

DATA LABEL: PUBLIC



ENVIRONMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY PANEL

CONSULTATION ON CYCLE 2 OF THE FORTH ESTUARY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PLAN – UPDATE ON WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL’S ACTIONS

REPORT BY HEAD OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise the Panel of the proposed Flood Risk Management Actions for the Council, for Cycle 2 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009, and to inform the Panel of the delayed launch of the full public consultation on the Draft 2021-2027 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Draft 2022-2028 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Plan.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel notes, the public consultation dates for the Forth Estuary Flood Strategy and Plan and the draft prioritised actions for the council, which officers will be reporting to the Council Executive for information.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

I Council Values	Focusing on our customers' needs; being honest, open and accountable; making best use of our resources; working in partnership.
II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment)	Policy – Draft 2021-2027 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy and Draft 2022-2028 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Plan. Legal - The Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. SEA – A Draft SEA for the Flood Risk Management Strategy and a Habitats Regulations Appraisal will be included with Phase 2 of the public consultation. Equality Issues – A Social Score is included in the evaluation of Prioritised Actions. H&S – Not applicable.

Risk Assessment – Not applicable.

III	Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers	None.
IV	Impact on performance and performance Indicators	None.
V	Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement	SOA 4. We live in resilient, cohesive and safe communities; SOA 5. People most at risk are protected and supported to achieve improved life chances; SOA 6. Older people are able to live independently in the community with an improved quality of life; SOA 7. We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced inequalities; and SOA 8. We make the most efficient and effective use of resources by minimising our impact on the built and natural environment.
VI	Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Financial: Scottish Government funding of Cycle 2 local authority flood risk management is based on these agreed actions and their prioritisation in the 2022-2028 Local Flood Risk Management Plans. Staffing: Existing resources. Property/Assets: If funded, some of these agreed actions will create future flood protection assets.
VII	Consideration at PDSP	Linked to a previous PDSP report on 17 November 2020.
VIII	Other consultations	This report is to advise the Panel of the public consultation arrangements for the Draft 2021-2027 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy, and the Draft 2022-2028 Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan.

D. TERMS OF REPORT

Background

- D1** As advised in November 2020, this report is to update the Panel on the public consultations for both the draft Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Local Plan District Flood Risk Management Strategy (the 'Strategy') and the draft Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Local Plan District Local Flood Risk Management Plan (the 'Plan').

Cycle 2 – Consultation Phase 1 (launched 21 December 2020)

- D2** Phase 1 of the draft Forth Estuary Cycle 2 Strategy public consultation was launched on 21 December 2020. The published information includes a Forth Estuary Local Plan District (LPD) summary, Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) summaries, and a list of agreed Objective Target Areas (OTA's).

- D3** The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) led development of the Forth Estuary Draft Strategy in collaboration with Responsible Authorities, i.e. Scottish Water and 11 local authorities in the Forth Estuary LPD. Additionally, SEPA engaged with other national stakeholders such as: Forestry & Land Scotland, Scottish Forestry, Scottish Natural Heritage, Transport Scotland, Network Rail, utilities (including Scottish Power, Scottish & Southern Energy, Scottish Gas Networks, British Telecoms) and airport authorities. The National Flood Management Group (NFMAG) is also engaged in the development process. West Lothian Council is working with the Forth Estuary Lead Local Authority (Falkirk Council) to ensure that relevant groups are advised of the publication of the Cycle 2 Draft Plan consultation, i.e. Community Councils and Tenants & Residents Groups.

Cycle 2 – Consultation Phase 2 (Delayed from March to Summer 2021)

- D4** Phase 2 of the public consultation was due to be launched in March 2021 but this programme has now been delayed due to the recent cyber-attack on SEPA and increased Covid lockdown early 2021. Phase 1 consultation information is still available online. Phase 2 Draft Strategy information will include the OTA Datasheets, a Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report and a Draft Habitats Regulations Appraisal. Draft Plan information will include the prioritised flood risk management actions for Cycle 2 (see Appendix 1) and the Local Authority wide actions (see Appendix 2). All consultation questions will apply to Phase 2 only.

- D5** Unless already allocated funding by the council, the proposed actions are reliant on approval of funding from the Scottish Government (see Appendix 3) and available council staff resources. Scottish Government funding for Cycle 2 Actions is expected to be announced in October 2021. If funded, some of the proposed actions would create new flood protection assets for the council in the next cycle. The total cost of Average Annual Damages (AAD) for the Council's OTA's has been calculated at £4.3m per year (see Appendix 1).

