

Windermere Lake and River Leven Future Flood Risk Management

January 2018

Background

Following Storm Desmond, flood risk management authorities were commissioned by Government to reduce flood risk not only at community level, but to look for options to reduce flood risk across the County from Source to Sea. This means we have taken a new approach, working at a catchment scale to integrate land management, development and resilience from the tops of the fells down to the coast. In order for us to deliver flood risk benefits across the County in this way we are now part of an established partnership called Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership (CSFP).

What does Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership do?

The CSFP aims to lead, coordinate and monitor the management of flood risk across the County. This Partnership brings together Flood Risk Management Authorities including the Environment Agency, Cumbria County Council, District Councils, United Utilities and representation from other organisations including land managers and community groups who have an interest in, or responsibility for, flood risk management.

The CSFP is structured over two levels – the Board (strategic level) and Catchment Management Groups (operational/delivery level). The Board takes an overview of the whole Partnership, setting the direction and ensuring the three Catchment Management Groups deliver their objectives. The Board is currently chaired by Cumbria County Council, and the South Cumbria Catchment Management Group is chaired by South Cumbria Rivers Trust.

Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership Community representation

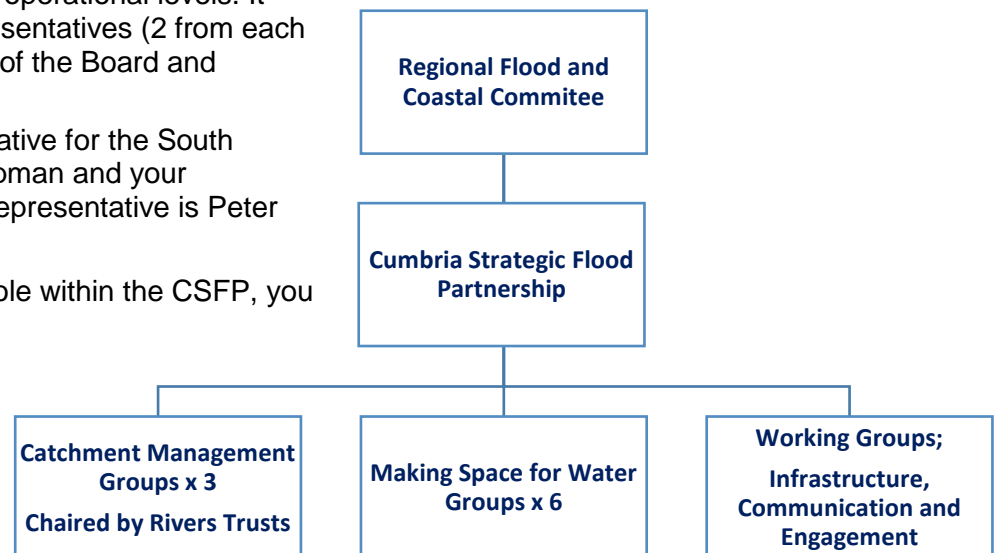
A key objective of the CSFP is to ensure communities are represented at both strategic and operational levels. It has appointed 6 community representatives (2 from each catchment area) to be a member of the Board and Catchment Management Group.

Your community Board representative for the South Cumbria catchment is Janet Chapman and your Catchment Management Group representative is Peter Lansberry.

If you have any queries on their role within the CSFP, you can contact them on:

chas.chapman@btinternet.com

peter@lansberry.co.uk



For more information on the CSFP visit www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org

or email CSFP@cumbria.gov.uk

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

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Work undertaken in Windermere and River Leven

Following the flood event in December 2015, the Environment Agency has:

- Commissioned, reviewed and shared a report to better understand the operation of the Newby Bridge sluices to best manage lake levels. This was completed in spring 2017 and the operational management of the sluices will continually be reviewed when new information and data, and stakeholder agreement has been made.
- Incorporated community ideas and knowledge into current appraisal work for the catchment.
- Engaged with communities to help explain the government rules upon which funding for schemes relies.
- Investigated flood risk caused by fell runoff in Finsthwaite with the aim to reduce flood risk to several properties in the village.

What next?

In June we published the “long list” of options as part of the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) development. A SOC provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working on a scheme and complete the Final Business Case. We have been refining each option, measuring their viability against the following four tests;

Technical feasibility : Economic viability : Environmental sustainability : Community support

We have refined the “short list” of options for Windermere (lake) and River Leven. However, the draft SOC is indicating that a viable scheme option(s) has not been identified using the four tests above. As a result, work on this project will not progress beyond the short listing, the stopping point being the completed modelling and final SOC report. The SOC report will be used as the basis for any future work as and when new information becomes available or additional funding secured. This work forms part of an annual review process to try and obtain funding for all the identified flood risk problems in Cumbria.

In addition to this we are:

- Carrying out work in 2018 to refurbish the existing Newby Bridge sluice gates including a more efficient way of operating the sluice gates.
- Publishing the options outcomes, due in early 2018 at the consultation meetings or by request.
- Completing a hydrological model for Windermere (lake) and the River Leven. This is due to be completed in early 2018 and will inform the ongoing “short list” assessment, support applications for other funding sources and aid future flood risk management. The model outcomes could also influence our maintenance programme which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme>
- Continually seeking and improving partnerships and exploring additional opportunities.
- Together with Cumbria County Council we will be further assessing the flood risk in Finsthwaite to manage the flood risk from runoff.
- Continuing to support the scoping of Natural Flood-risk Management (NFM) research and project developments in the Windermere/Leven catchment.

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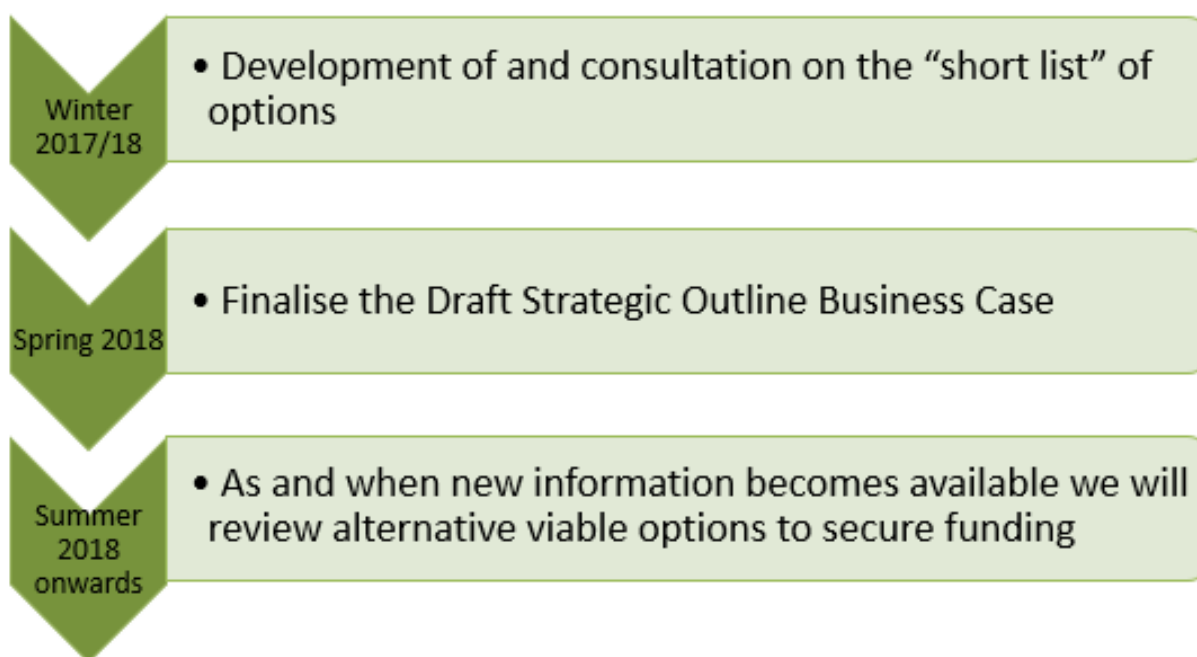
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We are organising a community drop-in for the Windermere (lake), Newby Bridge and Backbarrow communities which will take place at the Outback Hall, Leven Valley Primary School, Backbarrow on Wednesday 14 March 2018. Do drop in anytime between 2pm and 7pm. We will share the assessment of all options with you and will provide an update on the next steps.

Outline Delivery Programme



The Strategic Outline Business Case provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working on a scheme and complete the Final Business Case.

Timescale

The appraisal process can take time to ensure we follow the correct rules and procedure in spending Government money.

For further information on the funding process and the rules we must follow, please read the “guide on how the Environment Agency fund and deliver flood risk management schemes” under the ‘Funding’ section of the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership website <http://www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org>

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Windermere and Leven Community Flood Groups

Residents within some areas of the Windermere and Leven catchment are working together to produce community flood/emergency plans to ensure the local response is coordinated and comprehensive in an emergency situation. If you would like to speak to your local flood action group about this work, you can contact clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk and we will forward your queries to the relevant flood action group.

Contacting the Environment Agency

If you would like to contact the Environment Agency about future flood risk management you can email CMBLNC-PSO@environment-agency.gov.uk. If your query relates to community or personal resilience please contact clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk.

Be flood ready

We will never be able to guarantee a completely flood-free future, and so we encourage anyone living or working in a flood risk area to be aware and to be prepared. We can support you by; signing you up to receive free **flood warnings**, helping you to produce a **personal flood plan**, offering **property resistance and resilience** information and supporting the formation and ongoing work of a **community flood action group**.

It is important that you are prepared for flooding and we encourage you to take 4 simple steps:-

1. **Sign up** to the Flood Warning Service to receive free flood warnings. 80% of properties within the Windermere/Leven catchment have not yet registered to receive flood warnings. The Flood Warning Service is a free system which is used to warn you of imminent flooding to land and property.
2. **Know what to do** when a flood warning is issued. Have a personal flood plan for you and your family.
3. **Keep an eye** on the situation. You can view a 5 day weather forecast and monitor the river levels online.
4. **Keep up to date** with early warnings of heavy rain which could lead to flooding by registering for Cumbria Community Messaging. This is a free e-mail service and is complementary to our Flood Warning Service. To register visit www.cumbriacommunitymessaging.co.uk

For information on the above, visit
<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings>
or ring Floodline on 0345 988 1188



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