyshire. It provides the first opportunity for documenting how flooding will be strategically managed by the County as a whole, integrating the work already achieved by Government Bodies, Water Companies, the County Council, communities and individuals. This strategy focuses on local flood risk, defined as flooding caused by surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (streams, ditches etc.). However, it is appreciated that it is not the source of flooding that is of importance to those affected, but the devastating effects and how to mitigate them from reoccurring.*

*This strategy provides the opportunity to identify ways in which we can help to minimise the damage from flooding and support those affected. It will also aspire to identify and promote opportunities to make Derbyshire more economically resilient to the increasing risk that flooding may present to our County. This cannot be achieved by the Local Authority alone. The complex and interwoven issues involved with flooding make it necessary to build close local partnerships, to tap into local knowledge and harness existing assets within our local community. Local Government is ideally placed to lead on this but it must be supported by all stakeholders due to the rising demand and shrinking resources available. All must work together to align at the local level, all with shared goals and understanding. This strategy provides the opportunity to present an action plan for how this can be done.*

*The key aim of this strategy is to provide a document that is useful for the residents and businesses of Derbyshire providing support and guidance whilst putting the residents of Derbyshire at the heart of all decision making”.*

**Dean Collins - Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure**

## WHY IS THIS DOCUMENT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Extreme weather events are predicted to occur more often and we cannot stop flooding from happening. However, we can look for ways to minimise the damage caused and support those affected.

This document forms the framework within which communities can have a greater say in local flood risk management decisions to help improve life for local people. It also provides a common source of information for the residents and businesses of Derbyshire.

## 1. WHAT IS A LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY?

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) has a legal duty under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA, 2010) to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter referred to as 'the strategy'). The strategy is a document that explains how we will coordinate services from across the County with the key aim of mitigating flood risk.

## 2. FLOODING AND FLOOD RISK

### What is flooding?

Flooding is the result of water covering land which is normally dry. Flooding can be an important source of nutrients for agriculture and for recharging groundwater sources. Flooding can, however, result in wide ranging environmental, social and economic impacts when it interacts with the human environment. Floods can develop over days as a result of water taking its time to reach a watercourse and overwhelming it. Flash floods generate quickly and with little warning and can be dangerous.

### What causes flooding?

Natural causes of flooding include:

- Abnormally heavy rainfall and thunderstorms over a short time period;
- Prolonged, extensive rainfall; or
- Rapid snow melt.

Although flooding is a natural phenomenon, its impact upon the surrounding environment and population is determined by both human and natural factors. The natural catchment response to rainfall is determined by factors such as steepness of the land, the amount/type of vegetation, and the catchment geology.

It is an increasingly common occurrence that human influences on a catchment affects local flood risk. This can include:

- Loss of undeveloped (greenfield) land and increase in impermeable hard surfaces;
- Insufficient or poor maintenance of watercourses and drainage infrastructure (culverts, pipes, bridges, trash screens, storage tanks etc.); and
- Rural land management practice (deforestation, compaction, ploughing etc.).

### What is flood risk?

The definition of 'risk' is the combination of the probability (likelihood or chance) of an event happening and the consequences (impact) of it occurring. Floods can happen often or rarely and have minor or major consequences. Where the probability and the consequences of flooding are high, then an area is considered to be at a high risk of flooding. Areas at high risk of flooding are considered to be a high priority in Derbyshire. - Please refer to **Part 2, Section 20** for more information.

**Flood Risk = Probability x Consequences**

### 3. WHAT TYPES OF FLOOD RISK ARE THERE?

Floods can arise from a number of different sources with widely varying consequences depending on the magnitude of the storm event and the susceptibility of the receiving community. Following the national floods of summer 2007, Central Government initiated an independent review into national flood risk management led by Sir Michael Pitt. One of the recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's review was that:

*“the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas”.*

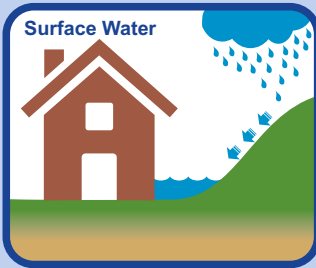
#### Local sources of flood risk

In April 2010, the FWMA implemented a number of recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's review. The FWMA brings in new roles and responsibilities for local authorities. In particular, the Act defines the role of DCC as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). As the LLFA, DCC has:

*“an overarching lead role for coordinating the management of local flood risk across the County of Derbyshire”.*

Therefore, the **County Council** is responsible for coordinating the management of flood risk from local sources in Derbyshire as illustrated on the following page. Please note, Derby City Council is a separate LLFA managing local flood risk within the City Council boundary.





**Surface water flooding** is caused by the build-up of water on surfaces because it cannot soak into the ground due to it being hard paved, frozen, baked solid etc., due to the lay of the land, or where rainfall exceeds the infiltration capacity of the soil. It often occurs during intense or prolonged rainfall events.

**Contact Derbyshire's Flood Risk Management (FRM) team on (01629) 538563**



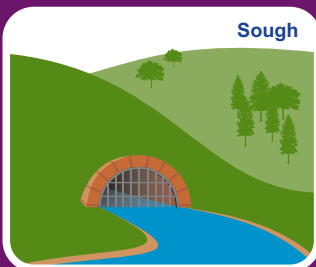
**Ordinary watercourses** are any watercourses that are not a Main River (statutory designated watercourses) that carry a flow of water. Often ordinary watercourses are smaller brooks, drainage channels, ditches, cuts, dikes, sluices, soughs or culverts that may only convey water for a short length of time in a year. Flooding from ordinary watercourses can occur when heavy and/or prolonged rainfall causes the watercourse to break its banks or when blockages occur (for example by debris or when infrastructure fails).

