

## Action Plan

Where appropriate, in delivering our actions we will work in partnership with other organisations.

Action	Priority (High: up to 3 years, Medium: 3-6 years, Low: 6+ years)	Potential Funding Source	Lead Partner	Support Partner
<b><i>Objective 1: Partnership Working - Establish and maintain effective partnerships within our own organisation, with other Risk Management Authorities, with our neighbouring Lead Local Flood Authorities and with our local communities</i></b>				
Improve the Local Flood Risk Technical Group by bringing together more local partners that have an interest in or a duty to manage local flood risk.	High, then on going	-	CBC	MKC, BBC, BGIDB, EA, AW, TW
Work more closely across all Central Bedfordshire Council departments to provide joined up services that take account of flood risk management so that all our work programmes are based on the Strategy and have opportunities to influence its development.	High	-	CBC	-
Continue to promote partnership working with Parish Councils and local communities.	On going	-	CBC	-

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**Objective 2: Flood Risk and Development - Ensure that development looks to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding and that all development uses SuDS as normal practice, and where appropriate safeguard land which is needed for current and future flood management**

NB: Some of these actions refer to the acronym SuDS. This stands for Sustainable Drainage Systems, which are systems that include ways of making runoff from rainfall behave as if it was flowing off land that was not developed. The natural runoff effect can be achieved by using a variety of measures and these also improve the quality of the water discharging to the rivers and channels. The measures can help to reduce the volume and flow of surface water runoff, trap pollutants and promote biodiversity.

Establish a SuDS Approval Body (SAB) to approve proposed sustainable drainage systems used as part of new developments and develop local standards to aid the design process.	High	-	CBC	EA
Ensure Central Bedfordshire Council's Planning policies and development control responses take account of local flood risk management, for example supporting the control of inappropriate development in flood risk areas.	On going	-	CBC	EA
Ensure new developments comply with Central Bedfordshire Council's flood risk management objectives, using sustainable drainage as normal practice.	On going	-	CBC	EA
Decide whether new bylaws are needed to ensure that people, who own land, including a watercourse, manage their land responsibly to reduce the risk of flooding for the benefit of the wider community.	High	-	CBC	BGIDB, EA
Work with other RMAs to develop a surface water policy	High	-	CBC and AW	BGIDB, EA

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**Objective 3: Local Flood Risk - Develop a greater understanding of local flood risk by identifying where assets may influence the impact of local flood risk, how local flood risk may change in the future and improve local knowledge and recording of flooding incidents**

Develop and maintain a record of all known flooding on a parish by parish basis to ensure that local knowledge of flood risk is accessible to all.	High, then on going	-	CBC	-
Develop an asset register of things (e.g. assets such as culverts) or features (e.g. walls, banks) in Central Bedfordshire that have a significant effect on flood risk.	High, then on going	-	CBC	-
Investigate the things that affect flood risk, such as blockages to culverts, to understand what might be done to reduce the risk of flooding.	High	-	CBC	-
Continue to develop prioritisation of parishes (through the investment plan process) and use this information to inform and influence updates to the action plan	High, then on going	-	CBC	BGIDB, EA, AW, TW
Investigate local flooding and identify possible solutions, taking enforcement action where appropriate if a landowner has failed in their responsibility to take action to reduce flooding risk.	On going	-	CBC	BGIDB, EA, AW, TW
Carry out an assessment to determine where Central Bedfordshire Council may have a responsibility with regards to the risk of flooding from reservoirs and understand the implications of similar assessments prepared by others. Ensure emergency plans are put	High	-	CBC	-

in place where necessary to counter these risks and keep communities informed of potential risks.				
<p>Take steps to better understand local flood risk by preparing Surface Water Management Plans (or undertake a similar assessment) for areas at higher risk of flooding. Currently we anticipate that we will be completing studies for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arlesey (and Stotfold)</li> <li>• Blunham</li> <li>• Caddington</li> <li>• Biggleswade</li> <li>• Leighton Buzzard <i>(note: see additional information at the end of the action plan table)</i></li> <li>• Southill</li> </ul>	High	Defra grants is a possible source of partial funding	CBC	EA, BGIDB, AW, TW
As new information becomes available, reassess flooding risks in areas categorised as medium risk and monitor risks in areas categorised as low risk.	High (for years 2-3 pending funding)	Defra grants is a possible source of partial funding	CBC	EA, BGIDB
Liaise with Emergency Planning team with regards to local flood risk analysis and understand linkages with community risk register.	High	-	CBC (flood risk management)	CBC (emergency planning)
Review the groundwater analyses completed as part of the PFRA and establish whether the analysis requires updating in light of new information that may be available.	High	-	CBC (flood risk management)	CBC (emergency planning)

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<i>Objective 4: Delivery - Establish processes to enable identification of priorities, sources of funding and schemes so that we meet our objectives</i>				
Develop processes to align investment across RMAs in order for all organisations to work together in identifying priorities across Central Bedfordshire to maximise opportunities	High	-	CBC	EA, BGIDB, AW, TW
Investigate opportunities for property level protection (PLP) at properties at risk of flooding in Leighton Buzzard/Linslade.	High	-	CBC	EA

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***Objective 5: Resource - To take a collaborative approach to reducing flood risk and where appropriate seeking opportunities for packaging work to deliver multiple outcomes. We will aim to use all available resources and funds in an integrated way to support our priority of achieving efficiency savings.***

Take advantage of new ways of paying for things that are most needed. We will use an Investment Plan to look at the opportunities to find funding from a variety of organisations, businesses and communities. By working together with our partners we will be able to make best use of the available money.	High		CBC	EA, BGIDB, AW, TW
Prioritise what action we can take to minimise flood risk based on this funding.	High		CBC	-

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***Objective 6: Local Communities - Limit the effect of flooding on people's normal way of life by taking action with our partners to minimise the impact of local flood risk on our communities and environment, engaging with and empowering affected communities and ensuring that we provide clear and useful information to enhance our local communities' preparedness and resilience to local flood risk***

Encourage local communities to become involved in reducing flood risk by giving those communities that wish to help themselves the training and support to run community response groups. This might see a community take responsibility for recording the level flooding reaches, for instance.	On going	-	CBC	-
Make local communities more aware of the work Central Bedfordshire Council and risk management authorities do.	On going	-	CBC	-
Continue to work with local communities to improve awareness of flood risks and to better understand where help and information can be obtained when flooding occurs or looks likely to occur.	On going	-	CBC	-