

River Kent Catchment Update

Future Flood Risk Management

September 2018

Kendal, Burneside, Staveley and Ings

In the summer of 2017 we held public meetings to discuss an extensive range of options for managing flood risk in over 20 communities across Cumbria. This is referred to as the 'long list' of options. Following this, a substantial amount of work has been done to consider the economic viability, technical feasibility, environmental sustainability and social acceptability of those options and at the start of 2018, we shared with you the short list of options.

We have since refined these further and are now working towards the preferred option/s for your community. This newsletter will provide a summary of these option/s for your community as well as details of our up and coming drop in events which you can attend to find out more.

How is flood risk being managed?

We continue to work 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 the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership (CSFP).

This catchment approach enables us to identify options to better manage flood risk and includes upstream management, strengthening defences, resilience and improved maintenance.

Natural Flood Risk Measures in the Catchment

We are working with a number of partner organisations and landowners to identify opportunities where Natural Flood Risk measures can be delivered. This is part of a pilot project to test and improve our understanding of how utilising natural processes can reduce the extent of flooding to communities across the Kent Catchment, as well as shaping how we fully integrate these measures across the County in the future.

Examples of measures include woodland creation, woody debris dams, soil aeration, land management adaptations, river and floodplain restoration.

If you would like further information about Natural Flood Risk Management, visit our online Evidence Directory here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-with-natural-processes-to-reduce-flood-risk

River Maintenance

We maintain a wide variety of assets on main rivers such as flood embankments, pumping stations and flood gates, which protect people and property from the risk of flooding. Each year we review and publish our maintenance programme which can be viewed online at www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme

The maintenance work includes tasks such as keeping embankments in good condition, checking that key sections of rivers are free from obstructions, clearing grids and making sure coastal and river gates and flaps are functioning properly.

customer service line
03708 506 506

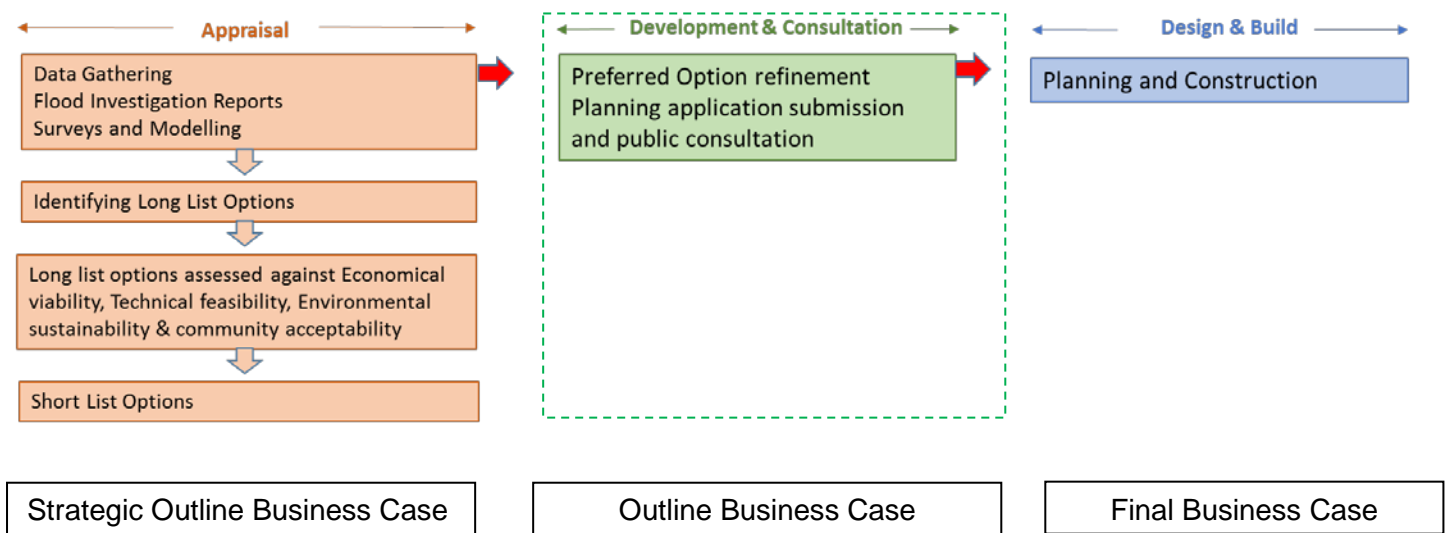
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0800 80 70 60

floodline
03459 88 11 88

Developing a Flood Risk Management Scheme

Developing a flood risk management scheme is a very complex process and does take time. There are a number of key pieces of work we need to undertake in order for us to develop our understanding, and identify and refine all of the possible options for reducing flood risk. Our ultimate aim is to identify a preferred option (or a number of options) which is economically viable, technically feasible, environmentally sustainable, acceptable to the local community and has been successful in securing Government and other partnership funding.

Below is a summary of our Appraisal process which is split into 3 distinct stages.



Approval process

The Strategic Outline Business Case provides a high level understanding of the flood risk and demonstrates the need to continue working to develop the Outline Business Case for a scheme. Appraisal Summary Reports are also produced at this stage where flood risk management schemes are not progressing further. These reports will explain why we are unable to progress with a scheme due to options not being technically feasible, economically viable, environmentally sustainable and/or acceptable to the community.

The Outline Business Case is where we refine our preferred option as part of the 'Development & Consultation' stage. This is the stage we are at now for Kendal and we will be hosting a drop in event shortly within your community to share in detail the preferred option/s and gather your feedback. Please see the 'Community specific information' section below for details of the drop in sessions.

