

**CABINET – 15 JULY 2025****LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S APPROACH TO FLOODING****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of the report is to outline the key roles and responsibilities of Leicestershire County Council with respect to flooding in its capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Local Highway Authority (LHA), to provide an overview of the impacts of recent flood events and to set out proposed priorities for further funding for consideration as part of the 2026-30 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
  - a) Notes the key roles of the County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and the Local Highway Authority (LHA) with respect to flooding;
  - b) Notes the extent and impacts of flooding events in Leicestershire over the last two years;
  - c) Approves the proposed priorities for further funding towards flood related activities, for consideration and prioritisation as part of the 2026-30 Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS);
  - d) Authorises the Director of Environment and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Lead Member and the Director of Corporate Resources, to maximise opportunities to bid for funding from external sources and funding providers.

(Key Decision)

**Reasons for Recommendation**

3. Recent flood events over the past two years, as outlined in paragraphs 49 to 59, have had a significant impact on many communities across Leicestershire and this in turn has placed substantial pressure on the resources of the County Council in its capacity as the LLFA and the LHA in trying to support those communities.
4. The LLFA's and the LHA's resource is focussed on statutory requirements as detailed in paragraphs 28 to 48. Whilst the LLFA will endeavour to do everything it can to support communities in the management of local flood risk, it should be emphasised that the LLFA is not responsible for, nor is it required by law to, resolve all flooding matters. The LLFA does not receive funding for this purpose. Likewise, the LHA can only apply its risk-based approach to gully cleansing to the best of its capabilities with the resource levels that it has.
5. Additional one-off funding, allocated as part of the 2025-29 MTFS, as set out in paragraphs 64 to 66, has helped to manage some of this pressure with flooding in particular, by providing additional resource to address the impacts and workload set out in the report, as occurrences of flooding have become more frequent in recent years.
6. Recommended funding options are proposed in paragraphs 67 to 71 as a focus for consideration as part of the 2026-30 MTFS process.
7. The requests for additional resource represent steps to help address the work generated by the recent major flood events. It will also allow the LLFA and the LHA to set out a more resilient business as usual resource to manage flood risk impacts, building on the previous one-off funding allocated.
8. Under the direction of the Director of Environment and Transport, the LLFA will continue to maximise the opportunities for funding from external sources and providers towards the implementation of flood alleviation projects, as outlined in paragraphs 38 to 41.
9. As the LHA, the County Council is responsible for the safe operation of the highways and transport network and the maintenance approach to highways assets. It has been necessary to undertake additional activities to respond to flood events in line with these responsibilities.

#### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

10. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the Director of Environment and Transport will implement the actions outlined within the report, following consultation with the Director of Corporate Resources and Cabinet Lead Members.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

11. On 16 January 2020, following significant flooding events in October and November 2019, the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up a Flooding Scrutiny Review Panel. The Review Panel

considered the role of the Council as the LLFA, and the roles of other Flood Risk Management Authorities such as Water Companies, the district councils, and the Environment Agency.

12. The Review Panel reported to the Environment and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 January 2021.
13. On 5 February 2021, the Cabinet noted the final report of the Flooding Scrutiny Review Panel and approved its recommendations. The first recommendation was for a refresh of the Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LLFRMS).
14. On 26 May 2023, the Cabinet approved the draft refreshed LLFRMS and the associated documents for public consultation.
15. The updated LLFRMS supports work towards achieving the outcomes in the County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-2026, notably those relating to the need to protect and enhance the environment and to ensure that communities are resilient in the face of emergencies.
16. On 24 November 2023, the Cabinet approved the updated LLFRMS and the associated documents for adoption and publication. The final updated documents were published in February 2024.
17. On 7 February 2025, the Cabinet approved £1.5m of additional funding to enable the LLFA and the LHA to support Leicestershire communities recovering from the most recent flooding events across the County. The implications of this were set out in the proposed 2025-29 MTFS.

