



Annex H

Equality Impact Assessment

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Directorate	Environment & Community Services
Unit/Team	Highways, Transport & Fleet
Assistant Director Responsible for EIA	Andrew Moss
Service EIA or Proposal	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)

Aims of the EIA

Purpose of the EIA	This Equality Impact Assessment will make sure that the management of local flood risk as required by the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 meets the needs of all communities across Cumbria.
Summary of findings	<p>Public consultation carried out in November-December 2014 identified the following groups as particularly vulnerable because of restricted ability to respond to a flood incident : –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • elderly • disabled • rural isolation <p>This EIA examines the ability of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to respond to the needs of these groups. A significant amount of information is available to support the Strategy in mitigating impacts.</p> <p>Three of the five Strategy Policy Objectives, (reduction in and awareness of flood risk; improving community resilience) contribute to wide ranging positive impacts to these groups.</p>

<p>Scope of the EIA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One directorate • Cross directorate • Outsourced organisation 	<p>Principally one directorate – Environment & Community Services (as Highway Authority) with impacts on and input from :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Services • Health & Care Services • Resources • Cumbria Fire & Rescue • District Councils • National Parks • Environment Agency • Water Companies • Voluntary sector
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Phase I: Gathering information

List examples of background information that you think are **relevant**. If carrying out an assessment of a proposal this section should include the data used to establish whether the proposal has an impact.

Type of information	Findings
Feedback from the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Public Consultation	Work was undertaken with Cumbria CVS during the public consultation to target a response from groups identified to be particularly vulnerable because of restricted ability to respond to a flood incident – the elderly, disabled and those in rural isolation. Although there were comments raised in the public consultation meetings across Cumbria on issues affecting these groups, none of the groups responded. Issues tend to peak when specific sites are identified, or when flooding has been experienced.
Census, national and regional statistics. Cumbria Observatory	Age. Cumbria has lower proportions of residents in the three youngest age groups (0-44 years) and higher proportions of residents in the four oldest age groups (aged 45+). Since Mid-2003, the population of Cumbria has increased by 6,700 people (+1.4%), with the greatest percentage increase occurring in the 85+ age group (+34.7%) and the greatest percentage decrease occurring in the 30-44 age group (-18.9%). <i>Source: Office for National Statistics.</i>

	<p>Disability. Levels of disability in the county are rising but remain similar to national levels. 20.6% of the working age population in Cumbria has a disability compared to 20.5% in England. <i>Source: Cumbria Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, March 2012.</i></p> <p>Rural isolation: 54% of Cumbria's residents live in rural areas compared to 18% across England & Wales. The geographical barriers to services score was produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in order to consider the physical proximity of local services to communities. In Cumbria 84 communities rank amongst the 10% most deprived in England in relation to geographical barriers to services.</p>
Consultation on scheme design	<p>A key element of the County Council's statutory role in local flood risk management is flood incident investigation and reporting. Over 100 flood reports have been prepared where Flood Officers have engaged with local communities to understand the local flood impacts and develop community resilience. Where relevant, the needs of vulnerable groups and the views of 3rd Sector organisations are prioritised in the design of flood defence measures.</p>
Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs)	<p>Produced by Planning Authorities to support Core Strategies and Local Plans. Historically there has been focus in SFRAs on large scale flooding from rivers and coastal flooding. Recent updates are attempting to understand the extent and severity of flood risk from all sources and to use the information to try to direct development away from the areas at highest risk.</p>
Core Strategies and Local Plans	<p>Produced by Planning Authorities, these statutory documents keep under review changes to the area's population, and economic characteristics and the communications of the area in order to determine how the changes affect the development of the area. Consequently, they are a resource for identifying spatial strategy, development principles, economic and commercial growth all of which can be influenced by equality and diversity issues.</p>
Cumbria Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)	<p>The PFRA process is aimed at providing a high level overview of flood risk from local flood sources, including surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. It used the National Receptor Dataset which lists vulnerable sites – hospitals, care homes, schools etc.</p>

Cumbria Surface Water Management Plan	This study was a refined and detailed working of the PFRA and provides the basis flood risk assessment used in the LFRMS.
Cumbria Multi-Agency Flood Plan	This plan has been developed by Cumbria Resilience Forum to collate information regarding the roles and responsibilities of organisations that respond to flooding within the Cumbria area to improve multi agency response and co-ordination to flooding incidents. It sets out the process of warning and informing those at risk from flooding and the response procedure to protect vulnerable groups.
Dealing with issues	Issues are raised frequently from a wide variety of sources about the management of local flood risk. These usually refer to drainage problems that have the potential to result in property flooding. These are logged and investigated by the Local Flood Risk Management Team. Findings are shared with the local Making Space for Water Group to develop solutions in partnership with other flood risk management authorities. There is plenty of opportunity throughout this process to identify and record the impacts of local flooding on vulnerable people and prioritise a response.

