

Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee

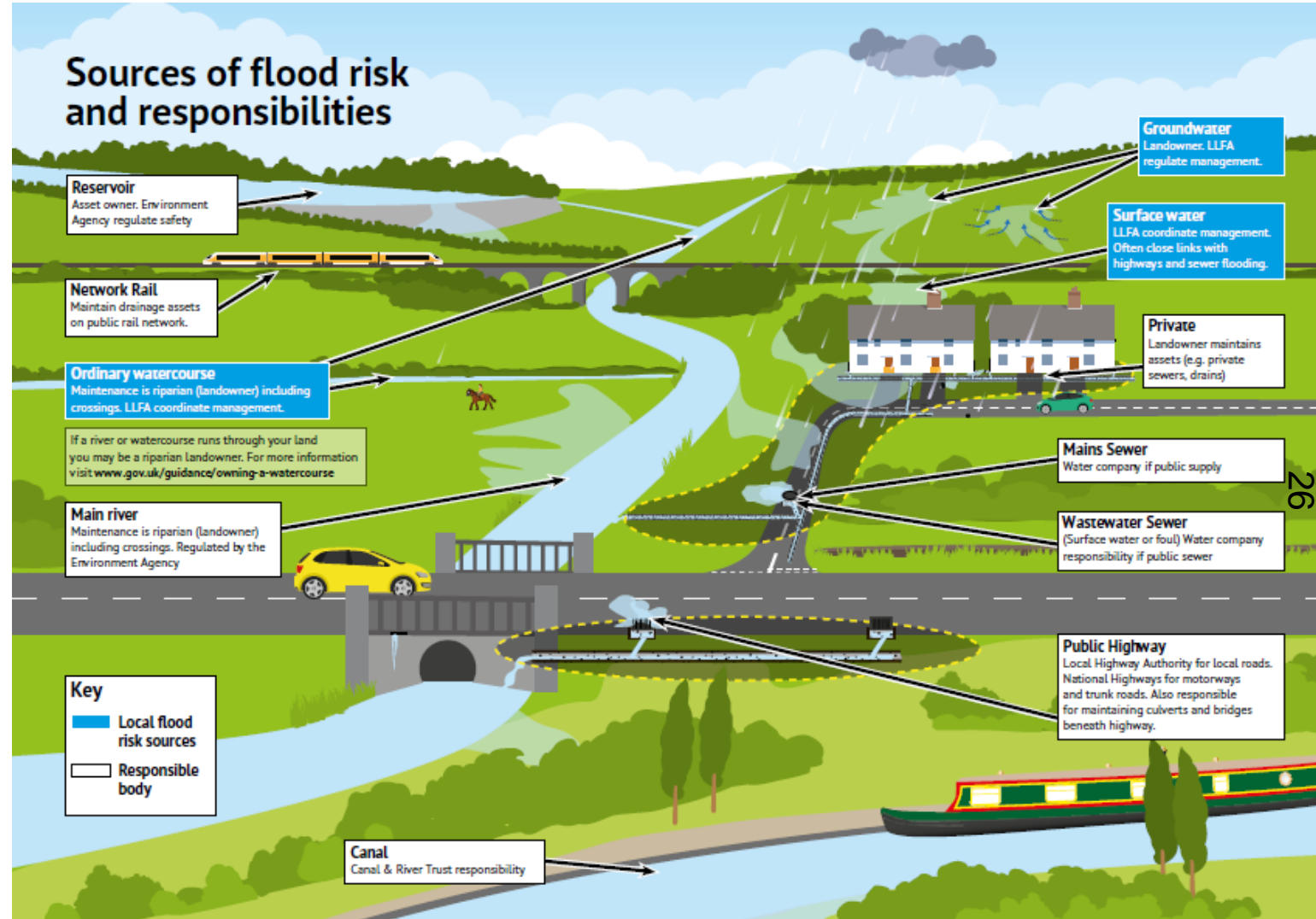
Flood Risk Management Update

5 June 2025

**Director of
Environment and Transport**

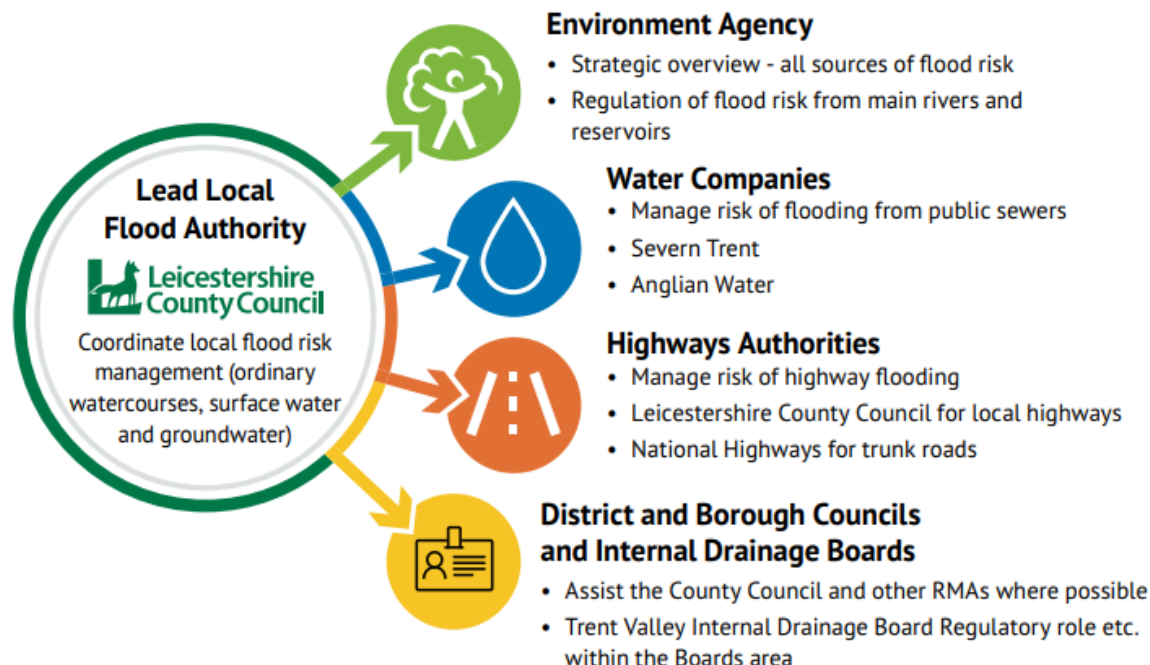
Flooding Sources and Responsibilities

- Flooding sources are often interrelated.
- A partnership approach is required.



- ❑ The Flood Risk Management Board (FRMB) is a partnership of Risk Management Authorities (RMAs), coordinated by the County Council as the 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 three times in 2024 and is scheduled to meet on 10 June 2025.
- ❑ The Committee had recently expressed an interest in hearing directly from other RMAs.