### **Resource Implications**

18. The occurrence of multiple flood events has increased the workload for both the LLFA and the LHA. Such events have been more frequent in recent years.
19. It is proposed that an additional £0.6m revenue towards staff resource, to continue to respond to customer demand and progress flood investigations, projects and engagement, be put forward for consideration as part of the 2026-30 MTFS process. In addition, £3.30m capital funding is also proposed for consideration, which will help address identified highway drainage works and enable some community resilience support. This would attract an additional £0.13m revenue requirement to ensure that the relevant resources are in place to deliver the works. A further £0.13m discretionary fund to enable the LLFA to support communities with flood recovery is also proposed.
20. The full implications of this will be assessed and set out in the proposed 2026-30 MTFS, which will be presented to the County Council for approval in February 2026.
21. The Director of Corporate Resources and the Director of Law and Governance have been consulted on the content of this report.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

22. This report will be circulated to all Members.

**Officers to Contact**

Ann Carruthers  
Director, Environment & Transport  
Tel (0116) 305 7000  
Email – [ann.carruthers@leics.gov.uk](mailto:ann.carruthers@leics.gov.uk)

Janna Walker  
Assistant Director, Development & Growth  
Tel (0116) 305 0785  
Email – [janna.walker@leics.gov.uk](mailto:janna.walker@leics.gov.uk)

Pat Clarke  
Assistant Director, Highways Operations  
Tel (0116) 305 4244  
Email - [pat.clarke@leics.gov.uk](mailto:pat.clarke@leics.gov.uk)

## **PART B**

23. The management of water and flooding is very complex. There are many sources of flooding ranging from main rivers, pipe systems, watercourses and ditches and there are many authorities and parties who have a responsibility for flood management. Those authorities are generally referred to as Flood Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and include Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Anglian Water in Leicestershire, district councils and the LHA (the County Council).
24. Additionally, there are landowners that have riparian responsibilities for water assets that pass through their land. Further information explaining the many sources of flooding and various roles and responsibilities of RMAs has been appended to this report.
25. This report primarily focusses on Leicestershire County Council's role in the management of flood risk in its capacity as both the LLFA and the LHA as set out in the following paragraphs.

### **Leicestershire County Council's Flood Risk Management Responsibilities**

26. The Council has the following separate statutory roles in relation to water and flooding:
  - a) As the LLFA, as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, it is the County Council's responsibility to lead in managing local flood risk.
  - b) As the LHA under the Highways Act 1980, the County Council is responsible for the provision and management of highway drainage, excluding motorways and trunk roads that are the responsibility of National Highways.
27. Details of the functions and duties arising from these two distinct statutory roles are detailed below.

### **Extent of the Council's Responsibilities and Powers as the LLFA**

28. LLFAs are identified in law as either the county council or unitary authority of a particular area. They are required to lead in managing local flood risks (such as the risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses). This includes ensuring the cooperation between RMAs in their area. The County Council is the statutory appointed LLFA for Leicestershire and has an established Flood Risk Management Team to undertake the work necessary to fulfil this function.
29. The LLFA has five key statutory duties:

- a) Prepare and maintain a strategy for managing local flood risk in Leicestershire.
  - b) Maintain a register of assets around the County that have a significant effect on flooding.
  - c) Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
  - d) Regulate work on ordinary watercourses.
  - e) Provide statutory comments on major development planning applications in respect of surface water drainage matters.
30. The LLFA has a statutory responsibility to publish a LFRMS. The current version of the LFRMS was published in February 2024 and can be viewed on the Council's website. The Strategy provides a framework to enable the LLFA to co-ordinate flood risk management across Leicestershire and sets out how local flood risk will be managed.
31. The LLFA is required by Section 21 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to maintain an asset register and record of structures or features which have a significant effect (positive or negative) upon flooding in Leicestershire. The current policy for Leicestershire's Asset Register can be viewed on the Council's website.
32. The LLFA will formally investigate instances of flooding that meet the stated threshold for investigation (formal Section 19 investigation). A formal investigation will identify responsible bodies and identify actions for helping to reduce future flood risk. The current policy for formal flood investigations can be viewed on the Council's website.
33. The LLFA has limited powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to regulate ordinary watercourses (outside of internal drainage districts) to maintain a proper flow by:
- a) Issuing consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses;
  - b) Enforcing obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse and repair watercourses, bridges and other structures in a watercourse.
34. The current policy for the regulation of ordinary watercourses can be viewed on the Council's website.
35. The maintenance of the ordinary watercourses is the responsibility of the riparian landowner and not the County Council. More information about riparian landownership is appended to this report and can also be viewed on the Council's website.
36. Since April 2015, the LLFA has been a statutory consultee for surface water matters and for all major planning applications as a result of Schedule 4 of the Town and Country Planning Order 2015. The LLFA makes recommendations to the Local Planning Authorities which are in accordance with national and local planning policy and guidance.