- D6** The proposed actions have been assessed for their impact on the more vulnerable members of the community using a social score; a value from 1 to 10 (least to most vulnerable), which is determined using the percentage of the community at flood risk, and the Social Flood Vulnerability Index.

- D7** The Phase 1 Forth Estuary Strategy and Plan consultation can be accessed at: <https://consultation.sepa.org.uk/> using the Citizen Space online citizens' engagement platform. Once launched Phase 2 of the consultation is expected to remain open for

3 months. This consultation period will be promoted with a marketing campaign to encourage feedback, this will include a press release, public notice, press advertising, digital advertising and social media strategies.

- D8** If required, printed copies of the Draft Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy & Plan and the Cycle 2 Consultation Questions can be requested from SEPA after the launch of Phase 2, by email (FloodActConsultation@sepa.org.uk) or telephone (03000 99 66 99).

Recent Local Flooding & Climate Change

- D9** The importance of the Council's Flood Risk Management (FRM) actions and subsequent funding allocation was highlighted recently when an intense localised rain storm caused internal damage to almost 30 properties in and around Broxburn in August 2020.

- D10** Rainfall events are forecast to become both more frequent and potentially more severe, with wetter winters, more intense rainfall and rising sea levels. The climate change data used for the 2018 National Flood Risk Assessment (NFRA), which informs the Cycle 2 Strategies and Plans, are based on the UK Climate Projections 2009 (UKCP09). During 2021, SEPA will be working on updating the Surface Water flood hazard maps with the latest 2018 UK Climate Projections (UKCP18). The outcome of this work will inform future flood hazard mapping, Surface Water Management Planning and the next NFRA in 2024; but UKCP18 will not inform the Final Cycle 2 Forth Estuary Strategy, which is due to be published by SEPA in December 2021, or Falkirk Council's publication of the Final Cycle 2 Plan due in June 2022. The current delay to the main consultation period may impact these publication dates.

- D11** Additionally, council officers recently participated in SEPA's One Planet Prosperity: Flood Services Strategy Consultation (see Appendix 4). Feedback was sought on the SEPA data which officers use, how it is used and its functionality. Final publication of this document is due Summer 2021.

2020 Flood Map Update

- D12** SEPA's most recent Flood Map update was published in November 2020. For the first time this includes 'Future Flood Maps' which are based on projected increases in peak river flows and mean sea levels (currently based on a high-emissions climate scenario from UKCP09 data). These maps have been launched on SEPA's new Beta Version 2.0 Flood Map, and SEPA invites feedback on these revised maps from all users: <https://map.sepa.org.uk/floodmaps>

E. CONCLUSION

This report is to advise the Panel of the Council's proposed Flood Risk Management actions and the consultation arrangements for the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 Cycle 2 Flood Strategies and Plans.

- Phase 1 of the public consultation for the 2021-2027 Draft Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy was launched on the 21 December 2020.

- Phase 2 of the public consultation for the 2021-2027 Draft Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy was due to be launched in March 2021, alongside the launch of the public consultation for the 2022-2028 Draft Forth Estuary Local Flood Risk Management Plan. The consultation programme has now been delayed due to the recent cyber-attack on SEPA and increased Covid lockdown early 2021.

Once launched the main consultation period is expected to remain open for 3 months, and all feedback is welcomed. The Draft prioritised actions for Cycle 2 (2022-2028) for each of the council's Objective Target Areas are detailed in Appendix 1.

Unless already allocated funding by the council, the proposed actions are reliant on the approval of funding from the Scottish Government, and available council staff resources. The funding allocation for Cycle 2 is expected to be announced in October 2021.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

- Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, Published by SEPA, December 2015
- Local Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District, Published by City of Edinburgh Council, June 2016
- National Flood Risk Assessment, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 26 June 2018
- Forth Estuary Local Plan District – Flood Risk Management Interim Report, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 26 February 2019
- Consultation on Cycle 2 of the Forth Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans, Report by the Head of Operational Services to the Council Executive, 17 November 2020

Appendices/Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Cycle 2 DRAFT Prioritised Actions Table for West Lothian Council