**Contact Derbyshire's FRM team on (01629) 538563**



**Groundwater flooding** occurs when the water table (the water level below ground) rises above the ground surface. During periods of heavy and prolonged rainfall, the water level in the ground may rise to such an extent that it seeps into property basements, or the emergence of groundwater at the surface (can often be a natural spring) may cause damage to properties and infrastructure. Some areas are known to be more prone to groundwater flooding than others due to the naturally high level of the water table level in that area.

**Contact Derbyshire's FRM team on (01629) 538563**



Due to the historic mining and mineral extraction operations in Derbyshire, networks of old stone soughs (drainage channels, sometimes known as adits) exist beneath the grounds surface in parts of the County. At present, DCC has very limited knowledge of the location, condition, alignment and impacts of these soughs on flood risk. Soughs are known to be abundant in the Derbyshire Dales District and High Peak Borough areas of Derbyshire.

For further guidance on soughs please call the FRM team on (01629) 538563.

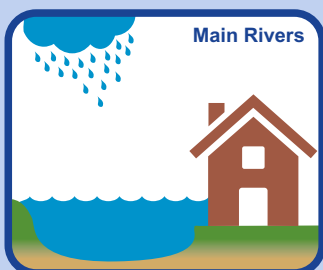
The **District/Borough Councils** of Derbyshire provide assistance with local flooding issues and work collaboratively with DCC's FRM team.



**Highway flooding (non-trunk roads)** is the accumulation of surface water on the adopted Highway network. Highway flooding may be caused by blockages or capacity issues in Highway drainage systems, or simply by sheer volume of rain water falling on the carriageway, which the existing drainage network cannot cope with. The **County Council's Highways Area Management Division** has the responsibility to manage flood risk on the county's non-trunk roads.

**Contact Derbyshire's Highways team on (01629) 533190**

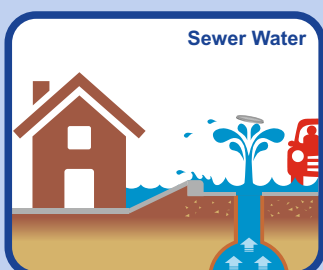
### Other sources of flood risk



**Main Rivers** are larger rivers that can span several counties but also include some smaller watercourses (those which are deemed to require specialist management). Department For Environment, Food And Rural Affairs (Defra) have set the criteria for defining these rivers as Main Rivers in England and Wales.

The **Environment Agency** is responsible for the management of flood risk from Main Rivers.

**Contact the Environment Agency on (03708) 506 506**



**Sewer flooding** can occur when large volumes of rainwater enter the public sewer system or when the public sewer system becomes blocked.

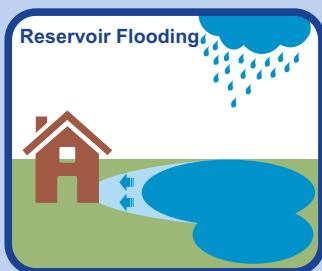
**Water companies** are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from sewers and water mains.

**Contact Severn Trent Water on (0800) 783 4444**

**Contact Yorkshire Water on (0345) 124 24 24**

**Contact United Utilities on (0345) 672 3723**

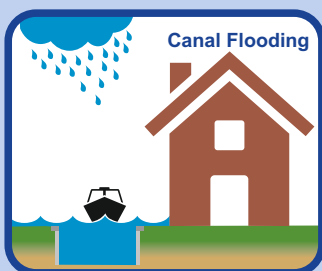
Flooding from **private sewers** is the responsibility of the land owner.



**Reservoir flooding** occurs when a reservoir fails or breaches resulting in this water escaping and flooding on to the adjacent land and, or properties. Reservoirs are artificially created ponds or lakes that are usually formed by building a dam (wall), across a river or watercourse. This type of flooding is considered to be very low risk as it is highly unlikely to occur.

**DCC's Emergency Planning team** is responsible for developing emergency plans for reservoir flooding for the County. The Emergency Planning team work closely with emergency services, reservoir operators and the Environment Agency to develop these plans.

**Contact Derbyshire's Emergency Planning team on (01629) 538364**



**Canal flooding** can be as a result of excessive surface water running off or discharging to an artificially created waterway. The water levels within canals can vary (although not as much as rivers) due to many factors including proximity to controlled/uncontrolled inflows, lock usage etc. The relevant **Navigating Authority** (Canal and River Trust or DCC) administer the canal network across Derbyshire.

**Contact Derbyshire County Council on (01629) 533190**

**Contact the Canal and River Trust on (0303) 0404040**



**Highway flooding (trunk roads)** is the accumulation of surface water on the strategic road network.

The responsibility for flooding to major trunk roads (motorways and some major A Roads) falls within the duties of the **Highways Agency**.