37. Importantly, the LLFA does not have responsibility or powers to:
- a) Implement a solution to a flooding incident;
  - b) Make other RMAs implement a solution;
  - c) Make a Local Planning Authority implement its recommendations for proposed developments;
  - d) Maintain ordinary watercourses.

#### Flood Alleviation Projects

38. Whilst not part of the LLFA's statutory duties, the LLFA does, where resources allow, try to progress with the delivery of flood alleviation projects on a discretionary basis to try and help and assist communities impacted by flooding.
39. However, the delivery of such projects is subject to the awarding of national flood funding following successful business cases being submitted and approved. The primary sources of such funding are Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid Funding (FCERM GiA) and Local Levy Funding. The LLFA will strive to maximise opportunities for such funding where it can.
40. FCERM GiA is the main source of funding available for flood risk management schemes, a national funding source that can be bid for by local authorities; the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards, Regional Flood and Coastal Committees agree regional priorities for FCERM GiA allocations and pass these recommendations to the Government.
41. Local Levy is generated through local authorities who are levied by the Environment Agency under the Environment Agency (Levies) (England and Wales) Regulations (2011). The amount of money 'levied' by each authority is dependent on the number of Council Tax Band D equivalent households and above within the authority's area. The funding that is collected through this Levy is then distributed towards regional flood projects as bid for through a business case process completed by local authorities.

#### Extent of the Council's Responsibilities as the LHA

42. As the LHA, Leicestershire County Council's Highways Drainage Team have a responsibility to manage and maintain drainage (excluding public sewers that belong to Severn Trent Water or Anglian Water) that runs beneath adopted highways, such as the drainage system related to the road network. This can include, but is not limited to, managing and maintaining drainage related to the functioning of the highway, including roadside drains and gullies (over 130,000 over 2,575 miles of road), shallow channels (grips), ponds, lagoons, catchpits, manholes, underground culverts and piped watercourses and soakaways.

43. Gullies are cleansed using a risk-based approach. During the gully emptying process, each gully is assessed, and the silt levels are recorded. This information is then used to develop a programme for cleansing or inspection, which means that some gullies will be cleansed/inspected more often than others, either on a 10, 20 or 24-month frequency. This is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the approach is effective.
44. Increased flooding events have seen a high demand in the number of requests for further gully cleansing and maintenance, in addition to routine cleansing. A common misconception during flood events is that the gullies are blocked because they are not draining, when in fact it is the network that they are connecting to that is overwhelmed. Highway drainage systems often discharge into surface water network, which is usually the responsibility of water companies.

### **Local Resilience Forum**

45. The Council also plays a lead role in facilitating the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). The LRF is a multi-agency partnership arising from the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and it consists of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS and the Environment Agency, who work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from different emergencies across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.
46. The LRF delivers emergency planning by:
  - a) Co-operating and sharing information to enhance the co-ordination and efficiency between partners.
  - b) Assessing the risk of emergencies occurring and using this to inform contingency planning.
  - c) Putting in place:
    - i. Emergency plans;
    - ii. Business continuity management arrangements;
    - iii. Arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.
  - d) Making information available to the public about civil protection matters.
  - e) Providing advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (local authorities only).
47. From an early stage following an incident, a recovery plan will be considered given the considerable time that it can take for homes and businesses to be restored after a flooding incident. Following an event, partners would review the incident and look at the lessons that were learnt, which would be shared across the LRF so that all of the partner organisations could benefit from this.
48. Preparing for such events is part of the day to day job and it ensures that the LRF is ready for emergencies and major events. This involves:

