

Appendix - Sources of flood risk and responsibilities

Environment Agency

The Environment Agency (EA) is a national body legally required to carry out strategic supervision over all matters relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management across the UK in accordance with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The EA's strategic leadership role means they are required to facilitate a joined up and consistent approach for the management of flooding and coastal change from all sources. This includes sources where other Risk Management Authorities (RMA) have operational responsibilities such as the County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). In its role it also provides flood risk advice and specifically preliminary advice to planning applicants and Local Planning Authorities.

Water Authorities

Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW) and Anglian Water Ltd are public limited companies based in the Midlands, responsible for water supply management and waste water treatment and disposal. It also has an obligation to reduce flood risk associated with rainfall overloading the public sewerage network. Water authorities have five-year Asset Management Periods (AMPs) agreed with Ofwat which include investment and funding allocated to upgrade networks to alleviate current flood risk and help accommodate future growth, such as new housing developments within Leicestershire.

Internal Drainage Boards

Internal Drainage Boards are responsible for regulation of watercourse management within their designated area. The Boards also provide drainage related planning advice to the Local Planning Authority for proposed development within the board's jurisdiction. There is a small part of the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board within Leicestershire covering parts of the Melton Borough.

Landowners (riparian responsibility for maintenance and passage of flow)

A 'riparian landowner' is someone who owns land next to a river, stream or ditch. They are considered the owner of a stretch of watercourse if it runs on or under their land and/or on the boundary of their land, up to its centre point.

A watercourse can be any stream of water flowing in a defined channel or through an underground pipe or culvert (an underground structure that water can flow through). Leicestershire County Council is a riparian owner of any such underground assets that pass underneath adopted public highway, or on the Council's own premises and land.

Each riparian owner has certain responsibilities for the section of watercourse in their ownership. They must let water flow naturally, remove blockages, fallen trees or overhanging branches from their watercourse, or cut back trees and shrubs on the bank, if they obstruct or affect a public right of navigation or reduce the flow or cause

flooding to other landowners' property and keep any trash screen, weir, mill gate or other structure clear.

They must report any incidents to the EA incident hotline to report flooding from main rivers, blockages which could cause flooding, pollution, unusual changes in the flow of water, collapsed or badly damaged banks or any work or activity on or near a watercourse that may not have permission.

Flood Risk Management Board

The Flood Risk Management Board is a forum of RMA officers and others formed to oversee a strategic, multi-agency approach to flood risk management in Leicestershire. The board facilitates the implementation of the Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and action to manage local flood risk.

The board consists of senior officers from RMAs in Leicestershire:

- Lead Local Flood Authority (Leicestershire County Council),
- Local Highway Authority (Leicestershire County Council, National Highways),
- Environment Agency (Representation from each region),
- Anglian Water,
- Severn Trent Water,
- District councils,
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.

Others invited to attend include:

- Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Prepared,
- Rivers Trusts,
- Leicester City Council,
- Rutland Council.

Whilst each authority has specific responsibilities under the legislation, the Board seeks to ensure a joint and coordinated approach is taken, wherever reasonable, on all aspects of flood risk management in Leicestershire with specific focus on local flood risk.

The Board will monitor application of the LFRMS, including the five objectives:

- Watercourses, assets and catchments - To manage local flood risk through the effective management of flood risk assets, watercourses, and catchments.
- Encouraging sustainable development - To manage local flood risk through encouraging sustainable development.
- Flood preparedness response and recovery - To manage local flood risk through effective preparedness, response to, and recovery from flood events. (The Local Resilience Forum Flooding Sub-Group is however the

main forum of discussion for flood preparedness, response and recovery or for discussing during/after a countywide flood event).

- Better understanding flood risk - To better understand local flood risk and impacts, informing approaches to managing this risk.
- Local projects - To manage local flood risk through developing and or managing local projects for at-risk communities.

Monitoring

The Highways and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee will act as the 'Flood Risk Management Committee' and monitor the performance and activities of the Leicestershire Flood Risk Management Board, in accordance with Section 9FH of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011. The Board will exist all year round and its remit is to facilitate discussion as appropriate. Meetings will take place twice a year at the End of Winter (March) and October. Meetings are chaired by Leicestershire County Council.

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