Appendix 2 – Cycle 2 DRAFT Local Authority Wide Actions for West Lothian Council

Appendix 3 - Scottish Government Letter re Implementation Plan Funding, December 2020

Appendix 4 – One Planet Prosperity Draft Flood Strategy – West Lothian Council's Consultation Response, dated 26 Nov 2020

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07769 725540, shona.collins@westlothian.gov.uk

Jim Jack, Head of Operational Services

Date of meeting: 2 February 2021

APPENDIX 1 – Cycle 2 DRAFT Prioritised Actions for West Lothian Council

OTA Information		OTA Prioritisation		FRM Strategy Information					FRM Plan Information	
OTA ID	OTA	AAD	Social score	Proposed action	Flood Source	Lead Responsible Authority	FRM Cycle	Generic description	Local detail	Coordination
295	Livingston and Mid Calder	£2,595,543	4	Flood scheme or works design	Pluvial	Scottish Water	Ongoing	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	The recommended works should progress to the design and implementation stages, as appropriate. The impact of climate change on the proposed solution should be considered and if appropriate, an Adaptation Plan developed.	West Lothian Council
295	Livingston and Mid Calder	£2,595,543	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system have been identified. Next steps in managing such water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems have been identified and should be implemented. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated as needed.	West Lothian Council published a high level Surface Water Management plan in 2015. The Plan identifies a ‘road-map’ for the management of surface water flood risk and the need for further detailed studies. The Plan should be kept under review and updated as new information becomes available.	Scottish Water
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Flood study	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 1	An understanding of flood risk and associated issues in the area is to be developed, which may include surveys and modelling and should consider the impacts of climate change on flood risk.	Planned flood study for Bell’s burn should be completed. The study should include flood modelling and should flood risk be confirmed, scoping of flood protection options.	
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Flood study (existing flood defences)	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	The performance and condition of the existing flood defences are to be evaluated, including consideration of the likely impacts of climate change. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A study is recommended to investigate the performance and long-term management of the existing Flood Protection Scheme along the Mains Burn. The study may require survey of flood defences, data collection and flood modelling. The study should include a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change and aim to develop a long-term plan to managing the flood defences (Adaptation Plan).	
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Data collection	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Ongoing	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height is to be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the River Avon. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system have been identified. Next steps in managing such water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems have been identified and should be implemented. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated as needed.	West Lothian Council published a high level Surface Water Management plan in 2015. The Plan identifies a ‘road-map’ for the management of surface water flood risk and the need for further detailed studies. The Plan should be kept under review and updated as new information becomes available.	Scottish Water
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Integrated catchment study	Fluvial+ Pluvial	Scottish Water	TBC	Interactions between flood water in rivers, surface water drainage and sewer systems are to be considered, and ways to reduce the risk of this causing flooding in the future are to be identified.	The integrated catchment study should be completed to supplement current understanding of flood risk in Linlithgow and to support proposed actions to manage surface water flood risk.	West Lothian Council
246	Linlithgow	£651,916	2	Flood defence maintenance	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Ongoing	The existing flood defences are to be maintained by the asset owner to ensure they are in good condition.	Local authority should continue to maintain the existing Linlithgow Flood Protection Scheme on the Mains Burn.	

