



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Non-Technical Summary 2015

Introduction

The Royal Borough of Greenwich, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, is required to produce a “*Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*” (LFRMS).

A LFRMS is a document that explains what the Royal Borough as Lead Local Flood Authority is doing, and what it plans to do, to meet its flood risk management duties.

This strategy includes:

- *An explanation of the legal roles and responsibilities for flood risk management in the area*
- *What the Royal Borough of Greenwich’s policies are as a lead local flood authority*
- *The Royal Borough of Greenwich’s overall objectives for managing local flood risk*
- *A summary of the various flood risk assessments across the Royal Borough*
- *An Action Plan of proposed works and actions necessary to meet the objectives.*
- *Information on possible funding sources for relevant work and actions*

One of the key roles of the Royal Borough is to co-ordinate local flood risk management, this includes flood risk from the following:

- *Smaller watercourses*
- *Surface water*
- *Groundwater*

However so that the Royal Borough can manage flood risk in a joined up way it is necessary to work in partnership with neighbouring boroughs, such as Bexley, Bromley and Lewisham alongside a range of other agencies and authorities including the Environment Agency and Thames Water, this covers everything from

- *Engaging with communities*
- *Preparing for floods*
- *Responding to flood events*
- *Investigating floods*
- *Collaborating on flood risk studies*
- *Investing in / delivering flood improvements (new infrastructure)*

The Royal Boroughs LFRMS focuses on identified flood risk in the Borough and highlights areas where knowledge needs to be improved. The Action Plan proposes actions to gain this knowledge as well as actions to meet the overall objectives to mitigate or alleviate local flood risk. The Action Plan is a six year plan and includes indicative costs and possible funding sources (subject to successful bids). Whilst the Action Plan is a six year plan some actions extend beyond this time.

The Royal Boroughs LFRMS is available from the Royal Borough of Greenwich website.

Legislation

In 2007 widespread flooding affected many parts of the UK resulting in fatalities, loss of critical infrastructure and significant property damage. Following that event the government commissioned Sir Michael Pitt to investigate the flooding and the way in which the event was managed. The Pitt Report made 86 recommendations and one of these was that new duties should be placed on Local Authorities to manage local flood risk due to Surface Water and Groundwater flooding under a new statutory role of Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

Surface Water flooding is experienced mainly after rain fall and results from the water flowing over the land and flooding an area before it reaches the sewer system or main river, or as a result of the sewer system / river being at full capacity. Ground water flooding can be experienced several months after any rainfall but the exact mechanisms and emergence of groundwater in any one area is little understood across the UK.

Following the Pitt Report new legislation was introduced in the form of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010. This accompanied the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR) which converts European Union directives in to UK Law.

The Royal Borough, as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), has powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities.



So what is the Flood Risk in the Royal Borough and who is responsible?

The Royal Borough is at risk from all forms of flooding. This is shown in the table below along with who is responsible to manage that particular risk.

<i>Type / source of Flooding</i>	<i>What is it</i>	<i>Who is responsible</i>
Surface Water (Pluvial)	This is flooding caused by heavy and prolonged rain fall	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Groundwater	This is where there is too much water in the ground, from rainfall, and the water appears from the ground. This can appear up to two months after the rain.	Royal Borough of Greenwich
River (Fluvial)	Main river – These are big or larger rivers like the Thames, Ravensbourne, Kid Brook and River Quaggy	Environment Agency
	Ordinary Watercourse – These are smaller streams like the start of the Rivers, Shuttle or Wickham Valley Watercourse	Royal Borough of Greenwich
Tidal/Coastal	Although this sounds dramatic the Thames for the length of the Royal Borough is a tidal river and is a coastal estuary.	Environment Agency
Reservoir	Reservoir flooding is caused by the failure of a reservoir	Owner of the Reservoir
Sewer Flooding	Is when the sewers don't have enough capacity to deal with the volume of water and this then appears in houses or in the road generally this is raw sewage	Thames Water

Whilst a large part of the Royal Borough is at risk of flooding the level of flood protection is high, as a result of measures such as the river walls along the Thames (Tidal defences), Thames Barrier and Sutcliffe Park (River defences). The number of historical flooding incidents in the Royal Borough has been low.

The Local Strategy sets out how the Royal Borough can better protect against local flood risk using various methods, as set out in the Action Plan and how the Royal Borough will work with partners to ensure current levels of protection are maintained and where appropriate enhanced.

How do I find out if I am at risk?

There are several ways to find out if you are at risk of flooding, or in an area of known flood risk:

- *Appendix B of the LFRMS show the potential areas of surface water flooding, at a very high level.*
- *The Environment Agency's website "[What's in your backyard](#)" has information about the various types, and level of flood risk in a user friendly format.*

I'm at risk of flooding what shall I do?

If you are at risk of flooding you can check whether you are in an area that receives a flood warning service (related to flood risk from main rivers and coastal flooding) from the Environment Agency. You can check this on the "[What's in your backyard](#)". If you are in an area which receives the flood warnings you are encouraged to sign up to this free service.

There are various levels of warnings that are issued as part of this service. These are:



The Environment Agency recommends you write a [flood plan](#) to help you prepare in the event of a flood.

A range of practical advice is provided on the Environment Agencies website at <https://www.gov.uk/environmental-management/flooding-coastal-change>

- *Register for flood warnings where they are available*
- *Create a Flood Plan so you know what to do*
- *Install resilience measures to protect your home or business*

Consider any resilience measures that could be installed to protect your property, more information can be found at the National Flood Forum <http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/>

The above is only a very brief summary and overview so you may wish to discuss issues with the Royal Borough of Greenwich Flood Risk Manager and see the Council's website.

What is the Royal Borough going to do if I am at risk of flooding?

We cannot stop flooding, we can help mitigate and alleviate the impacts of flooding from Surface Water, Groundwater and Ordinary Watercourses. We have set out in the Royal

Boroughs LFRMS a six year Action Plan. This Action Plan identifies, with some prioritisation, work to be completed that will help contribute to:

- *A reduction in local flood risk, or*
- *Reduced impact in the event of a flood, or*
- *A quicker recovery following a flood, or*
- *A combination of all the above*

We will also aim to deliver the following actions:

- *Reduce and better manage all sources of local flood risk within the Royal Borough*
- *Identify and apply for funding in order to deliver the action plan*
- *Communicate flood risk with affected communities*
- *Manage development to reduce flood risk and encourage sustainable drainage*
- *Provide local advice and guidance to help residents and business understand their flood risk and be resilient*
- *Engage with residents and business to make sure decisions are made using best and most up to date information available*
- *Work in partnership with other Risk management Authorities to improve understanding and where appropriate deliver mitigation of Flood Risk*
- *To support and contribute to key mitigation projects such as the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan and Catford Flood Alleviation Scheme*
- *To identify and work flood defence owners to ensure their assets are maintained appropriately*
- *Create strong links with communities, elected members and internal departments to strengthen resilience to flood risk*

The Royal Borough does NOT provide sandbags. Protecting property from flood risk is the responsibility of the property owner. However the Royal Borough will, where appropriate and resources allow, assist residents and businesses to find the most appropriate solutions to their needs. This might range from [Property Level Protection](#) through to wider strategic projects which would aim to deliver a higher level of protection from known flood risk in an area.