

Final v1.0 – 21 June 2010
PROJECT CLIENT (FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT)
ANDREW TURNER



Flood and Water Management Strategic Business Plan 2010/2016

VOLUME 1 of 2

April 2010 - December 2016
(Volume 1 - six year Strategic Business Plan to December 2016)
(Volume 2 - Business Plan for April 2010 to March 2011)

Group Manager's signature:

Head of Service's signature:

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Resourced by **Medium Term Financial Plan** and success assessed against **Performance Plan** measures and monitored quarterly

**CORPORATE PLAN
AIMS AND PRIORITIES**

**Head of Service
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS PLAN (VOLUME 1)**
Direction:

- *6 year strategic aims and outcomes – follows Floods Directive six yearly assessment, mapping and planning cycle*
- *Annual priorities*

**Group Manager
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS PLAN (VOLUME 2)**
Delivery:

- *Service aims and measures*
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Access and Equalities Sustainable Development Community Safety

Foreword

This Plan has been produced as a key deliverable from the Flood and Water Management Project that commenced in July 2009. The Plan is structured in two volumes: Volume 1 contains the strategic Business Plan for 2010 to 2016 and Volume 2 contains the Business Plan for 2010 to 2011.

The purpose of this Plan is to explain the services we will provide, the over arching policy framework and how we will deliver the services in an efficient and effective risk-based approach set against clear objectives and goals. This Flood and Water Management Plan recommends the development of County policies, programmes, and projects to reduce the risk to people and property from ordinary watercourses, surface run-off and groundwater. Additionally, this Plan creates a long-term vision for flood risk management for Somerset, with an emphasis on integrating our efforts with stakeholders. Local flood risk management recommendations identify the objectives, aims and actions the County Council may take to mitigate flood risks.

The Plan is entirely consistent with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which requires lead local flood authorities to set objectives for managing flood risk, as well as proposed measures to deliver the objectives, and timescales for implementation of the measures, how and when the strategy will be reviewed, and how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives. The only exception not expressly contained in the plan is how flood measures are to be paid for and this has been separately recognised in the policy impact assessment.

Given this proposes a new function within the Directorate, there is an opportunity to focus and consolidate existing service delivery. Perhaps more excitingly, this is an opportunity to enhance the County Council's role within the community and assert the Council as Community Leader in Flood and Water Management. This is truly consistent with the 'spirit' of the recommendations contained in Sir Michael Pitt's review of the 2007 summer floods, the Flood and Water Management Act and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

This Plan considers the challenges and opportunities we face in service delivery and also sets out the priorities for the year which are strongly aligned to the Directorate's aim to be excellent in the eyes of our service users, our staff and our peers. With constrained resources and ever increasing customer expectations, it is important that all our service users, staff and Members are aware of our priorities and how they can contribute towards the overall levels of service and success of service delivery.

Ioan Rees

Head of Highways and Passenger Transport

VOLUME 1 – Flood and Water Management

Strategic Business Plan 2010 to 2016

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The approach taken in developing this Plan in managing flood risk across the County starts at first principles; understanding the scope of our business and getting our own house in order (i.e. definition setting). Having set the definition for the service, the County Council will be able to use this as a platform to cohesively and confidently manage the service delivery and ultimately the outcome.
- 1.2 From the outset, this Plan confirms that:
- Environment Agency is responsible for flooding from the sea, main river and reservoirs; and
- Lead local flood authorities (unitary and county councils) to do the same for all other forms of flooding (excluding sewer flooding which is not caused by precipitation)
- 1.3 Flooding by its very nature is unpredictable in location and severity. Dealing with uncertainties that are effectively out of our control can be challenging. Flood risk is, however, something that can be analysed and its effects are generally predictable. This means that the impacts can be significantly mitigated and response and recovery can be more effective and efficient.
- 1.4 As a consequence, this Plan broadly reflects four key areas of activity that will form the backbone of the service delivery:
- Preparation and planning;
 - Management and control;
 - Responding proactively and reactively;
 - Recovering.
- 1.5 Flood and water management risks are not contained within administrative boundaries. Actions taken in upland portions of a catchment area may contribute to flooding and channel migration in lower portions of that catchment. Individual actions taken in one area can have beneficial or adverse consequences for others in the same catchment. This Plan, and its set of proposed aims, objectives and policies, is based on the premise that flooding in Somerset may not be restricted to the County boundary, and as such, flood risk reduction will require extensive collaboration and strong partnerships.
- 1.6 Flooding is a natural phenomenon, but one that is also exacerbated by human mismanagement of the environment. One of the results is that more and more



people, particularly the vulnerable, are living in fear of flooding. The problem of flooding has been made worse by the way we construct and defend ourselves against floods, and the way we manage catchments. Land use practices and development planning have a major impact on the way rainwater drains from our land and into rivers and streams.

- 1.7 In light of the above, it is worth stressing that this Plan sets out to provide the framework to reduce, manage and mitigate the effects of flooding rather than eliminating the likelihood for flooding. A key principle of this Plan's implementation strategy will be adaptive management, or in other words, treating it as a 'living document'. As new technical information associated with flood risk management evolves, plan implementation priorities will be re-evaluated. Adaptive management of ordinary watercourses, surface run-off and groundwater for flood risk reduction requires high quality, well organised and accessible technical information.
- 1.8 Whilst Plan implementation will always reflect the precept that flooding is a natural process, shifting plan implementation priorities over time will create more detailed understanding of the level of risk posed by flooding to community safety, the County's economy, the degree to which current flood risk reduction strategies are working, and the effectiveness of habitat enhancement and the mitigation measures.
- 1.9 In its role as flood risk reduction service provider, the County Council will build on its long history of coordinating and partnering with stakeholders to reduce flood risks. Pre-existing partnerships and relationships will be strengthened while new collaborative opportunities will be developed. The support, leadership and direction from Cabinet and Scrutiny are also considered critical to achieving the success factors referred in this Plan.
- 1.10 Plan implementation will be informed by ongoing programme reviews, economic impact risk assessments, and a systematic approach for assessing risk to areas that depend on flood protection infrastructure. As Somerset County Council gains a more complete understanding of the condition of its flood protection assets and the associated flood risk, Plan implementation will be adjusted accordingly. Adaptive management approaches to Plan implementation require a commitment to information management. Emerging data, maps, studies, innovative project designs, and monitoring information will be maintained in an accessible and organised format. Informed decision-making will ensure that limited financial resources will be directed to highest demonstrable areas of risk within the County.

2. Background

2.1 In June 2008, Sir Michael Pitt published his final report: 'Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods', which called for urgent and fundamental changes in the way the country is adapting to the increased risk of flooding. The report states that local authorities should play a major role in the management of local flood risk, taking the lead in tackling local problems of flooding and co-ordinating all relevant agencies.

2.2 The Flood and Water Management Act is an important part of the Government's response to the Pitt Report. The Act will create a more comprehensive and risk based regime for managing the risk of flood and coastal erosion. For the first time, it will provide a statutory basis which embraces all sources of flooding.

2.3 Following Royal Assent in April 2010 the Flood and Water Management Bill became an Act of Parliament. As a consequence, the County Council will take on new powers extending the responsibilities of the Environment Directorate. The County Council will need to take resource and organisational decisions to prepare for this new statutory context. It will need to review working relationships with other key stakeholders. The purpose of this project is to co-ordinate preparations for these changes, feeding into Directorate service planning processes.



2.4 The Flood Risk Regulations came in to force on 10 December 2009. Its purpose is to transpose the EC Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into domestic law and to implement its provisions. In particular, it places duties on the Environment Agency and lead local authorities to prepare flood risk assessments, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans.

2.5 In light of the above, this Strategic Service Plan sets out to address the issues raised above. The development of this document was initiated in July 2009 and falls within the Service Delivery and Improvement Programme (SD&I). The Project objectives are phased over two separate elements:

2.6 Phase 1 of the Project consisted of the following:

- consider and consolidate all work undertaken in the Environment Directorate on this topic to date;
- consider current and proposed legislative requirements for SCC, and deliver responses to Government where required;
- set the strategic direction for SCC in managing flood risk;
- consider and make recommendations on the resources required to manage issues associated with flood and coastal management;

- put in place arrangements for utilising the funding made available to SCC by Defra for the preparation of a Taunton Surface Water Management Plan; and
 - Identify and respond to further opportunities to secure resources for Surface Water Management Plans, and more widely advancing the purposes of the Flood and Water Management Business Plan.
- 2.7 Phase 2 of the project will deliver the recommendations derived out of Phase 1, and will more fully embed flood and surface water management responsibilities into the Environment Directorate.
- 2.8 In anticipation of the new role for the County Council, a revenue pressure bid had been submitted for five new staff to deliver the service proposals contained in this Plan. In addition, the Scrutiny Committee has agreed to review the Strategic Business Plan in a short initial task and finish group to review and assess the flood and water management policy within this Plan. The committee will also be involved in the long-term detailed policy development, service delivery, and 'light' annual review under the terms of the Pitt recommendations. Specifically, these include:
- to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk; and
 - to prepare an annual summary of actions taken locally to manage flood risk and implement the Pitt Review.

3. Setting the context - what we do

National and legislative context for flood and water management

- 3.1 In June 2008, Sir Michael Pitt published his final report: '**Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods**', which called for urgent and fundamental changes in the way the country is adapting to the increased risk of flooding. The report includes 92 recommendations, of which, 21 are specifically designated to local authorities. Refer to Appendix 4 for the Pitt Review action plan.
- 3.2 The floods in summer 2007 proved that there were significant gaps in the powers held by various bodies in trying to reduce the risk of flooding. The **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** puts in place those changes recommended by Sir Michael Pitt in the aftermath of those floods allowing for wider changes to roles and responsibilities of the relevant bodies.
- 3.3 The Flood and Water Management Act aims to provide better, more sustainable management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, help safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protect water supplies to the consumer.
- 3.4 Summary of the key provisions of the Act relevant to this Plan:
- to give the Environment Agency an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils the lead in managing the risk of all local floods;
 - to introduce an improved risk based approach to reservoir safety;
 - To encourage the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments.
- 3.5 Sir Michael Pitt's review of the flooding in 2007 stated that "the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the coordination of flood risk management in their areas". The Act provides for this through the new role of the lead local flood authority.
- 3.6 The Act defines the lead local flood authority for an area as the unitary authority or the county council. The Act enables lead local authorities (i.e. the County Council) to delegate any of its flood or coastal erosion functions to another risk management authority by agreement. This should avoid any delay or confusion about who is responsible, but in no way prevents partnerships being created to make full use of capabilities and experience locally.
- 3.7 Risk management authorities are not defined in the Act however the lead local flood authority must at least set out in its strategy who the risk management authorities are in the area and their relevant function.
- 3.8 It is expected that lead local flood authorities will form partnerships with the other risk management authorities in their area to manage local flood risk. It

- requires all relevant authorities to co-operate with any other relevant authority exercising functions under the Act.
- 3.9 The Environment Agency will be required to develop a national strategy for the management of coastal erosion and all sources of flood risk for England. The Act also requires a lead local flood authority to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. That authority remains responsible for ensuring the strategy is put in place but the local partners can agree how to take this work forward in the way that suits them best.
- 3.10 Local flood risk is defined as a risk of flood arising from surface run-off, groundwater, or an ordinary watercourse, which for these purposes includes a lake or pond which flows into an ordinary watercourse. Local authorities will need to consider the full range of measures consistent with a risk management approach in developing their local flood risk strategy. Resilience and other approaches which minimise the impact of flooding are expected to be a key aspect of the measures proposed.
- 3.11 This Act requires a lead local flood authority to investigate flooding incidents in its area which it becomes aware of, and to the extent that it considers necessary or appropriate. This is in order to: (a) identify which risk management authority has flood risk management functions in respect of the flooding; and (b) establish whether that authority has responded or is proposing to respond to the flood. The lead local flood authority must publish the results of any investigation and notify any relevant risk management authority of those results. While the management responsibility for a flood may be clear in many cases, there may be occasions where this is not so and the purpose of this provision is to require the lead local flood authority to investigate where appropriate, so as to try and ascertain where responsibility for managing the flood risk lies and what is being done about it.
- 3.12 The Act requires lead local flood authorities to establish and maintain a register of structures, or features, which may significantly affect a flood risk in their area and also a record of information about such structures and features including ownership and state of repair.
- 3.13 If a risk management authority fails to exercise a flood or coastal erosion risk management function, the Secretary of State can direct another authority to carry out the function.
- 3.14 The Act requires the drainage system for each new development or re-development (subject to exemptions) to be approved by the unitary or county council for the area before construction starts. The drainage system must take account of National Standards for the design and construction of sustainable drainage systems. These will be drafted in spring 2010 and will set out the criteria on which the forms of drainage appropriate to any particular site or development can be determined.
- 3.15 The **EU Floods Directive** came into force in November 2008. It followed major flooding across Europe in recent years. The new duties on the Environment Agency (EA) and local authorities, and a duty on other relevant

organisations to cooperate and share data, will enable the Flood and Water Management Act to transpose the EU Floods Directive in England and Wales. The Directive requires member states to develop and update a series of tools for managing all sources of flood risk, in particular:

- preliminary flood risk assessments (PFRAs);
- flood risk and flood hazard maps;
- flood risk management plans;
- co-ordination of flood risk management at a strategic level;
- improved public participation in flood risk management; and
- co-ordination of flood risk management with the Water Framework Directive.

