

# **Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

**Annex A  
Governance  
and partnership  
arrangements**



**March 2015**

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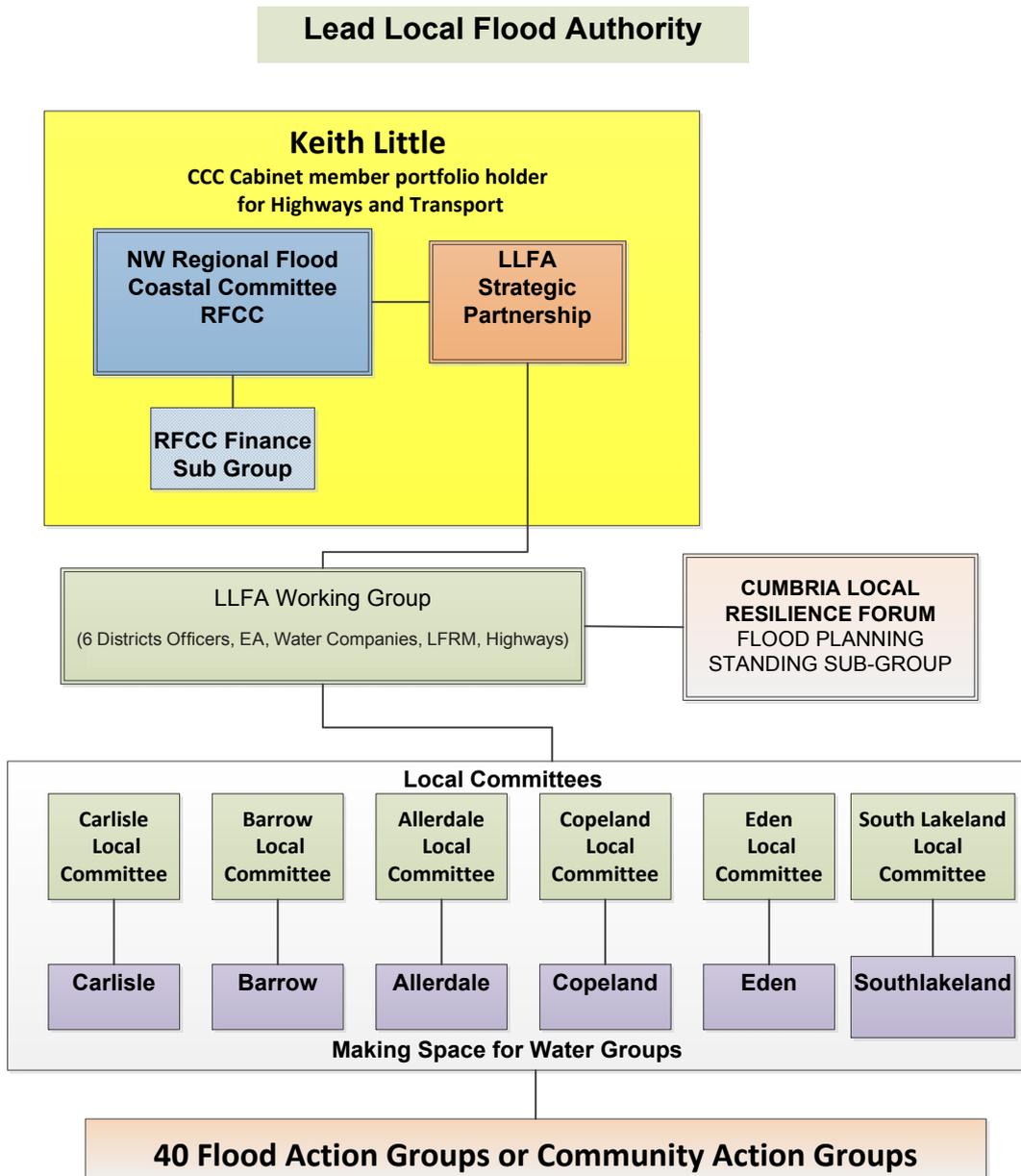
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# Governance and partnership arrangements

