

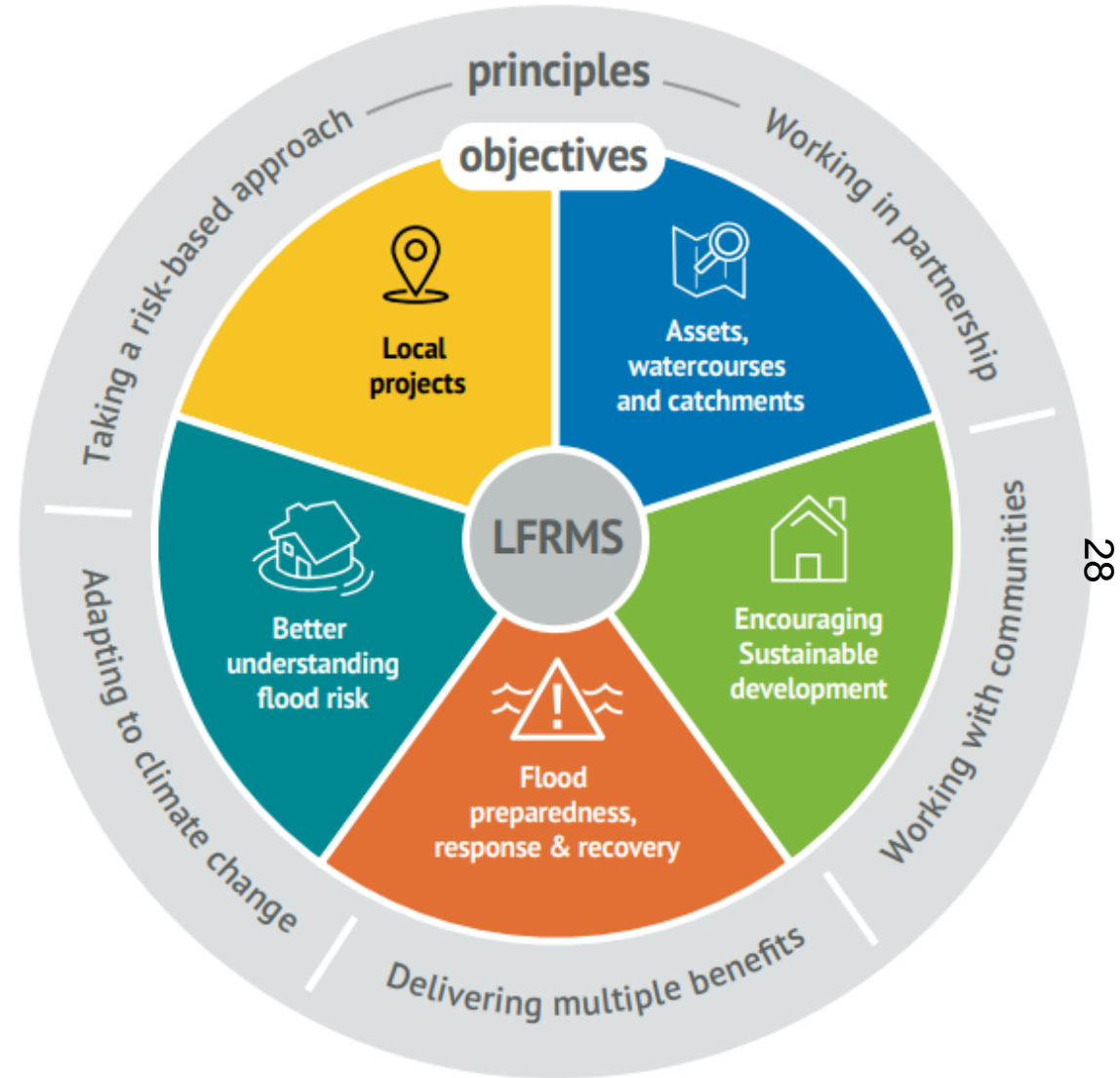
# Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Local Flood Risk Management Strategy<sup>27</sup> (LFRMS) Update

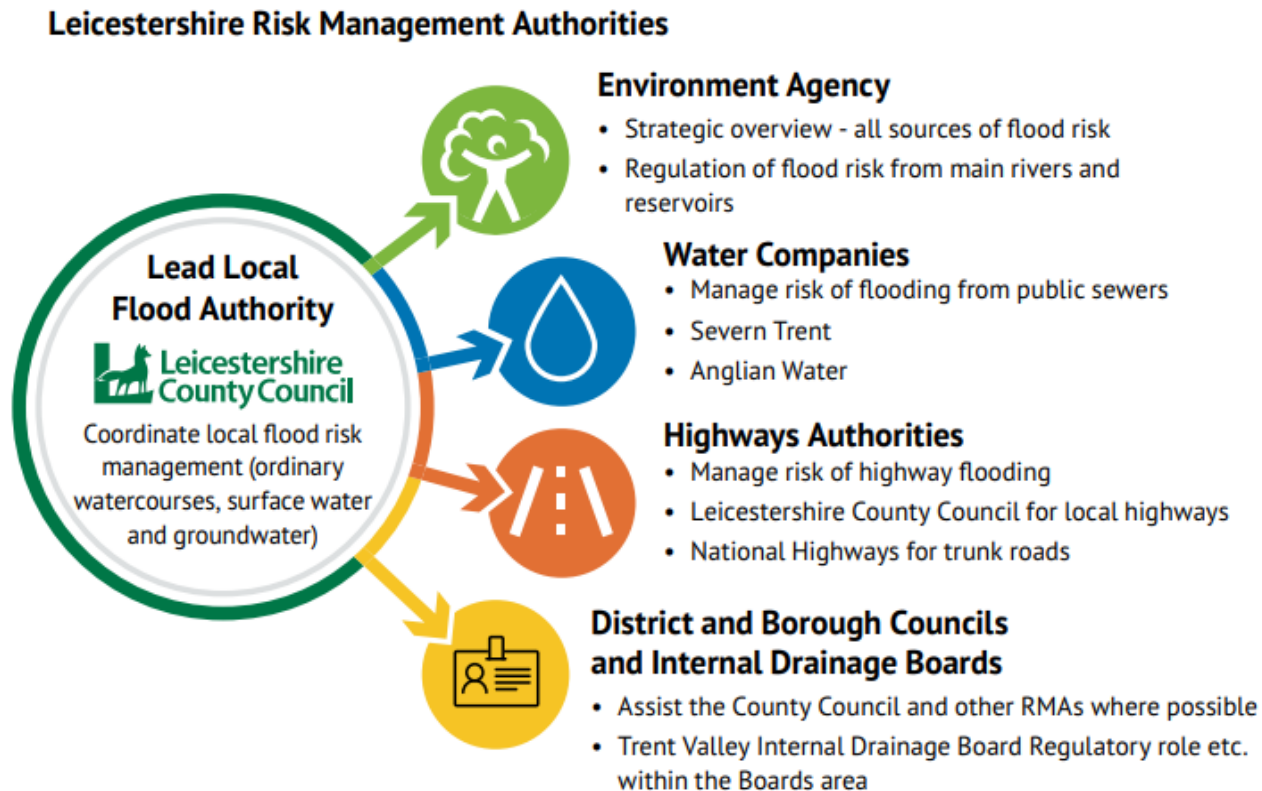
7 November 2024

Director of  
Environment and Transport

- ❑ The updated LFRMS was approved by the Cabinet in December 2023. The Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee was consulted twice (in June 2023 and November 2023).
- ❑ The Strategy was published in February 2024 (as it was slightly delayed due to Storm Henk).
- ❑ The LFRMS 'wheel' includes five principles and five objectives. The Action Plan currently lists 33 measures.
- ❑ This report provides an interim update. Understandably, given the recent events, the report is significantly focused on flood preparedness, response and recovery.



- ❑ The Flood Risk Management Board (FRMB) is a partnership of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), coordinated by the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
- ❑ The Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee acts as the 'Flood Risk Management Committee', monitoring the performance and activities of the FRMB. The FRMB met in January 2024 and in June 2024 and will meet again on 11 November 2024.



# Storm Babet and Storm Henk



To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ Storm Henk (occurred on 2 January 2024) resulted in 453 residential and commercial properties being reported as being internally flooded in Leicestershire and 128 reported as externally impacted.
- ❑ Storm Henk followed Storm Babet, (occurred in October 2023) where 48 residential and commercial properties were reported as being internally flooded in Leicestershire.
- ❑ The worst affected areas in Leicestershire were Charnwood, Blaby, Melton and North-West.





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ The Government enacted the National Flood Recovery Framework following Storm Babet and Storm Henk.
- ❑ The County Council worked with the district councils to collate data for submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to enable Leicestershire to qualify for this framework of grants.
- ❑ The affected residents were able to claim:
  - £500 to assist with their recovery;
  - A grant of up to £5,000 to help become more resilient to flooding by helping to pay for a range of property improvements (National Property Flood Resilience Repair grant);
  - 100% council tax relief for a minimum of three months.
- ❑ There were also grants and council tax relief available for the affected businesses.

# Property Flood Resilience Repair Grants



To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ As a part of the National Framework, the Council opened applications for Property Flood Resilience Repair Grants for Storm Babet and Storm Henk on 26 April 2024.
- ❑ This is the first time that the Council has administered the scheme. As of 21 October 2024, the Council had received 121 applications.
- ❑ Surveys and installations are arranged by the property owners, with support and approvals from the Council.
- ❑ The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) pays grant funds per property to the Council only once the measures are installed. The Council is not paying out grants in advance to property owners due to the financial risk. The current process therefore requires property owners to pay surveyors and contractors in advance of receiving the grant.
- ❑ Officers are actively engaging with DEFRA to seek a rule change so that the grants would be paid to the Council in advance, enabling the Council to better support the applicants.
- ❑ In most cases, £5,000 is not enough to fully protect the properties. Some property owners have contributed towards the costs, or opted for recoverability measures, such as replacing carpets with tiles.
- ❑ There is also the potential for unclaimed grants to be pooled towards community level measures.
- ❑ The administration of the grant has required significant revenue resources from the Council, as the DEFRA scheme does not cover the administrative costs of providing the scheme. The Council's officers are recording the costs.
- ❑ The Council's officers are also engaged with DEFRA in seeking rule changes for future occurrences.



# Spring 2024 Public Drop-In Sessions



To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ Five multi-agency drop-in sessions were held in the parts of the County that were worst affected by Storm Henk.
- ❑ The key risk management authorities were represented, which included:
  - The LLFA;
  - Severn Trent Water;
  - The Environment Agency;
  - The district councils.
- ❑ Attendees appreciated the face-to-face discussions with the RMAs. Some attendees stayed at the events for around two hours.
- ❑ The Council received requests for updated local watercourse management guidance, and for simple advice on who to contact during a flood event.



# 'Who-to-Contact' Leaflets




To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

Advice on 'who-to-contact' leaflets have since been developed by the Council in collaboration with its partners.


These have been shared by email with the flood wardens and Members and were also distributed at the recent engagement events.

**Reservoir:**  
Environment Agency  
EA Incident Hotline  
0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)  
Floodline 0345 988 1188  
(Flood Warning Information)  
Check for Flood Warnings:  
[check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk](http://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)

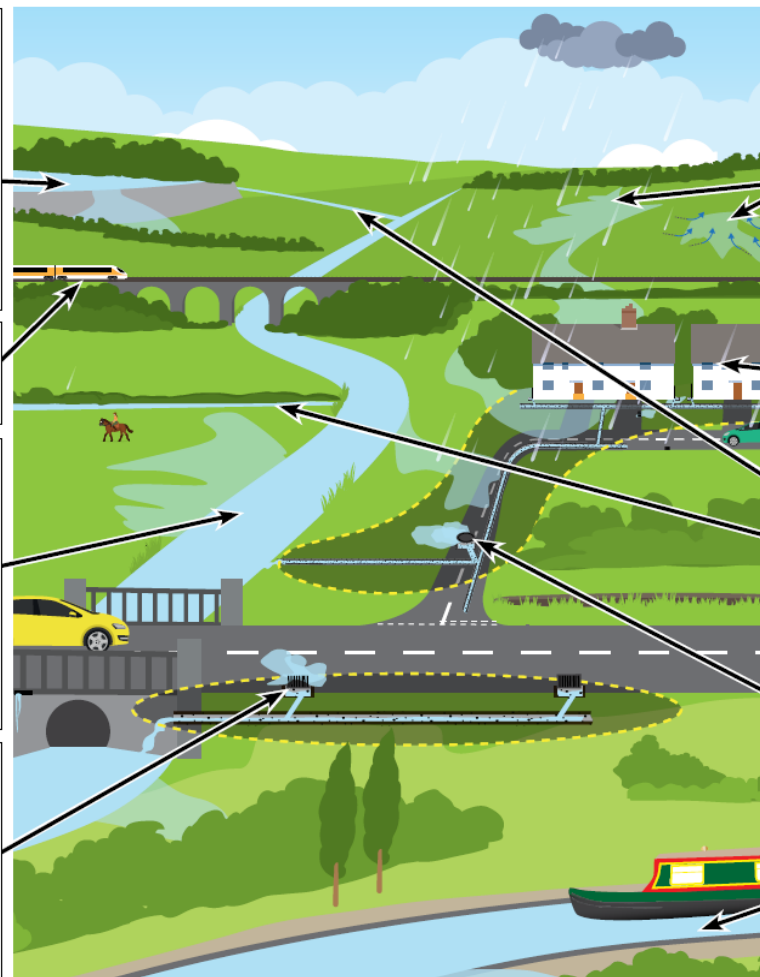


**Railway:**  
Network Rail  
03457 11 41 41 (24 hours)



**Main Rivers:**  
Environment Agency  
EA Incident Hotline  
0800 80 70 60 (24 hours)  
Floodline 0345 988 1188  
(Flood Warning Information)  
Check for Flood Warnings:  
[check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk](http://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)



