

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. Topic of assessment

EIA title:	Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
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EIA author:	Lee McQuade, Economy Officer/ Manager
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2. Approval

	Name	Date approved
Approved by¹	Jan Haunton	1/02/2014

3. Quality control

Version number	3	EIA completed	March 2013
Date saved	01/02/2014	EIA published	March 2014

4. EIA team

Name	Job title (if applicable)	Organisation	Role
Radhika Verma	N/A	Surrey County Council	DEG/ SEG rep – viewed an early draft.
Geoff Turner/ Louise Ivison	N/A	Surrey County Council	DEG reps - viewed an early draft.
Deborah Fox	Strategy and Commissioning Team Manager	Surrey County Council	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy lead.
Mark Howarth	Drainage Asset Team Manager	Surrey County Council	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy operational lead.

¹ Refer to earlier guidance for details on getting approval for your EIA.

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5. Explaining the matter being assessed

<p>What policy, function or service is being introduced or reviewed?</p>	<p>Surrey County Council has a new statutory duty to ‘develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for flood risk management in the local area’.</p> <p>The nature and contents of the Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (the strategy) are determined by provisions in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (July 2011).</p> <p>The aim of the strategy is to provide a coherent overview of flood risk management in Surrey. Its ambitions and objectives are noted below. The strategy applies to Surrey County Council and other partners including the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The strategy is by implication a strategic document, undertaken in partnership. It reflects EIAs in plans, strategies and other documents undertaken by partners, where available.</p> <p>The EIA highlights the anticipated equalities and diversity implications arising from the strategy. Where applicable separate EIAs will be undertaken on specific schemes and activities in the action plan as and when actions are implemented.</p>
<p>What proposals are you assessing?</p>	<p>The strategy provides an overview of the ongoing flood risk management work underway across Surrey, and illustrates levels of risk within the county from all sources of flood risk, not just those types of flood risk for which Surrey County Council is strictly responsible.</p> <p>Overarching the strategy are a series of ambitions (in no particular order):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Drainage strategy - We will develop a long term drainage asset management strategy, which covers highways and ordinary watercourse maintenance. As a result we will target high risk and high need areas in a joined up way. 2. Infrastructure - The relevant local authorities will work together with the Environment Agency to ensure the development and implementation of flood risk management strategies including the Lower Thames and Upper Mole. This will bring tangible reductions in flood risk to some Surrey communities. 3. Sustainable drainage - We will develop an approach to sustainable drainage systems that is fully integrated with the planning system. We want large development sites to be exemplars of sustainable drainage. We also want to see more retrofitting of sustainable

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drainage systems in high risk areas.

4. Resilience – Together we will promote flood resilience and resistance measures to ‘at risk’ households and businesses in Surrey. This will include the continued development and sharing of ‘self help’ opportunities.

5. Insurance – We will urge the Government to work with the insurance industry to guarantee the availability and affordability of flood insurance.

6. Funding - We will be ambitious in its approach to securing national flood risk management funding, and in exploring additional funding sources. We will assist, where possible, in supporting the funding of property level protection schemes in high risk areas.

7. Communications - We will continue to explain what work is underway to reduce flood risk, how this is prioritised and what role residents and businesses can play.

8. Technology - We will continue to promote and use innovative technologies, to better understand the nature of flood risk, and identify potential flood risk mitigation measures.

In summary the strategy objectives are to:

- Make it easier for risk management authorities to work together
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders
- Provide a clear overview of levels of flood risk throughout the county, to enable wider understanding of those risks
- Consider flooding issues at a catchment level
- Reflect and action the concerns of residents and businesses
- Provide a robust approach to the prioritisation of spending on schemes intended to reduce flood risk
- Highlight how land and property owners, communities, residents and businesses can help manage risk
- Develop an annual action plan of priority actions based on the principles set out within the strategy.

This reflects the requirements of the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act and the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2011. Our objectives have also been informed by consultation with risk management authorities.

The EIA highlights the equalities and diversity implications arising from the strategy. The strategy is accompanied by an action plan, to include schemes and activities to be undertaken by partners. The action plan will be refreshed annually. Where applicable separate EIAs will be undertaken on specific schemes and activities in the action plan as and when actions are implemented.