## 1 Introduction

Flood risk management and governance has changed markedly as a result of the FWMA. The formation of LLFAs introduced unitary authorities and county councils into the established framework for flood risk management across England. The remit for the LLFAs has been clearly established, but it does require them to incorporate themselves into existing and new partnerships in order to contribute to the successful management of flood risk from all sources. These partnership arrangements need to operate internally and externally. Input is required across technical and policy functions and can extend to emergency response and resilience. Cumbria has well established partnerships between existing flood risk management authorities and the County Council has taken the lead in these partnerships, working very closely and successfully with the EA. The Pitt Review (many of the recommendations of which were incorporated into the FWMA) made it clear that success in reducing the likelihood and impact of future floods will depend on greater coordination and cooperation between local partners. The governance structure and how this works with other regional flood risk management working groups is shown in Figure A. 1. below.

Figure A. 1. Cumbria LLFA governance



## 2 Cumbria LLFA Strategic Partnership

The purpose of this group is to develop a professional partnership that provides strategic leadership for flood risk management across Cumbria.

Its role is to:

- Identify and agree strategic objectives in relation to the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the FWMA
- Set strategic priorities for flood risk management work programmes across Cumbria and its neighbouring authorities.
- Ensure an effective multi-agency approach to flood risk management, which enables the safe and effective sharing of data, information and resources.
- Review skills and develop options to build technical capacity, including advice to Elected Members on succession planning and future resource needs.
- Act as link to local authority decision making processes and other key groups such as the North West RFCC, neighbouring LLFAs, Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, and the Cumbria Resilience Forum.
- Represent Cumbria's interests on the North West RFCC.

## 3 LLFA Working Group

This group is guided by and reports to the LLFA Strategic Partnership and also serves as the professional, multi-agency partnership overseeing the operational delivery of flood risk management across Cumbria.

Its role is to:

- Identify mechanisms for communication and liaison with a wide range of partners.
- Interpret the requirements of flood risk legislation and guidance and to develop work programmes based on the latest assessment and understanding of flood risk.
- Lead on the development of data sharing arrangements to enable the safe and effective pooling of information and to use this as an evidence base to inform decision making and investment planning.
- Identify opportunities to align partner work programmes, so that investment can be maximised to improve collective understanding and management of flood risk.
- Provide a holistic approach to flood risk management, by ensuring that interrelationships between different sources of flooding are understood and used to inform a comprehensive local flood risk management strategy.

The group also prepares reports for the LLFA Strategic Partnership which provide:

- Assurances that liaison is working and that partners are fulfilling commitments.
- Progress towards achieving strategic objectives.
- Updates on the Group's work programmes and key issues for review and endorsement
- Recommendations for action.
- Requests for support on sticking points, support from other partners or obtaining resources to invest in improvements.

Table A.1. Membership of Cumbria flood risk management groups

Group Name	Group membership
<b>LLFA Strategic Partnership</b>	Chair – CCC Director
	CCC Cabinet Portfolio Holder for LFRM
	Rep from LFRM at CCC
	Invited members as required
	EA
	Water Companies
	District Drainage Representative
	EPU
	CCC Spatial Planning
<b>LLFA Working Group</b>	Chair – CCC Senior manager
	LFRM Co-ordinating team
	Invited members as required
	EA
	Water Companies
	MSfWG representatives
	District/Borough Council drainage engineers

## 4 Making Space for Water Groups

Each of the six district areas within Cumbria has a Making Space for Water Group (MSfWG). These are led by a representative from the LLFA and membership is made up of officers from:

- EA
- District/Borough Council
- County Highways and partners
- Water Companies
- Major infrastructure providers – i.e. Highways Agency; design, build, fund and operate contractors

The groups are guided as appropriate by the LLFA Working Group and meet quarterly in each district with the purpose of working in partnership, in order to:

- Provide accurate assessments of the risk, nature and scale of local flooding.
- Identify and bring forward solutions to reduce the risk of flooding from local sources.
- Record, investigate and mitigate the effects of flooding incidents (hotspots).