3.16 The **Flood Risk Regulations 2009** came in to force on 10 December 2009. Defra consulted on the Floods Directive transposition as part of the Flood and Water Management Act in April 2009. It was subsequently decided to transpose the Directive separately through a statutory instrument in order to allow implementation to start as soon as possible and to avoid the risk of infraction proceedings.

3.17 The key provisions of the Regulations are to:

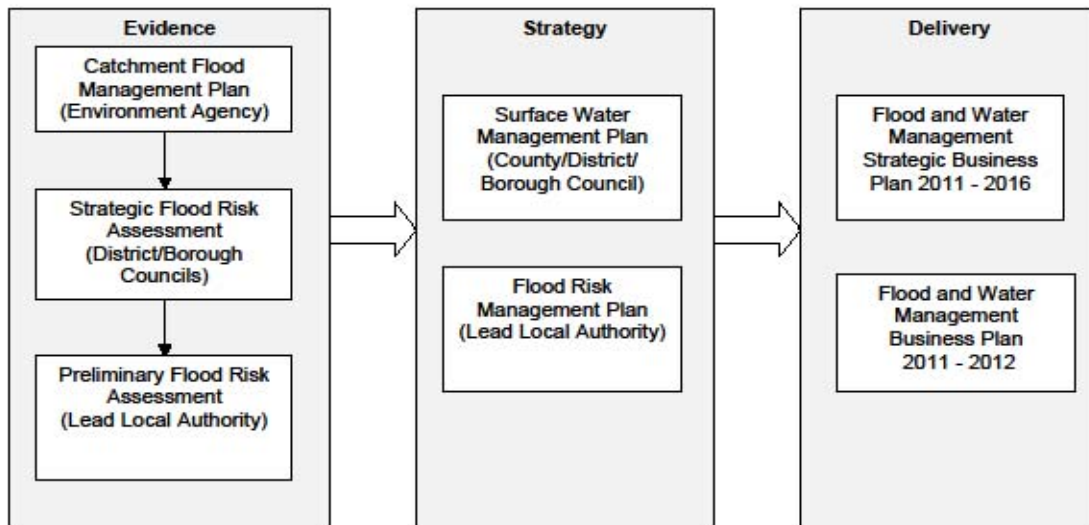
- give responsibility to the Environment Agency to prepare Directive deliverables - preliminary flood risk assessments, maps and plans - for floods from the sea, main river and reservoirs;
- give responsibility to lead local flood authorities (unitary and county councils) to do the same for all other forms of flooding (excluding sewer flooding which is not caused by precipitation);
- require preliminary flood risk assessments by the EA and lead local flood authorities to be prepared before 22 December 2011;
- on the basis of EA and lead local flood authority preliminary flood risk assessments, identify areas of significant flood risk;
- for identified areas of significant flood risk, require flood hazard maps and flood risk maps to be prepared before 22 December 2013;
- for identified areas of significant flood risk, require flood risk management plans to be prepared before 22 December 2015; and
- require engagement with the public and relevant authorities in the production of Directive deliverables.

3.18 Lead local flood authorities will need to submit their assessments, maps and management plans to the Environment Agency six months before the specified December deadlines to allow for collation and reporting to the European Commission.

3.19 The assessment, mapping and planning cycle continues thereafter on a six-yearly basis with the first review of the preliminary flood risk assessment due by 22 December 2017. Flood maps must be reviewed by 22 December 2019 and flood risk management plans by 22 December 2021. Each review must take into account the likely impact of climate change on the occurrence of floods.

3.20 Figure 3.1 illustrates the inter-relationship and owners of the relevant evidence and strategy required to deliver a flood management plan.

Figure 3.1



Other relevant and related legislation

- 3.21 The need to improve the management of groundwater flood risk in the UK was identified through Defra's Making Space for Water strategy. The review of the July 2007 floods undertaken by Sir Michael Pitt also highlighted that at the time no organisation had responsibility for groundwater flooding. These drivers, and the inclusion of groundwater flood risk management within the EU Floods Directive, have meant that the Flood and Water Management Act has a significant component which addresses groundwater flooding.
- 3.22 The means by which groundwater flooding risk is to be addressed by the Act has already been covered above but to summarise the key aspects are:
- the strategic role in flood and coastal erosion risk management given to the EA includes groundwater flooding;
 - the EA's duties include the development of methods, framework and tools to understand and manage flooding from all sources, including groundwater;
 - the EA is responsible for flood warning, so where it is identified that there is a requirement for groundwater flood warning, the EA will take the lead;
 - the County and unitary local authorities have responsibility for addressing groundwater flooding risk locally. They will be responsible for undertaking preliminary local flood risk assessments including groundwater, for assessing where these risks are significant, for mapping the associated risk where relevant and for developing local flood risk management plans, as required by the EU Floods Directive; and
 - the EA will support the LAs in their responsibilities relating to local flood risk management.

3.23 **Making Space for Water** also highlighted the important role of land use planning, rural land management and integrated urban drainage management in managing flood risks. Greater use of rural and land use management solutions to flooding was promoted in Making Space for Water alongside a commitment to continue providing finance for land and property purchase required for managed realignment and research into the effectiveness of land management solutions.

3.24 The **Water Framework Directive** (WFD) is the most substantial piece of EC water legislation to date and is designed to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout Europe. It came into force on 22 December 2000, and was put into UK law (transposed) in 2003. Member States must aim to reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015.

It is designed to:

- enhance the status and prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands, which depend on the aquatic ecosystems;
- promote the sustainable use of water;
- reduce pollution of water, especially by 'priority' and 'priority hazardous' substances; and
- ensure progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.

3.25 In essence, the Water Framework Directive establishes new and better ways of protecting and improving rivers, lakes, groundwater, transitional (where freshwater and sea water mix) and coastal waters. To address this, the EA has embarked on river basin planning with the aim to develop new and better ways of protecting and improving the water environment.

3.26 It should be noted, the objectives referred above and contained in the Water Framework Directive, whilst supported in this Plan, will be considered outside the scope for this Service Plan.

3.27 **Planning Policy Statement 25** (PPS25) sets out Government policy on development and flood risk. Its aims are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, reducing flood risk overall.

3.28 The Government's Water Strategy Future Water and the requirements of the Water Framework Directive require a more sustainable approach to drainage to reduce flood risk, manage water quality and provide integrated amenity benefits. Spatial planning can have a major role in delivering a more sustainable surface water management approach through implementing surface water management strategies and promoting partnerships between those responsible for managing surface water.

Context within the County Council

- 3.29 This Flood and Water Management Service Plan has been prepared to promote awareness, engagement, leadership and delivery for all matters associated with flood risk management and mitigation. The following is a list of teams in Somerset County Council that contribute and interface to deliver the wide ranging service outcomes directed by this Plan:
- 3.30 The relationship between the higher level strategic visions and plans, the strategic service plan for Flood and Water Management and this service delivery plan together with the development plans (PRADS) prepared for individuals is shown diagrammatically at the beginning of this Plan. This demonstrates the linkages between plans, staff and other stakeholders so that we can understand how individual contributions fit into wider objectives to ultimately benefit the service and its users.

Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU)

- 3.31 Somerset Local Authorities CCU is the operational unit of the Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Partnership tasked to co-ordinate and deliver the duties laid on local authorities' by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Its responsibilities in flood response are as follows:
- produce and maintain the Somerset Multi Agency Flood Plan;
 - receive and respond to severe weather warnings and flood warnings from the Met Office and Environment Agency;
 - when required ensure that the Somerset Multi Agency Flood Plan is activated;
 - mobilise the Somerset local authorities' response and co-ordinate the response of the voluntary agency support to flood incidents in Somerset, including recovery;
 - promote community resilience within Somerset local communities affected by flooding;
 - provide business continuity advice to local businesses that could be at risk from flooding; and
 - co-ordinate the provision of mutual aid to other local authorities outside of Somerset affected by flooding.

Key operational and policy documents that influence flood and water management	
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	Statutory
Reservoirs Act 1975 (as amended by Water Act 2003)	Statutory
SW Region Regional Resilience Forum: Generic Regional Emergency Response Plan	Non-statutory
Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum: Multi-agency Response	Non-statutory
Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum: Multi-Agency Flood Plan (Strategic)	Non-statutory

Highways Information Team

- 3.32 The Highway Information Team provides professional and technical input to the Highways Group within the Environment Department to enable the County Council to deliver its statutory functions and duties as the Highway Authority.

The Team has responsibility for the digital highway network which is used to enable highway maintenance and public utility street works activities to be managed efficiently.

- 3.33 Highway Information Management has developed the scope and extent of the highway inventory and other related sets of information and processes. It recognised the importance of drainage, both to the fabric of the highway structure and its affect on the travelling public and residents of Somerset, and so particular emphasis has been placed on drainage related information. There is an on-going programme of inventory and other drainage related data collection from a wide range of different internal and external sources, including as-built drawings, formal easements, problems identified during planned safety inspections of the highway, reports from the public and from drainage cleansing and investigation services. Most recently details including historic flooding events, problems with flood wash and requests for sand bags have been received from the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), the Environment Agency and some of the District Councils.

Highways Management

- 3.34 All routine, environmental and structural maintenance works on the highway network are managed through the Highways Management Team. The Team consists of five area offices, one in each of the Districts, and a core team located in County Hall, Taunton. All highway-related service requests are managed through the Team together with highway service delivery. Specifically to surface water drainage, this includes cyclic gully emptying, jetting works, new drainage, surveys and so on.



Key operational and policy documents that influence flood and water management	
Highways Act 1980	Statutory
Traffic Management Act 2004	Statutory
Well-maintained Highways – Code of Practice	Non-statutory
Somerset Highways Biodiversity Action Plan	Non-statutory
Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP)	Non-statutory

Bridges and Structures

- 3.35 There are over 2000 highway bridges owned and maintained by SCC and about twenty kilometres of highway retaining walls. It is becoming increasingly evident that a number of structures maintainable by the County Council contribute to flooding problems. This may be due to reasons such as bridge or culvert aperture size, bridge location, geography, and so on.

Key operational and policy documents that influence flood and water management	
Highways Act 1980	Statutory
Traffic Management Act 2004	Statutory
The Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)	Non-statutory
Code of Practice for the Management of Highway Structures	Non-statutory
Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP)	Non-statutory

Countryside and Coast Team

- 3.36 The Countryside and Coast Team actively encourages and where appropriate participates in statutory and non-statutory initiatives and consultations to ensure that Somerset's coastline, rivers and watercourses are managed in an integrated, holistic and sustainable manner. For example, the Team represents the County Council on the Somerset Water Management Partnership, which promotes a sustainable approach to water and land use management in Somerset, the Severn Estuary Partnership, Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities, and the North Devon and Somerset Coastal Advisory Group, overseeing the review of the North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan which outlines the policy for coastal defence in Somerset over the next 20, 50 and 100 years. The Team also project-manages the European-funded WAVE project, working with partners to address the challenge of climate change and water management in the county.