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OTA Information		OTA Prioritisation		FRM Strategy Information					FRM Plan Information	
OTA ID	OTA	AAD	Social score	Proposed action	Flood Source	Lead Responsible Authority	FRM Cycle	Generic description	Local detail	Coordination
196	Bathgate	£374,764	4	Flood study	Fluvial+ Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 1	An understanding of flood risk and associated issues in the area is to be developed, which may include surveys and modelling and should consider the impacts of climate change on flood risk.	A flood study for Bathgate is due to be carried out in 2020-21. It is worth noting that the Boghead Burn/Bog Burn/Couston Water Burn is failing to meet WFD objectives. Water Environment Fund project (Bathgate Water Restoration) is underway in the area which could bring flooding benefits. The local community will be advised of any resulting Works.	WEF (Bathgate Water restoration)
196	Bathgate	£374,764	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system have been identified. Next steps in managing such water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems have been identified and should be implemented. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated as needed.	West Lothian Council published a high level Surface Water Management plan in 2015. The Plan identifies a ‘road-map’ for the management of surface water flood risk and the need for further detailed studies. The Plan should be kept under review and updated as new information becomes available.	Scottish Water
196	Bathgate	£374,764	4	Integrated catchment study	Fluvial+ Pluvial	Scottish Water	TBC	Interactions between flood water in rivers, surface water drainage and sewer systems are to be considered, and ways to reduce the risk of this causing flooding in the future are to be identified.	The integrated catchment study should be completed to supplement current understanding of flood risk in Linlithgow and to support proposed actions to manage surface water flood risk.	West Lothian Council
196	Bathgate	£374,764	4	Sewer flood risk assessment	Fluvial+ Pluvial	Scottish Water	TBC	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to help prioritise areas for further work.		
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Flood scheme or works design	Fluvial+ Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 1	The selected preferred approach for managing flood risk is to be designed following the completion of the flood study, including consideration of the long-term impacts of climate change. These can include small scale works or works to improve catchment management. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	Detailed design for future phases of the flood protection scheme in Broxburn commenced in 2019 with local authority funding. Proposed works include Liggat Syke Flood Relief Culvert and Basin, property level protection scheme for New Holygate and Parkwood Gardens and West Burnside Flood Embankment. Stakeholder and public consultations are due to be carried out in these areas in 2021.	SEPA, Scottish Water, Scottish Canals
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Flood scheme or works	Pluvial	Scottish Water	Ongoing	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The legacy SUDS project is to continue in partnership between the local authority and Scottish Water.	West Lothian Council
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Flood scheme or works implementation	Fluvial+ Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The future phases of Broxburn flood protection scheme should continue to the construction phase subject to securing funding. The future phases include the Liggat Syke Flood Relief Culvert & Basin, PLP scheme costs for New Holygate & Parkwood Gardens and West Burnside Flood Embankment.	SEPA, Scottish Water, Scottish Canals
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Flood study (existing flood defences)	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	The performance and condition of the existing flood defences are to be evaluated, including consideration of the likely impacts of climate change. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A study is recommended to investigate the long-term performance and management of the existing Flood Protection Scheme in Broxburn. The study may require survey of flood defences, data collection and flood modelling. The study should include a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of climate change and aim to develop a long-term plan to managing the flood defences (Adaptation Plan). The local community will be advised of any resulting works.	

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206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system have been identified. Next steps in managing such water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems have been identified and should be implemented. The Plan is to be reviewed and updated as needed.	West Lothian Council published a high level Surface Water Management Plan in 2015. The Plan identifies a 'road-map' for the management of surface water flood risk and the need for further detailed studies. The Plan should be kept under review and updated as new information becomes available.	Scottish Water
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Flood defence maintenance	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Ongoing	The existing flood defences are to be maintained by the asset owner to ensure they are in good condition.	Maintenance to the existing Broxburn flood protection scheme completed in 2008 should continue.	
206	Broxburn	£304,974	4	Sewer flood risk assessment	Fluvial+ Pluvial	Scottish Water	TBC	The volume of water that would overwhelm the sewer system and cause flooding from man-holes or inside our homes is to be assessed, to help prioritise areas for further work.		
325	Whitburn	£151,358	4	Data collection	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Ongoing	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height is to be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the White Burn. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	
325	Whitburn	£151,358	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Whitburn to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area.	Scottish Water
191	Armada	£74,024	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Armada to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area. The local community will be advised of any resulting Works.	Scottish Water
197	Blackburn	£53,084	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Blackburn to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area.	Scottish Water