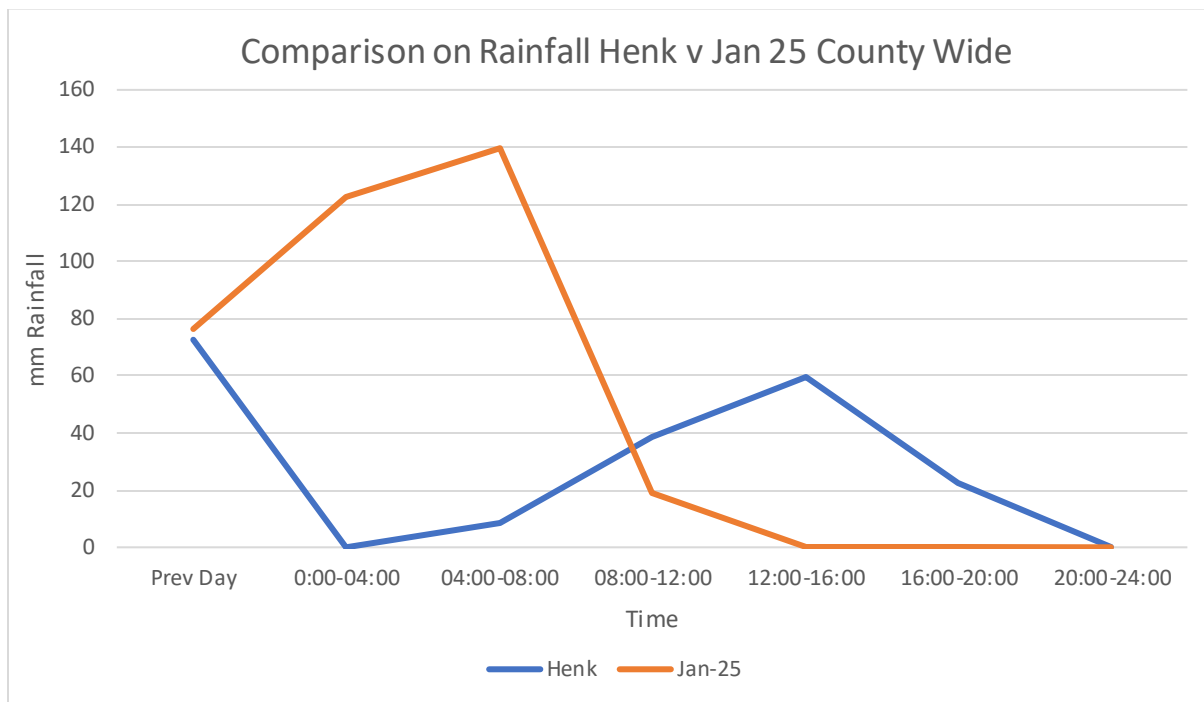


- a) Risk assessments – assessing the type of hazards that might affect the region.
- b) Preparing plans – together agreeing strategies and process, writing the plans (Leicestershire LRF has more than 20, each addressing a different type of event).
- c) Training and exercising – a schedule of training, testing and exercising ensures partners and their staff are familiar with the plans.