Their role is to:

- Seek and create opportunities for more effective integrated water management, as directed by the LLFA Working Group, in line with the national and local flood risk management strategies prepared by the EA and LLFA s respectively.
- Ensure good communication, knowledge sharing, problem solving and operational working between partners.
- Create a common understanding of the roles, responsibilities and limitations of organisations.
- Review and respond appropriately to the UK MSfWG strategy.

- Review and respond appropriately to the EU Water Framework Directive 2000.
- Review and respond appropriately to the development and implementation of strategic flood management plans (Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans, Shoreline Management Plans and Strategic Flood Risk Assessments).

Each MSfWG also prepares reports for the LLFA Working Group, which provide:

- Assurances that liaison is working and that partners are fulfilling commitments.
- Recommendations for action.
- Requests for support on sticking points, support from other partners, or resources to invest in improvements.

## **5 Flood and Community Action Groups**

There are over 40 flood action groups, initially set up by the EA, focused on fluvial flooding and some 4 or 5 community action groups that have formed because of risks other than flooding affecting communities. They are led by individuals from the affected communities and they are often supported by county councillors, town councils and parish councils. MSfWGs have formed links to the groups to facilitate collaboration at a local level.

## **6 Cumbria Resilience Forum Flood Planning Standing Sub-Group**

The Cumbria Resilience Forum (CRF) was set up following The Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which established a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at the local level. The resilience forum has a Flooding Sub-Group that meets regularly to discuss significant flooding issues and how to respond to them. The membership of the Flooding Sub-Group includes the following organisations:

- EA
- Local Authority engineers
- CCC
- County Council Highways
- Water Companies
- Cumbria Constabulary
- Cumbria Fire and Rescue
- North West Ambulance Service
- RAF
- Network Rail
- Met Office

Cumbria LLFA contributes to the group by reporting MSfWG activities, including what the Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid bids put forward as flood defence schemes in Cumbria. The meetings involve discussing new advances in flood response, forecasting and risk assessment. This sub-group will be consulted on actions within this strategy proposed to reduce the risk of flooding and the possible need for an emergency response. The Sub-Group meets 3 times a year and has ownership of a Multi-Agency Flood Plan.

## 7 North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee

This committee approves the work of the EA and the LLFA in the north-west region. It is also a forum to share the work and progress of the EA in the region with local partners and to ensure that partnership work is happening with the LLFA, districts and communities. All LLFAs in the region have representation on the committee.

The North West RFCC covers Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire. CCC has one member on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee from a total membership of 10. There are also eight technical appointees on the committee, who do not have voting rights. The Cumbria LLFA representative is Cllr. Keith Little who is also on the Finance Sub-Group of the North West RFCC. Cllr. Little also sits on the LLFA Strategic Partnership.

The RFCC is responsible for administering the flood defence capital programme in the North West funded by DEFRA. This includes expenditure (capital) and funding for the EA, LLFAs and coastal authorities for new or improved defences and major refurbishment, as well as other expenditure (revenue) on assets, plant and equipment related to managing flood and coastal erosion risks.

The Committee is also responsible for administering the local levy, which is a fund paid into by each authority in the region according to the number of Band D properties in the authority. The local levy is described in Section 6.2.3

## 8 Northern Coastal Sub-Group

Alongside the RFCC, sits the North West England and North Wales Coastal Group. It meets twice a year and is attended by the RFCC Chair. It has two sub-groups: the Northern Sub-Group covering the Ribble Estuary to the Solway Firth, and the Liverpool Bay Sub-Group covering the Ribble Estuary to Great Orme.

As Cumbria LLFA and with district authorities carrying coastal responsibilities, CCC attends the Northern Coastal Sub-Group, which meets 3 times a year. The group brings together coastal managers and planners from coastal local authorities, the EA and other maritime operating organisations to deliver co-ordinated strategic management of the shoreline between the Ribble Estuary and the Solway Firth. The North West England and North Wales Coastal Group co-ordinates the preparation of the Shoreline Management Plans for this stretch of coast. Shoreline Management Plan 2 looks at the policy agreed with all for:

- 'Defend the Line'; or
- no active intervention or
- managed realignment

For each section of the coast throughout Cumbria, policy covers 0-20 year, 20-50 year and 50-100 year timeframes.

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