County Farms

- 3.37 As at April 2009, the County Farms Estate extended to 2916 hectares (approximately 7200 acres). This comprised 60 farms (houses, buildings and land) 35 of which were involved with the production of milk.
- 3.38 The Team's main functions are to manage the strategic and day to day operational requirements of the Estate. Within these roles the management of surface water, which is fundamental to individual farming operations, is dealt with by each tenant's contractual obligations and responsibilities under their individual tenancy agreements.



- 3.39 Cross compliance requirements apply to anyone who receives direct payments under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) support schemes or receives payments under certain Rural Development schemes. This accounts for the majority of farms within the County Farms Estate. The CAP Health Check was agreed in January 2009. Key changes include the addition of new good agricultural and environmental condition (GAEC) standards on water resource protection and habitat protection. For example, in order to maintain protection of water resources, farmers will be encouraged to use buffers strips to protect watercourses in vulnerable locations. The effectiveness of this approach will inform future policy development included under the Water Framework Directive.

Property Services

- 3.40 Somerset Property Services ensures that the County Council's property asset base is utilised and maintained in a way that both maximises and enhances benefits to the many and varied users of those assets. They are responsible for ensuring that the Council has sufficient sites and buildings to fulfil its own responsibilities to the citizens of Somerset. Often, this involves planning for needs years ahead of the building actually being built or acquired, and we constantly review the Council's stock of properties to ensure that best use is made of this.

Highways Planning Liaison (Highways Development Control)

- 3.41 The Planning Liaison Team provide advice on all new development proposals and lead negotiations with developers on transport contributions and infrastructure requirements, including drainage and Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS).

Key operational and policy documents that influence flood and water management	
Design Manual for Roads and Bridges	Non-statutory
Manual for Streets	Non-statutory
Estate Roads in Somerset – Design Guidance Notes	Non-statutory
Estate Roads in Somerset – Specification Construction Notes	Non-statutory
Sustainable Urban Drainage (SUDS) Manual - CIRIA	Non-statutory
Sewers for Adoption - WRc	Non-statutory

Development Engineering (Infrastructure, Supervision and Audit, Road Records and Licensing)

- 3.42 Approving managing and administering the implementation of new developer funded works. Section 38 (a legal agreement between the developer and the Council to ensure that work carried out on the highway by the developer reaches adoptable standards).and Section 106 (necessary to make a development acceptable in planning terms and used to support the provision of services and infrastructure, such as highway surface water drainage) agreements.

Engineering Programme Management (including Local Transport Plan, Safety Engineering, Programming and Implementation)

- 3.43 Overall engineering programme management and direction, managing and directing the construction of capital funded highway drainage, transport and safety improvement schemes.

Major Projects

- 3.44 The Team are responsible for managing the design and implementation of major transport schemes. Surface water drainage is often a key infrastructure feature within the delivery of major projects.

Context outside of the County Council

- 3.45 There are numerous external stakeholders that have powers, duties and responsibilities in flood and water-related services. For the purposes of this Service Plan, the key stakeholders have been identified and some detail added. Others have been listed for completeness.

Environment Agency (EA)

- 3.46 Generally the EA has a supervisory role over all aspects relating to flood defence, with a more specific role to:
- exercise powers to carry out improvements or maintenance to designated 'main rivers' (i.e. usually the larger watercourses);
 - act as a regulating authority for works/activities in and alongside main rivers (except in internal drainage board areas);
 - influence, through the planning application process, land use and development particularly within the flood plain areas;
 - produce flood risk mapping and manage historical flood records/data;
 - install and operate flood warning systems; and
 - protection and conservation of the natural environment, whilst carrying out flood risk management activities.
- 3.47 The Environment Agency has published the Catchment Flood Management Plans for the Somerset for the catchments of North and Mid Somerset, the Parrett Catchment, Frome and Piddle, the Exe and West Somerset. The main aims of the Catchment Flood Management Plans are to:
- understand the factors that contribute to flood risk within a catchment both now and in the future; and
 - recommend the best ways of managing the risk of flooding within the catchment over the next 50 to 100 years.
- 3.48 Draft River Basin Management Plans have been put together for the eleven river basin districts in England and Wales under the European Water Framework Directive. The draft River Basin Management Plans describe the main issues for each river basin district and highlights some key actions

proposed for dealing with them set out in brief the actions the EA propose should be taken.

- 3.49 A River Basin District is:
- a river basin, or
 - several river basins, and
 - the river basin's adjacent coastal waters.

This is the scale the EA use for both strategic planning and reporting to the European Commission for the Water Framework Directive. This should be incorporated in to the Somerset County Council Natural Environment Strategy rather than this Flood and Water Management Strategic Service Plan.

Borough and District Councils

- 3.50 Designated as a 'local drainage authority' under the terms of the Land Drainage Act 1991, District and Borough Councils have a role concerned with ordinary watercourses (i.e. those that are not main river), in alleviating flooding problems where possible. To enable them to deliver this function, they have powers to:
- implement works to prevent, mitigate or remedy flood damage subject to consent by the EA; and
 - serve Notice on owners requiring them to remove obstructions from 'ordinary watercourses' in order to secure a proper flow.
- 3.51 These powers are discretionary and the Councils' policy is generally to exercise them where property is at risk of flooding.
- 3.52 The District Councils may also give guidance/assistance on flooding issues and issue sandbags under certain circumstances in times of flooding.
- 3.53 Under planning legislation Borough and District Councils and ENPA operate their development planning and control functions. With regard to flooding the guidance given in PPS25 is particularly important.
- 3.54 As well as the statutory powers mentioned above some Boroughs/Districts have kept records of flood events and carried out both maintenance and new works within their district. The extent of these activities varies considerably between councils, due to the variance of technical resource and capacity of each council.

Somerset Drainage Board Consortium

- 3.55 The Consortium manages and administers the affairs of three drainage boards in Somerset. Drainage boards are “drainage bodies” as set out under Section 72 of the Land Drainage Act 1991. Also included within this definition are local authorities and the Environment Agency.
- 3.56 Drainage boards were set up in areas of special drainage need to sustain both agricultural and developed land use. The principal function of drainage boards is to manage water levels in their areas to minimise flood risk and supply water (irrigation) to people, property and land. They do this by operating over 300 sluices, maintaining 900 km of ordinary watercourses and carrying out a programme of investigation and improvement of the watercourse network in their area.
- 3.57 Boards have a duty to “exercise a general supervision over matters relating to the drainage of land” in their areas. Other authorities do not currently have this duty under the Land Drainage or associated Acts. They also have, in common with district councils, permissive powers to undertake works, issue notices and create byelaws. All drainage boards have adopted byelaws to protect all watercourses from interference and inappropriate development. No district councils in Somerset have byelaws.
- 3.58 Drainage boards have just over 90% of Somerset’s Flood Zone 3 (highest risk of flooding) within their areas. This amounts to over 30,000 properties.

Wessex Water and South West Water

- 3.59 Set up under the Water Industry Act 1991 in which ten regional water and sewerage companies (WaSCs) are licensed to supply water and provide sewerage services in England and Wales.

3.60 Other Key Stakeholders

- Highways Agency
- Government Office South West
- Devon and Somerset Fire Brigade
- Housing Associations
- Parish and Town Councils
- Exmoor National Park Authority
- Network Rail
- Police Authorities
- Local Resilience Forum

Gap analysis

- 3.61 Having considered the national and local context in the previous sections of this Plan, the following gap analysis distils the potential shortcomings in service delivery contained within the functions of the County Council.

Table 3.2: Gap Analysis

Potential service delivery gaps	Proposed remedial action	Priority	Responsible Team
<p>Adoption and delivery of the new responsibilities contained within the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Duty to prepare preliminary assessment reports including preliminary assessment maps and preliminary assessment reports</i> • <i>Duty to identify flood risk areas</i> • <i>Duty to prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps</i> • <i>Duty to prepare flood risk management plans</i> 	To be embodied in the Strategic Plan and Business Plan.	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Surface water run-off, groundwater and ordinary water course Member and customer service requests	Accept the aims and objectives contained in this Plan and create a team to administer the functions contained with the Flood and Water Management Act. The team should have sufficient skills and capacity to deliver sound advice and works programmes to meet the needs and expectations of flood affected communities.	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Across the wider catchment within Somerset, there are numerous risk management authorities all exercising their own statutory and non-statutory powers and duties within our strategic direction.	Adopt the organisational governance contained in Appendix 1 and seek to gain strategic direction.	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Using more sustainable drainage techniques to reduce the downstream impacts of new development.	Agreement by Highways Planning Liaison of SUDS specification for Somerset compliant with proposed national standards.	High	Highways Planning Liaison and Proposed Flood and Water Management Team

<p>Adoption and delivery of the new responsibilities contained within the Flood and Water Management Act.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Partnerships</i> • <i>Flood risk management strategies</i> • <i>Duty to act consistently with local and regional strategies</i> • <i>Duty to investigate and to maintain a register</i> • <i>Works powers</i> • <i>Designation</i> • <i>Sustainable drainage systems</i> • <i>Sustainable development duty</i> 	To be embodied in the Strategic Plan and Service Plan.	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
<p>District Council land drainage service delivery teams vary considerably in their size, technical expertise and available resources. There appears to be some disparity, with some being actively involved in flooding matters, whilst others are taking a more 'hands off' approach.</p>	<p>Adopt the organisational governance contained in Appendix 1. Where flood risk programmes identify technical solutions associated with land drainage, support District Council in providing the required outcomes.</p>	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
<p>Prepare surface water management plans for settlements in Somerset that have a demonstrable flood risk.</p>	<p>Acquire necessary funding support to commence Plans.</p>	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
<p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) should identify areas at risk from surface water flooding as part of defining areas of highest flood risk. The information gathered in the SFRA forms the basis of applying the Sequential Test to ensure that new development is located in lower flood risk areas where possible.</p>	<p>Use the SFRA's to inform works programmes. Information already captured by the District Councils in delivering the SFRA's should be actively shared with the County Council (including GIS information).</p>	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
<p>One of the acknowledged challenges for local authorities contained in the Somerset Transport Plan guidance is to "ensure that local transport networks are resistant and adaptable to shocks and impacts such as economic shocks, adverse weather, accidents, terrorist attacks and impacts of climate change" (Guidance on Local Transport Plan, July 2009, DfT)</p>	<p>Flood and surface water management schemes to be developed for inclusion in to Somerset Transport Plan using the risk-based approach currently in development.</p>	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team and Engineering Programme Management

Consider Flood and Water Management issues in the regional context to ensure risk management is taken in the regional context. For example, implications if the national rail network and M5 motorway was flooded.	Participate in a regional flood and water meetings as required.	High	Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Promote the uptake of sustainable land management techniques that will reduce surface water run-off	Countryside Team to review the Water Management Strategy, contributing to the Natural Environment Strategy. Flood and Water Management Team to engage with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.	Medium	Coast and Countryside and Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Identify opportunities to work with environmental organisations to integrate flood management with environmental management	Countryside Team to review the Water Management Strategy, contributing to the Natural Environment Strategy. Flood and Water Management Team to engage with Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group.	Medium	Coast and Countryside and Proposed Flood and Water Management Team
Managing water quality to support the EA and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.	Countryside Team to review the Water Management Strategy, contributing to the Natural Environment Strategy.	Medium	Coast and Countryside
Assist the EA in River Basin Planning under the terms of the Water Framework Directive.	Countryside Team to review the Water Management Strategy accounting for River Basin Planning.	Medium	Coast and Countryside
Highways Planning Liaison commented there appears to be a general lack of enforcement action to bring pressure to bear on developers to comply with planning conditions.	Work with District Councils to ensure planning conditions are met where they affect flood and water management.	Medium	Highways Planning Liaison and Proposed Flood and Water Management Team

Missions and Values

- 3.62 The delivery of the service is directed by the vision of the organisation as encapsulated within the mission statements. Shown here are the Corporate, Departmental and Flood and Water Management mission and vision statements.
- 3.63 Somerset County Council's Mission is to:
Provide excellent services that are accessible, responsive and sustainable to ensure Somerset is a healthy and vibrant place to live, work and visit.
- 3.64 The Environment Directorate Vision is:
To deliver excellence in the eyes of our citizens, customers, partners, staff and peers.
- 3.65 In order that the County Council can be clear about the short and long-term objectives, outcomes and the manner in which they will be delivered, it is proposed that the following mission statement is considered for adoption:

The Flood and Water Management Strategic Business Plan should provide the foundation for a multi-agency team that is responsive to the needs of the communities in Somerset.

