



Denbighshire County Council


Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Summary

Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the Denbighshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The flooding experienced in Denbighshire in November 2012 has brought into sharp focus the need to prepare for and manage flood risk. The predictions of increased frequency and intensity of flooding as a consequence of climate change further underline the need for responsibilities to be identified and tightened.

This is the first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the County since we, Denbighshire County Council, received new flood risk management duties and powers under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The strategy will set out how we as a Lead Local Flood Authority will work with our at risk communities and alongside other risk management authorities to reduce flood risk.

This strategy outlines the Council's objectives for managing local flood risk and coastal erosion and describes the measures that we need to take over the coming years to bring about a better, more sustainable approach that works with nature. We look forward to using the strategy to help us target our efforts, make full use of our resources more efficiently, and reduce flood risk to the residents of Denbighshire.



Councillor David Smith

Introduction

Denbighshire County Council has produced a strategy that details the objectives and measures that have been developed to outline, at a high level, how the Authority plans to manage flood risk within the life of this particular strategy and sets out to adopt a holistic approach to local flood risk management. Following the implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Denbighshire County Council became a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and with this has a legal duty to produce the strategy in partnership with other risk management authorities. This summary highlights the key parts of the strategy, giving an overview of the key issues and principles covered by the strategy. The full Strategy and supporting information can be found **on www.denbighshire.gov.uk/flooding**.