### **Recent Flooding Events**

- 49. On Monday 6 January 2025, during an unnamed storm, significant rainfall led to the worst flooding event in recent history in Leicestershire. This is measured on the number of properties (both residential and business) that were subject to internal flooding. To date, an estimated 900 properties across the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) region and a confirmed 717 in Leicestershire have flooded internally; it is likely that this number will increase.
- 50. Prior to the 6 January storm, the worst recorded flooding event was Storm Henk in January 2024, when 447 properties reported internal flooding in Leicestershire alone. Both events were severe and had devastating impacts for those affected. However, the 6 January storm saw a much greater quantity of rainfall and, in many cases, over a longer peak than Storm Henk. In many parts of Leicestershire, the rainfall was double the levels seen in Storm Henk over a 24-hour period. This heavy rainfall also fell on frozen ground saturated by snow that had fallen and then melted in the preceding days.
- 51. Storm Henk however followed a longer period of higher than average rainfall, and therefore higher ground saturation, meaning that a smaller amount of rain had a much greater impact than 30mm of rain might usually have.
- 52. A comparison of the two events is shown in Figure 1 below. From initial information gathered for the January 2025 event, the fact that there were limited weather warnings received and that significant rainfall fell overnight also had an impact on the number of properties that were flooded, as the residents and businesses may not have had time to raise any property flood resilience measures or they may have struggled to implement these in the dark. Therefore, some measures installed following Storm Henk may not have been fully tested for effectiveness during the 6 January storm.

Figure 1 – Comparison of rainfall between Storm Henk and the 6 January storm



53. Although these two events had the greatest overall impact in Leicestershire, there have been several storms and severe weather events in recent years which have resulted in internal flooding issues for residents and businesses across Leicestershire. Between 2019 and 2021, there were various flood events that resulted in internal flooding. In 2023, the Met Office recorded 11 named storms, and in 2024 there were nine named storms. In addition to this, there were several localised rainfall events, including June 2023 in Oadby and Wigston, September 2023 in Packington, September 2024 in Market Harborough and Blaby District, and November 2024 in Little Bowden.
54. Where the number of properties flooded hits the relevant thresholds, the LLFA is required to undertake a formal investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. As a result of the above, many Section 19 investigations were triggered. Whilst investigations have been undertaken and reports are completed or are in progress, there remain several others that still require significant work. In addition, the LLFA is progressing business cases to seek funding from the Environment Agency for a number of flood alleviation projects.
55. These events also led to reports and queries regarding external flooding, instances of flooding below the Section 19 investigation threshold and flood risk in general. Therefore, the workload was already high and has only been increased as a result of the 6 January storm.

### **Current Funding Allocations 2025-29 MTFS**

56. Following the floods of January 2024 and January 2025, a total one-off allocation of £2.90m was made available by the Council in 2024/25 to fund:
- a) Supplementary staff resources to support Section 19 investigations, flood projects and the statutory consultee role in planning.
  - b) An additional permanent flood engagement officer to educate on roles, responsibilities and being flood ready.
  - c) Support community flood resilience.
  - d) Highways related draining activities.
57. This includes the additional £1.5m approved by the Cabinet on 7 February 2025, as outlined in the 2025–29 MTFS. A remaining balance of £2.36m is available, of which £2.31m is scheduled for expenditure during the 2025/26 financial year and £0.05m in 2026/27. These funds will be allocated to staffing resources, gully cleansing and jetting, drainage repairs, culvert replacement, asset mapping, and survey activities.
58. The Council's budgets for flooding for the next four years are shown in Figure 2 below. This includes the remaining £2.36m of one-off revenue funding across both the LLFA and LHA responsibilities. The split of this one-off revenue funding alongside ongoing revenue funding is shown for each area in Figure 3.

Figure 2 – MTFS Revenue and Capital Flood related spend

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total £000
<b>Capital</b>					
Property Flood Risk Alleviation	2,058	49	0	0	2,106
Highways Flood Alleviation	698	501	501	501	2,201
<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>2,756</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>4,307</b>
<b>Revenue</b>					
Gulley Emptying	2,430	1,629	1,636	1,642	7,337
Camera Van	85	84	85	85	339
Drainage Repairs	1,780	1,443	1,449	1,454	6,127
Flood Alleviation and Resilience	700	0	0	0	700
<b>Total Leicestershire Highway Authority (LHA)</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>14,503</b>
Lead Local Authority Resourcing	712	620	579	584	2,495
Flood Alleviation and Resilience	340	0	0	0	300
<b>Total Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA)</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2,835</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6,047</b>	<b>3,777</b>	<b>3,749</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>17,338</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,803</b>	<b>4,327</b>	<b>4,250</b>	<b>4,266</b>	<b>21,645</b>