Leicestershire Risk Management Authorities

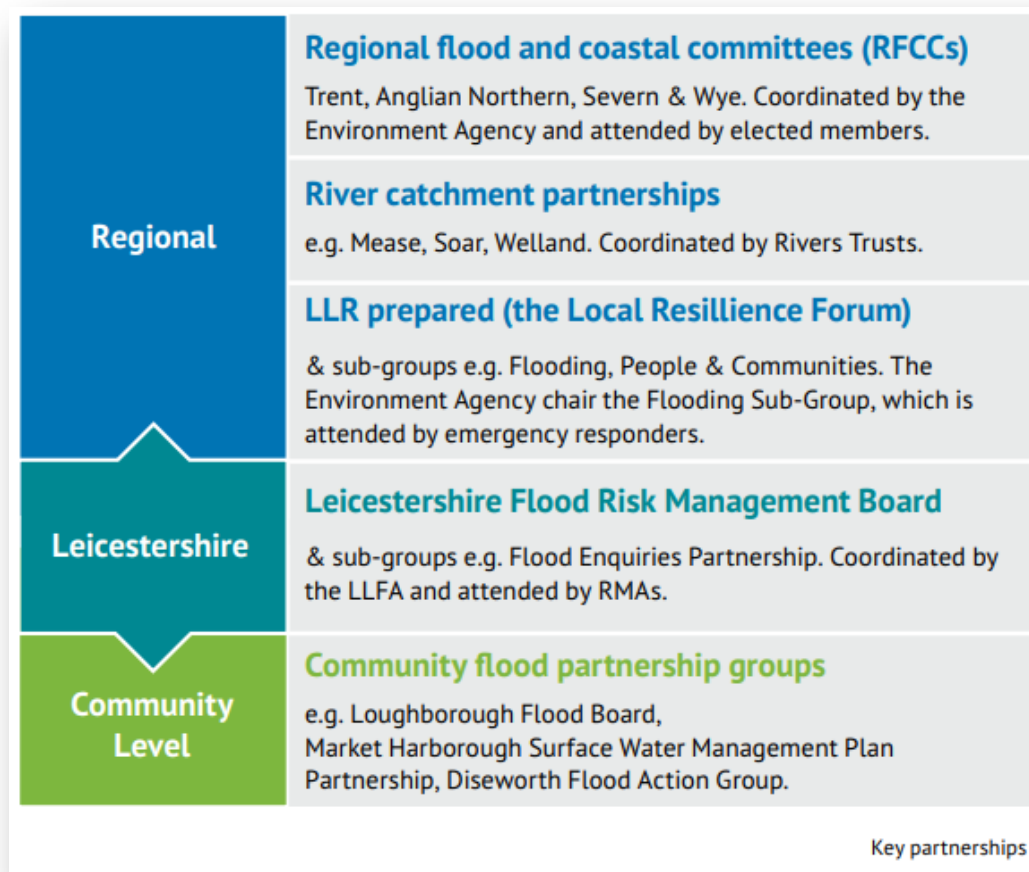




To manage local flood risk through effective **preparedness, response to, and recovery** from flood events.

- ❑ There are other key partnerships.
- ❑ Leicestershire is part of the Trent and Anglian Northern Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC).
- ❑ RFCCs decide on regional spending, including local levy. They are made up of elected and independent members.
- ❑ The flooding sub-group of the Local Resilience Forum (Flood Response Planning Group) meets quarterly, and it is chaired by the Environment Agency.
- ❑ Flood preparedness, response and recovery is discussed at this forum.