4. Planning for future service delivery

Guiding Principles

- 4.1 This set of guiding principles articulates an understanding about flooding and the identity, role and responsibility of the County Council in playing its role in flood risk management. These guiding principles serve as a framework for evaluating flood risks, identifying the range of management alternatives and developing recommendations.

Flooding is a natural process

- 4.2 Flooding is a natural process that provides many benefits in maintaining certain habitats, but severe floods also may have detrimental impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat. Flooding poses a risk when people and property occupy areas that are subject to inundation, bank erosion or channel migration. Risk can most effectively be reduced through comprehensive flood risk management actions that employ both structural and non-structural approaches to create a safe, effective and sustainable means for conveying floodwaters and that are consistent with other uses that rely on natural river processes.

The primary purpose of this Plan

- 4.3 The primary purpose of this Plan is to put in place the resources and organisational arrangements which will enable the County Council to reduce or mitigate the risks to public safety, service disruption, financial losses from flooding and to comply with legislative requirements.
- 4.4 Reducing the risk to communities, assets and to services delivered by the County Council from flooding is a fundamental service output of this Plan. However, it should be acknowledged that while this Plan sets out to minimise or mitigate the effects of flood events, it is unrealistic to eradicate the threat of flooding and its impact on all communities in Somerset.

Flood damage creates financial costs, both public and private. Effective flood risk management can reduce long-term flood damage costs

- 4.5 Public infrastructure, such as roads, utilities, bridges, embankments, schools, care homes, etc and private infrastructure, such as homes and businesses, located in flood risk areas can be vulnerable to flood damage. As local government budgets tighten, the amount of money available for flood risk management is limited.
- 4.6 However, the County Council will promote appropriate technologies, judicious regulations, and common sense in selecting flood risk management programmes and projects leading to more flood resistant communities and lower long-term repair and emergency response costs. Experience shows for the Environment Agency's national investment programme, the benefits of improved defences outweigh the costs on average by 8 to 1 over the long-

term. The County Council should take a benefit/cost approach to everything they do to make sure the costs of plans and investments are well justified.

Communication with, and involvement of, stakeholders (including public and private landowners) is vital in developing a responsible, effective flood risk management plan.

- 4.7 Stakeholders including public and private landowners offer a wide range of perspectives and experiences related to flooding that are invaluable in helping create the vision for flood risk management. By encouraging their participation, the County Council welcomes contributions from all stakeholders, the public and private property owners. In return, it is incumbent on all stakeholders, the public and private property owners to understand the effects and limitations of flood risk management actions and to act responsibly to help reduce risks to themselves and others.

Cooperation among involved public agencies is essential for the success of long-term comprehensive flood risk management.

- 4.8 Comprehensive and long-term flood risk management often involves multiple agencies, and County departments. The County Council should pursue collaborative solutions, whenever possible, to ensure that flood risks are addressed in an efficient, cost-effective, and substantive manner.

Flood and Water Management Policies

General Policies

- 4.9 The general policies listed below form a framework for service delivery and provide general guidance for all of its flood risk management activities. In addition, the general policies define the standard that can be expected from flood and water management service delivery.
- 4.10 Flooding and channel migration are natural processes. Undeveloped floodplains provide storage for floodwaters, open space, recreational opportunities and habitat for fish and wildlife. When development takes place in the floodplain, flooding and channel migration processes present risks to the development and are in turn affected by the development.
- 4.11 Catchment areas do not follow administrative boundaries. Actions taken in one part of a catchment - whether it be a land-use plan, permitted development, or capital improvement project - can increase (or reduce) flood risk in other areas. Multi-agency approaches to catchment management can produce a multitude of public and private benefits, including flood risk reduction and improved biodiversity.



Policy G-1: Geographic Scope

- 4.12 Somerset County Council should recognise regional flood risk management activities and deliver catchment and local flood risk management priorities, acknowledging the effect of main rivers (that are currently managed by the Environment Agency) on ordinary watercourses, surface water run-off and groundwater. Emphasis will be given to the catchment areas:
- North and Mid Somerset Catchment Flood Management Plan;
 - Exe Catchment Flood Management Plan;
 - Frome and Piddle Catchment Flood Management Plan;
 - Parrett Catchment Flood Management Plan; and
 - West Somerset Catchment Flood Management Plan.

and the North Devon and Somerset Shoreline Management Plan.

Policy G-2: Flood Risks

- 4.13 The natural processes of flooding become risks when settlements are located within flood risk areas. The level of risk is evaluated on a case-by-case basis using the predicted likelihood of flooding and the consequences that would result if no action is taken. Flood risks, and the resulting consequences that would result if no action is taken, are generally prioritised in the following order:
1. Threats to public safety;
 2. Damage to public infrastructure;
 3. Continuity of statutory service delivery;
 4. Damage to private structures; and
 5. Impacts on the regional economy.

Policy G-3: Comprehensive Local Flood Risk Management

- 4.14 The County Council should provide comprehensive flood risk management through the implementation of projects and programmes of work that result in multiple benefits, including those created by meeting any or all of the following non-prioritised objectives:
- effectively meet site-specific flood risk reduction needs;
 - achieve benefits that exceed the total cost of projects or programmes, including long-term maintenance costs;
 - reduce carbon emissions;
 - improve water quality;
 - take account of impacts of climate change;
 - deliver sustainable and environmentally sound management solutions;
 - avoid the creation of new flood assets that cannot be mitigated; and
 - protect productive agricultural soils.

Policy G-4: Flood Risk Management Services

- **Surface Water Management Planning:** Undertake a rolling programme of Surface Water Management Plan preparation and implementation, that will tackle all high risk areas;

- **Studies:** Prepare technical studies to identify flood risk areas;
- **Information:** Provide technical information and assistance to other agencies and stakeholders;
- **Standards:** Develop, implement and enforce flood risk management standards across all service delivery areas in a sustainable manner to control, manage and prevent surface water run-off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses;
- **Works:** Construct, monitor, maintain, repair, retrofit, or remove County Council managed flood protection and / or drainage assets on a case-by-case basis;
- **Development Planning:** Work with the local planning authorities to ensure effective service co-ordination. The preparation of Surface Water Management Plans for new developments will be expected to be funded by the developers;
- **Monitoring:** Monitor conditions in ordinary watercourses and take actions to reduce risks;
- **Customers:** Work with, and advise, households, businesses and other property owners where settlements are determined at risk;
- **Civil Contingencies:** Co-ordinate flood preparedness activities, and participate and assist in a flood warning programme for rivers and ordinary watercourses, along with the Environment Agency and Met Office;
- **Co-ordination:** Co-ordinate with other stakeholders with flood risks or programmes within Somerset, and in catchments shared with adjacent local authorities;
- **Enforcement:** Consider enforcement actions where riparian owners or landowners fail to prevent nuisance caused by ordinary watercourses, surface run-off or groundwater;

Policy G-5: Surface Water Catchment Improvement Agreement

- 4.15 Somerset County Council should collaborate with neighbouring authorities to implement consistent flood risk management objectives within catchment areas.

Policy G-6: Internal Coordination and Cooperation

- 4.16 This Plan will be implemented by multiple teams and departments within the County Council and South West One. The Flood Risk Management Team will work with other departments to define roles and responsibilities to ensure flood risk management coordination within the County Council.

Policy G-7: Multi-Objective Management

- 4.17 Ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater should be managed for multiple, and sometimes competing, uses and objectives. Flood risk management actions should support long-term flood risk reduction outcomes and be developed in collaboration with others

Policy G-8: Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity

- 4.18 Ordinary watercourses and associated flood plains provide a unique habitat for flora and fauna. Somerset County Council should seek to protect flood storage, conveyance, and ecological value of floodplains, wetlands, and riparian corridors and, when feasible, should enhance or restore these ecological and biodiversity functions.

Structural and Non-Structural Projects Policies

- 4.19 The policies in this section guide a comprehensive programme that can implement a range of flood risk management projects, including both structural and non-structural projects.
- 4.20 Structural projects consist primarily of new drainage infrastructure, new or amended structures, pump plants, flap valves and so on. Maintenance and repair may also involve retrofitting existing flood protection facilities. The determination and promotion of schemes should take account of the priorities contained in the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).
- 4.21 Non-structural projects may include the removal of existing flood risk management structures that are no longer needed, liaison with landowners, consent and enforcement actions and so on.

Criteria for Taking Action

- 4.22 Many public and private properties in Somerset are vulnerable to flood risk. If no action is taken to address a flooding or channel migration risk, the County Council (in collaboration with others) needs to assess the consequences that will result. Some risks may need to be addressed sooner than others depending on the severity of the risk and what is vulnerable. Under certain circumstances, the County Council may have legal responsibility to take action to address flooding risks, such as on the publicly maintainable highway, on County Farms or properties owned by the County Council.

Policy S-1: Prioritising Flood Risks

- 4.23 Somerset County Council should prioritise actions to address flood risks using the following criteria in order of importance:
1. The consequences that will result if no action is taken. Consequences should be prioritised as listed in Policy G-2;
 2. Urgency, where urgency is a measure of how quickly an action needs to be taken in order to prevent a risk from growing worse;
 3. Statutory responsibility and authority; and
 4. Funding or partnership opportunities.

Policy S-2: Flood Risk Management Hierarchy

- 4.24 The County Council recognises that surface water is a developing area of flood risk management. However, for the purposes of this Plan, the following flood risk management hierarchy will be considered in developing technical solutions for developments and infrastructure.

Assess – understand studies to collect data at the appropriate and level of detail to understand what the flood risk is;

Avoid/Prevent – risks from surface water by controlling water at source (e.g. SUDS) and locating infrastructure and development away from risk areas;

Substitute – locate more vulnerable development or infrastructure in lowest risk areas; and

Control – implement flood risk management measures to reduce the impact of new development or infrastructure on flood frequency and use appropriate design; and

Mitigate – implement measures to mitigate residual risks.

Flood Protection Standards and Design

- 4.25 Flood protection assets built to contain or manage floodwaters are typically designed for a certain magnitude of flood event. Events that exceed this design level can breach or otherwise damage flood assets. Future conditions information should be incorporated into project designs when such information is available. In addition, flood protection asset design must consider the impact on biodiversity, habitat, long-term maintenance costs and cost benefit analysis.

Policy S-3: Flood Protection Standard

- 4.26 New flood risk management projects, whether protecting new or existing infrastructure or development, should seek to provide protection from a 1 in 100-year flood return period, plus a margin of safety to account for predicted climate change. Where infrastructure or development is not affected (e.g. open spaces), a protection standard of 1 in 30-year flood return period, plus a margin of safety for climate change is acceptable. This is consistent with the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 25 Practice Guide.
- 4.27 When new projects are being built to protect existing development, lesser protection may be provided where 100-year protection is not practical – this should be considered on an incremental cost benefit ratio basis and analysis of future conditions. Existing flood risk management projects protecting existing developments should be maintained at their current level of protection unless the alternatives evaluation shows that a different level of protection is warranted.

Policy S-4: Flood Protection Asset Design and Maintenance Objectives

- 4.28 Somerset County Council (and its stakeholders) should construct new flood protection assets and maintain, repair or replace existing flood protection assets in such a way as to:

- Require minimal maintenance over the long term;
- Ensure that flood risks are not transferred to other sites;
- Protect or enhance aquatic, riparian and other critical habitats, and
- Protect or enhance multiple beneficial uses of flood risk areas.

Flood Protection Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- 4.29 Monitoring can provide valuable information on how future projects should be designed and constructed. Following the principles of adaptive management, the County Council should use this information to modify and adjust design approaches and construction and maintenance practices to ensure that the most appropriate methods and materials are used. Section 38 and Section 106 agreements should also follow the same principle.

Policy S-5: Monitoring and Adaptive Management

- 4.30 Flood risk management projects shall be monitored to assess their functions relative to an agreed set of performance measures. Adaptive management principles shall be used to manage projects over time to meet requirements or improve the effectiveness of projects. Lessons learned will be used to inform the design and implementation of future projects.