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229	Fauldhouse	£31,096	4	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Fauldhouse to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area.	Scottish Water
323	West Calder	£31,054	1	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 2	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for West Calder to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area.	Scottish Water
282	Blackridge	£2,775	5	Flood scheme or works implementation	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3	The flood scheme/works is to be built following agreement of the design, costs and timescales.	The recommendations of the flood study should be taken forward to reduce surface water flood risk in Blackridge. These include surface water works and consideration of natural flood management opportunities.	
282	Blackridge	£2,775	5	Flood study	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3+	An understanding of flood risk and associated issues in the area is to be developed, which may include surveys and modelling and should consider the impacts of climate change on flood risk.	The flood protection study for the Barbauchlaw Burn was completed in 2019. The study should be updated once more hydrological information is available to confirm the understanding of flood risk.	
282	Blackridge	£2,775	5	Data collection	Fluvial	West Lothian Council	Ongoing	Equipment that measures rainfall, river levels, erosion, ground levels or wave height is to be installed and maintained to improve our understanding of flood risk. This can be done over short term or to measure longer term impacts.	West Lothian Council should continue current efforts in data collection and monitoring to improve the confidence in flood sources, mechanisms and risk relating to river flooding from the Barbauchlaw Burn. The new data should be used to update the existing flood risk assessment as deemed necessary.	
282	Blackridge	£2,775	5	Surface water management plan	Pluvial	West Lothian Council	Cycle 3+	Areas at risk of heavy or prolonged rainfall causing flooding due to water ponding on man-made surfaces or overwhelming the drainage system are to be identified. These priority areas will provide a baseline for the identification of next steps in managing water ponding or over-whelmed drainage systems. This should guide adaptive planning to allow for the impacts of climate change to be monitored, understood and managed.	A surface water management plan should be developed for Blackridge to improve understanding of surface water flood risk. Current and long-term flood risk should be considered including how climate change may impact flood risk in the area.	Scottish Water
TOTAL AAD		£4,270,588								

* Upon confirmation from Scottish Water the Integrated Catchment Studies Actions are to be removed; the 2019 Catchment Flood Assessments for Linlithgow & Bathgate both concluded with low damages and no specific WLC actions.

National action	Generic description (FRM Strategy)	Local description (LFRM Plan)
Inspection and maintenance	Local authorities are to continue to inspect, clear and maintain watercourses in line with their legal obligations.	West Lothian Council carries out prioritised watercourse inspections within their area, as well as undertaking clearance and repair work. Road gullies are also inspected and maintained to reduce flood risk.
Self help	Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding. Self help measures are to continue to be promoted by the responsible authorities, including purchase of property flood resilience measures, signing up for Floodline, the Flood Re insurance scheme and preparing a flood kit.	All landowners have the responsibility to inspect and maintain their flood risk management assets. In the event of severe issues West Lothian Council will work with other responsible authorities to support residents, businesses and local resilient communities groups as required. West Lothian Council continues to promote property flood resilience measures, Floodline, and the FloodRe insurance scheme.
Emergency plan	The plan to coordinate responses to emergency incidents between organisations, including local authorities, the emergency services and SEPA, is to be maintained and executed as required.	West Lothian Council has a Severe Weather Plan and Major Incident Plans which are regularly reviewed and updated (where necessary) after flood events. The Plans provide local resilience partnerships with the information required to respond to flooding incidents. An emergency response to flooding may also include Scottish water and voluntary groups.
Land use planning	Planning authority should ensure that their development plan and planning decision-making supports delivery of sustainable flood management.	West Lothian Council's Flooding and Drainage Supplementary Planning Guidance was updated to support the adoption of their 2018 Local Development Plan. Its purpose is to assist developers and their agents by providing context and an overview of issues that the council has to have regard to when producing and implementing a land use development plan, highlighting the matters that will need to be considered and the information that will need to be brought forward by developers when submitting a planning application to ensure that new development are not at risk of flooding, that the risk of flooding is not increased elsewhere and that the water environment is protected and, where necessary, restored to a more natural, resilient condition.
Flood forecasting	The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service is to be kept operational by SEPA and the Met Office to provide flood alerts nationally.	SEPA's 'Edinburgh & Lothians Flood Warning Area' covers the West Lothian Council area. The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service advises SEPA's Floodline service where Residents can be notified when flooding is likely in their area, see www.floodlinescotland.org.uk
Awareness raising	SEPA, local authorities and others to help communities understand their flood risk and the actions they can take to reduce their risk of flooding.	The Scottish Flood Forum, SEPA and West Lothian Council continue to raise awareness of flooding, providing advice and guidance on flood matters.



E: Gerry.Smith@gov.scot

Local Authority Flooding Contacts

8 December 2020

Dear Colleague

Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009

As you know, we are beginning to reach some of the significant deadlines in implementation of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009. In particular, SEPA is required to publish the draft Flood Risk Management Strategies by 22 December 2020, and local authorities now have until 31 March 2021 to publish a draft of the local flood risk management plan.

I understand that concerns have been raised about listing potential actions in the draft implementation plan, particularly in the light of future funding uncertainties. The principle of producing flood risk management plans is supposed to ensure a long-term, informed planning process that sets out the direction of travel for a 6 year period. Including “potential actions” in the implementation plan does not commit a local authority to implementation if, for any reason, that proves to be unworkable – one such reason could be that funding could not be secured. However, it does allow the public to see that local authorities recognise that there are flooding issues that require addressing in specific areas. This is likely to be an important assurance to the public during the consultation exercise.