Figure 3 – Revenue Flood related spend: Core Budget and Additional one-off

	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	Total £000
One-off Revenue Funding	1,817	0	0	0	1,817
On-going Revenue Funding	3,178	3,157	3,170	3,181	12,686
<b>Leicestershire Highway Authority (LHA) Revenue</b>	<b>4,995</b>	<b>3,157</b>	<b>3,170</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>14,503</b>
One-off Revenue Funding	490	50	0	0	540
On-going Revenue Funding	562	570	579	584	2,295
<b>Leicestershire Flood Authority (LLFA) Revenue</b>	<b>1,052</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>2,835</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>6,047</b>	<b>3,777</b>	<b>3,749</b>	<b>3,765</b>	<b>17,338</b>

59. Whilst this additional funding has helped both the LLFA and LHA to manage the significant increase in work following the recent flood events, the following paragraphs set out recommended options and priorities for further funding, for consideration as part of the 2026-30 MTFS process.

#### **LLFA Potential Additional Funding Options**

60. Major flood alleviation projects are, in most cases, the responsibility of the relevant water authority and/or Environment Agency. These can cost many millions of pounds; as the LLFA does not have the responsibility to undertake this type of work, it is currently not therefore permanently resourced to support business case development if there are appropriate opportunities.
61. A total of £0.18m would be required to make permanent the current temporary arrangements (funded by the remaining £2.36m one-off additional Council funding) for staff to undertake flood investigations; community engagement and education on self-resilience and being flood ready; and the development of business cases for project grant funding.
62. Consultancy support is an expedient way to support the sheer volume of immediate work, but a more cost-effective solution would be a permanent structure for the level of work that has become higher as flood events have become more frequent.
63. Whilst not a statutory requirement or responsibility of the LLFA, an additional £0.13m to fund activities in the following discretionary areas could be considered to support communities to recover from flooding events:
- Provide community grants to town/parish councils towards improving community resilience, such as grant funds for impacted communities to purchase flood protection equipment such as pumps, flood sax, PPE. The allocation criteria is to be developed.
  - Capital budget for small scale discretionary alleviation schemes.
  - Towards CCTV investigations and discretionary riparian owner support.

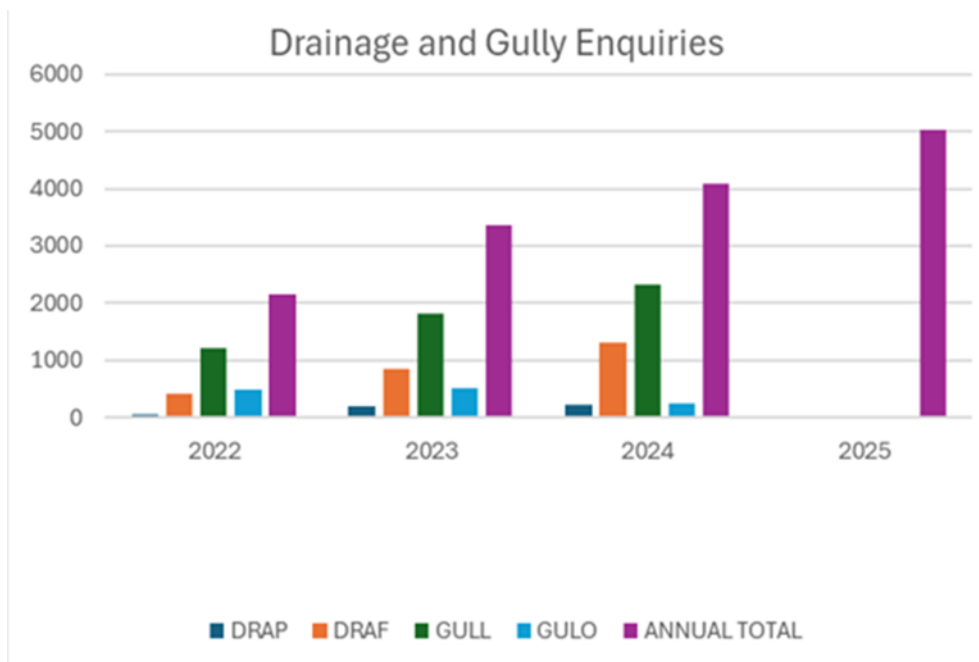
### **LHA Potential Additional Funding Options**