**Public Highway:**  
Leicestershire County Council  
Highways  
Report a road problem online:  
[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-road-problem](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-road-problem)  
or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)




**Surface Water and Groundwater:**  
Leicestershire County Council  
Lead Local Flood Authority  
Report a Flood online:  
[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood)  
or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)  
Check for Flood Warnings:  
[check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk](http://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)



**Private Residence or Business:**  
Private owner responsible for the property

**Ordinary Watercourses:**  
Leicestershire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority  
Report a Flood online:  
[www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/report-a-flood)  
or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)



**Mains Sewer & Wastewater Sewer:**  
Severn Trent:  
0800 782 4444 (24 hours)  
Anglian Water:  
03457 145 145 (24 hours)

**Canal:**  
Canal and River Trust  
0303 040 40 40 (Office hours)  
0800 479 9947 (24 hours)

If a river or watercourse runs through your land you may be a riparian landowner. For more information visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse)





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ Where flooding meets the locally agreed threshold, the LLFA has a duty to carry out an investigation (Section 19) of that flooding in partnership with the other RMAs (such as the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, riparian owners, the Local Highway Authority).
- ❑ The LLFA is establishing how many formal investigations have been triggered from Storm Henk. This could be a lengthy process as the data is analysed and compared against the Council's Formal Flood Investigation Policy. Such investigations involve various agencies, can be very complex, and will take some time to complete.
- ❑ The LLFA does not have the powers to make the other RMAs implement solutions where it is their responsibility. In some instances, there may not be a realistic or affordable solution for flood prevention.
- ❑ Following Storm Henk, approximately 18 communities have triggered the threshold for formal investigation, with a further 12 on the watch list (close to threshold pending further investigation).
- ❑ Prior to Storm Henk, there were three outstanding formal investigations.
- ❑ The Council has allocated £400,000 additional resource to assist with formal investigations and other related tasks.
- ❑ All instances of flooding are investigated regardless of whether a formal investigation occurs.



To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ A series of flood exercises have taken place throughout 2024, coordinated by the Local Resilience Forum (LLR Prepared).
- ❑ The exercises involved practising Tactical Command Group and Strategic Command Group scenarios in response to hypothetical flood events.
- ❑ All of the events were well attended by the emergency services.
- ❑ LLFA officers also attended the events.





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ Since September 2023, the number of flood wardens in Leicestershire has increased from 100 to 130.
- ❑ There have been three flood warden training events in 2024:
  - 28 February (North West Leicestershire – requested after Storm Babet);
  - 13 June (Charnwood);
  - 8 August (Harborough).
- ❑ The second annual Flood Warden Engagement Event was hosted on 14 September 2024, where 43 flood wardens attended (36 flood wardens attended on 16 September 2023).





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ A new Flood Warden Working Group has been established to develop flood warden projects. The Resilience Partnership Team worked with the County Council to develop the group which meets every two months.
- ❑ LLR Prepared has reviewed and updated the Flood Warden Handbook in conjunction with the flood wardens and the partner agencies at the Flood Warden Working Group.
- ❑ LLR Prepared is working with the flood wardens to establish their own online networking groups, linking into the flood action groups and the community response plans.
- ❑ LLR Prepared is developing a road closure proposal for the flood wardens, which is to be considered by the Council.