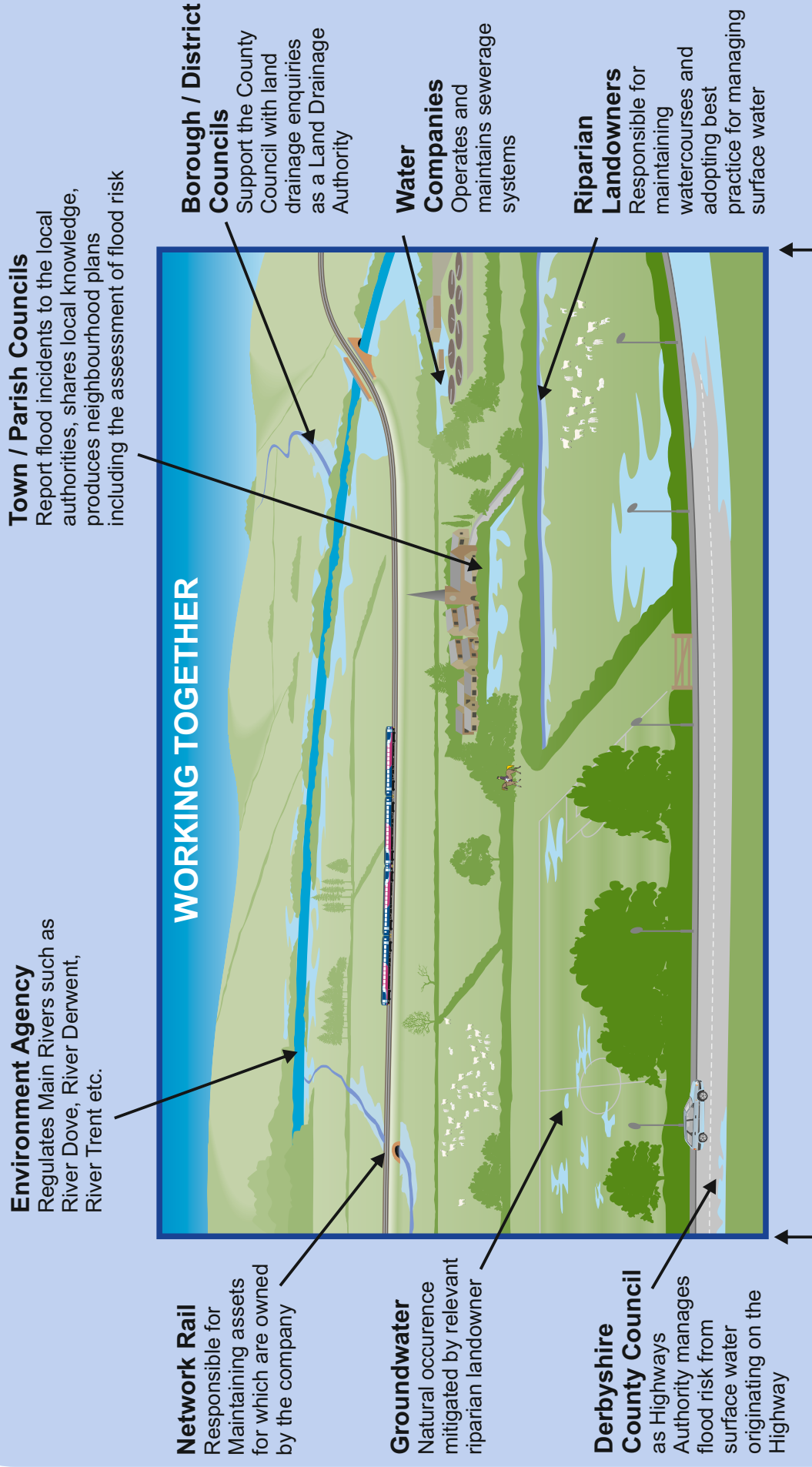
**Contact the Highways Agency on (0300) 123 5000**

Further contact details are available at the back of this strategy. For further details on how to report a flooding incident, please refer to the **Flood Reporting and Enquires Investigation Guidance Notes**

**DO YOU KNOW OF A COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED CULVERT, GULLY OR OTHER STRUCTURE/ASSET THAT NEEDS CLEANSING?**  
Please contact Call Derbyshire on (01629) 533190



**Figure 1: A working together approach to flood risk management**



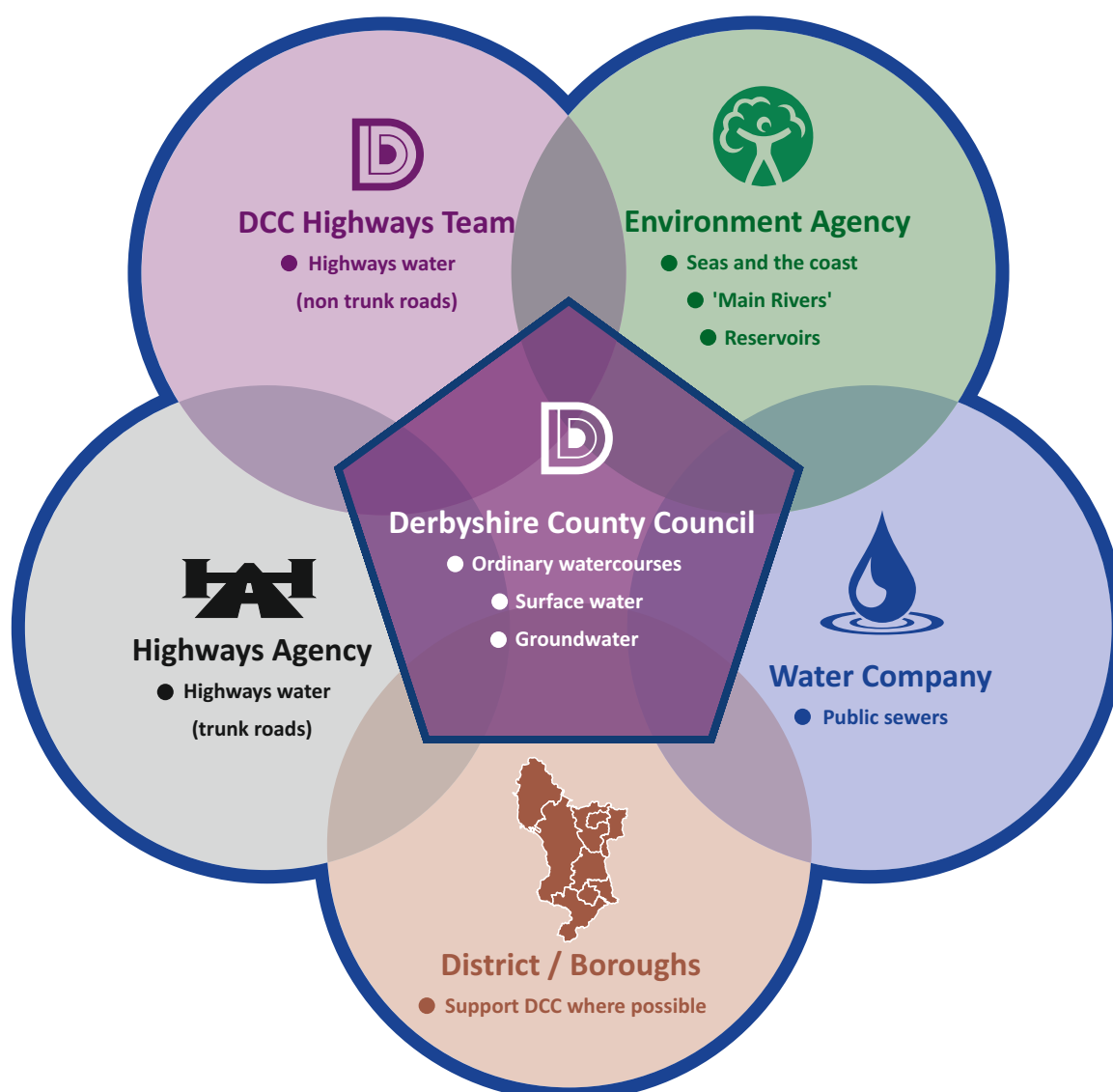
**Derbyshire County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority)**  
Responsible for coordinating all Risk Management Authorities and coordinating the management of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses

#### 4. WHO HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK?

Section 3 has identified a number of responsible bodies for managing different sources of flood risk. The Pitt review recommended that the LLFA bring together all relevant bodies, known as Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to manage flood risk. Legislation that governs the roles and responsibilities of RMAs for Derbyshire can be found in the [Relevant Legislation Strategies and Plans Guidance Notes](#). No single body has the means to reduce all sources of flooding, however, everyone has a part to play in effective flood risk management for the County as illustrated in Figure 1. Figure 2 illustrates the key RMAs that work together for flood risk management in Derbyshire.

For more information regarding the roles and responsibilities for coordinating flood risk, please refer to the [Roles and Responsibilities Guidance Notes](#) and relevant information contained within [Part 2](#) of the strategy.

Figure 2: Key Risk Management Authorities



## 5. YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FLOOD MANAGEMENT

### Individual property owners/businesses

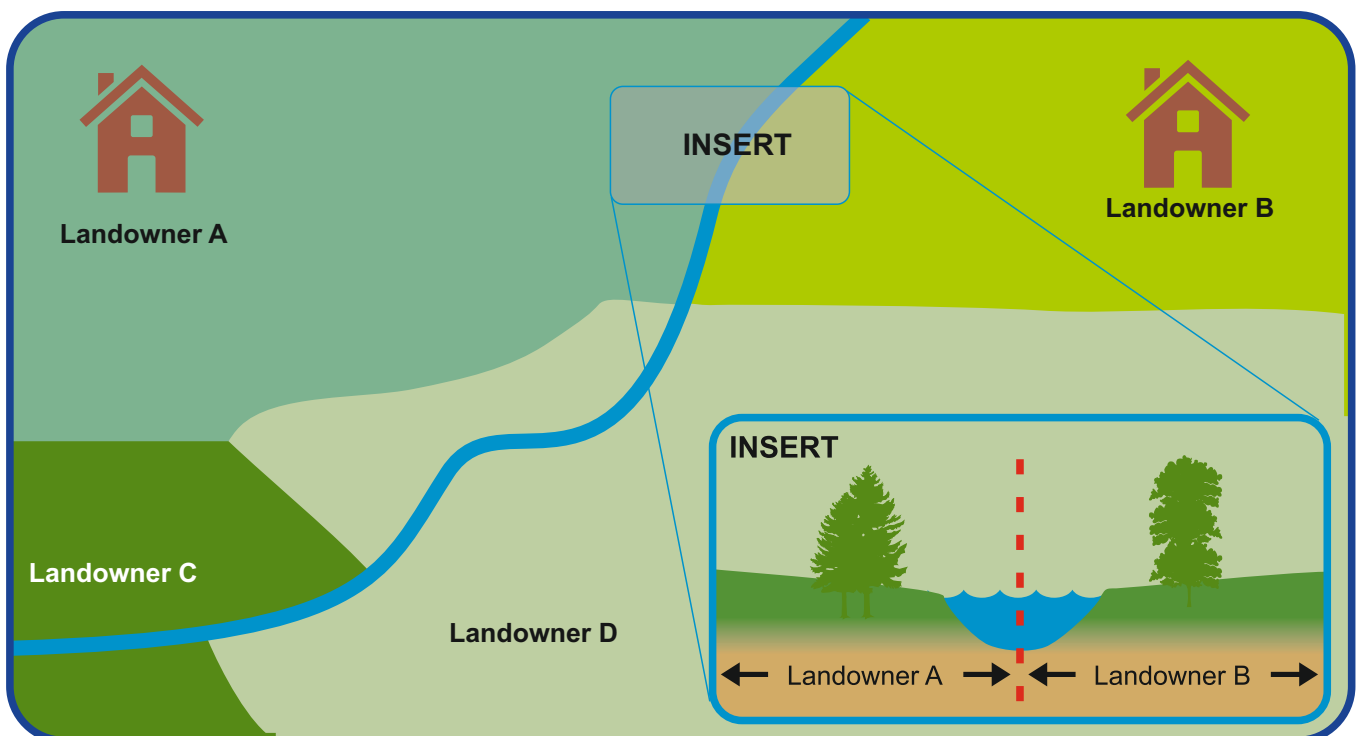
Whilst there are a number of organisations and RMAs who have a responsibility for the management of the different sources of flooding, an individual property owner or business still has the responsibility to take measures to protect their property from flooding. Flooding is a natural process, there may be some instances where flooding still occurs despite all stakeholders meeting their responsibilities and therefore, it is important that business/property owners or residents take appropriate steps to ensure that their property and contents are protected where they are known to be at risk.