64. With the exception of gully cleansing, there is currently no budget for proactive work on all other highway drainage assets such as pipework, chambers, and culverts. These are all dealt with reactively as and when issues arise. Additional funding could enable a more proactive approach to maintaining drainage assets, ensuring their long-term resilience and efficiency. Investment in staff resource would enable the following activities:
- a) Identifying and delivering capital projects to upgrade drainage systems and reduce flood risk (the backlog list exceeds £3.3m, with more projects identified every year, especially in wet weather).
  - b) Conducting regular structured culvert inspections and repairs to prevent blockages and structural failures (of the 968 culverts recorded, 4.5% have an unknown condition, 1% are very poor, 5% poor, 20% fair, and 68% good or very good, although the data is outdated due to the absence of a formal inspection programme).
  - c) Delivering routine maintenance of highway responsible ponds, ditches, and Sustainable Drainage Systems features to enhance water management.
  - d) Collecting and managing asset data for the highway drainage network, covering catchpits, inspection chambers, and piped systems for better system performance and asset management.
  - e) Re-profiling grips to improve surface water runoff and drainage flow.
  - f) Inspecting and clearing trash screens and critical assets to keep drainage systems functioning properly.
65. As illustrated in Figure 4 and Figure 5 below, the Highways Drainage Team within the LHA is significantly under-resourced and unable to manage the high volume of enquiries (89% increase between 2022 and 2024) or fully investigate and resolve all drainage complaints from customers (outstanding queries increased by 314% between 2022 and 2024).

Figure 4 - Table showing number of customer enquiries by year

	2022	2023	2024	2025 (projection)
Number of drainage and blocked gully enquiries received annually.	2158	3366	4077	5036
Jetting and CCTV investigations requiring further repairs.	No funding to carry out a large programme of jetting and CCTV surveys.			484
Old enquiries still outstanding from each year.	110	294	455	816

Figure 5 - Graph showing volume of customer enquiries by year  
(Note abbreviations used: DRAP - Property flooding; DRAF - General drainage flooding; GULL - blocked gully; GULO - Gully other – iron work, damage, sunken cover etc.)



66. This issue has been exacerbated since Storm Henk, with severe weather events becoming increasingly frequent. £0.42m of the remaining £2.36m one-off additional Council funding is being used to address the issue in 2025/26. This is required on-going to allow permanent recruitment of additional staff to respond to the current customer demand and deliver the current works budget.

### **Funding Summary**

67. Sufficient funding is available from the remainder of the £2.90m one-off additional Council funding outlined in paragraphs 56 to 59, to deal with immediate concerns in 2025/26.
68. On-going revenue funding of £0.55m in 2026/27 and an additional £0.05m required from 2027/28 to meet the Council's statutory duties and address immediate issues, are needed for:
- The LHA's Highways Drainage Team additional resource requirement to respond to the current customer demand and deliver the current works budgets (£0.42m).
  - The LLFA additional resource requirement for flood investigations, community engagement and securing external grant funding (£0.18m).
69. As part of the 2026-30 MTFS process, external funding opportunities such as the Local Transport Grant, will be explored before any growth bid is considered. If the overall funding position of the County Council is affected by reduced settlements, it may not be possible to utilise the grant or other relevant grants in this way.