Key partnerships

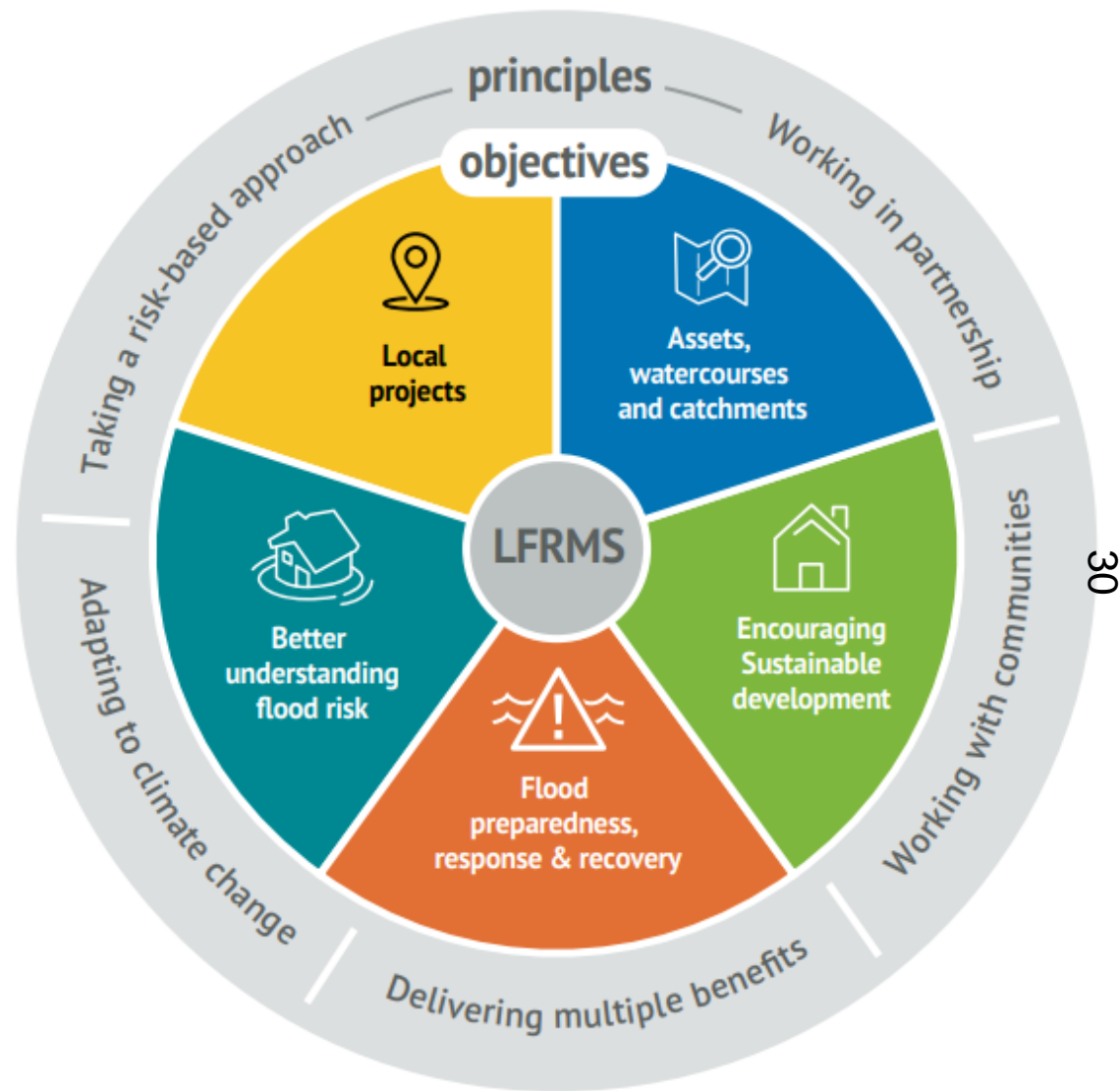


- ❑ Lead Local Flood Authority
 - Coordinates the management of local flood risk;
 - Develops and applies the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS);
 - Regulate the management of ordinary watercourses;
 - Develop and maintain the asset register and record;
 - Statutory consultee for surface water on major planning applications.
- ❑ Local Highway Authority is responsible for public highway drainage.
- ❑ The Council also coordinates the Resilience Partnership, including management of the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Multi-Agency Flood Plan.



Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)

- ❑ 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.
- ❑ The LFRMS 'wheel' includes five principles and five objectives. The Action Plan currently lists 33 measures.
- ❑ The Strategy is relevant to all RMAs in Leicestershire. It is mainly focused on local flood risk sources.
- ❑ It is consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (Environment Agency).



Local Flooding over the Last Two Years



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

- ❑ **June 2023:** Oadby, Wigston & Kilby (52)*
- ❑ **October 2023:** Storm Babet (50)
- ❑ **January 2024:** Storm Henk (450)
- ❑ **21 September 2024:** Market Harborough town centre (42)
- ❑ **26 September 2024:** Blaby district (48)
- ❑ **24 November 2024:** Little Bowden, Market Harborough (8)
- ❑ **6 January 2025:** Countywide (720) - worst event in modern history in terms of number of properties flooded.

* (properties reported as internally flooded)



Formal Flood Investigations



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 undertake and publish an investigation (Section 19) in partnership with the other RMAs.
- ❑ The Council has a Formal Flood Investigations Policy as part of the LFRMS.
- ❑ Actions can be agreed with RMAs; however, 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 mitigation.
- ❑ By the time of publication of investigations, it is the Council's aspiration that communities are already well informed as to investigation outcomes, as the Council has worked with them to investigate flooding.
- ❑ A statement was issued in April 2025 to help explain this, and a new investigations webpage created.
- ❑ All instances of flooding are investigated regardless of whether a formal investigation occurs.

