Cumbria flood action plan

Cockermouth community action table

The purpose of this action table is to highlight the flood management that is currently in place and the specific actions that are happening or proposed within Cumbria flood action plan for this community.

Please read this table in conjunction with the full Cumbria flood action plan and summary document, which can be found online by visiting www.gov.uk and searching Cumbria flood action plan.

Catchment: Derwent

Impact of December 2015 flood: Approximately 640 homes and businesses were flooded

Description: Cockermouth is a thriving market town with medieval and Georgian streets beneath the castle walls. The Cockermouth System is predominately urban incorporating Cockermouth Town, Eaglesfield & Belle Vue Villages. The rural sections extend from both east and west of Cockermouth, the east extends from Cockermouth to the upstream limit of Tom Rudd Beck and to the west as far as The Sheep and Wool Centre roundabout on the A595/A66

Cockermouth better protected

1) Do Now (within next 12 months):

- Complete repair and recovery work
- Set up temporary defences and pump deployment plan before winter 2016
- Complete Emergency Plans
- Register properties on Floodline Warnings Direct
- Publish and review flood investigation report
- Initiate development of flood risk management improvement works

2) Develop (2-5 years):

- Improvements to flood risk management assets and watercourses in response to the flood investigation report.
- Continue to support sharing knowledge and best practice through the network for Community Action Groups

3) Explore (5+ years):

• Explore opportunities for natural flood risk management and engineered storage upstream of Cockermouth

| | What's already in place | What we're going to do and what this will achieve | When this work will take place | Who's responsible for this work | How much will it cost/ Sources of funding |
|------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Strengthening flood defences | Flooding in Cockermouth is reduced by over 500 m of raised embankment and 1200 m of flood wall. These defences work together to manage river flows through the town. There is also 9 floodgates, 120m of self-raising flood barrier and numerous flap valves on drainage outfalls | Improved defences Review the recommendations from the Section 19 Flood Investigation Report and National Resilience Review to develop integrated flood risk management solutions. Although there may be no funding identified in the currently consented FDGiA Investment Programme, we will submit a bid for funding for viable projects identified following a review of the recommendations at the earliest opportunity, as part of the annual FDGiA Investment Programme refresh and/or when other appropriate sources of funding are made available. | | Environment Agency | |
| | | Provide access to additional national mobile defences. | Available before winter 2016 | | |

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|---------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| | | Repairing damages from Storm Desmond Work completed: The pumping station at Gote Road has been restored. Large trees have been removed from the river and the flood walls which were overtopped have been repaired. | Complete | | £530,000 from central government |
| | | Work ongoing: Remove large quantities of gravel, repair the walls at Bitter Beck and re-establish property level protection. Gravel removal on the River Derwent, Cockermouth between Harris footbridge and Gote Bridge is programmed to begin at the end of June. | Short term (within next 12 months) | | |
| | | Modelling and forecasting post-event model re-runs Update the river level model with the most recent flow data available from Storm Desmond to develop and support any future schemes. | Short term (within next 12 months) | Environment Agency | £70,000 (Cumbria wide spend) |
| | | Understanding Bridges Review the role that bridges play in flood risk and their vulnerability during a flood | Short term – strategic review within the next 12 months | Cumbria County Council Environment Agency | |
| Upstream management | Currently there is limited use of Upstream Management in the sub- catchments upstream of Cockermouth | Explore opportunities for engineered and natural flood management solutions to be used upstream of Cockermouth in order to 'slow the flow' and manage peak river levels. | Medium term (5 years) or long term (over 5 years) | Farmers Landowners Community Groups Trusts | |
| | Completed projects include removing sections of flood defence embankment to reconnect the flood plain and reinstatement of an ox bow lake on the river Cocker. | | | | |
| | | Continue with the delivery of restoration projects on the river Derwent and Bassenthwaite Lake. Projects include reconnecting watercourses to their floodplain, removing barriers to fish migration and restoring straightened channels to a more natural meandering course. | Medium term (5 years) | West Cumbria Rivers Trust Natural England Environment Agency | |
| | | Future projects include undertaking a feasibility study to explore options for a full diversion of the river Cocker in the Lorton Valley upstream of Whit beck and further restoration projects on the Derwent and Cocker to reinstate floodplains to be investigated. | Medium term (5 years) | West Cumbria Rivers Trust Natural England Environment Agency | |
| | | Through the River Cocker Crag End Farm Floodplain Reconnection Project remove flood embankments to improve connectivity of river to 20 hectares of floodplain and increase natural flood storage capacity. Add to the flood management benefits by planting of willow crops. | Medium term - 2017 | West Cumbria Rivers Trust Environment Agency Natural England Iggesund | |



| | What's already in place | What we're going to do and what this will achieve | When this work will take place | Who's responsible for this work | How much will it cost/ Sources of funding |
|-------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Maintenance | Flooding in Cockermouth is reduced by over 500m of raised embankment and 1.2km of flood wall. These defences work together to manage river flows through the town. There is also 9 floodgates, 120m of self-raising flood barrier and numerous flap valves on drainage outfalls. | New Environment Agency system will make it easier for communities to understand maintenance in their area. Improvements will show exactly when, where and what maintenance is being planned each year. | Short (within next 12 months) | Communities Environment Agency Parish and district Councils | |
| | These assets and the river channel are maintained by the Environment Agency on an ongoing basis. This includes managing vegetation and removing gravel. The flood wall, embankment and other structures are also inspected and any necessary works carried out. | Make sure that communities understand how they can access information on planned maintenance at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme | | | |
| | The planned maintenance programme is available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-and-coastal-maintenance-programme Cumbria County Council maintains the ordinary watercourses, surface water drainage and highway drainage. | | | | |
| Resilience | There is an active Flood Action Group (FLAG) in Cockermouth. An Emergency Plan has been developed through the FLAG with support from the Environment Agency. | Work with the FLAG and Parish Council to ensure that they are able to continue into the future. Continue to work with communities to establish network of Emergency Groups to share learning and best practice. | Emergency Plan in place | Environment Agency (Flood Warning & Community Resilience) Communities Parish & District Councils Local Government | Local Levy, central government funding (Flood Defence Grant in Aid |
| | Cockermouth currently receives Flood Warnings with an uptake of 81% of at risk properties registered to the service. | Work with the Emergency Group to increase uptake of residents registered to the flood warning service | Short term (within next 12 months) | | |
| | Allerdale District Council is administering flood recovery and resilience grants. | Provide additional support to DCLG and Local Authorities to improve the uptake of the £5,000 Government resilience grants to help people better protect their homes. Applications can be made up until December 2016. A further £2,000 top up grant can also be applied for from the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund. | Closing date for Grant applications – end of December 2016 | | Resilience grants of £5k per property |
| | | Consider long-term development options for the area of Cockermouth around the Gote Road. To reduce risk to existing housing and implement the recommendations from the flood investigation report. | Medium term (5 years) | Allerdale Borough Council | |
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| Water Level Management Boards | There are no Water Level Management Boards in this area | | | | |
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