70. A further £3.30m capital funding would address the current backlog list of highway drainage schemes over a number of years. This would attract an additional annual amount of £0.13m revenue funding requirement to deliver the enhanced works programme. Delivery of the backlog of highway drainage schemes would be based on the priorities defined by the national guidance in the Highway Maintenance Efficiency Programme:
- a) Network hierarchy;
  - b) Highway safety;
  - c) The number of incidents of flooding;
  - d) The structural effect of flooding;
  - e) Traffic speed.
71. Discretionary annual funding of £0.13m would enable the LLFA to support communities with flood recovery.
72. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, the principles of the above priorities for any further flood related funding will be taken forward for consideration as part of the 2026-30 MTFS process.

### **Conclusion**

73. The Council, in performing its duties both as the LLFA and as the LHA, recognises the significant physical, emotional and mental health impacts that flooding can have on communities. While work is underway to support recovery efforts and to work towards flood resilience and preparedness in the future, this has generated significant pressure on the existing Council resources, and this pressure continues as flood events appear to be becoming more frequent as opposed to the exception. Further funding, if it is made available, would enable the expansion of resources to better support communities both on a statutory and discretionary basis, so that they are more prepared, resilient and protected in the future.

### **Equality Implications**

74. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken to support the development of the LLFRMS. This assessment identified that some groups with protected characteristics are potentially more vulnerable to flood risks (for example elderly, pregnant, or disabled persons). Whilst this is recognised, the Strategy focusses on reducing the impacts of flooding on communities, in turn benefiting those vulnerable members of the community.
75. Officers will continue to explore opportunities to address the impacts of flooding on groups with protected characteristics, particularly when working with partners and in seeking external funding.

## **Human Rights Implications**

76. Residents in flood affected areas have the risk of losing their homes and shelter would be adversely impacted. However, the work of the LLFA focusses on reducing this risk. The additional resources and actions identified within this report will also have a positive impact on the risk to human rights arising from severe flood events.

## **Other Implications and Impact Assessments**

77. A Strategic Environmental Assessment was undertaken to develop the LLFRMS and as the action and proposals set out within this report are in line with those assessed in the Strategy, there are no negative environmental impacts arising from the content of the report. However, it should be noted that the increased number of weather events and associated increased workload will mean that there will be a longer timeframe for the identification of potential solutions and the delivery of schemes.
78. Flooding has significant impacts on health and wellbeing. These impacts occur both acutely and over the long-term. While the immediate dangers to physical health from flooding events are highly visible, longer-term health effects associated with flooding are harder to identify and may include effects relating to displacement. Most of the health burden associated with flooding in England is, however, due to impacts on mental health and wellbeing. Measures to reduce the risk and effects of flooding will reduce such impacts. The proposals within this report will allow officers to provide more information in a timely manner, reducing some negative impacts on health.

## **Partnership Working and Associated Issues**

79. A principle for the work of the LLFA as set out in the LLFRMS is organisational partnership working. Maintaining this principle will be essential for the successful delivery of flood risk management activities. Officers will continue to work with partner authorities and RMAs (including, but not limited to, the police, the Fire and Rescue service, district councils, Leicester City Council, Rutland Council, the Environment Agency, and the Regional Water Authorities), ensuring a good understanding of the role and the responsibilities.

## **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet, 5 February 2021, Scrutiny Review Panel of Flooding:  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=6440&Ver=4>  
 (item 484)

Report to the Cabinet, 24 November 2023, Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Public Consultation Outcomes and Publication:  
<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7080&Ver=4>  
 (item 296)



Report to the Cabinet, 22 October 2024, Leicestershire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority Protocol:

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7510&Ver=4>  
(item 386)

Report to the Cabinet, 7 February 2025, Flooding in Leicestershire in January 2025 and Implications for the Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Highway Authority:

<https://democracy.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=7873&Ver=4>  
(item 421)

Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/Local-Flood-Risk-Management-Strategy-for-Leicestershire.pdf>

Leicestershire's Asset Register

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/flood-risk-management>

Leicestershire's Formal Section 19 Flood Investigations

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/flooding-and-drainage/lead-local-flood-authority/formal-section-19-flood-investigations>

## **Appendix**

Sources of flood risk and responsibilities

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