Phase 2 Impacts

From the evidence above use this section to identify the risks and benefits according to the different characteristics protected by the Equality Act.

All/general: Any issue that cuts across a number of protected characteristics

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	Less flooding of property	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy
Awareness of local flood risk	Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

Improve community resilience	Involving communities to contribute with knowledge and funding to the development of local flood schemes	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy
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Disability and health and wellbeing: All forms of disability recognised under the Disability Discrimination Act including sensory impairment, mental health, learning disabilities, mobility related conditions, conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, asthma. This also covers any impact on health and well being

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	<p>Reduced health and safety risk associated with impacts from flood event and recovery.</p> <p>People with a disability can be especially vulnerable in a flood as they may be less able to evacuate.</p> <p>There is an emotional recovery from flooding. People suffering from mental illness such as depression and anxiety are particularly vulnerable and those who have experienced flooding before.</p> <p>However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact on these groups.</p>	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

Gender, Transgender and Marital Status

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

Ethnicity: All ethnic groups including Asian, Black, East Asian and white minority ethnic groups, including Eastern Europeans and Gypsy and Travellers.

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

Sexual Orientation: including heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual people

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

Age: Where a person is at risk of unfair treatment because of their age group

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Reduction in local flood risk	Reduced risk will have the greatest positive impact on the young and elderly. The very young and the very old can be particularly vulnerable during a flood as they may be less able to evacuate quickly and safely. However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact on these groups.	None	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

Religion/belief: all faiths including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and non religious beliefs such as Humanism

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
None	None	None	None

Socio-Economic Status: This can include people on low incomes, as well as issues around rural and urban deprivation

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Awareness of local flood risk	<p>More information and support available to those living in rural isolation. Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding</p> <p>More information and support available to those living in urban deprivation. Empowerment of individuals and organisations to protect themselves against flooding.</p> <p>Some of the worst flood risk in Cumbria is in areas where much of the population is on a low income, and therefore work to mitigate flood risk will particularly benefit those communities.</p> <p>Those dwelling in caravans rather than bricks and mortar houses are more at risk in the event of a flood. Therefore, the gypsy and traveller communities are potentially at a greater risk. However, as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy seeks to reduce the risk of flooding this should have a positive impact on these groups.</p>	<p>Flood awareness and warnings are largely provided through online information via the Environment Agency and Met Office. Rural isolation/poor connectivity/lack of IT skills and knowledge could result in people not getting the information they need about the level of alert affecting their property.</p> <p>Low income households will be more vulnerable to slow recovery from a flood incident.</p> <p>It can be difficult or expensive to get satisfactory insurance cover in areas of highest flood risk. When these areas overlap with low income households, these risks are compounded.</p>	All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy

Community Cohesion: This is where a decision or a change to services may risk creating tensions between community groups in a local area.

Issue	Positive Impact or benefits	Negative impact or risks	Action Required
Improve community resilience	<p>Involving and empowering communities to contribute with knowledge and funding to the development of local flood schemes.</p> <p>By setting out criteria which will help to guide investment decisions and responses to flood incidents, the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will reduce the risk of perceived unfairness in the distribution of funding for flood defences and in the response to flooding incidents.</p> <p>Increased awareness of flood risk will enable communities to support the most vulnerable within them in the event of a flood.</p>	Potential for community division because differences in understanding and priorities	Maintain full liaison with Flood and Community Action Groups via Area Support Teams and the Environment Agency

Phase 3: Action Planning

Based on actions raised in the action required box above

Area for further action	Actions proposed	Lead officer	When	Resource implications	Outcome
All actions/measures as identified in the Strategy	Strategy Action Plan, Annex D	A. Lane	As identified in the Action Plan	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Fulfilment of statutory duties under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.

Liaison with Flood and Community Action Groups	Develop with involvement from Area Support Teams and the Environment Agency. Improve engagement with those groups identified within this EIA who are expected to experience both positive and negative impacts from implementation of the Strategy.	A. Lane	On-going	Accommodated within existing resource planning	Growth in the number of Flood and Community Action Groups. Awareness of the particular needs of those groups identified within this EIA who are expected to experience both positive and negative impacts from implementation of the Strategy.
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Documents appended to the Equality Impact Assessment:

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Public Summary

Quality Assurance and EIA completion

Date completed	20th March 2015
Lead officer	A. Lane
Have staff been involved in developing the EIA?	Yes
Have community organisations been involved?	Yes
Date of latest update of EIA	20th March 2015