Flood and Emergency Response Policies

Flood Warning

- 4.31 The County Council should work closer with the Met Office and the Environment Agency for this purpose. Early warning of developing flood conditions is essential to effective flood risk reduction during flood events. Weather forecasts and real-time river gauge data must be interpreted and made available through a variety of means to allow agencies, organisations and private individuals to take appropriate action before and during a flood event.

Policy ER-1: Flood Warning Services – ‘Real-time’ monitoring

- 4.32 Somerset County Council should consider ‘real-time’ techniques for predicting and monitoring flood events in known flood risk areas. This information will be used to support the Environment Agency and Met Office in providing local and regional flood warning services.

Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum Responsibilities during Emergencies

- 4.33 Under the Civil Contingencies Act, generic sets of roles and responsibilities have been identified for the organisations involved with emergency preparation and response at the local level. The Act recognises the different level of involvement for local emergency response organisations and has therefore placed them into two separate categories known as Category 1 and Category 2 responders:

- Category 1 responders are those organisations who are central to most emergencies, such as the emergency services, local authorities and National Health Service bodies.
- Category 2 responders are the “co-operating bodies” who are heavily involved with incidents that affect their sector, such as the utility companies.

4.34 The Local Resilience Forum unites Category 1 and 2 Responders in Avon and Somerset by providing the foundations for engagement and administering co-ordination and co-operation amongst the various organisations.

4.35 The multi-agency flood plan is a major component of the response to significant flooding in Avon and Somerset.

Policy ER-2: Avon and Somerset Flood Emergency Response

4.36 The County Council should continue to participate in the Local Resilience Forum, but build on and enhance its role in planning for, assessing and proactively communicating the flood risk to communities affected in the context of this Plan.

Policy ER-3: Property Protection Programmes

4.37 While emergency response actions should be consistent with the long-term flood risk reduction vision of this Plan, it may, at times, be necessary to implement flood protection facility repairs or other short-term actions to prevent or reduce flood damage until such time as long-term solutions can be implemented.

4.38 Recent examples include the pursuance and award of a property protection grant from Defra to implement various forms of property protection.

4.39 The County Council should work with flood affected communities and determine where benefits can be obtained by supporting property protection. In order to support the programme, the County Council should continue to work with Defra to obtain the necessary grants to assist the communities in Somerset.

Policy ER-4: Communication and Public Preparedness for Flood Risk

4.40 In a series of Flood Fair events organised by the Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership, areas of known flood risk were shown the latest flood defence technologies, how to make a flood plan and how to be better prepared. These events served to inform residents and businesses of the potential effects of flooding so that they can take appropriate action, such as protecting important documents and other high-value assets – in some cases this may be as simple as keeping them upstairs.

- 4.41 Further work is required though such as:
- identifying where any protective measures, such as flood barrier systems, may be provided;
 - identifying locations where people may be evacuated to;
 - establishing sound communication systems for coordinating the work of stakeholders and passing information to the wider community; and
 - establishing a system for warning those likely to be affected in collaboration with the EA.
- 4.42 The County Council should continue to lead on and participate in events such as Flood Fairs together with other Partners, but link the communications strategy with the aims and objectives contained in this Plan.

Funding Policies

- 4.43 Somerset County Council's major funding sources for flood risk management are the Area Based Grant received from Central Exchequer. Other sources of funding include single issue grants from Government, such as the recent grant of £100,000 to develop a Surface Water Management Plan for Taunton. The policies in this section provide a framework for making decisions about how these funding sources are promoted used for flood risk management.

Risk Assessment – funding

- 4.44 A flood risk assessment is the process of measuring the potential loss of life, personal injury, economic injury, and property damage resulting from a flood by assessing the vulnerability of people, buildings and infrastructure to the flood risk. A risk assessment is considered an integral part of the information needed to determine and prioritise funding for flood protection facility capital improvement projects and maintenance programs.

Policy F-1: Economic Impact Assessment

- 4.45 Somerset County Council should complete economic impact assessments at significant known flood risk locations to determine the economic impact of potential flood-related damages that may occur as a result of failure of County Council assets. These analyses should be consistent with the aims and objectives contained in this Plan and should be used to inform flood risk management actions and to prioritise funding allocations.

Policy F-2: Levy contribution to the Wessex Regional Flood Defence Committee (RFDC)

- 4.46 The Wessex RFDC is responsible for reviewing flood defences in the Region and for determining how the defences will be managed in years to come. The Committees were set up by Parliament under the Environment Act 1995. The Committees allow the Environment Agency to consult with and receive advice from a wide range of interests.

The Committees are responsible for:

- all matters relating to flood defence (including the activities of Internal Drainage Boards within the Wessex RFDC area);
- preparing and progressing medium term plans;
- the annual programme of flood defence maintenance and improvement works;
- funding requirements;
- approvals from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs approval for schemes; and
- providing and operating flood warning systems.

- 4.47 The County Council should continue to contribute to the RFDC through the levy mechanism, but the scope and detail of schemes within Somerset should be examined against the aims and objectives contained in this Plan, CFMPs and the wider knowledge of local flood risk.

Policy F-3: Pursuance of awards and bids

- 4.48 The County Council should maximise its capital and revenue funding for all flood risk related activities and therefore take every opportunity to seek additional funding from all sources subject to the normal approval protocols from Heads of Service and Cabinet Members.

Policy F-4: Compensation and cost recovery

- 4.49 The County Council should seek to recover all costs where statutory nuisance can be proven. It will be normal practice for the County Council to liaise and negotiate with riparian owners and landowners for them to carry out technical solutions to remedy flooding. Where there is no cooperation from riparian owners or landowners, the County Council may decide to proceed with the necessary works and recover all associated costs.

5. Strategic Aims and Objectives – 2010 to 2016

The strategic aims support the Directorate's agreed goals and also the objectives of senior management and Members as contained in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy for Somerset. The table below will form the action plan for service delivery from 2010/11.

	Priority (relative to year)	Policy compliance	Proposed timescale	Aims (focus on the ends rather than the means)			
				Reduce risks to life and property	Identify and implement activities in a cost- effective manner	Support, economic sustainability and improve biodiversity	Develop funding strategy for flood risk management
Objectives (clear, realistic, specific, measurable statements of actions that when completed will move towards attainment of the aims)		(see section 4.9)					
Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in Somerset. Set local strategy for local flood risk management. Examine alternatives to reduce risk to life and property, while minimising economic and environmental impacts of flood risk management actions and programmes.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S4, S5 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Enhance the internal technical capabilities for flood risk management.	High	G3, G4, G6 S1	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓
It is expected that lead local flood authorities will form partnerships with the other risk management authorities in their area to manage local flood risk.	High	G3, G4, G5 G6, G7 S4 ER2, ER4 F2	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓

Investigate flooding incidents to identify which authorities have relevant functions to deal with the flood and whether each of them intends to respond. The lead local flood authority will then be required to publish the results of any investigation, and notify any relevant authorities.	High	G2, G3, G4, G6, G7 S1, S2, S3 ER3, ER4 F4	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓		
Continue a countywide public education and outreach program to improve flood awareness that includes actions people can take to reduce risks (e.g. flood insurance, flood proofing).	High	G3, G4 ER1, ER4 F4	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓		
Identify possible funding sources for implementing the recommended flood risk management activities.	High	F1, F2, F3, F4	By 22 December 2010				✓
Management and delivery of the Pitt Recommendations.	High	All policies	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prioritise projects and programmes of work based on the level of risk, benefit, and cost-effectiveness over the life of the plan or facility. In collaboration with others, develop a three-year rolling programme of works associated with ordinary watercourses, surface water run-off and groundwater to tackle flooding.	High	G2, G3, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 F2, F3	By 22 December 2010		✓	✓	
Involve stakeholders in the assessment of acceptable risks, evaluation of alternatives, and natural resource management issues.	High	G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	

Coordinate among internal and external stakeholders to seek consistency in flood risk management and flood disaster response and recovery.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 ER1, ER2, ER3, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Work with and support Planning Authorities to limit new development in flood risk areas and to minimise new risks to life and property.	Medium	G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Identify opportunities to work with environmental organisations to integrate flood management with environmental management	Medium	G6, G7, G8	By 22 December 2010			✓	
Incorporate information about climate change into flood risk management decision-making.	High	G8	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	
Collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets. Evaluate the risks to existing development in flood risk areas.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓		✓	
Prepare preliminary flood risk assessment reports	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S3, S4 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	
Identify flood risk areas	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	

Maintain a register of structures or features which they consider to have a significant effect on flood risk in their area, at a minimum recording ownership and state of repair with the intention to inform and promote capital programmes through Somerset Transport Plan or other means.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		✓
Identify current and establish future “Levels of Service” for existing and new flood protection assets. Use principles established in the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		
Review internal working practices to align aims, objectives and outcomes contained in this Plan.	High	G2, G3, G4, G7	By 22 December 2011		✓	✓	
Work with the Association of British Insurers to identify repetitive-loss properties to assist in developing the flood risk maps and consequential programme of works.	Medium	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓		✓	✓
Continuously review implementation to learn from successes, develop cost-effective approaches and reduce the need for costly solutions.	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		
Adopt a robust technical approach in developing and evaluating alternatives and to monitor implementation both for flood risk and biodiversity.	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8 S1, S2, S4, S5	By 22 December 2011		✓	✓	
Promote the uptake of sustainable land management techniques that will reduce surface water run-off	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8	By 22 December 2011			✓	

To accord with the Act, commence a programme of review and designation of structures and features that affect flooding.	Medium	G3, G4, G6, G7	By 22 December 2012	✓	✓		
Cooperate with the Environment Agency and Met Office in interpreting and using data derived by the existing network of river flow and weather gauges.	Low	G4, G6, G7 ER4	By 22 December 2012	✓	✓		
Examine the connections between flood risk management, river corridors, biodiversity, open space, public access and agricultural resources to take advantage of efficiencies in addressing multiple objectives.	Medium	G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G7, G8	By 22 December 2015		✓	✓	
Prepare flood risk management plans	Low	All policies	By 22 December 2015	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain, repair and retrofit existing flood protection assets in a cost-effective manner that makes the facilities less susceptible to future damage.	Low	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	By 22 December 2015	✓	✓	✓	
Consider removal or retrofit existing flood protection facilities to protect, restore, or enhance critical riparian or water borne habitat that benefits threatened or endangered species.	Low	G8	By 22 December 2015			✓	
Identify important or vulnerable riparian and biodiversity sites.	Low	G8	By 22 December 2015			✓	

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PROJECT CLIENT (FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT)
ANDREW TURNER



Flood and Water Management Business Plan for 2010/2011

VOLUME 2 of 2

April 2010 - March 2016
(Volume 1 - six year Strategic Business Plan to March 2016)
(Volume 2 - Business Plan for April 2010 to March 2011)

Group Manager's signature:

Head of Service's signature:

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**SOMERSET STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
VISION AND COMMUNITY STRATEGY
ACTION PLAN/LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

Resourced by **Medium Term Financial Plan** and success assessed against **Performance Plan** measures and monitored quarterly

**CORPORATE PLAN
AIMS AND PRIORITIES**

**Head of Service
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS PLAN (VOLUME 1)**
Direction:

- *6 year Strategic aims and outcomes*
- *Annual priorities*

**Group Manager
FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT
BUSINESS PLAN (VOLUME 2)**
Delivery:

- *Service aims and measures*
- *Maintenance and development tasks*
- *Risk analysis and management*

**Team/Individual
WORKPLANS /PRADS**

- Your key service
Statutory/Non statutory
Strategic Plans**
- Pitt Review 2008
 - Flood Risk Regulations 2009
 - Flood and Water Management Act 2010
 - Catchment Flood Management Plans
 - Shoreline Management Plans
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessments
 - Highways Act 1980
 - Town and Country Planning Act
 - Civil Contingencies Act
 - Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
 - Water Framework Directive

CORPORATE THEMES

Access and Equalities Sustainable Development Community Safety

VOLUME 2 – Flood and Water Management

Strategic Business Plan 2010 to 2011

6. Introduction

This 2010 to 2011 Business Plan extracts the key aims and objectives from the Strategic Plan and consolidates them in to an action plan that is both achievable and measurable. Rather than taking a strategic approach as set out in Volume 1, this Business Plan seeks to identify and deliver a clear set of outcomes.