### Riparian landowners

A riparian landowner is defined as someone who owns land or property next to or over a river, stream, ditch or culvert/pipe that forms part of a watercourse. The riparian landowner is responsible for the section of watercourse which flows through their land. If a land boundary is defined next to a watercourse, it is assumed that the landowner owns the land up to the centre of the watercourse, unless it is owned by someone else.

Figure 3 illustrates how a length of watercourse can have several riparian landowners, each responsible for a section of a watercourse.

**Figure 3: Illustration of riparian landownership**



Under the Land Drainage Act (1991), riparian landowners have a legal responsibility to maintain the free passage of water through the section of watercourse that flows through their land. The Environment Agency have produced a document that summarises rights and responsibilities of riverside ownership called '**Living on the edge**',<sup>1</sup> For further information please refer to the [Riparian Landownership Guidance Notes](#).

#### **WORKING WITHIN A RIVER OR WATERCOURSE**

Before undertaking any work within or in close proximity to a river or watercourse (such as maintenance, constructing new river banks or installing a trash screen), you should check with the Environment Agency (if the work relates to a Main River) or the County Council if the works relate to an ordinary watercourse as you may require appropriate legal consent.

For more information please refer to Derbyshire's website at [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/flooding) or contact Derbyshire's FRM team

#### **Enforcement Powers**

The County Council is committed to promoting the awareness of land drainage laws and riparian landowner responsibilities (please refer to the [Riparian Landownership Guidance Notes](#)). The County Council does have Permissive Powers under Section 25 of the Land Drainage Act to undertake works to maintain the flow of an ordinary watercourse, and to carry out the works in default and recover their expenses from the riparian landowner. It is at the County Council's discretion, however, as to when they exercise these powers. For further information please refer to the [Relevant Legislation, Strategies and Plans Guidance Notes](#) and the [Enforcement Powers Guidance Notes](#).

## 6. INCREASING RESILIENCE

It is impossible to completely flood-proof a property but there are many things that can be done to reduce the damage of flooding.

### How do I find out if I am at risk of flooding?

You can check online whether you are at risk of fluvial Main River flooding or surface water flooding using the Environment Agency's **'Whats in your backyard'**<sup>2</sup> facility. For other sources, you can contact the relevant organisation directly requesting any historical or predicted flood related information. Please also refer to our **Data Held, Sources and Requests Guidance Notes** for more information.

### Preparation for flooding

Even if you think your home or business is many miles from the nearest watercourse and therefore not directly at risk from river flooding, you could still be affected by various other sources of flooding. Preparatory steps taken before flooding occurs or is threatened have been shown to be far more effective and successful as a means of protecting against flooding. If your home or business is flooded it can be costly, not just in terms of money and time, but also emotionally.

The County Council have created a website which provides information and advice to help you better prepare if there was an emergency in the County (**'Derbyshire Prepared'**<sup>3</sup>).

The Environment Agency offers guidance for householders and small businesses **'Prepare your property for flooding'**<sup>4</sup> and **'A guide to preparing your business for flooding'**<sup>5</sup>.

You can read online **guidance on how to reduce the impact of flooding from groundwater**<sup>6</sup>. Please also refer to the **Groundwater Guidance Notes**.

For guidance on how to prepare for/protect yourself from sewer flooding, please contact your relevant water company. There is also guidance material available online for **Yorkshire Water**<sup>7</sup>, **Severn Trent Water**<sup>8</sup> and **United Utilities**<sup>9</sup>.

Table 1 illustrates some preparation techniques that can be employed to help you become more resilient to the impacts of flooding. For further information please refer to the **Before, during and after a flood** and **Self Resilience Guidance Notes**.

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1. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/riverside-ownership-rights-and-responsibilities>

2. <http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>

3. [www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk](http://www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk)

4. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>

5. [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/292937/LIT\\_5284\\_ab06c2.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/292937/LIT_5284_ab06c2.pdf)

6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flooding-from-groundwater>

7. <http://www.yorkshirewater.com/your-water-services/flooding-advice.aspx>

8. <http://www.stwater.co.uk/households/waste-water-and-sewers/sewer-flooding>

9. <http://www.unitedutilities.com/been-flooded.aspx>





**Sandbags**

Sandbags, if laid correctly, offer some (short term) protection against flood water or can divert water away. The Environment Agency (EA) has produced guidance for **'How to use sandbags properly for flood protection'**<sup>10</sup> which is available online. The County Council can offer a pack of empty sand bags to residents known to be at flood risk. The County Council's **current policy for sandbags**<sup>11</sup> is available online or a hard copy provided on request.



**Alternatives to sandbags**

There are many alternative products to sandbags that may be easier to transport (lighter). These types of products have advantages and disadvantages in comparison to using sandbags. More information in relation to one of the alternative products can be obtained in **Flood Sax Guidance Notes**\*.