The Final Business Case provides all the detailed technical, economic and environmental information to justify a compelling case to invest Government and other partnership money to build a scheme. We also need to demonstrate that all relevant planning permissions, permits, landowner, funding and legal agreements are in place, and we are currently in the process of securing these.

This process can take some time. Since we are spending Government money to provide flood risk management we must follow their rules and procedures. For further information on the funding process and the rules we must follow, 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 (CSFP) website www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org

Community specific information

Below is an update on the preferred option/s for your community along with the details of the 'drop in' events.

Kendal

The proposed Flood Risk Management (FRM) Scheme for Kendal has been divided into phases:

Phase 1: focuses on the construction of linear flood defences using walls and embankments through Kendal and improvements to the Stock Beck drainage system in the Sandylands area of the town.

The proposed new flood defences will start at Kentrigg on the River Kent and the A6 on the River Mint, protecting the North Kendal Industrial Areas and extending through the centre of the town down to Helsington Mills.

Phase 2: involves the construction of two flood storage areas on the River Kent upstream of Kendal, which will temporarily store floodwater and release it gradually to reduce the risk of flooding to properties downstream. More information about the flood storage areas will be available at the public 'drop in' session.

Funding

In addition to securing government funds and contributions from those benefiting from the scheme, we are also working with South Lakeland District Council to secure European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). ERDF funding must be targeted towards reducing flood risk to businesses, and will support the delivery of elements of the Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme Phase 1 proposed for the North Kendal Industrial Areas.

Timeframe

We have a challenging timeframe for delivering Phase 1 of the scheme. This is partly driven by the requirements of the European Regional Development Fund. The application for European Regional Development Funds will be submitted in November 2018.

A community 'drop in' event for Kendal has been arranged for Wednesday 26th September 2018 from 3.30pm – 7.00pm in the Assembly Room (upstairs) at Kendal Town Hall.

The drop-in event will discuss the whole Kendal Flood Risk Management Scheme, and specialists will be present to discuss the details of the preferred option, receive feedback and respond to questions, all of which will be used to finalise our option designs and planning applications. The planning application for Phase 1 will be submitted to South Lakeland District Council in October 2018 and a decision received by January 2019.

We aim to have all of the necessary approvals and legal agreements in place to obtain Full Business Case approval for Kendal Phase 1 by March 2019 to enable us to commence construction in Spring 2019, completing the linear defences through Kendal by March 2021.

Phase 2 for the flood storage areas will follow in 2020.

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Burneside, Staveley and Ings

The preferred options for Burneside, Staveley and Ings have been considered in conjunction with the preferred option for Kendal, providing a strategic flood risk management scheme for the Kent Catchment. The proposed upstream storage will reduce the flood risk in Staveley and Burneside, as well as Kendal. Linear flood defence walls will also be built in Burneside, Staveley and Ings in addition to improvements to floodplain management in key locations.

A Community 'drop in' session has been arranged for Staveley and Ings on Wednesday 17th October 2018 from 3.30pm – 7.00pm in Staveley Village Hall.

A community 'drop in' session has been arranged for Burneside on Friday 19th October 2018 from 3.30pm – 7.00pm in the Burneside Cricket Club.

We will have specialists available to discuss the details of the preferred option/s for the whole Kent catchment at both drop-in events, receive feedback and respond to questions, all of which will be used to finalise our option designs and planning applications.

Timeframe

We aim to submit the planning applications for Burneside, Staveley and Ings in early Summer 2019. We will then submit our Full Business Case for approval, enabling us to commence construction in Autumn 2019. Construction will be completed by March 2021.

Keeping up to date

Information shared at the planned drop-ins, and any future and past information shared, will be available to view on the CSFP website www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org

If you have access to social media, follow the Environment Agency on Twitter (@EnvAgencyNW) for updates on future public engagement.

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

Get involved in Community Resilience

There are a number of community groups and Flood Action Groups (FIAGs) across the Kent Catchment including, Staveley and Ings, Burneside and a number throughout Kendal. FIAGs represent their communities in a number of ways including liaising with Agencies on local flood issues with a view to developing better flood protection measures and producing community emergency plans to help protect local people. If you are interested in getting involved please contact clfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk.

There are a number of tools which have been developed to help plan and prepare for flooding and other emergencies. Visit www.cumbriaaction.org.uk/Resources-Publications/Toolkits-Workbooks and select the Community Emergency Planning Toolkit for more information.




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 of the risk and to be prepared. We can support you by: signing you up to receive free **flood alerts and warnings**, helping you to produce a **personal flood plan**, offering **property resistance and resilience** information, and supporting the ongoing work of **community flood action groups**.

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

1. **Sign up** to receive free flood alerts and warnings online or via Floodline on 0345 988 1188.
2. **Know what to do.** Have a personal flood plan for you and your family, and consider packing a bag with essential items and having it ready to go in the event of flooding.
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

Flood warning codes and what they mean

 FLOOD ALERT	<p>A flood alert means flooding is possible. Think about what you would do in a flood, prepare a plan in advance and keep an eye on the situation.</p>
 FLOOD WARNING	<p>A flood warning means flooding of homes and business is expected. Take action to make sure you and the people around you are safe, and try to reduce the impact of the flood (for example by moving important items to a safe place.)</p>
 SEVERE FLOOD WARNING	<p>A severe flood warning means serious flooding is expected and there is danger to life. People should get to safe place and be prepared to evacuate. Listen to the advice of the emergency services.</p>

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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