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<p>Who is affected by the proposals outlined above?</p>	<p>A flood event does not distinguish between the types of person/property liable to flood. The strategy seeks to raise awareness and address flood risk in the areas most prone to flood risk across Surrey.</p> <p>The main beneficiaries are likely to be the residents and businesses most prone to flood risk in Surrey. It will also benefit residents, businesses, social and emergency services who risk disruption caused by flood events.</p> <p>Certain groups with protected characteristics are likely to benefit from the objectives in the strategy:</p> <p>Older people, disabled people and pregnant people: These less mobile groups might require additional consideration and assistance in the event of a flood event. Measures which address flood risk are likely to disproportionately benefit the less mobile.</p> <p>Race: initiatives which seek to raise flood risk awareness and improve communication will consider the needs of different races.</p> <p>Gypsy and Travellers: Gypsy and Traveller sites are known to exist in areas prone to flood risk. The needs of this community are considered in the strategy.</p> <p>Deprived communities: Deprived communities are more likely to contain vulnerable people and residents less able to help themselves. Economically and socially disadvantaged people are less likely to be able to afford to take certain steps to reduce flood risk, such as installing flood barriers.</p> <p>The negative impacts of a flood including physical and psychological health impacts are often greater in deprived communities. The Government recognises that a flood event might have a disproportionate impact on people from lower income groups. The funding criteria for flood risk schemes - Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) - prioritise deprived communities.</p> <p>Properties more prone to flood risk typically have higher insurance premiums and might have difficulty getting insurance. This impacts on low-income households more, with insurance costs taking up a larger proportion of smaller incomes. The strategy seeks to promote the affordability and availability of insurance.</p>
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6. Sources of information

Engagement carried out
<p>We carried out public consultation and developed an ongoing dialogue with partners and stakeholders throughout the preparation of the strategy. We made efforts to seek feedback from groups that represent those with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board commissioned the strategy. It is a partnership, which includes representatives from Surrey district and borough councils, the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, Thames Water and others.</p> <p>We undertook consultation on the strategy in two stages. The first stage was used to inform the drafting of the strategy. This was guided by a questionnaire, circulated as a leaflet to parish councils, residents associations and others. It was also made available online and promoted via Surrey Matters and social media.</p> <p>A second phase of consultation sought comments on the draft strategy itself. This was a full 12 week public consultation undertaken in accordance with the Surrey Compact 'Communication, Consultation and Engagement Code'. Again, this was guided by a leaflet and promoted through a variety of communication channels. Comments received during the consultation are reflected in the strategy (see below).</p> <p>During the consultation process we offered information in a variety of formats (large print, Braille and on tape). The language used in consultation documents was tested for clarity (Plain English) and documents were made available in other languages on request. Documents were sent to Surrey libraries to ensure that people without the internet could access information.</p> <p>We invited interest groups such as the Surrey Association for Visual Impairment, Mencap (Elmbridge, Mid-Surrey and Tandridge Mencap), Age UK, Surrey Gypsy Traveller Community Relations Forum, Surrey Community Action, Citizens Advice Bureaux and the Coalition for Disabled People to contribute their views.</p> <p>Comments received from these and other partners have been reflected in the strategy. A consultation summary has been included as an annex to the strategy.</p>
Data used

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In accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 there is a suite of information available on community flood risks and helping vulnerable people in Surrey in a flood emergency. All local authorities are required to produce emergency plans to deal with civil contingencies. Some district and borough councils have specific flood plans.

Vulnerable people that are known to public services would be identified in an emergency incident. The Surrey Community Risk Register has been created to provide information about the hazards that exist within the county and the control measures in place to mitigate their impact. The Register has been published in response to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The hazards have been outlined in a generic format as this is the basis of response planning within the county, which follows nationally agreed best practice. The generic hazards have been assessed for the likelihood of the event happening and the potential impact. This is used to create a risk rating for the hazard. The likelihood and impact values are agreed through the multi-agency Risk Assessment Working Group on behalf of the Surrey Local Resilience Forum. As part of the hazard assessment process, a number of scenarios have been considered both in respect of the likelihood of them occurring and the economic, environmental, health and social impacts that would result if they happened.

A large amount of information exists on flood risk across Surrey in existing studies and strategies. Some of these include EIAs. Where relevant information has been reflected in the strategy. Some key data sources include:

- Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- The Lower Thames Flood Risk Management Strategy (2009)
- Arun and Western Streams Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- River Medway Catchment Flood Management Plan (2009)
- River Wey Flood Risk Management Draft Strategy (2010)
- River Mole Flood Risk Strategy Study (2006)
- River Hogsmill Integrated Urban Drainage Defra Pilot Study (2008)
- Caterham Bourne Study (2002)
- Chobham Flood Relief Study (2011)
- The Basingstoke Canal Authority Service Plan (2009)
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (2011)
- Epsom & Ewell Surface Water Management Plan (2011)
- Woking & Byfleet Surface Water Management Plan (2012)
- The Surrey wetspots flooding database, ongoing.
- There are also strategic flood risk assessments and multi-agency flood plans. These take account of how vulnerable groups would be assisted in the event of a flood.