The adoption of consistent principles, approaches and methods at each stage of the flood risk management planning process is essential to ensure a nationally comparable approach, which will inform management and investment decisions.

Finally, I should like to thank everyone involved in getting the flood risk management planning process to this stage during a very difficult year. I hope all those involved in flood risk management have a well deserved break over Christmas, and that the weather is kind to us.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Smith
Head of Flood Risk Management Team



Response ID ANON-USYV-F99Y-8

Submitted to **One Planet Prosperity: Our Flooding Services Strategy**
Submitted on **2020-11-26 20:00:48**

Introduction**1 What is your name?**

Name:

Shona Collins

2 What is your email address?

Email:

shona.collins@westlothian.gov.uk

3 What is your organisation?

Organisation:

West Lothian Council

Planning for the future

4 Our Government has declared a climate emergency and there is already clear evidence of climate change impacts on flooding in Scotland. Do you agree that our Flood Maps, National Flood Risk Assessment and Flood Risk Management Strategies should consider the impact of a high emissions climate scenario?

Yes

Please explain the reason for your answer:

Climate change projections, like all modelling, contains uncertainties.

We have to make cautious decisions based on the worst case (high emissions) scenario in order to be best prepared to live safely and healthy in our future climate.

Our Vision

5 Climate Change is expected to increase flooding significantly in the future. It is important that people and communities remain safe and able to adapt to new conditions. With this in mind, to what extent do you agree with our vision: Scotland's people and places are resilient to flooding?

Agree

6 What actions can you or your organisation take to support us deliver our vision?

Actions:

Front line flood risk management through

- Maintenance and Inspection of watercourses, FRM assets, road gullies
- local coordination of emergency response during a flood event
- Supporting householders in the aftermath of a flood event

Improving national quality of FRM evidence through targeted local studies within areas identified at risk.

Delivery of new FRM assets to reduce flood risk

Development Management input through the councils Local Development Plan process, and assessment of planning applications.

Communicating awareness of flood risk in our community, in relation to the local weather, infrastructure and historic flooding issues.

Communicating Flood Risk

7 Our flood maps are important tools for communicating flood risk. What areas of improvement would increase your confidence and capability in using the maps for decision-making? Please rank options 1-6 - 1 = high priority 6 = low priority.

Areas of improvement flood maps - Ease of access (how you find it online):

2

Areas of improvement flood maps - Usability (how easy is it to use):

3

Areas of improvement flood maps - Ease of understanding (how clear its purpose is):

4

Areas of improvement flood maps - Accuracy and resolution:

1

Areas of improvement flood maps - Accessibility for people with disabilities or impairments:

6

Areas of improvement flood maps - Self-service one-stop shop for flood risk data:

5

Building Resilient Communities

8 We aim to support the development of great places to live and work that are adapted to a future with increased flood risk. How can we help communities, especially the most disadvantaged become more resilient e.g. provide information for Home Reports, improved flood warnings, engaging with communities?

How can we help communities become more resilient?:

All of the above examples.

Community engagement in schools, using creative artists.

Improve understanding of the flooding impact of dumping rubbish (especially household furniture) in nearby watercourses, this predominantly occurs in disadvantaged communities.

Establish a National PLP/PFR Scheme where householders/housing associations can access the latest information on appropriate products, approved suppliers and maintenance advice. Products, Installation & Maintenance costs could be appropriately subsidised depending on the local Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Improving Our Flood Warning Service

9 Our Flood Warning Development Framework (2017-2021) sets out our current commitments to develop our flood forecasting and warning service. Going beyond 2021, what should be our priorities to improve our service for people and communities in Scotland? Please rank options 1-4. 1 = high priority 4 = low priority

Priorities to improve service for people and communities - Expand our coverage of local (community level) flood warnings:

2

Priorities to improve service for people and communities - Improve the accuracy and extend the lead time of our existing service:

3

Priorities to improve service for people and communities - Provide more information digitally and all in one place (for example observed rainfall, observed water levels and forecast water levels):

4

Priorities to improve service for people and communities - Engage more with local communities to explain our service and support the development of local resilience groups:

1

Other: