

LFRMS Consultation Questions

<p>Guiding Principles</p>	<p>Are the guiding principles clear? Yes, the guiding principles are clear and thorough. Do you have any further comments? The guiding principles address the important issues that flooding will occur despite all efforts to prevent it and that householders and businesses have a responsibility to protect themselves. It is good that this is stated at the beginning of the document as this is often mis-understood by members of the public. Principles 7 and 8 are important in managing local flood risk and are in agreement with EFDC's local plan flood risk policies.</p>
<p>Objectives</p>	<p>Are the objectives of the strategy clear? Yes, clear. Do you have any comments? No, the objectives are as we expect for the Lead Local Flood Authority.</p>
<p>Legislative Context</p>	<p>Do you find this legislative overview helpful? The overview of current legislation and drivers is helpful. Figure 1 is useful to see how the various pieces of legislation influence local flood risk management. Does this section provide the right amount of detail? For the high level legislation the amount of detail is appropriate, however it could be worth expanding on the legislation that has an impact at the local level e.g. The Land Drainage Act, Reservoirs Act, Highways Act. Does any other legislation need to be mentioned? No</p>
<p>Nature of flooding in Essex</p>	<p>Is the difference between types of flooding clear? Yes, this is a good and succinct overview. Is it clear which organisations are responsible in each flooding situation? Yes, Figure 3 is clear and easy to understand. However we note EFDC has a slightly different situation at this time with regard to ordinary watercourses and our byelaws. Is it clear what being in a Tier 1, 2 or 3 area signifies? Table 2 and the accompanying text about how the areas are identified is clear. However, in Table 4 it is not clear under Tier 1 whether the whole districts are Tier 1 or just the named settlements. It is not clear what it actually means to be within Tier 1, 2 or 3. Does this mean these settlements will get additional funding for flood risk management? Does it mean they will be investigated by surface water management plans? What exactly will happen to the settlements in Tier 1, 2 and 3?</p>
<p>Other documents related to flooding</p>	<p>Do you find the information about other documents related to flooding useful? Yes, however the section is a little overwhelming and a table at the start indicating which document relates to which district or borough might simplify the section and avoid the need to read through the whole section. Does this section provide the right amount of detail? If not, what further information would you like to see included? Yes, the short summaries are the appropriate length, but a table summary might simplify. Do any other documents need to be mentioned? Local plans may discuss flood risk so should be included, at least in the bullet points at the beginning of the section.</p>
<p>Responsibilities of Essex County Council</p>	<p>Do you have any questions regarding Essex County Council new responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority? No. Do you have any questions regarding Essex County Council's other</p>

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	<p>responsibilities? Under 'Regulation of Ordinary Watercourses' page 42, the last paragraph should be updated as the transfer of powers has taken place. The comments referring to EFDC are not entirely accurate until the formal delegation process is completed and approved by our Council members. Page 43, last paragraph is also not entirely accurate until the formal delegation process is completed and approved by the various Councils' members.</p> <p>Is Essex County Council considering delegation of SuDS approval powers?</p>
<p>Responsibilities of other partners</p>	<p>Are the flood risk management roles and responsibilities of the following groups clear? Yes. Was there anything that surprised you under the previous sections regarding the roles and responsibilities of these groups?</p> <p>a) Essex County Council b) District and Borough Councils c) Water Companies d) Environment Agency e) Highways Agency</p> <p>No. However note that under the 'Responsibilities under the Land Drainage Act 1991' section District and Borough Councils maintain their powers to make and enforce their own byelaws. Do you feel any particular role/responsibility, or overall group, have been omitted? Was it not considered appropriate to mention DEFRA, OFWAT or Drainage Boards?</p>
<p>Responsibilities of Households and Communities</p>	<p>Is the information on the responsibilities of Households and Communities clear? Yes. It is good as this section informs and reinforces the point that property owners have a responsibility to protect and prepare for flooding themselves and that it is not just up to other organisations. The links provided here are useful. Is there any further information you would like to be added to it? See below. Is it clear what a Riparian Owner is and what their responsibilities are? Riparian ownership responsibilities should be expanded; in particular, the need for consent to most works to or near a watercourse and that riparian owner should discuss any works with the Lead Local Flood Authority and District/Borough Council before starting works. Is it clear what steps Home Owners can take to make themselves more prepared? It is clear that home owners can contact the EA to find out the flood risk to their property but there is not much information on how they can make themselves more prepared, other than view the internet links. It would be useful to include more information on preparation for emergencies (i.e. stocking sandbags) and household flood protection measures in these pages.</p> <p>Page 67 'Raising funding and skills for flood resilience and flood defence measures', the first paragraph does read as if the government will definitely provide funding when this might not be the case.</p>
<p>Strategic actions</p>	<p>Are the proposed county-wide strategic actions clear? Yes. Do you feel confident that these actions will help manage flood risk in Essex?</p>

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	<p>The actions will guide the overall management of flood risk in Essex, although they will not produce immediate results, they are long term actions that should help in overall management. In a long term view we would have some confidence that they will help manage flood risk if the annual action plans are prioritised and the appropriate cooperation is forthcoming from the other agencies.</p> <p>Are there any other county-wide strategic actions that you think we should consider?</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Does the information on communicating flood risk seem adequate? What more information would you want to find in there?</p> <p>The proposed background theory seems sound and in particular the key messages are realistic. However there is not a lot of detail on how exactly the public would be communicated with. Events, newsletters and online resources are mentioned, but would these really be the most effective way of informing those at risk? Personal meetings at individual properties or at locations representing a number of properties at risk should also be mentioned. It is accepted that this is time consuming and resources need to be allocated appropriately.</p> <p>Page 69 'Improve understanding of local flood risk', third paragraph, 'or through local funding' gives the impression local funding is always available, ready to be spent. This could be reworded.</p> <p>Page 77 paragraph on 'Group 1' should mention that this group can also do things to help themselves and stay informed.</p> <p>Page 80 'Annual action plans', bullet 3, 'for entry onto the medium term plan'. Who's medium term plan? The Environment Agency?</p> <p>Our Planning Department have commented that additional detail on SuDS approval and recognition would be welcomed. However it is possible this is or will be included in your upcoming SuDS guide/policy.</p>
<p>Site level actions</p>	<p>Are the proposed site level, specific management actions clear?</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>Do you feel confident that these actions will help manage flood risk in Essex?</p> <p>Yes, the actions will help to manage flood risk in Essex. In particular property protection schemes, sustainable drainage systems and reviewing asset management would have visible positive impacts. It is good that this strategy identifies management of ordinary watercourses as an area of concern, as this is a significant cause of local surface water flood risk and ordinary watercourses are often neglected by riparian owners or their ownership is unknown.</p> <p>Are there any other site level, specific management actions that you think we should consider?</p> <p>The strategy could go further than just encouraging sustainable drainage systems by recommending that they are mandatory for certain new development and supported by local plans for District and Borough Councils.</p>
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Do you have any further questions or comments regarding resource management and funding arrangements?</p> <p>This section provides a good background on the current funding options and how the Lead Local Flood Authority will meet its workload requirements. However there is a feeling that this section doesn't adequately describe the likelihood of securing funding for small local-scale flood defences or how in practice local communities can apply for funding i.e. should affected residents contact the LLFA for funding bids?</p>

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	<p>It was felt the section on staffing was probably not necessary and Figure 10 is quite complicated to understand.</p> <p>Page 93, 4th bullet point, it is felt that the general public might not know which 'local authorities' would receive the £100 million funding so this should be clarified.</p> <p>Page 98, first sentence refers to the 'Weymouth case study', where is this case study in the text?</p> <p>Page 99, has the 'DEFRA Solutions for joint funding of surface water schemes' been released yet and if so this section should be updated. This guide could be very useful for local communities suffering from surface water flooding in Epping Forest district. A link to this document would be helpful.</p> <p>Page 100, fictional case studies, are there any real examples that could be used here?</p>
<p>Environmental Objectives</p>	<p>Do you have any further questions or comments regarding the environmental objectives?</p> <p>No. We support this aspect of the strategy and our own flood storage areas support environmental objectives and have been granted local nature reserve status, so there is room for environmental objectives to be met whilst improving flood risk.</p> <p>Additional general comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are some inconsistencies with the format, in particular the justification of the text in some sections and the punctuation e.g. after lists and bullet points. ▪ Page 62, we note Flood Zone '1' is left out of the second para. ▪ Page 63, 2nd para, line 2, has 'Environment' been left out? ▪ Page 79, 1st line, open bracket after 'public'. ▪ Page 93, last sentence needs to be updated. ▪ Page 98, 1st para under 'Local fundraising', no capital for 'Schemes'.