Kibworth investigation

3. FLOOD INVESTIGATION

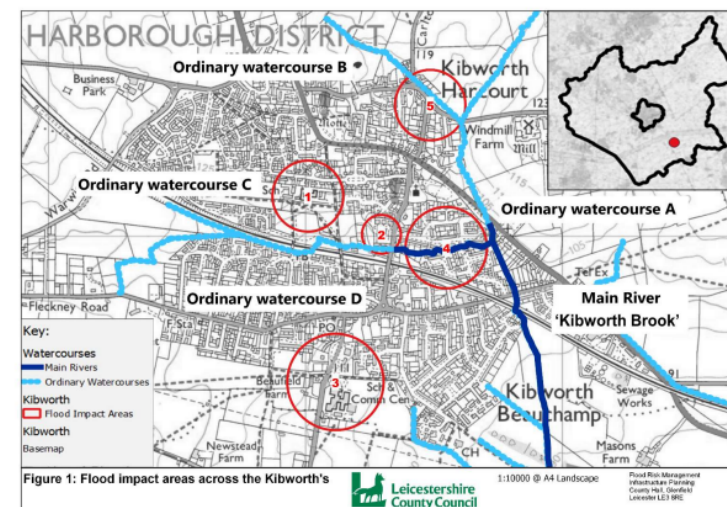
3.1 LOCATION AND SETTING

Kibworth is comprised of two civil parishes, Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt, which are situated within Harborough District Council and located approximately 13km south-east of Leicester City. The land surrounding Kibworth falls to the south-east, with land to the north and south-west of the parishes having a higher elevation.

The flooding event which occurred on 20th July 2021, impacted five key parts of Kibworth including:

1. Kibworth Primary School
2. Church Road and Station Hollow
3. Kibworth Mead Academy and Kibworth Court Care Home
4. The Lea and Brookfield Way
5. Langton Road

These five flood impact areas are indicated on Figure 1 below.



Public Flooding Drop-In Sessions



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

- ❑ The LLFA has been coordinating public flooding drop-in sessions in partnership with other RMAs.
- ❑ The first five sessions were held in spring 2024 following Storm Henk that occurred in January 2024.
- ❑ Two sessions were then held in autumn 2024 to encourage winter flooding preparedness.
- ❑ A further five sessions took place in spring 2025 following the flooding on 6 January 2025. These were also supported by the FloodPod and Flood Mary, who provide independent flood resilience advice.
- ❑ Public attendance ranged between 40 and 100 attendees.
- ❑ Both attendees and the RMAs appreciate the face-to-face discussions.
- ❑ Further winter flooding preparedness drop-in sessions are likely to be arranged for the autumn 2025. The Members will be welcome to attend.

Great Glen drop-in session, April 2025



'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 been developed by the Council in collaboration with its partners.
- These have been shared by email with the flood wardens and 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



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)

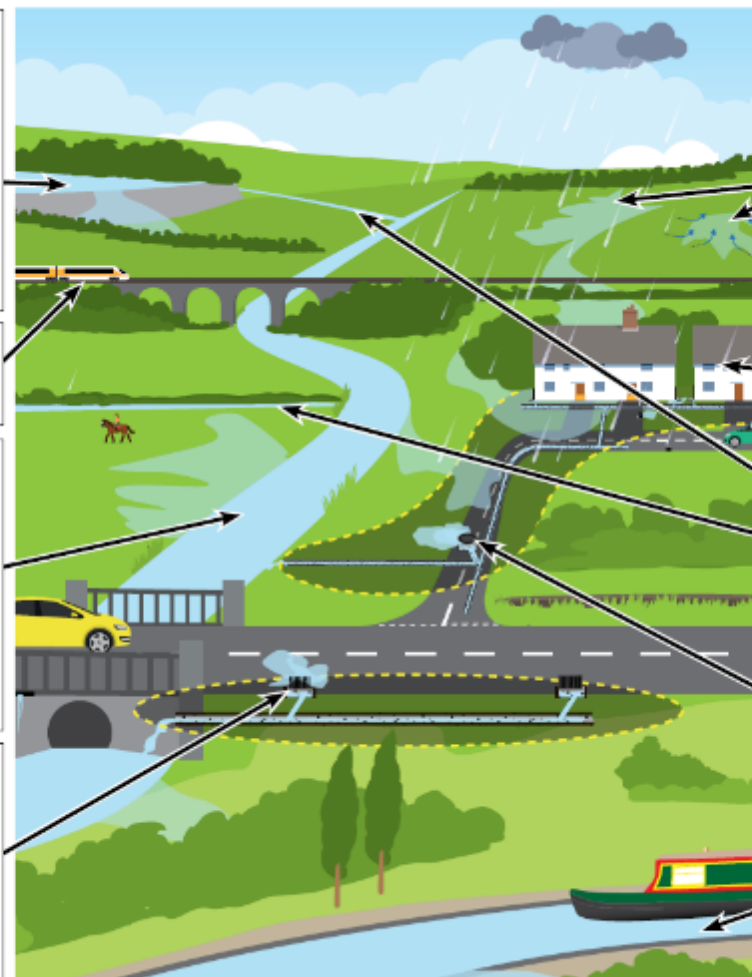
Check for Flood Warnings:
check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk



Public Highway:

Leicestershire County Council
Highways

Report a road problem online:
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
or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)



Check for Flood Warnings:
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
or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)



Mains Sewer & Wastewater Sewer:

Sewer 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



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

- ❑ The Council is encouraging 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



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

- ❑ Volunteer flood wardens support flood event preparedness, response and recovery.
- ❑ The scheme is coordinated by the Resilience Partnership.
- ❑ Since September 2023, the number of flood wardens has increased from 100 to 130.
- ❑ Flood warden recruitment training events currently take place every two months.
- ❑ Since 2023, there has also been an annual flood warden engagement event, and flood wardens have established their own online networking groups.
- ❑ The Flood Warden Working Group meets every two months to coordinate support.
- ❑ The Flood Warden Handbook provides advice and guidance. It is updated annually.
- ❑ The Resilience Partnership is currently developing a formal community road closure scheme proposal.



Flood Warden Handbook



SEPTEMBER 2024



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

- ❑ Responsibility for the maintenance of rivers and watercourses is riparian (the adjacent landowner(s)).
- ❑ The Environment Agency regulates flood risk main rivers, such as the River Soar.
- ❑ The Environment Agency also owns some assets and may use its permissive powers to carry out maintenance.
- ❑ A map of the Environment Agency maintained or regulated flood risk assets is now publicly available online on the Environment Agency's website.
- ❑ The Council, as the LLFA, regulates the management of (usually smaller) ordinary watercourses.
- ❑ This involves guidance, consenting and enforcement.
- ❑ The Ordinary Watercourse Regulation and Culvert Policy forms part of the LFRMS.
- ❑ A local watercourses management guide is available.



AWARE • PREPARED • ENGAGED

A guide for watercourse 'riparian' landowners



If an ordinary watercourse is within or next to land or property that you own in Leicestershire, this guide is for you. For further, more detailed advice about owning watercourses please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse



Surface Water Drainage



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

- There are over 130,000 gullies on local public roads in Leicestershire.
- Gullies are cleansed by the LHA's highway contractors using a risk-based approach, which uses various data such as past and predicted flooding.
- This means some gullies will be cleansed/inspected more often than others, either on a 10, 20 or 24-month frequency.
- Just because gullies are not draining, it does not always mean that they are blocked; for example, the sewer they connect to may be at capacity or blocked.
- Increased flooding events have seen a high demand in the number of requests for further gully cleansing and maintenance, in addition to routine cleansing.
- Following the storm on 6 January 2025, additional resources have provided further cleanse to 4756 gullies and 47 culverts in affected towns and villages.
- Gully emptying priorities at known flooding sites have been reviewed and the frequency of cleansing increased for 5240 gullies.
- The public sewer network is the responsibility of water companies (Severn Trent, Anglian Water).





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 fulfils the role of statutory consultee on surface water for all major planning applications. The LLFA is not routinely consulted on minor applications but does respond where there is a significant surface water drainage concern.
- ❑ The LLFA responds to approximately 900 consultations from Local Planning Authorities each year.
- ❑ The responsibility for both final planning approval, and planning enforcement is with the district councils.
- ❑ The Council may adopt highway drainage and associated SuDS, but not usually other surface water elements.
- ❑ Water companies may adopt new sewers, whilst SuDS might be adopted by district councils as part of public open space, or by private management companies.
- ❑ 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.



Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) can temporarily store flood water. They can also be designed to provide water quality, amenity and biodiversity benefits.



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.
- ❑ For example, 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.
- ❑ Business cases have been approved by the Environment Agency for projects in Long Whatton, Diseworth and Stoney Stanton.
- ❑ The Environment Agency is developing a project in Loughborough, and delivering Property Flood Resilience in Redmile, Sileby and Braunstone.

***Upstream storage
construction, Breedon***

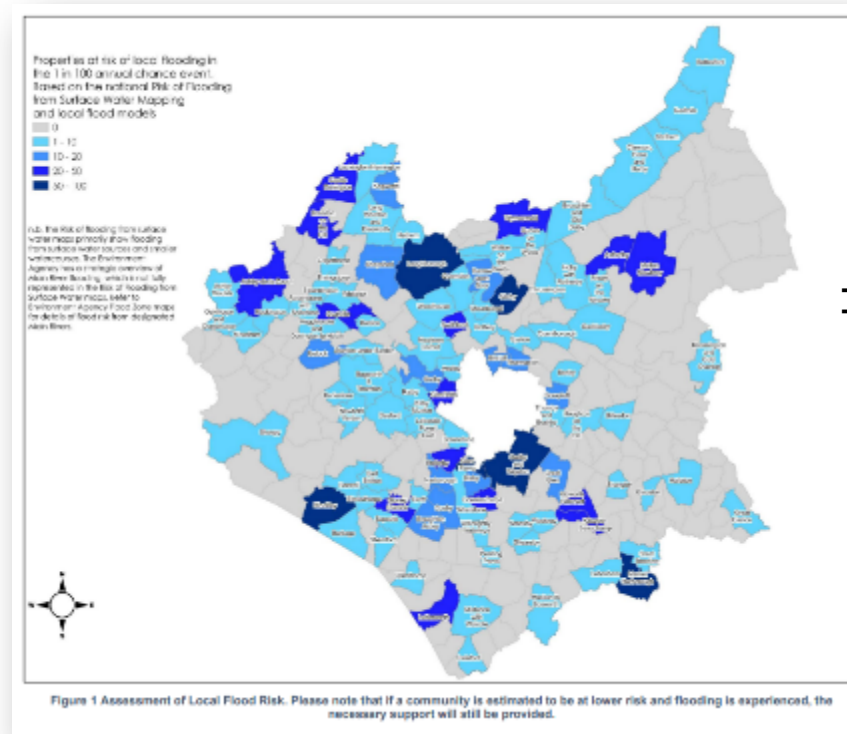




To better understand local flood risk and impacts, informing approaches to managing this risk.

- ❑ 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 has been published by the Environment Agency.

Assessment of Local Flood Risk map



- ❑ An additional £400,000 was allocated after Storm Henk on 2 January 2024 to fund supplementary staff resources. It was used to support Section 19 investigation work and project delivery, as well as supporting the increasing complexity of the LLFA statutory consultee role in planning. The funding was used to create an additional, permanent Flood Engagement Officer role as part of the drive to educate land and property owners on their riparian maintenance responsibilities and how crucial this is in managing flood risk.
- ❑ An additional £340,000 was allocated after the storm of 6 January 2025. Out of that allocation, £100,000 was allocated to support community flood resilience through use of 'Flood Mary' at drop-in sessions, purchase of materials for further work to push the 'Be Flood Ready' message; and £240,000 was allocated to additional temporary resources to support the increase again in investigation and project work which will take several years to complete.
- ❑ For the Local Transport Grant, £521,000 was allocated to projects in Long Whatton and Oakthorpe to help better protect residents from future flood risk.

- ❑ 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 other RMAs to attend regular Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings.
- ❑ It is suggested that the relevant 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.
- ❑ It is within the remit of the relevant Committee to monitor the performance and activities of the Flood Risk Management Board.

- ❑ 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 is to consider inviting the water companies and the Environment Agency to attend Committee meetings on an annual basis.