EIAs will be undertaken on certain schemes and projects as and when detailed proposals come forward, this includes the River Thames Scheme.

Consultation responses have helped shape the strategy. Specifically, the Surrey Gypsy Traveller Communities Forum provided detailed comments during consultation. In brief, these included:

- Many Gypsy and Traveller sites were built at a time when planning rules were

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significantly different from today, on sites with poor drainage/ sewers.

- There are sites on former waste sites with significant health issues and risks of rat infestation in the event of a flood.
- Gypsy and Traveller communities have difficulty obtaining insurance.
- The old, sick and children are at greatest risk.
- Gypsy and Traveller communities 'struggle to be heard' in a major flood emergency and have to 'fend for themselves'.

We have reflected these concerns in the strategy.

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7a. Impact of the proposals on residents and service users with protected characteristics

The impacts of the strategy itself are likely to be positive. All residents in flood risk prone areas, including the vulnerable, will benefit from improved knowledge about flood risk, efforts to involve communities in the process of identifying flood risk solutions and closer working between services and communities. The strategy will help to ensure that those with protected characteristics are more fully considered during flood risk management.

However, changes in the broader policy and environmental context, such as changes in the Government funding model, climate change, development which might increase flood risk, and policy changes which might make it harder for residents to obtain insurance, could balance out the positive impacts of the strategy.

It is important to note that the economically and socially disadvantaged are likely to benefit from the strategy:

- The strategy will ensure that the prioritisation of schemes considers areas of socio-economic deprivation. Government funding – Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) – makes allowance for deprivation in decision-making.
- By preventing and mitigating the harmful economic impacts of flooding, the strategy will promote economic development.
- The level of flood risk awareness has been found to be lower among deprived socio-economic groups nationally. Economically and socially disadvantaged residents are less likely to be well prepared for flooding. The strategy seeks to raise awareness of flood risk in all communities. It will reflect best practice such as direct awareness raising campaigns in the areas most prone to flood risk.
- Deprived communities are less likely to have the necessary social capital to prepare their own community flood risk plans. The strategy will encourage community resilience in communities across Surrey including deprived communities.

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Protected characteristic ²	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	The impacts on older people are expected to be positive, because the strategy will encourage more consideration of this group than is currently the case.	No negative impacts are expected.	<p>Addressing flood risk on the highway will ensure vulnerable residents continue to have access to key services on the event of a flood.</p> <p>Surrey County Council's drainage capital works prioritisation process now takes account of elderly people during the scheme identification and design stage.</p> <p>The strategy notes that various publications will be provided. Where requested, all communication materials will be made available in formats accessible to elderly people.</p>
Disability	The impacts on disabled people are expected to be positive, because the strategy will encourage more consideration of this group.	No negative impacts are expected.	<p>Addressing flood risk on the highway will ensure vulnerable residents continue to have access to key services on the event of a flood.</p> <p>Surrey County Council's drainage capital works prioritisation process now takes account of disability during the scheme identification and design stage.</p> <p>The strategy notes that various publications will be provided. Where requested, all communication materials will be made available in formats accessible to disabled people.</p>
Gender reassignment	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

² More information on the definitions of these groups can be found [here](#).



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<p>Pregnancy and maternity</p>	<p>The impacts on pregnant people and those people with young children are expected to be positive, because the strategy will encourage more consideration of this group.</p>	<p>No negative impacts are expected.</p>	<p>Surrey County Council’s drainage capital works prioritisation process now takes account of young people during the scheme identification and design stage.</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 52</p> <p>Race</p>	<p>The impacts are expected to be positive because the strategy will encourage proactive engagement and consultation.</p>	<p>No negative impacts are expected.</p>	<p>Comments from the Gypsy and Traveller Forum have emphasised that problems experienced in flood risk areas, such as difficulty obtaining insurance, are exacerbated in Gypsy and Traveller communities. Whilst we expect that efforts to address flood risk will benefit all Surrey residents (including these communities), the strategy has been reviewed to ensure greater consideration of this group.</p> <p>Direct action might be needed in the areas most prone to flood risk. This is being trialled in flood risk areas; for example, a door knocking exercise will be undertaken in Chobham to ensure that the whole community is aware of the flood risk. The strategy will promote partnership working and the formation of groups so that all residents are directly provided with information.</p> <p>The strategy emphasises the need to engage residents in flood risk management, particularly in areas most prone to flood risk. The strategy will make it easier to access information on flood risk by publishing information in other formats and languages where requested.</p>
<p>Religion and belief</p>	<p>No impact expected</p>	<p>No impact expected</p>	<p>Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.</p>

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Sex	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Sexual orientation	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Marriage and civil partnerships	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

7b. Impact of the proposals on staff with protected characteristics

Protected characteristic	Potential positive impacts	Potential negative impacts	Evidence
Age	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Disability	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Gender reassignment	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Pregnancy and maternity	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Race	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Religion and belief	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Sex	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

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Sexual orientation	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.
Marriage and civil partnerships	No impact expected	No impact expected	Consultation and the analysis of data suggest that there would be no positive/ negative impacts.

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8. Amendments to the proposals

Change	Reason for change
The strategy now includes proposals to address the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community.	Detailed comments from the Gypsy and Travellers Communities Forum demonstrated that there had been insufficient consideration of this group in the draft strategy document.
The strategy will now require that all materials produced for publication should be made available in languages and formats relevant to those with protected characteristics on request.	To ensure published material is accessible to all residents, businesses and communities.

9. Action plan

Potential impact (positive or negative)	Action needed to maximise positive impact or mitigate negative impact	By when	Owner
Communities are less able to help themselves because of economic and/ or social disadvantage.	Produce maps that integrate areas of deprivation and flood risk. This will lead to a better understanding of areas of deprivation and inform funding applications.	March 2014	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities
Equality and diversity overlooked in the development of schemes and funding bids.	Ensure that equality and diversity implications are a factor in the prioritisation of schemes/ funding bids.	March 2014	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities
Lack of consideration of the specific needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community.	Action(s) to address the problems identified in the Gypsy and Traveller community to be considered/ developed, to include improved communications.	Ongoing	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities
Communication material is not accessible to all.	All publications will be made available on request in languages and formats relevant to those with protected characteristics.	Ongoing	Surrey County Council/ Risk Management Authorities

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10. Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated

Potential negative impact	Protected characteristic(s) that could be affected
No negative impacts which cannot be mitigated have been identified.	N/A

11. Summary of key impacts and actions

Information and engagement underpinning equalities analysis	<p>We carried out early consultation and a 12-week public consultation. We developed an ongoing dialogue with partners and stakeholders throughout the preparation of the strategy. We made efforts to seek feedback from groups that represent those with protected characteristics.</p>
Key impacts (positive and/or negative) on people with protected characteristics	<p>The impacts of the strategy itself are likely to be positive. All residents in flood risk prone areas, including the vulnerable, will benefit from improved knowledge about flood risk, efforts to involve communities in the process of identifying flood risk solutions and closer working between services and communities. The strategy will help to ensure that those with protected characteristics are more fully considered during flood risk management.</p> <p>However, changes in the broader policy and environmental context, such as changes in the Government funding model, climate change, development which might increase flood risk, and policy changes which might make it harder for residents to obtain insurance, could balance out the positive impacts of the strategy.</p> <p>We will take action as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will actively seek funding to deliver flood alleviation schemes in Surrey. By preventing and mitigating the harmful economic impacts of flooding, the strategy will promote economic development. • To identify the priority areas for flood risk management, the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board will take into account areas in Surrey that fall within the top 20% and top 40% of deprived areas in the country. • Surrey County Council will boost the score for wetspots where property flooding affects building that house vulnerable people, such as care homes, respite centres and shelters. • All publications will be made available on request in

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	<p>languages and formats relevant to those with protected characteristics. This will make communication material accessible to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will urge the Government to work with the insurance industry to guarantee the availability and affordability of flood insurance.
Changes you have made to the proposal as a result of the EIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We added a section on the Gypsy and Traveller community to the strategy, in the section on roles and responsibilities.
Key mitigating actions planned to address any outstanding negative impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrey County Council Property Services to continue to work with the council's Emergency Management colleagues during flood events. The Environment Agency to encourage the Gypsy and Traveller community to sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct. Surrey County Council has plans to re-develop the Chertsey Bridge/ Littleton site including measures to mitigate flood risks. The site is next to the River Thames. Surrey planning authorities to consider flood risk in the planning of any new Gypsy and Traveller sites. The gypsy and traveller community can help by not blocking surface water drainage measures like ditches with debris or burning waste by the roadside.
Potential negative impacts that cannot be mitigated	None.

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