Flood Warden  
Handbook



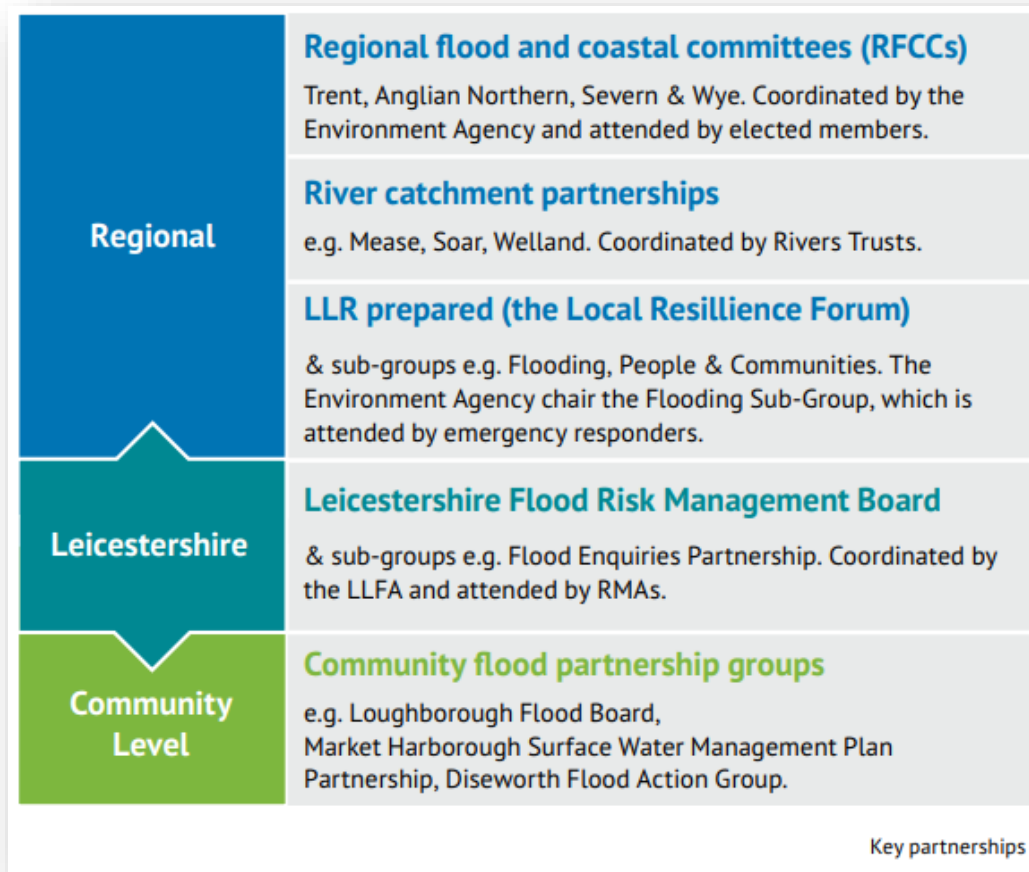
SEPTEMBER 2024





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ The new flooding sub-group of the Local Resilience Forum (Flood Response Planning Group) meets quarterly, and it is chaired by the Environment Agency.
- ❑ The LLR Multiagency Flood Plan is currently being reviewed by the LLR Prepared. This will incorporate the lessons that were learnt from Storm Babet and Storm Henk.
- ❑ The Environment Agency has introduced new flood warning areas for:
  - Barkby Brook at Syston;
  - Sileby Brook at Sileby;
  - Rearsby Brook at Rearsby.



**Key partnerships. From LFRMS**





To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ With a changing climate, meaning that there is more rainfall and greater intensity when it rains, there is a greater need to move communities towards resilience via property protection and community action.
- ❑ The Council has developed the 'Be Flood Ready' messaging.
- ❑ The Council's website material is being updated with a focus on self-resilience.
- ❑ There will be further development of the guidance notes, and these will be circulated and promoted in due course.