In its role as flood risk reduction service provider, the County Council will build on its long history of coordinating and partnering with stakeholders to reduce flood risks. Pre-existing partnerships and relationships will be strengthened while new collaborative opportunities will be developed. The support, leadership and direction from Cabinet and Scrutiny are also considered critical to achieving the success factors referred in this Plan.

Plan implementation will be informed by ongoing programme reviews, economic impact risk assessments, and a systematic approach for assessing risk to areas that depend on flood protection infrastructure. As Somerset County Council gains a more complete understanding of the condition of its flood protection assets and the associated flood risk, Plan implementation will be adjusted accordingly. Adaptive management approaches to Plan implementation require a commitment to information management. Emerging data, maps, studies, innovative project designs, and monitoring information will be maintained in an accessible and organised format. Informed decision-making will ensure that limited financial resources will be directed to highest demonstrable areas of risk within the County.

7. Challenges and opportunities for 2010/11

Challenges of the Business Plan

- **Embedding new structures and working methods** – giving staff who are engaged with Flood and Water Management Service Plan activities support, direction and mentoring when workloads are new and innovative;
- **Budget pressures** – forecasts indicate ongoing pressures that will be challenging to adopt without impacting upon service delivery;
- **Capital** – the potential of there being insufficient budget to provide the infrastructure that will support capital improvements in Somerset;
- **New working systems** – defining processes where none have existed;
- **Capacity and staff availability** – the challenge of recruitment and retention to a specialised area of work is expected to be time consuming and challenging. Other local authorities have prior to now struggled to attract sufficiently experienced staff to administer the flood and water management function. This will need to be supported by a comprehensive staff training and development programme;
- **Reputation** – ensuring the County Council asserts and demonstrates itself as a Community leader in the field of flood and water management.
- **Targets** – continuing to review, set and achieve challenging aims and objectives contained within this Plan;
- **Climate change** – planning for climate change and promoting a sustainable approach ensuring derived outcomes are translated in to service delivery;
- **Legislation** – uncertainty over the content of the Flood and Water Management Act; and
- **Maximising political engagement** – supporting Cabinet and Scrutiny to ensure a full understanding of this Plan and service delivery.

Opportunities

The main opportunities identified that could improve our services over the next three years include:

- **Creating the Partnership** – taking the leadership role at the strategic level;
- **Working with others** – consider opportunities to work with other either through partnerships or on agency basis (e.g. Somerset Drainage Board Consortium and others).
- **Striving for excellence** - be a leading multi-agency team that demonstrates local and national best practice;
- **Locality and localisation** – using the District Council network and their capacity to deliver land drainage functions;
- **Contribute to LTP3 target** - the current scorecarding system is aligned to assess schemes against the range of LTP2 indicators and proposed flood alleviation or drainage schemes do not "score" very well against these. The scorecarding approach will be revised for LTP3 to ensure

that investment is aligned with newly-determined priorities, so there may be increased opportunity in future to ensure that the need to strengthen network resilience to flooding is given due consideration and prioritisation within this.

- **Business continuity** - ensuring business continuity in the event of a civil emergency or major flood event;
- **Pursue flood and water management related financial awards and grants;**
- **Single tier service delivery** - consider options for single-point service delivery; and
- **Targeted land or property acquisition** – working with stakeholders, consider targeted acquisition of repetitive loss properties or land as an alternative to capital expenditure.

8. Action Plan for 2010/2011

The strategic aims below support the Directorate's agreed goals and also the objectives of senior management and Members as contained in the Corporate Plan and Community Strategy for Somerset. The table below will form the action plan for service delivery from 2010/11.

	Priority (relative to year)	Policy compliance	Proposed timescale	Aims (focus on the ends rather than the means)			
				Reduce risks to life and property	Identify and implement activities in a cost- effective manner	Support, economic sustainability and improve biodiversity	Develop funding strategy for flood risk management
Objectives (clear, realistic, specific, measurable statements of actions that when completed will move towards attainment of the aims)		(see section 4.9)					
Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in Somerset. Set local strategy for local flood risk management. Examine alternatives to reduce risk to life and property, while minimising economic and environmental impacts of flood risk management actions and programmes.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S4, S5 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Enhance the internal technical capabilities for flood risk management.	High	G3, G4, G6 S1	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓
It is expected that lead local flood authorities will form partnerships with the other risk management authorities in their area to manage local flood risk.	High	G3, G4, G5 G6, G7 S4 ER2, ER4 F2	By 1 April 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓

Investigate flooding incidents to identify which authorities have relevant functions to deal with the flood and whether each of them intends to respond. The lead local flood authority will then be required to publish the results of any investigation, and notify any relevant authorities.	High	G2, G3, G4, G6, G7 S1, S2, S3 ER3, ER4 F4	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓		
Continue a countywide public education and outreach program to improve flood awareness that includes actions people can take to reduce risks (e.g. flood insurance, flood proofing).	High	G3, G4 ER1, ER4 F4	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓		
Identify possible funding sources for implementing the recommended flood risk management activities.	High	F1, F2, F3, F4	By 22 December 2010				✓
Management and delivery of the Pitt Recommendations.	High	All policies	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓
Prioritise projects and programmes of work based on the level of risk, benefit, and cost-effectiveness over the life of the plan or facility. In collaboration with others, develop a three-year rolling programme of works associated with ordinary watercourses, surface water run-off and groundwater to tackle flooding.	High	G2, G3, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4, S5 F2, F3	By 22 December 2010		✓	✓	
Involve stakeholders in the assessment of acceptable risks, evaluation of alternatives, and natural resource management issues.	High	G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4, S5	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	

Coordinate among internal and external stakeholders to seek consistency in flood risk management and flood disaster response and recovery.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 ER1, ER2, ER3, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Work with and support Planning Authorities to limit new development in flood risk areas and to minimise new risks to life and property.	Medium	G1, G2, G3, G4, G5, G6, G7	By 22 December 2010	✓	✓	✓	
Identify opportunities to work with environmental organisations to integrate flood management with environmental management	Medium	G6, G7, G8	By 22 December 2010			✓	
Incorporate information about climate change into flood risk management decision-making.	High	G8	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	
Collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets. Evaluate the risks to existing development in flood risk areas.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S2, S3, S4 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓		✓	
Prepare preliminary flood risk assessment reports.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S3, S4 ER2, ER4 F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	
Identify flood risk areas.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓	✓	

Maintain a register of structures or features which they consider to have a significant effect on flood risk in their area, at a minimum recording ownership and state of repair with the intention to inform and promote capital programmes through Somerset Transport Plan or other means.	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		✓
Identify current and establish future “Levels of Service” for existing and new flood protection assets. Use principles established in the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).	High	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		
Review internal working practices to align aims, objectives and outcomes contained in this Plan.	High	G2, G3, G4, G7	By 22 December 2011		✓	✓	
Work with the Association of British Insurers to identify repetitive-loss properties to assist in developing the flood risk maps and consequential programme of works.	Medium	G1, G4, G5 G6, G7, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓		✓	✓
Continuously review implementation to learn from successes, develop cost-effective approaches and reduce the need for costly solutions.	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8 S1, S4, S5 F1, F2, F3	By 22 December 2011	✓	✓		
Adopt a robust technical approach in developing and evaluating alternatives and to monitor implementation both for flood risk and biodiversity.	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8 S1, S2, S4, S5	By 22 December 2011		✓	✓	
Promote the uptake of sustainable land management techniques that will reduce surface water run-off	Medium	G2, G3, G4, G8	By 22 December 2011			✓	

9. Priorities and key tasks for 2010/11

9.1 The priorities through the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) model for 2010/11 are to:

Provide Leadership

- Provide and communicate direction of flood and water management activities and programmes using the proposed organisational governance (refer to Appendix 1).

Plan and Manage Performance

- Actively contribute to the delivery of the flood and water management programme of works that are currently in development;
- Implement and review aims and objectives contained in the Plan;
- Support external performance measures, such as National Indicator 189, Flood and Coastal Erosion, in collaboration with others;
- Support countywide emergency planning arrangements and business continuity planning.

Manage People

- Address recruitment and retention issues;
- Adopt flexible working practices and embed flexible deployment; and
- Actively seek participation in graduate training programmes.

Engage and Communicate

- Manage the high profile nature of the service and celebrate successes
- Encourage greater customer access through locality participation in programme development and delivery;
- Encourage pro-active engagement with the media;
- Continue to seek opportunities to extend collaborative working with neighbouring authorities; and
- Seek regular feedback from customers through the various annual surveys.

Partnership Working

- Maintain and enhance the successful partnership working arrangements with District Councils, Environment Agency, Somerset Drainage Boards Consortium, Water Companies and so on. Take regard of other schemes or site-specific initiatives such as Project Taunton, Yeovil Vision and Bridgwater Challenge; and
- Engage with national and regional forums, benchmarking clubs and adjoining authorities to promote innovative, consistent, efficient and cost effective service delivery

Manage Physical and Financial Resources

- Maximise external funding towards the delivery of key priorities; and
- Maximise the identification and delivery of efficiency savings.

Providing Services

- Ensure the action plan, aims and objectives contained within this Plan, along with the policies, are developed in to procedures to ensure service delivery;
- Through the Transport Asset Management Plan, target investment to improve the County Council's highway drainage infrastructure; and
- Work with other Directorates to ensure the policies contained in this Plan could be maximised or harmonised elsewhere, e.g. Property Services, County Farms.

9.2 This Plan is intended to form the foundation and context to deliver flood and water management services across Somerset in line with national standards, legislation and the aims contained in the Council's Annual Plan.

9.3 The main high-level service specific activities can be summarised as follows:

- Working collaboratively to deliver the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement;
- Supporting localised decision making through the Joint Area Committee pilot project in South Somerset; and
- Contribute to proposals in relation to nuclear energy and the Severn Tidal Barrage project.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Performance Management

- 10.1 Given this is a new function of the County Council in light of the Flood and Water Management Act, a full suite of performance indicators will be developed to enable the monthly tracking and monitoring of the Group's activities. These indicators will be developed into performance scorecards for the Team and for the Group as a whole.
- 10.2 These allow individual managers and the Group's management team to monitor performance against key targets for areas such as staff resource management, delivery against time and cost of key programmes and projects.
- 10.3 The performance measures should include maintaining and improving our performance in flood risk and water management, including performance in respect of:
- National Best Value indicators;
 - The Local Transport Plan;
 - Local Performance Indicators (including locally developed PIs for the team); and
 - Benchmarking Club Indicators, including the National Highways and Transportation Survey
- 10.4 They should also be aligned to the aims and objectives contained in this Plan.
- 10.5 The Team will be assisting in collating and measuring the following performance indicators:
- 10.6 National Indicator 188 – Adapting to climate change
- 10.7 National Indicator 189 – Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- 10.8 Work has already commenced on the measurement of NI189 in association with the Environment Agency.

Appendix 1 - Flood and Water Management Governance

Introduction

In June 2008, Sir Michael Pitt published his final report: 'Learning lessons from the 2007 floods' which called for urgent and fundamental changes in the way the country is adapting to the increased risk of flooding. The report stated that Local authorities should play a major role in the management of local flood risk, taking the lead in tackling local problems of flooding and coordinating all relevant agencies. Sir Michael concluded, "upper tier authorities should establish oversight and scrutiny committees to review work being undertaken to reduce flood risk and publish annual updates on the work undertaken."

Given the context of the Pitt Review, the Flood Risk Regulations and the Flood and Water Management Act, it is essential the County Council and external stakeholders proactively manage the challenges associated with flood mitigation and risk in Somerset.

It is expected that lead local flood authorities will form partnerships with the other risk management authorities in their area to manage local flood risk. These arrangements will be determined locally by the authorities involved. Guidance and best practice arrangements for local partnerships will be made available to local authorities.

