

Partnership working in Carlisle

National FCERM strategy showcase case study

The *National flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England* sets out how communities, the public sector and other organisations can work together to manage the risk of flooding and coastal erosion better.

Following the devastating floods in Carlisle in 2005, the Environment Agency worked with partners to successfully secure substantial funding for a major flood alleviation scheme designed to address several flood risk issues in one go.

The Challenge

The 2005 floods in Carlisle were caused by heavy rainfall leading to river, surface water and sewer flooding. There was intense political, media and public pressure to come up with a solution.

Approach

The Environment Agency formed a partnership which included United Utilities, Carlisle City Council, Cumbria County Council and the National Farmers Union, pooling expertise and resources to reduce Carlisle's risk of future flooding.

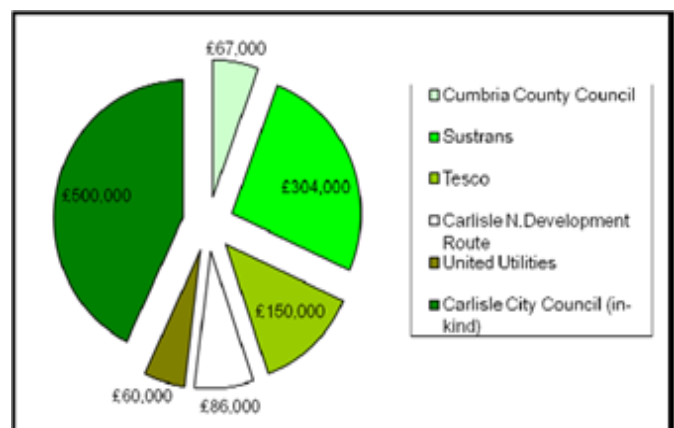
The overall objectives for the flood alleviation scheme were to:

- provide a one in two hundred year level of protection from river flooding;
- involve the community in key design decisions;
- work together to provide a solution to all sources of flood risk.

The project team recognised that it needed to secure external contributions from partners as well as local businesses to ensure the successful implementation of the scheme.

Significant financial contributions from Carlisle City Council, United Utilities, Carlisle North Development Route, Tesco and Sustrans (a charity promoting the sustainable transport), totalled over £1.1 million.

'The success of this project was due to the quality of the stakeholder board, ingenuity of the project team and a joined-up approach to flood risk management'



Phase 2: Caldew & Carlisle scheme - external contributions £1,167,000

Source: Maslen/JBA/Terry Oakes for Defra, 2011

Benefits and outcomes

These contributions, combined with central government funding (Flood Defence Grant in Aid) to manage flood and coastal erosion risk, meant:

- the one in two hundred year standard was achieved for river flooding;
- businesses benefited from the efficient implementation of the scheme, sharing costs and reducing risks;
- key infrastructure was protected.

Further secondary benefits included:

- United Utilities also completed a £12 million major improvement scheme of the city's sewer drainage network;
- Carlisle City Council agreed to maintain the newly constructed flood banks located in public amenity areas and school sports fields;
- the ethos of longer-term partnership working has been maintained with the formation of the Carlisle City Making Space for Water Group which continues to actively manage flood risk.

The overall success of the project was due to the quality of the stakeholder board, ingenuity of the project team and a joined-up approach to flood risk.

More information

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