**Property Level Protection**

There are a number of products available on the market for property level protection, all of which offer more advanced protection than traditional sandbags. The **National Flood Forum**<sup>12</sup> offers an independent directory of flood protection products and services, as well as a wealth of other information and guidance.



**Flood Plan**

An individual property/business flood plan may include the location of gas taps or electricity supply, emergency numbers, information including emergency responders and your insurance company and preparation of emergency supplies, such as food etc. For guidance on how to complete an individual property/householder flood plan, please contact the Environment Agency or speak to a member of the FRM team.



**Flood Warnings**

The Environment Agency offers a flood warning service to subscribers and a live flood warning map (updated every 15 minutes online) for large parts of the country, particularly those areas affected by flooding from Main Rivers. You can sign up to the **Environment Agency's Flood Warning Service**<sup>13</sup> online or telephone 0345 988 1188.

\* There are many alternative products to sandbags available, however, Derbyshire County Council has procured FloodSax through a competitive tender process. This is subject to constant re-evaluation.

**Table 1: Guidance for helping you become more resilient to flooding**

10. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sandbags-how-to-use-them-to-prepare-for-a-flood>

11. [http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/emergency\\_preparedness/resilience\\_and\\_sandbags/default.asp](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/environment/flooding/emergency_preparedness/resilience_and_sandbags/default.asp)

12. <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

13. <https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

## Insurance against flood damage

DCC's FRM team actively encourage the take up of flood protection insurance, and promote property level protection and flood resilience measures which can help reduce insurance premiums.

If your property has suffered flood damage in the past, there is a history of flooding in your neighbourhood or you are located within an identified flood risk area, it can be difficult to find flood insurance cover. Defra has produced guidance available online for **obtaining flood insurance**<sup>14</sup> in high risk areas. The **National Flood Forum**<sup>15</sup> has developed a Charter for Flood Friendly Insurance which promotes companies that demonstrate a fresh approach to flooded households. If you are concerned about flood insurance or are having trouble getting insurance, please visit the **National Flood Forum**<sup>16</sup> website.

In June 2013, Central Government announced an agreement with the insurance industry to guarantee affordable flood insurance for people in high risk areas. 'Flood Re' stands for flood reinsurance and is a not-for-profit fund financed by insurers, which will cover the cost of flood claims from high risk homes. Please visit the **Association of British Insurers**<sup>17</sup> website for further information about Flood Re.

If you have experienced flooding, you may be reluctant to report the incident to your insurer or the relevant body. However, it is important that you report any flooding to the relevant responsible organisation so that the data can support future work and guide any potential future investment for flood risk management (please refer to the **Flood Reporting** and **Enquiries Investigation Guidance Notes**).

Flood data currently available (including that held by insurance companies and the County Council) provides information on flood risk for the general location but does not identify individual properties. This data does not take account of specific features of your home or business. You may be able to demonstrate that your property is at a much lower risk of flooding than the general area in which it is situated and therefore, increase your chances of obtaining a more competitive insurance quote.

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14. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/obtaining-flood-insurance-in-high-risk-areas>

15. <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/trouble-getting-insurance/>

16. <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/trouble-getting-insurance/>

17. <https://www.abi.org.uk/Insurance-and-savings/Topics-and-issues/Flooding>

You may wish to consider the following list of suggested tips for when seeking to obtain flood insurance:

- Contact a specialist insurance broker who has access to insurers that specialise in flood risk cover.
- Understand your risk better by going online or contacting the County Council and Environment Agency to obtain flood risk data.
- Consider investing in a flood mitigation survey from a property level protection product provider.
- Consider flood resilience measures or products appropriate for your property.
- Sign up for the Environment Agency's Flood Warning Service.
- Join a local flood action group.

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## **7. INCREASING RESILIENCE – COMMUNITY WORKING**

Effective communication is key to promoting awareness of flood risk management issues, better relations between the County Council and the local communities, empowering localism and encouraging people to take action before, during and after a flood event.

DCC is committed to providing a valuable and effective public service and recognise that local communities can offer a wide range of perspectives and a local understanding. DCC recognises the importance of local communication in the management of local flood risk and the promotion of potential mitigation measures and/or solutions. DCC aims to focus on the needs of the individuals, communities and businesses of Derbyshire, including them at the heart of decision making and the management of risk.

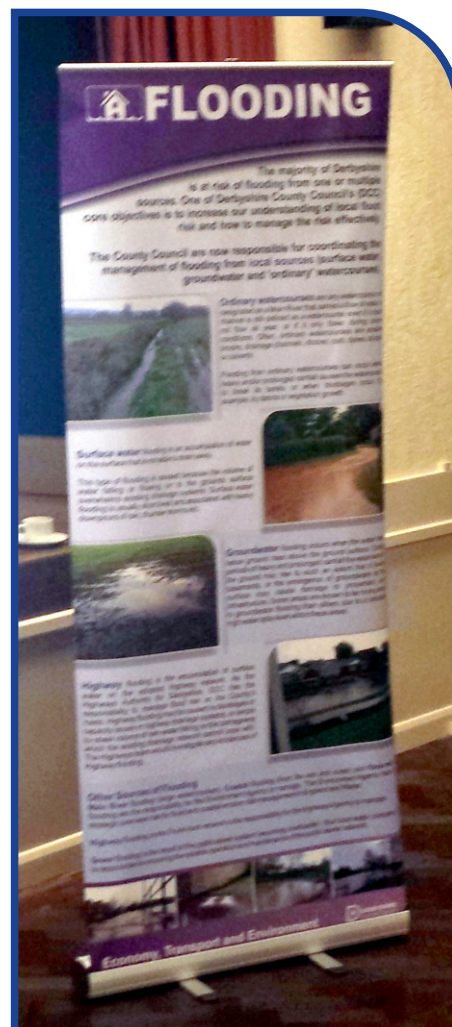
A key objective for this strategy is to build relationships and trust at a local level to ensure that people are well informed and feel supported by flood risk management services. This will be achieved by:

- Increasing awareness via public consultation events, newsletters and online resources.
- Working closely with Parish/Town Councils and community groups.
- Actively encouraging all parties to get involved and be proactive.
- Acknowledging local concerns.
- Liaising and engaging with local businesses and individuals regarding any proposed mitigation measures.
- Encouraging discussion and debate to progress towards a collective action plan.