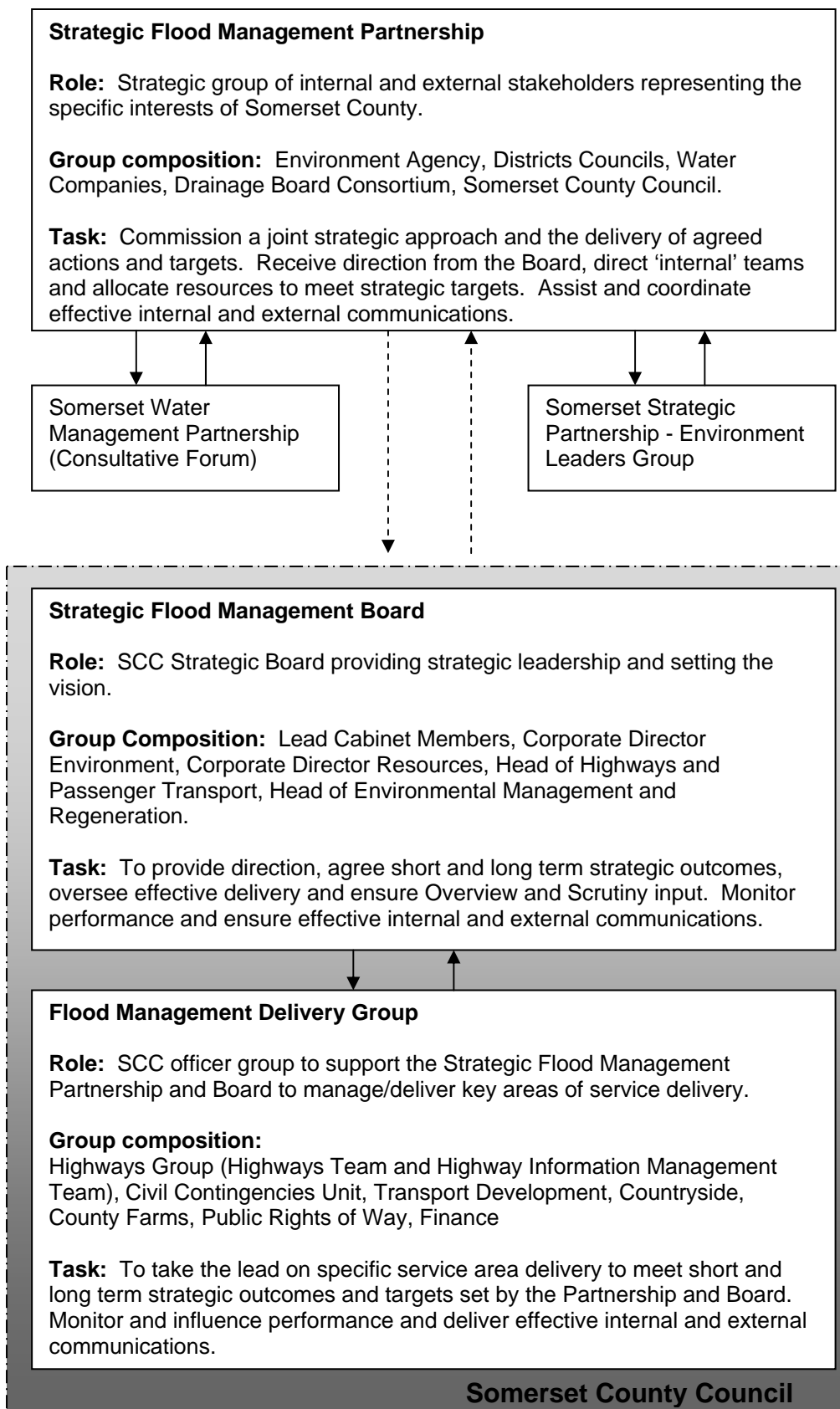
The Act also ensures that effective partnerships can be formed by the lead local flood authority. It requires all relevant authorities to co-operate with any other relevant authority exercising functions under the Act. It also empowers a lead local flood authority or the Environment Agency to require information from others needed for their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.

The internal and external challenges are diverse and briefly listed as follows:

- Diverse range of stakeholders (internal and external)
- Organisational framework and definition setting
- Extent of powers and duties (and control)
- Information and data exchange
- Funding
- Legal responsibilities and liabilities
- Technical resources

The proposed organisational framework and definition setting is set out in figure 1.

Figure 1 – proposed organisational framework and definition setting for flood management in Somerset



Key:

Solid arrows - direct lines of management/consultation/engagement

Broken arrows – indirect lines of management/consultation/engagement

Revenue Budget

Gross Expenditure/ Funding Sources	2009/10 (£)	2010/11 (£)	2011/12 (0)
Gross Revenue Expenditure	0	187,000	187,000
Funding Sources			
1) General SCC Budget Allocation	0	187,000	187,000
2) Income from Fees and Charges	0	0	0
3) Specific Grants	65,000	35,000	0
4) Contributions from partner organisations	0	0	0
Total Revenue Funding	65,000	222,000	187,000

Appendix 2 – Flood Risk Assessment – Proposed Framework

Introduction

Under the terms of the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, local authorities are required to map local flood risk management assets, and who owns them, so that any local problems that occur can be resolved. They will also have new important responsibilities on drainage.

It is proposed that the County Council uses a flood risk assessment tool to determine potential losses from a flood event in terms of life, property, economy and environment. The assessment should draw on the systematic use of all available information to determine how each flood risk may affect the County, how often flood events can occur and the potential severity of their consequence. The information in this risk assessment can then be used to support the decision-making process.

Methodology

The flood risk information and data will be developed in two stages.

Stage 1 – Data information required

- **Location** – identify the flood risk
- **Profile the flood risk** — profiling the flood risk using the following information:
 - Past events—this provides detailed information, where available, on past flood events, including financial losses where known.
 - Flood characteristics
 - Vulnerability analysis—Vulnerability determined using Geographic Information System (GIS) overlays of the County flood maps, known flood locations, customer reports and other anecdotal information. Vulnerability from flooding should be analysed based on impacts on life, safety and health, structures, natural and environmental areas, future development and economic areas.
 - Public health and safety and continuity of statutory service delivery;
 - Environment and biodiversity;
 - Development proposals;
 - Economy - it is the County's intentions to perform a more detailed analysis of risk assessment using an anecdotal approach to evaluate the economic impact of flooding. The following classifications of potential impacts are proposed:
 - *Significant Impact* - flooding in the catchment would have a major countywide economic impact;
 - *Moderate Impact* - flooding in the catchment would have an economic impact on settlements, but not severely impact the countywide economy; and
 - *Minimal Impact* - flooding in the basin would not cause significant economic impact in the catchment or countywide.
 - Repetitive Loss - properties in the catchment that have repeatedly been flooded, as identified by the Association of British Insurers (ABI).

- **Frequency/likelihood**
- **Severity** (to be combined with frequency/likelihood to determine the relative risk)
- **Critical infrastructure affected**
- **Proposed remedial or mitigation measures**
- **Estimated cost for remedy or mitigation**
- **Relative risk** (using the County Council's risk matrix modified for flood risk)

Stage 2 – Data evaluation, works planning and prioritisation

- Environment Agency Internal Drainage Boards, Natural England, Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, and Water Company support in identifying contributory factors, remedial solutions (if not highways-related) and with scheme prioritisation
- Check Strategic Flood Risk Assessment(s) with the District Council

In order to derive consistent and interpretable information, stage 1 data collection will be conducted by interviewing Highway Area Office Staff. The staff interviews will identify known flood locations together with contributory factors and possible solutions. This will help inform the County Council of the scale of need for flood remedial works and deliver a risk-based programme of works required to alleviate or mitigate flooding.

All data collected will be recorded as a separate layer on the digital mapping system.

Key Outputs

- Flood risk mapping layer; and
- Risk assessed, drainage programme management for annual structural maintenance budgeting and programming.

Appendix 3 - Risk Log

Risk No.	Description of Risk	Assess Current Risk		Risk Rating	Risk Author	Risk Owner	Action & Controls currently in place	Target Risk score		Target Rating	Management Actions planned to achieve target score	Proximity	Target Date	Status
		L	I					L	I					
1	<u>Strategic Risks</u>													
1.1	Project management arrangements may be insufficient to effectively steer the project, and to avoid project creep, leading to failure to achieve timescales or outputs of acceptable quality, and to threats of reputational risk.	2	3	6	AT	MB	Project management is being delivered in accordance with SCC and PRINCE2 principles.	2	2	4	Reduction - Monitoring and updating of project management documentation will need to continue..	Current	31.03.10	Open

1.2	Staff resources may be insufficient through other workload pressures, or through a lack of capability, leading to poor participation from Project Team and other contributors, with a risk of failure to meet deadlines or to deliver inputs of adequate quality.	3	3	9	MB	IR	Dedicated Project Client, Project Manager and Project Support have been made available. Further recruitment expected as a result of the favourable MTFP pressure bid securing £187,000 for staff.	2	3	6	Resolve Project Client and Project Manager roles together with commencement of recruitment.	Current	31.03.10	Open
1.3	Staff resources may be insufficient through leave commitments and sickness absences, staff turnover and vacancies, the latter exacerbated by the recruitment freeze.	3	3	9	MB	Project Board	Funding for recruitment secured within base budget – staff to be recruited from 1 April 2010.	3	2	6	Commence with recruitment activities asap.	Current	31.03.10	Open
1.4	Staff resources may be insufficient through inaccurate estimates of the workload involved.	3	3	9	MB	MB	PID and Project Plan identify key contributors, timescales and work packages.	2	3	6	Consultation on realistic timescales.	Current	13.01.10	Open

1.5	Difficulties in achieving engagement or a consensus with partners / stakeholders around the scope, purpose and proposals of the project may constrain progress.	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	MB	AT	Commence with strategic governance asap.	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	To be agreed with DMT	Near	01.03.10	Open
1.6	The capacity of key partners / stakeholders to play their part in this workload may be insufficient, leading to delays or reductions in quality.	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>	MB	AT	Stakeholder Management Plan to be developed and reviewed by Project Board.	2	3	<u>6</u>	Further stakeholder meetings to be arranged as required.	Near	31.03.10	Open
2	Financial Risks													
2.1	Financial resources may be insufficient or may come under threat.	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>9</u>	AT	RG	Costs currently contained in short term within Highways Group revenue budgets. PID and Project Plan have helped to firm up budgetary requirements. Taunton SWMP funding now confirmed by DEFRA. Early Win Funding Bids now submitted to DEFRA. MTFP pressure bid supported securing £187,000 in to base budget.	2	2	<u>4</u>	Budget identification and control, together with monitoring and review arrangements will ensure effective financial management. Funding bids decisions expected January 2010.	Current	31.03.10	Open

3	Legal and Regulatory Risks													
3.1	Progress may be hindered to comply with Act/Regulations as they evolve, and DEFRA / EA guidance and advice.	2	3	6	MB	AT	Project reflects Act as published. Flood Risk Regulations has placed statutory duties on SCC.	2	3	6	Reduction - Act progress and relevant guidance will be carefully followed and PID will be kept under review.	Current	13.01.10	Open
4	Organisational Risks													
4.1	Processes of organisational change, including changes in staff responsibilities, may adversely affect the project.	3	4	12	AT	RG	Recruitment and organisational changes need to be linked.	3	4	12	Projected changes will need to be carefully considered, and kept under review.	Current	31.03.10	Open
5	Management Risks													
5.1	Delays in the progress of projects and other workload with which a key interface is needed, including deferred projects, may lead to delays or reductions in quality.	3	3	9	MB	AT	Key interfaces identified in the PID.	2	2	4	Reduction - Key interfaces will be kept under review.	Medium	31.03.10	Open

5.2	Senior Management priorities may change, leading to less support for prioritising project workload.	2	3	6	MB	Project Board	Project Brief and service delivery commencement agreed.	2	2	4	Commence to Phase 2 of Project – service delivery and recruitment.	Near	11.01.10	Open
6	Political Risks													
6.1	Political priorities to be understood and factored in to Project delivery.	3	3	9	MB	IR	Reporting and Member engagement requirements identified by PID. Project fed into agenda discussions for Scrutiny Committee. Scrutiny Task and Finish Group completed first review.	2	2	4	Ongoing	Current	31.03.11	Open
6.2	Members' awareness and engagement.	2	4	8	MB	IR	Member involvement through Scrutiny Committee and consultation on Early Action bids has helped to mitigate this risk.	2	3	6	Reduction - Approach to further Member engagement will need to be firmed up with Cabinet Member.	Near	13.01.10	Open
7	Technical Risks													
7.1	The scale or nature of issues arising from stakeholder consultation may generate difficult issues or unexpected levels of workload.	2	3	6	MB	AT	Stakeholder Management Plan reviewed by Project Board 23.09.09.	2	2	4	Contingency - Continuing stakeholder dialogue will enable work programmes to be adjusted if required.	Medium	31.03.10	Open