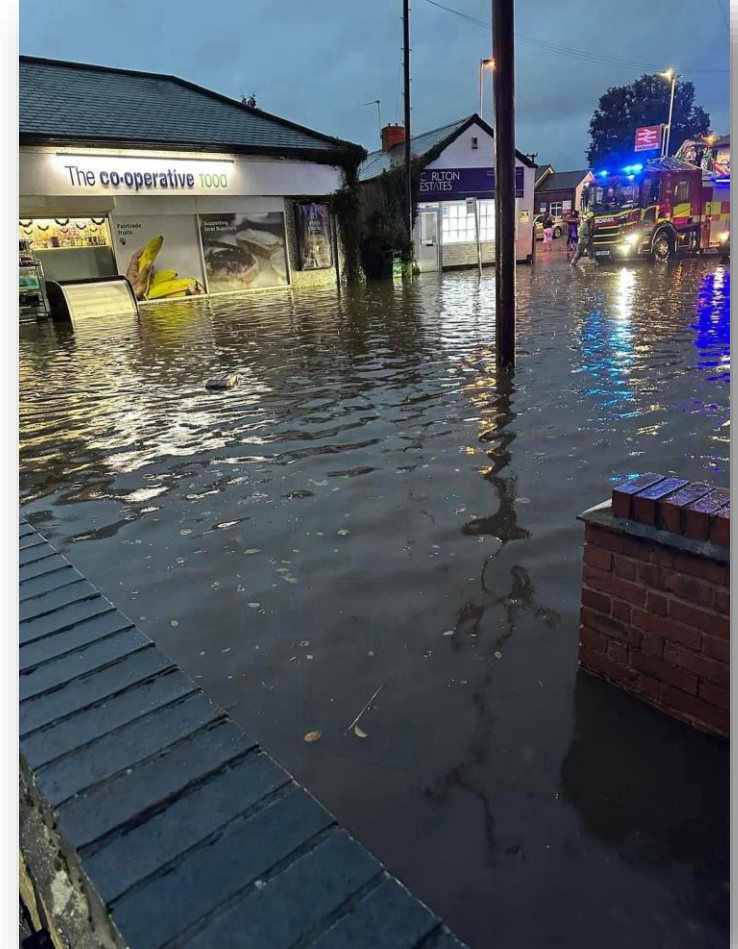
*Be Flood Ready logo*

# Flooding in September and October 2024



To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ Further extensive flooding occurred in September and October 2024.
- ❑ In September, 96 commercial and residential properties in Leicestershire were internally impacted. The worst affected areas were:
  - Market Harborough, on 21 September 2024, with 44 internal flooded properties.
  - Blaby (Narborough, Enderby, Croft), on 26 September 2024, with 48 internal flooded properties.
- ❑ In October, four residential properties were internally impacted (in Sileby and Wymondham).
- ❑ The Council is not expecting there to be any National Flood Recovery Framework funding, as the impacts nationally were relatively low.
- ❑ This flooding may result in an additional five formal flood investigations.
- ❑ Drop-in sessions were arranged in Market Harborough (on 16 October 2024) and at County Hall (on 7 November 2024).

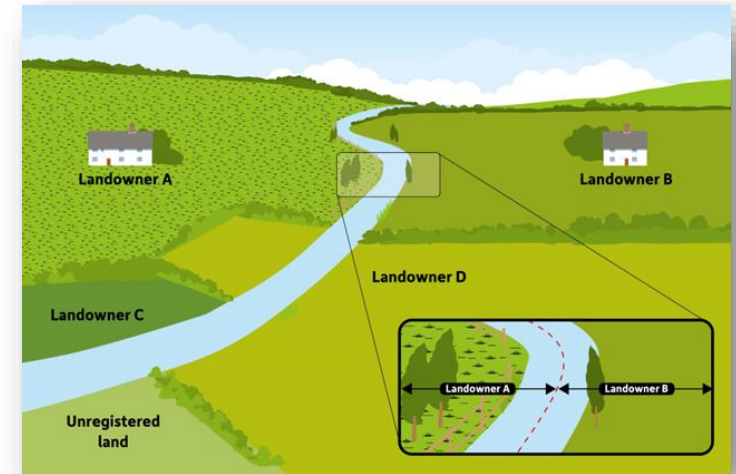


***Flooding in Narborough***

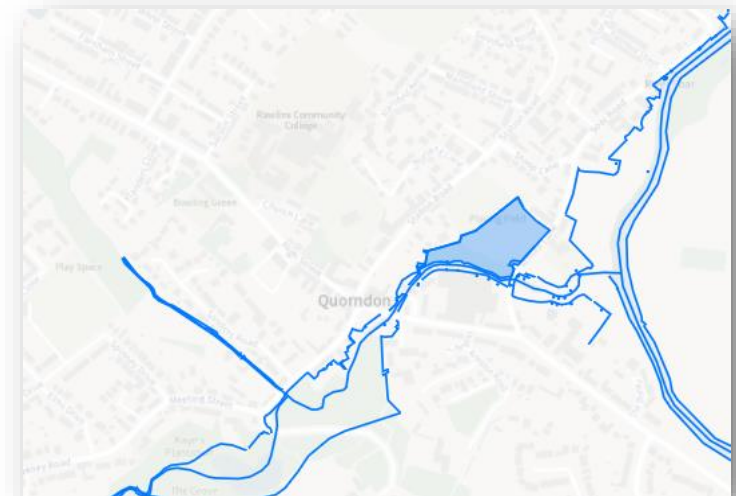


To manage local flood risk through the effective management of flood risk assets, watercourses, and catchments.

- ❑ The flooding in 2024 has raised the profile of the management of existing assets.
- ❑ Increased flooding events have seen a high demand in the number of requests for additional gully cleansing and maintenance, in addition to routine cleansing. This has resulted in a backlog of work and stretched resources.
- ❑ The new watercourses management guidance has been developed, and it is consistent with the new national guidance from the Government.
- ❑ The County Council's LLFA Ordinary Watercourse Regulation and Culvert Policy is working well.
- ❑ Natural Flood Management is being delivered through projects and countryside stewardship.
- ❑ A new asset map of the Environment Agency maintained or regulated flood risk assets is now publicly available online on the Environment Agency's website.



