

**The London Borough of Lewisham**

**An overview of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

**Non-technical summary**

**Introduction**

Following the severe flooding during the summer of 2007, the Government commissioned and independent review (the Pitt Review) which recommended that local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, working in partnership with other organisations. Two key pieces of legislation have brought this forward: the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR) and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).

The London Borough of Lewisham is now a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) which has legal powers and duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water, groundwater and smaller watercourses.

The London Borough of Lewisham as a Lead Local Flood Authority has to - by law - produce a ‘Local Flood Risk Management Strategy’. This strategy is about managing local flood risk across the borough.

The main role of the Council as a lead local flood authority is to co-ordinate local flood risk management in particular flood risk from smaller watercourses, surface water and groundwater. However, so we can manage flood risk in a joined up way Lewisham works in partnership with neighbouring boroughs as the South East London Flood Risk Management Partnership, this also includes the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out:

* the roles and responsibilities for flood risk management
* assesses the risk across the borough
* where funding can be found to manage the flood risk
* what our policies are as a lead local flood authority and
* what our objectives and actions are to manage flood risk.

As part of the South East London Flood Risk Partnership along with the London Boroughs of Bexley, Bromley and the Royal Borough of Greenwich, a group wide strategy has been produced which sets out how as a partnership flood risk will be managed across the wider area to ensure that all responses, duties, roles and responsibilities are consistent. Lewisham has also developed a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which focuses on the identified known sources of flood risk. Supporting this Strategy is an Action Plan which captures the known flood risks and proposes actions to reduce or eliminate the risk. The Action Plan looks forward to the next six years, and where appropriate beyond, not all actions have a cost associated with them as some are actions which cannot be undertaken locally by Lewisham Council but involve one or more of the other boroughs in the South East London Partnership.

**So what is the flood risk for Lewisham and who is responsible?**

The London Borough of Lewisham is at risk from all forms of flooding, these are shown in the table below and who is responsible

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Type of Flooding | What is it | Who is responsible |
| Surface Water(Pluvial) | This is flooding caused by heavy and prolonged rain fall  | Lewisham Council |
| Groundwater | This is where there is too much water in the ground, from rainfall, and the water appears from the ground this can appear up to two months from the rain  | Lewisham Council |
| River(Fluvial) | Main river – These are big or larger rivers like the Ravensbourne, Quaggy and Pool | Environment Agency |
| Ordinary Watercourses – These are smaller streams and ditches which feed into rivers | Lewisham Council |
| Tidal/Coastal | Although this sounds dramatic the Thames is a tidal river and is a coastal estuary. | Environment Agency |
| Reservoir | Reservoir flooding is caused by the failure of a reservoir | Owner of the Reservoir |
| Sewer Flooding | Is when the sewers don’t have enough capacity to deal with the volume of water and this then appears in houses or in the road generally this is raw sewage | Thames Water |

**How do I find out if I am at risk?**

There are several ways to find out if you are at risk of flooding, firstly there are maps as appendices to our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which show the potential areas of surface water flooding. Secondly there is the Environment Agency’s website [“What’s in your backyard”](http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/sidebyside.cfm#zoom=10&lat=51.46058&lon=0.25356&layers=173) here you can check the flood risk from the following type of flooding;-

* Tidal/coastal
* Main river
* Surface water
* and for reservoir flooding who owns the reservoir.

**I’m at risk of flooding what shall I do?**

If you are at risk of flooding you need to check whether you are in an area which receives the flood warning service, you can check this on the [“What’s in your backyard”](http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/default.aspx) if you are in an area which receives the flood warning service sign up to it and understand the levels of warnings and what actions you will need to undertake, these are:



You should also consider making a [flood plan](http://apps.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood/151256.aspx) to help you prepare in the event of a flood

**What is the London Borough of Lewisham going to do if I am at risk of flooding?**

We cannot stop flooding, we can help reduce the impacts of flooding from Surface Water, Groundwater and Ordinary Watercourses. We have set out in both our Local Strategy a six year action plan which has identified locations where it is considered that there could be strategic solutions to help reduce wider flood risk. Protecting your property from flood risk is the responsibility of the individual property owner Lewisham Council will where appropriate and where resources allow, assist residents and businesses to find the most appropriate solutions to their needs ranging from [Property Level Protection](http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/) through to wider strategic projects which would aim to deliver a higher level of protection from known flood risk.

**What are the key objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?**

Lewisham’s local flood risk management objectives have been developed to fit with the Council’s wider strategic priorities for the borough. Locally we will:

* **avoid** inappropriate development and **promote** new‐development and redevelopment that **contributes** to a reduction in flood risk elsewhere and creates environmental benefit (e.g. sustainable urban drainage systems, reduced CO2, increased biodiversity)
* work with partners to **ensure** local flood defences are maintained
* **require** river restoration, appropriate flood defence and mitigation as part of development proposals, where appropriate
* **encourage** flood risk management activities so owners of watercourses (riparian owners) and flood defence structures take action to reduce the risk to themselves, their property, and others
* continue to **improve** our understanding of flood risk and flood incidents by recording and monitoring flooding incidents to inform future work programmes
* **provide** open, transparent governance of flood risk management
* **engage** with and support local communities to value and care for the green infrastructure used to manage flood risk
* **deliver** outcomes that make best use of public resources and available sources of funding.