7.2	Inadequacies in the availability, quality or format of information, or the willingness to share or take responsibility for information, may constrain progress or reduce the quality of outputs.	2	3	6	MB	AT	To be addressed at the strategic partnership.	2	2	4	Further meetings as required with SCC contributors, Districts and stakeholders will help to identify information requirements and deficiencies..	Near	31.03.10	Open
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Appendix 4 - Pitt Review Action Plan (recommendations attributable to Somerset County Council) [last reviewed - Oct/Nov 2009]

Pitt Recommendations (directly attributable to SCC)	Recommendation Detail	Lead Officer(s)	Pitt Delivery Timetable	SCC Delivery Timetable	Comments
Pitt Recommendation: No. 7	There should be a presumption against building in high flood risk areas, in accordance with PPS25, including giving consideration to all sources of flood risk, and ensuring that developers make a full contribution to the costs both of building and maintaining any necessary defences.	Andrew Turner (until resourcing resolved)	Beginning immediately	Ongoing	This relates in the main to the provision of Strategic Flood Risk Assessments which will, in turn, inform PPS25 procedures. To be discussed with District Councils with the intention of deriving a single, integrated approach.
Pitt Recommendation: No. 12	All local authorities should extend eligibility for home improvement grants and loans to include flood resistance and resilience products for properties in high flood-risk areas.	Tony Hurry	By end of 2008	Recommendation on course for completion by late 2011 (Phase 2)	Defra Property Level Flood Protection Scheme - Somerset CC was successful in Phase 1 bid for 2 communities (Queen Camel & West Camel) and awarded grants. Anticipate that these homes will be provided with flood protection by Autumn 2010. Phase 2 of the Project for additional funds has to be finalised, anticipate that Defra will call for bids in late Autumn 2009; bids are prepared for submission.

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 13</p>	<p>Local authorities, in discharging their responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to promote business continuity, should encourage the take-up of property flood resistance and resilience by businesses.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>By end of 2008</p>	<p>Recommendation cleared</p>	<p>Somerset (SLACCP) has provided Business Continuity advice as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated its Business Continuity Management Leaflet to local business to include more information on flooding. • Supported local business continuity events and provided additional information on flood protection measures and equipment. • Conducted “flood” fairs in local communities to include business premises. <p>In the future, on update of the Somerset Flood Plan (late 2009) we intend to highlight flood risks to communities including local businesses.</p>
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 14</p>	<p>Local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, with the support of the relevant organisations.</p>	<p>Andrew Turner</p>	<p>By end of 2010</p>	<p>February 2010</p>	<p>Flood and Water Management Project commenced in July 2009 to deliver a strategic service plan for flood and water management together with a proposed organisational structure. A proposed organisational structure has been discussed with all key stakeholders and the principle and scope of engagement agreed. A strategic partnership is proposed to be set up at the end of 2009.</p>

Pitt Recommendation: No. 15	Local authorities should positively tackle local problems of flooding by working with all relevant parties, establishing ownership and legal responsibility.	Andrew Turner	Beginning immediately	Ongoing	A strategic partnership is proposed to be set up at the end of 2009 to identify and deal with known flooding locations. This is currently achieved on an unstructured and ad-hoc approach where problems exist. The County Council as part of the Flood and Water Management Project will migrate to a risk-rated annual programme.
Pitt Recommendation: No. 16	Local authorities should collate and map the main flood risk management and drainage assets (over and underground), including a record of their ownership and condition.	Andrew Turner	In place by end of 2010	Ongoing - Drainage assets are currently being acquired for all capital resurfacing through comprehensive CCTV surveys. All routine jetting data is now captured and digitised on to a GIS layer.	Defra has asked the Environment Agency to lead a project to develop this tool for Local Authorities to use. This project also has the support of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Association. Members of District Councils, County Councils and Unitary Authorities are all represented on the project board.
Pitt Recommendation: No. 18	Local Surface Water Management Plans, as set out under PPS25 and coordinated by local authorities, should provide the basis for managing all local flood risk.	Andrew Turner	Surface Water Management Plans by end of 2010	March 2011	Defra has awarded £100k to develop a Surface Water Management Plan for Taunton.

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 19</p>	<p>Local authorities should assess and, if appropriate, enhance their technical capabilities to deliver a wide range of responsibilities in relation to local flood risk management.</p>	<p>Andrew Turner</p>	<p>Beginning immediately, completed to support new statutory duties by end of 2010</p>	<p>February 2010</p>	<p>Flood and Water Management Project commenced in July 2009 to deliver a strategic service plan for flood and water management together with a proposed organisational structure. Details associated with the Flood and Water Management Act on the status and scope of responsibilities for upper tier authorities is awaited.</p>
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 38</p>	<p>Local authorities should establish mutual aid agreements in accordance with the guidance currently being prepared by the Local Government Association and the Cabinet Office.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Guidance issued by end 2008</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>National guidance was published in December 2008 work ongoing. SLACCP mutual aid policy or agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None in place except an agreement for Somerset LAs to provide mutual aid to one another (Partnership Agreement & SLACCP Concept of Operations (CONOPs)). • Task to provide mutual aid policy is required within the SLACCP work programme, which will also include a mutual aid capabilities matrix. • No deadline given by Defra for completion, this task has not been started. <p>Work on recommendation started but no work programme in place to complete task</p>

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 41</p>	<p>Upper tier local authorities should be the lead responders in relation to multi-agency planning for severe weather emergencies at the local level and for triggering multi-agency arrangements in response to severe weather warnings and local impact assessments.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>By end 2008</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by December 2009</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation supported by the revision to "Emergency Response & Recovery Guidance" work ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LRF has published LRF Strategic Flood Plan for use in 5 top-tier LA areas. • SLACCP updating the Somerset Flood Plan to provide for multi-agency response to widespread flooding. Anticipate this plan will be issued December 2009. • Other plans/procedures show SLACCU taking the lead with EA and Met Office in triggering a multi-agency response to severe weather events
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 66</p>	<p>Local authority contact centres should take the lead in dealing with general enquiries from the public during and after major flooding, redirecting calls to other organisations when appropriate.</p>	<p>Andrew Turner</p>	<p>Arrangements in place by end 2008</p>	<p>Target completion by end of 2010</p>	<p>To be developed by the Somerset Strategic Flood Partnership in collaboration with key stakeholders. This should form part of the assertion of responsibilities contained within the Flood and Water Management Act and promoted within the Flood and Water Mngarement Project.</p> <p>Ongoing local implementation, supported by revision to "Emergency Response & Recovery Guidance". The Government will consider whether further specific guidance to local authorities is required after publication of updated Emergency Response and Recovery Guidance (expected Spring 2009). Govt considers that LAs should take the lead on this measure.</p>

					<p>SLACCP to ensure Somerset LAs' contact centre are provided with the resources to take the lead in dealing with general enquiries from the public during and after major flooding.</p> <p>Requirement has been identified in SLACCP CONOPs but has not been tasked on the SLACCP Work Programme and therefore no timescale for completion is available.</p>
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 68</p>	<p>Council leaders and chief executives should play a prominent role in public reassurance and advice through the local media during a flooding emergency, as part of a coordinated effort overseen by Gold Commanders.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Beginning immediately, ongoing</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Ongoing local implementation supported by the revision to "Emergency Response & Recovery Guidance" work ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Await LRF Warning & Informing and Public Information Policy. • Provide Somerset council leaders, the chief executives and other key elected members and senior officers with background briefings about the local management of flood risk in Somerset, and the key role that Somerset LAs have in leading elements of this task. • Agree LRF & LA protocols for briefing all the key people during an emergency and ensure that they are able to take a prominent role in public reassurance during and after the event. • SLACCP to prepare appropriate guidance and training for elected members & LA senior officers.

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 72</p>	<p>Local response and recovery coordinating groups should ensure that health and wellbeing support is readily available to those affected by flooding based on the advice developed by the Department of Health.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Support available by October 2008</p>	<p>On course to complete by 31 Mar 2010</p>	<p>Advice under Rec 71 developed and issued in December 2008 on the Health Protection Agency website: www.hpa.org.uk see Home Page> Topics> Emergency Response> Responding to Conventional Hazards> Forces of Nature> Flooding> General Information> Leaflets on Floods. This information can now be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulated during SLACCP Community Engagement Projects • Prepared as a Leaflet for inclusion with Somerset Flood Guide • Placed on Somerset LAs websites.
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 74</p>	<p>The monitoring of the impact of flooding on the health and wellbeing of people, and actions to mitigate and manage the effects, should form a systematic part of the work of Recovery Coordinating Groups.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Monitoring arrangements by October 2008</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Advice under Rec 71 developed and issued the advice in December 2008 on the Health Protection Agency website .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLACCP is incorporating “Recovery Planning” in its Corporate Emergency Response & Recovery Plans for each Somerset LA, timescales as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 76</p>	<p>Local authorities should coordinate a systematic programme of community engagement in their area during the recovery phase.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Programme developed by end 2008</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Part of the SLACCP Programme of CERRPS (see Rec 74) timescales as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 77</p>	<p>National and local Recovery Coordinating Groups should be established from the outset of major emergencies and in due course there should be formal handover from the crisis machinery.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Beginning immediately</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Part of the SLACCP Programme of CERRPS (see Rec 74) timescales as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010

<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 78</p>	<p>Aims and objectives for the recovery phase should be agreed at the outset by Recovery Coordinating Groups to provide focus and enable orderly transition into mainstream programmes when multi-agency coordination of recovery is no longer required.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Beginning immediately</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Part of the SLACCP Programme of CERRPS (see Rec 74) timescales as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010
<p>Pitt Recommendation: No. 83</p>	<p>Local authorities should continue to make arrangements to bear the cost of recovery for all but the most exceptional emergencies, and should revisit their reserves and insurance arrangements in light of last summer's floods.</p>	<p>Tony Hurry</p>	<p>Arrangements in place by end 2008</p>	<p>On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010</p>	<p>Part of the SLACCP Programme of CERRPS (see Rec 74) timescales as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010

Pitt Recommendation: No. 85	Local Recovery Coordination Groups should make early recommendations to elected local authority members about longer-term regeneration and economic development opportunities.	Tony Hurry	Beginning immediately	On course to clear recommendation by 1 Aug 2010	Part of the SLACCP Programme of CERRPS (see Rec 74) timescales as follows: o Somerset CC CERRP – 1 Apr 2010 o Mendip DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o Sedgemoor DC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o South Somerset DC CERRP - 1 Jul 2010 o Taunton Deane BC CERRP – 1 Jul 2010 o West Somerset Council CERRP – 1 Jul 2010
Pitt Recommendation: No. 90	All upper tier local authorities should establish Oversight and Scrutiny Committees to review work by public sector bodies and essential service providers in order to manage flood risk, underpinned by a legal requirement to cooperate and share information.	Andrew Turner	Established June 2009	March 2010	Flood and water management will form part of the March 2010 Scrutiny agenda. Scrutiny scoping report prepared for discussion in November 2009.
Pitt Recommendation: No. 91	Each Oversight and Scrutiny Committee should prepare an annual summary of actions taken locally to manage flood risk and implement this Review, and these reports should be public and reviewed by Government Offices and the Environment Agency.	Andrew Turner	Implemented June 2009	March 2010	With the change of administration in June 2009, the Scrutiny Committee commenced in October 2009 and the first meeting to discuss flood and water management is scheduled for March 2010.

Glossary of acronyms used

Defra

Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs

CERRP

Corporate Emergency Response Recovery Plan

SLACCP

Somerset Local Authorities Civil Contingencies Partnership

CONOPs

Concept of Operations

DC

District Council

Project name	<i>Flood and Water Management Project</i>
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