As with all aspects of the work of the FRM team, our priorities in targeting communication will be aimed at those who are most at risk. Please refer to the **Communication Strategy Guidance Notes** for further details.

## Flood awareness events and evening meetings

A successful way of ensuring that all members of a local community can have a say, report their side of the story and be heard by members of the FRM team or other RMAs, is through flood awareness events and/or evening meetings. A flood awareness event or evening meeting offers the opportunity to inform communities of the FRM team's current understanding of the flood risk to that community and offers the community the chance to inform or confirm that understanding. It also gives the opportunity for the FRM team to highlight any other sources of flood risk that a community may not already be aware of and vice versa. A flood awareness event or public meeting may have representation from a number of RMAs or charitable organisations such as the **National Flood Forum**<sup>18</sup>. DCC has arranged and held a number of flood awareness events and public meetings, often after a flood event, to offer help, support and guidance. Members of the FRM team also regularly attend public meetings supporting Parish/Town Councils or the local community presenting a variety of information from flood risks and relevant RMAs to flood warden schemes.



**IS YOUR COMMUNITY AT RISK OF FLOODING? DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DISCUSSION OF FLOODING AT A LOCAL LEVEL?**

Find out if your local area has a flood action group - Contact DCC's FRM team for more information.

18. A national charity dedicated to supporting and representing communities and individuals at risk of flooding ([www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk))

## **Flood warden schemes**

DCC's FRM and Emergency Planning teams have begun to implement 'Flood Warden Schemes' across the County (in particular those areas that have been affected by flooding), working closely with the Environment Agency, Town/Parish Councils and local communities. The main aim of the Flood Warden Schemes is to provide the members of communities (known to be at a flood risk) with appropriate resilience equipment and skills to be able to help mitigate the impacts of flooding before the emergency services or any other emergency responder/RMA can attend. Equipment provided can range from portable storage units for equipment to sandbags and personal protective equipment. DCC will work with the Environment Agency, Town/Parish Council and local community to appoint 'Flood Wardens' to act as local contacts providing access to the resources and developing a Community Flood Plan. For more information regarding Flood Warden Schemes or a Community Flood Plan, please refer to [\*\*Flood Warden Schemes Guidance Notes\*\*](#).

## **Public site visits**

Members of the FRM team undertake site visits for the majority of reported flooding concerns or land drainage enquiries. Public meetings are a good opportunity for the FRM team to gather local knowledge and, in turn, provide guidance for personal resilience, effective land management, stakeholder responsibilities etc., whilst also passing on information about the wider drainage catchment.

## **Flood action groups**

Several communities affected by flooding in Derbyshire have already set up Flood Action Groups. These groups are an effective way for affected residents to provide a link between the RMAs and the wider community. The groups also help to identify ways to work together with an aim of reducing flood risk in an area.

To find out whether your community already has a flood action group or to obtain guidance of how to set one up, please contact the FRM team.

## **Community level maintenance**

Some communities in Derbyshire have adopted informal arrangements for local people to be proactive and check assets in the event of a severe weather warning. These arrangements can be very productive at a local level and reap great benefits for areas that suffer regularly or in times when the demand for support/response outweighs the available resource.



## DERBYSHIRE CASE STUDY: LOCAL FLOOD ACTION GROUP

A community driven group within the area of Alfreton has experienced recurrent internal flooding from fluvial, surface water and sewer sources. In response to the flooding, residents formed the Alfreton Flood Action Group to provide a support group mechanism.



One of the key factors to the success of the group was the introduction of regular quarterly meetings which enabled DCC and Severn Trent Water to update the residents on the progress towards investigating the sources of flooding, identifying potential mitigation options and identifying possible funding opportunities.

The first success for the Alfreton Flood Forum was an alleviation scheme carried out by Severn Trent Water to upsize parts of the local combined sewer network to lower the risk of sewer flooding. DCC, in close liaison with the Alfreton Flood Forum, looked towards identifying possible options to reduce flood risk to the properties from the local ordinary watercourse. To assist in the funding of the project, DCC submitted a bid to obtain national flood management funding which was granted/secured in 2014, with works planned to start in approximately 2016.

## 8. INCREASING RESILIENCE – WORKING WITH LANDOWNERS AND DEVELOPERS

Both urban and rural landowners must work together across entire catchments to find solutions for flood risk management. A balanced approach for flood risk management is required that looks at:

- reducing rural runoff by improving soil infiltration and increasing water interception;
- reducing urban runoff through Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); and
- looking for opportunities for storing or holding water.

### Planning and development

DCC's FRM team is not currently a statutory consultee to the planning process under current planning law. As it stands, the Environment Agency is consulted and does provide flood risk comments in some cases. DCC's FRM team is working with the Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) (District/Borough Authorities) to ensure that any proposed development in Derbyshire takes into account flood risk and utilises sustainable drainage techniques. For more information about planning and development, please refer to **Part 2** of the strategy.