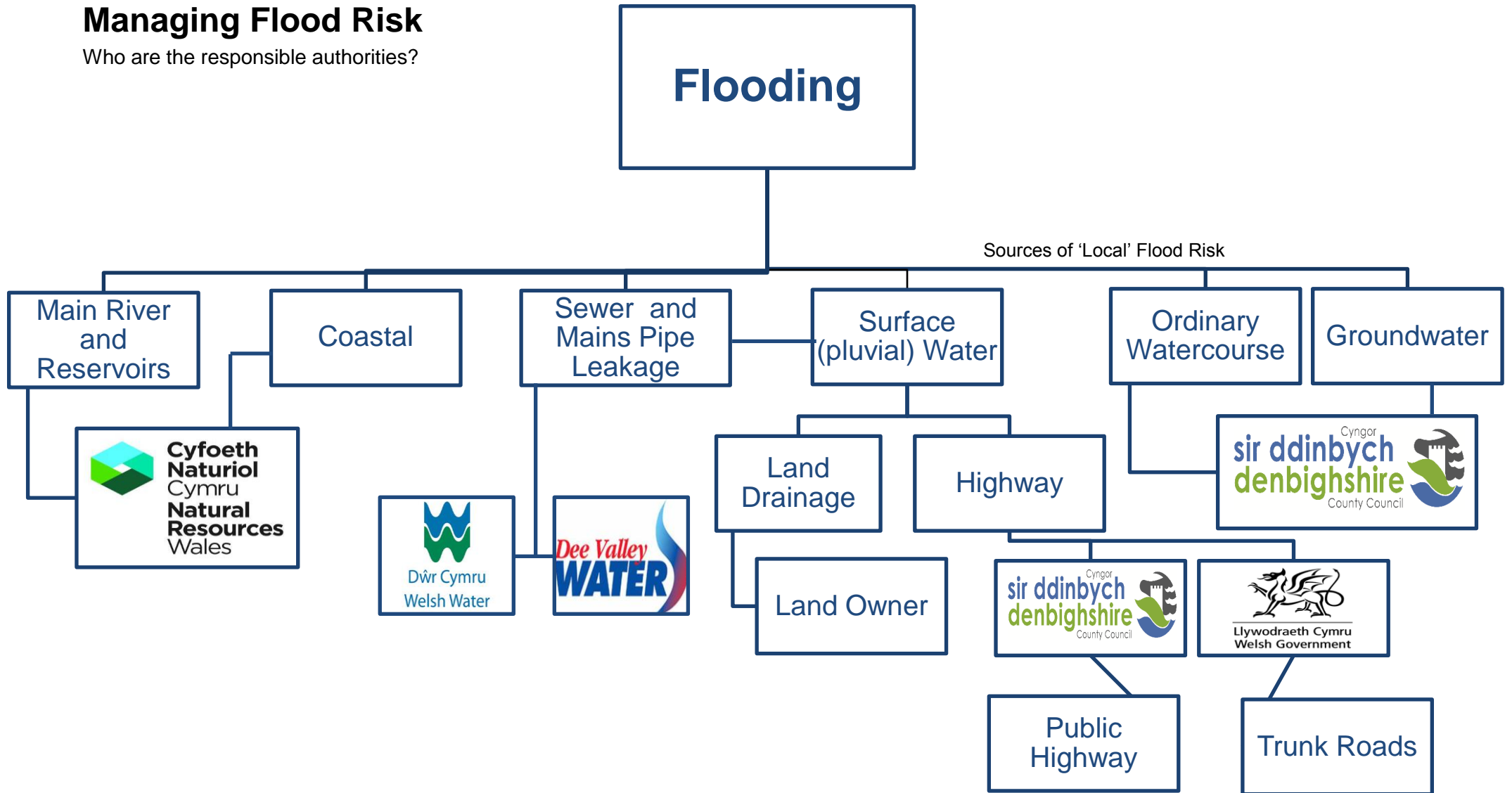
Local Flood Risk

What are the sources of Local Flooding?

Ordinary Watercourses	Ordinary watercourses are defined as watercourses that do not form part of a main river. Flooding from ordinary watercourses occurs when the watercourse channel cannot contain all of the water feeding it from its catchment or when blockages occur within the watercourse.
Surface Water	Surface water flooding occurs when rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) has fallen on the ground and not yet entered a watercourse, drainage system or public sewer and flows across the land. This type of flooding is usually associated with intense, heavy rainfall events in which the volume of water exceeds the capacity of highway drains or culverts. This type of flooding is difficult to predict as heavy showers can be very localised.
Groundwater	Groundwater is held within permeable rocks and soils beneath the surface of the earth. Following prolonged periods of rainfall the water levels within the rocks and soils rise above the ground surface. Groundwater levels are slower to respond than water levels in rivers and begin to rise sometime after a storm event. This slow response also means that when groundwater flooding does occur it tends to be more prolonged as it takes time for the levels to fall.

Managing Flood Risk

Who are the responsible authorities?



Denbighshire County Council's duties and powers as a Lead Local Flood Authority

The **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** placed statutory duties on **Denbighshire County Council** as a **Lead Local Flood Authority**, these include:

- 💧 A duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area;
- 💧 A duty to co-operate with other authorities, including data sharing;
- 💧 A duty to investigate flooding within its area, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate;
- 💧 A duty to maintain a register of assets that are seen to have a significant flood risk;

In addition to these duties, **Denbighshire County Council** as a **Lead Local Flood Authority** has a number of permissive powers. These powers allow the Authority to do certain things, however it does not compel it to.

These powers include:

- 💧 Powers to request a person to provide information in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions;
- 💧 Powers to designate a structure or feature that DCC, as the designating authority believes to potentially affect local flood risk








Denbighshire County Council is also required to take the responsibility for consenting works on ordinary watercourses. Further information can be found here: <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/resident/planning-and-building-regulations/planning/ordinary-watercourse-consent.aspx>

Objectives of the Strategy

Denbighshire County Council's Core Flood Risk Management Objectives:

- Reducing the consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion;
- Raising awareness of and engaging people in the response to flood and coastal erosion risk;
- Providing an effective and sustained response to flood and coastal erosion events; and
- Prioritising investment in the most at risk communities.

Stemming from these core objectives, a further **8 objectives** each with specific measures are outlined in the Strategy.

1.	To improve the understanding of local flood risk.		Development of an asset management system, carrying out flood investigations and drainage surveys.
2.	Ensure that local communities understand their responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management.		Build on better partnerships with local stakeholders; develop flood webpage and provide more flood risk information to residents.
3.	Work in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities and stakeholders.		Continue to work closely with Natural Resources Wales and Utility companies to ensure cost effective solutions to reducing flood risk are delivered
4.			
5.	Actively manage flood risk associated with new development proposals.		Develop and apply a robust local policy for the drainage of new development sites
6.	Encourage proactive, responsible maintenance of privately-owned flood defence and drainage assets.		Identifying high risk, privately owned flood defence and drainage assets, providing sound guidance on maintenance.
7.	Investigate opportunities to reduce surface water run-off from the upper catchments and for flood storage in flood plain areas.		Engage with significant landowners to employ land management techniques and initiatives which help to reduce the rate of surface water run-off.
8.	Identify affordable, sustainable flood risk management projects.		Promote flood risk management schemes that might be eligible for Welsh Government aid, Encourage community and private contribution towards the costs of flood schemes
8.	Ensure local FRM knowledge is aligned with the Councils emergency planning procedures.		Continue to develop Denbighshire County Council's Multi Agency Flood Plan

Moving forward

The strategy will be reviewed and formally updated in four – five years' time, it's important to note that the strategy is an active document, and the objectives within in it will be monitored and if appropriate improved upon during this time.

For further information or to view the documents, please visit www.denbighshire.gov.uk/flooding or contact the Flood Risk Management Team, 01824706901.

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