**Watercourse management imagery**



**Watercourse management imagery**



To manage local flood risk through **encouraging sustainable development** working to ensure development is resilient to flooding, and does not increase risk of flooding elsewhere.

- ❑ The LLFA continues to fulfil the role of statutory consultee on surface water for all major planning applications.
- ❑ Most of the district councils have recently been working on updating their Local Plans. The LLFA and the other RMAs have therefore also been consulted on multiple local policy updates, and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments that support these.
- ❑ The RMAs have also supported the Local Highway Design Guide update process.
- ❑ Prior to the general election in July 2024, a consultation on the enactment of Schedule 3 of Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was expected from the Government. The Council's officers are now awaiting a further update.
- ❑ The Schedule 3 enactment would lead to the Council becoming a Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Approval body, which would lead to the Council having additional responsibilities in relation to SuDS approvals and adoptions.





To manage local flood risk through developing and or managing **local projects** for at-risk communities.

- ❑ The LLFA and its partners have a programme of local projects to reduce the risk of flooding and increase resilience to flooding.
- ❑ Some programme slippage has occurred due to flood recovery and investigation resource pressures.
- ❑ The Breedon flood alleviation scheme has progressed well. A combination of upstream storage, natural flood management, property flood resilience, and bridge alterations will reduce the risk of flooding to 46 properties.
- ❑ The business cases have been approved by the Environment Agency for projects in Long Whatton and Diseworth.



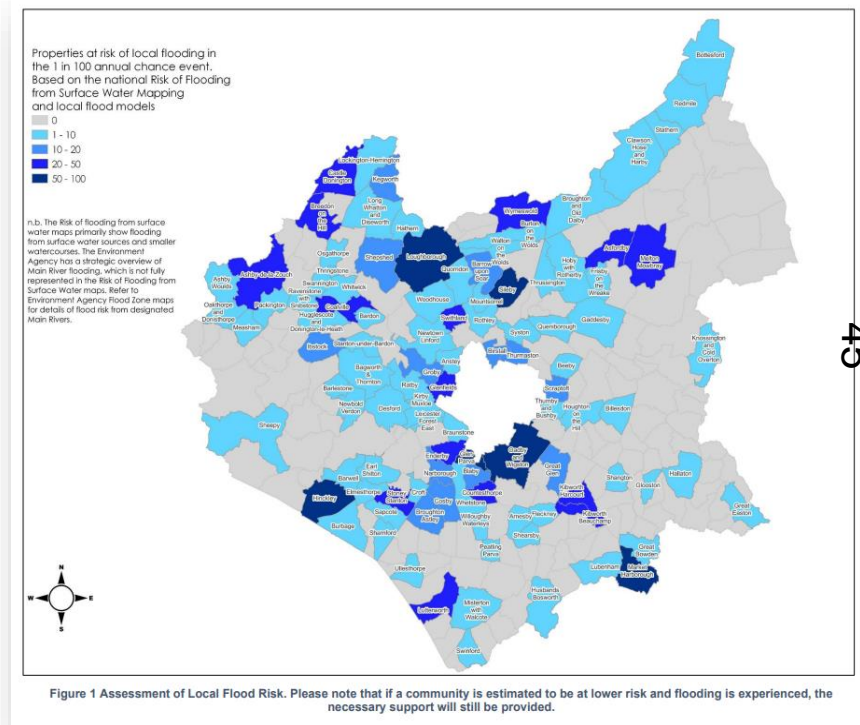
*Upstream storage  
construction, Breedon*





To better understand local flood risk and impacts, informing approaches to managing this risk.