As the FRM team is not a statutory consultee, ultimately it is up to the LPAs as to what development is approved or rejected. If you have concerns over any proposed or recently constructed development, you are advised to liaise with the relevant Planning Development/Enforcement team at your District/Borough Council; contact details of which are detailed below:

District/Borough	Telephone
Amber Valley Borough	(01773) 570222
Bolsover District	(01246) 242424
Chesterfield Borough	(01246) 345345
Derbyshire Dales District	(01629) 761100
Erewash Borough	(0115) 9072244
High Peak Borough	(01298) 28400
North East Derbyshire District	(01246) 231111
South Derbyshire District	(01283) 595795
Peak District National Park	(01629) 816200

## Land management

Large parts of Derbyshire are categorised as rural farmland. Farmers are key in helping to mitigate flood risk for the County, as often large amounts of farmland drain towards urban communities. Farmland is a huge asset and requires careful management so as not to cause or exacerbate flooding for the upstream/downstream community, or have an economic impact on the farmers' livelihood.

The National Farmers Union (NFU) is actively campaigning to ensure that agriculture is properly valued in flood risk management and rural flooding is managed effectively. The NFU is also working to make continued improvements in soil management. For example, farmers are participating in Catchment Sensitive Farming.

DCC will continue to work closely with landowners, including farmers, to ensure that all views are taken into account in managing flood risk across the County.

For guidance about how you can manage your land more effectively to help reduce flooding, please refer to the [Catchment Land Management Guidance Notes](#).

## 9. HOW WILL DERBYSHIRE COORDINATE THE MANAGEMENT OF LOCAL FLOOD RISK FOR DERBYSHIRE?

### Strategic vision

The strategic management of flood risk in Derbyshire can deliver one of the following three levels of service:

1. **Do Nothing - acknowledging that flood risk will increase with climate change, increasing the risk of social, economic and environmental damage;**
2. **Maintain – keep at pace with climate change by improving flood risk management to maintain current level of protection; or**
3. **Improve – Where possible take proactive steps to reduce social, environmental and economic damages due to flooding.**

In an attempt to create a Derbyshire which has an overarching aim of achieving economic, social and environmental resilience from all sources of flood risk, DCC's strategic decision is to aim to achieve Option 3, to **'Improve'**.

This strategy aims to reduce the impact that flooding has on Derbyshire's residents, visitors and businesses and within this process strive to achieve and take advantage of any opportunities to improve the wider environment of Derbyshire.

## Local objectives for managing flood risk

As the overarching lead for coordinating the management of flood risk in Derbyshire, the FRM team has developed six key objectives for local flood risk management.

Objective	Description
1	To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Derbyshire and the impacts of climate change working collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood risk management for Derbyshire
2	To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure appropriate and sustainable development in Derbyshire
3	To aim to reduce the level of flood risk to the residents of Derbyshire
4	To continue to prioritise limited resources effectively to support communities most at risk in Derbyshire
5	To continue to help and support the local communities of Derbyshire to manage their own risk
6	To continue to help protect and enhance the natural environment

**For a breakdown of actions relating to the above six local objectives please refer to Part 2 of the strategy.**

## 10. MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

The strategy will be informed and updated by on-going reviews, risk assessments and new flood data. Any changes in flood risk management legislation will also prompt a review of the strategy. The strategy will be monitored by measuring performance indicators from the Action Plan set out in **Part 2** of the strategy.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<b>Critical asset</b>	A structure or feature that is considered to have a significant effect on a flood risk in its area
<b>DCC</b>	Derbyshire County Council
<b>Defra</b>	Department For Environment, Food And Rural Affairs
<b>EA</b>	Environment Agency
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>Flood Warden Scheme</b>	An initiative to provide a community with equipment, skills and training to enable them to be more resilient to flooding
<b>FRM</b>	Flood Risk Management
<b>FWMA</b>	Flood and Water Management Act
<b>LFRMS</b>	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
<b>LLFA</b>	Lead Local Flood Authority
<b>Local sources of flooding</b>	Flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses
<b>LPA</b>	Local Planning Authorities (District/Borough Councils)
<b>NFU</b>	National Farmers Union
<b>Pitt Review</b>	An independent review of the summer 2007 floods undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt
<b>Resilience</b>	Capability to anticipate risk, limit impact and recover quickly
<b>RMA</b>	Risk Management Authority
<b>Soughs</b>	An underground channel for draining water from a mine
<b>SuDS</b>	Sustainable Drainage Systems

Part 2 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy focuses on the more technical details for understanding flood risk in Derbyshire, our action plan for how we intend to manage the future risks and how we can fund our flood risk management functions and initiatives.



## FLOODING - WHO TO CALL?

In the event of an emergency, particularly if there is a danger to life, you should always call the Police, ambulance or fire brigade. The County Council also provides an Emergency Planning Service that can assist during an emergency flood event. The Emergency Planning team can be contacted on **(01629) 538364** or **emergency.planning@derbyshire.gov.uk**. Out of normal working hours contact can be made through Call Derbyshire on **(01629) 533190**. Please be aware that the FRM team does not provide a reactive service whilst flooding is ongoing, but will be advising emergency responders.

	Query	RMA	Contact Details
  	Surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourse flooding	Derbyshire County Council	flood.team@derbyshire.gov.uk 01629 538563
	Highway water (non-trunk roads)	Derbyshire County Council	etenetmanadmin@derbyshire.gov.uk 01629 533190
 	Main River, reservoir and coastal flooding	Environment Agency	enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk 03708 506 506
	Sewer Flooding	Severn Trent Water Yorkshire Water United Utilities	STW - 0800 783 4444 YW - 0345 124 24 24 UU - 0345 672 3723
	Highway Water (trunk roads)	Highways Agency	ha_info@highways.gsi.gov.uk 0300 123 5000