

Flood Risk Management

Highways Service

Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 14 March 2024



OFFICIAL



Statutory duties

- Highways Act (1980):
 - Duty to maintain highway infrastructure as safe and available
- Statutory duty: Flood Water Management Act 2010:
 - Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA): Coordinating flood management
 - Managing Ordinary Watercourses: Land drainage consents, consultee on planning applications on surface water drainage
 - Investigation of flooding to properties (Residential and business)
 - Register of structures and features to manage flood risk
 - Investigating “significant flooding” (S19 reports):
 - Internal flooding of living space (i.e. not basements or garages)
 - Rural: Two or more properties
 - Urban: Four or more properties
- Civil Contingencies Act (2004):
 - Category 1 Responders for at risk properties

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Strategic Framework

Flood Risk Management Strategy

- Published in 2017, due for review as part of our policy and strategy framework
- Objectives:
 1. Set out responsibilities for flooding
 2. Assess the risks of flooding
 3. Reduce flood risk and adverse consequences
 4. Develop actions and interventions to reduce flood risk
 5. Manage flood risk sustainably

Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

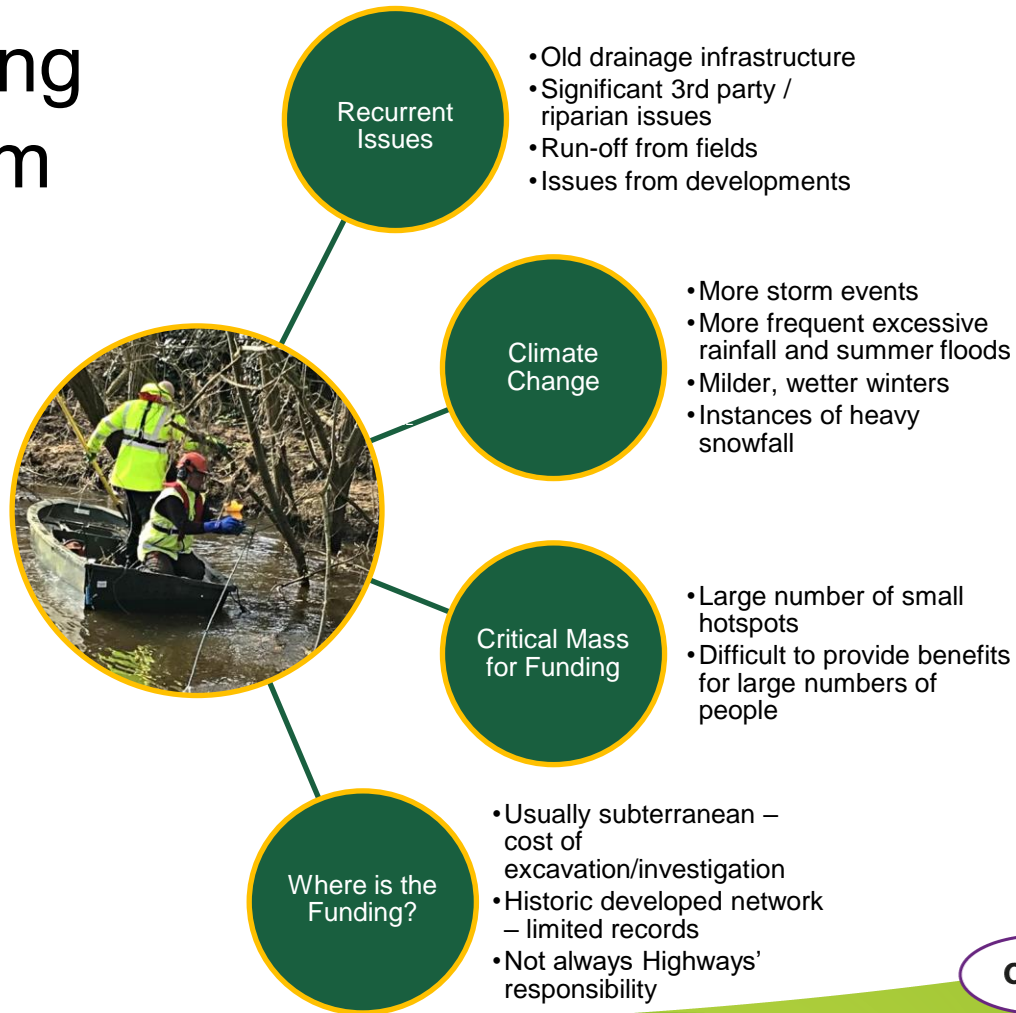
- Recently reviewed and updated
- 14 priority areas with flood history and unfavourable topography:
 - Bollington, Calveley, Church Minshull, Congleton, Crewe, Handforth, Kettleshulme, Little Bollington, Macclesfield, Nantwich, Pott Shrigley, Poynton, Prestbury, and Wybunbury
- Supports decisions on planning applications, masterplans and community infrastructure levy / planning obligations

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A growing problem



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Our High-Risk Areas

- High Risk Areas are outlined in the SFRA
- Generally, an area is considered high risk if it:
 - Is on an Environment Agency Surface Water Flood Risk map
 - Has flooding history
 - Has unfavourable topography
- Highest risk areas are known as ‘Critical Drainage Areas’.
- Areas at highest general risk: Macclesfield, Nantwich, Poynton
- 26,000 residential properties at risk of surface water flooding in Cheshire East to a depth of 10cm

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Functions

Drainage

- **Routine:** Cleaning of gullies, drainage structures
- **Reactive:** Unblocking gullies, removing surface water
- **Proactive:** Drainage schemes to increase capacity

Lead Local Flood Authority

- **Flood infrastructure management:** Deliver works to manage flood risk
- **Multi-agency:** Coordination with risk management authorities
- **Planning consultee:** Consulted on planning applications for surface water drainage / SuDS

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Actions

- Upcoming projects during 2024-5 inc. Station Road, Calveley and Moss Lane, Styal
- Increase in gully cleansing in MTFS
- Promoting **Sustainable Drainage Systems** (SuDS) with developers
- Reviewing processes for enforcement with planning / legal
- Pursuing funding:
 - Additional external funding opportunities
 - Retrospective funding where we have improved drainage and flood risk infrastructure (“betterment”)
 - Learning where we have been unsuccessful
- Develop a SuDS Approval Body team (Schedule 3)
 - Specific requirement to approve SuDS on new developments >100m²
 - Awaiting legislation to be implemented in England (already operates in Wales and Scotland) – expected 2024-5

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External funding opportunities