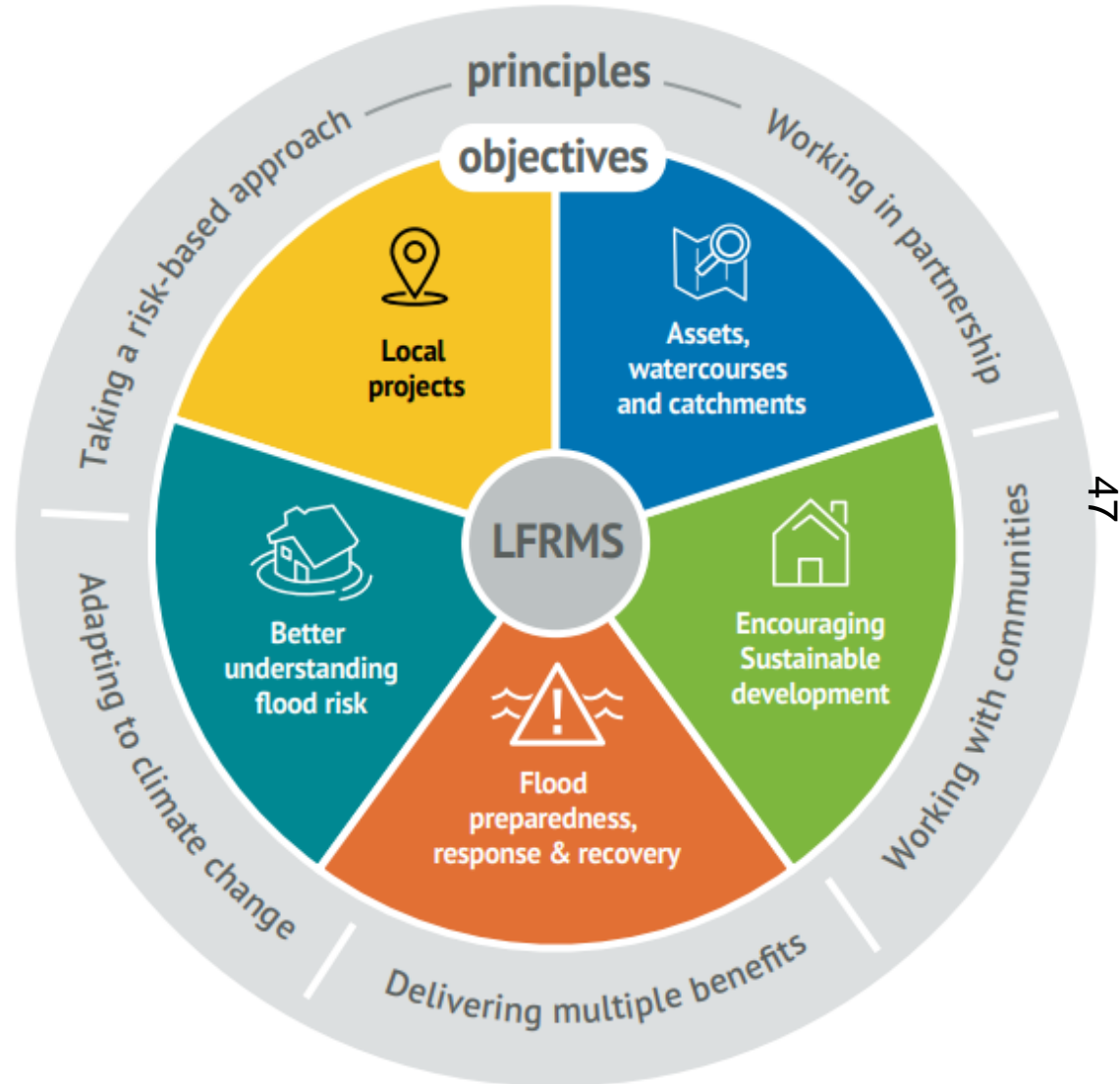
- ❑ The LLFA and its partners work in partnership to better understand flood risks.
- ❑ The LFRMS includes the assessment of Local Flood Risk, which is used to prioritise the proactive local assessments.
- ❑ Study work in Stoney Stanton had led to a project business case recently being submitted.
- ❑ Flood risk study bids are currently being developed in Loughborough and Oadby.
- ❑ The LLFA has also been consulted on the Environment Agency's update to the National Flood Risk Assessment. The updated online national mapping will be published by the Environment Agency.



**Assessment of Local  
Flood Risk map**

- ❑ As previously stated, the LLFA does not have the powers to make the other RMAs implement solutions where it is their responsibility.
- ❑ Lincolnshire County Council requests water companies attend regular Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.
- ❑ It is suggested that Committee might want to consider inviting annually the water companies and the Environment Agency to Committee meetings to seek updates and check on their progress with flood risk management activities for Leicestershire.
- ❑ This would provide an opportunity to keep the spotlight on progress for flood risk management activity in Leicestershire in lieu of any powers over other RMAs.

- ❑ The LFRMS will continue to be implemented.
- ❑ A full update on the LFRMS Action Plan implementation can be provided in due course.
- ❑ Propose to bring an annual update report.
- ❑ The Committee will have the opportunity to engage with the agencies and attendees at the drop-in session (on 7 November between 2.00pm - 6.30pm).
- ❑ The Committee considers inviting the water companies and the Environment Agencies to attend Committee meetings on an annual basis.



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