



# Tackling flood risk together

Community involvement is vital for an effective flood risk strategy

## Plans are being made for managing local flooding and your views can make a valuable contribution to the decision-making process

**F**looding can affect individuals, communities, businesses, the environment and the economy, which is why effective flood management is vital for the Bath and North East Somerset area. As part of the Council's commitment to taking action to reduce the risk and manage flooding, it is set to launch a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, with a draft version being published this autumn.

The Strategy is a first for the Council as part of its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority and deals with the management of flood risk and flooding from local sources – surface water, groundwater and small streams and ditches (known as ordinary watercourses). Responsibility for flooding from main rivers, including the River Avon and the River Chew, remains with the Environment Agency and water companies are responsible for dealing with sewer flooding.

### Joined up thinking

This important new document will help ensure a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach to local flood risk across the area for the next ten years and beyond. It gives greater insight into local flooding issues, considers how these may change, such as through urban development and climate change, and outlines what the Council and its partners need to do to tackle flood risk more effectively – now and in the future.

The Strategy explains the roles and responsibilities of those involved in managing flood risk, and aims to raise awareness of land drainage and the responsibilities of those who own land or property next to a river, stream or ditch (known as riparian responsibilities). It includes an assessment of current local flood risks, and outlines how the Council will guide new development to ensure that flood risk and drainage are fully considered and

that development which creates or increases flood risk is prevented.

It also incorporates an overarching action plan setting out the measures that will be taken by the Council and its partners to manage local flood risk and ensure that the Strategy's aims are achieved. These include promoting community awareness and building capability for action, such as by developing a network of local flood representatives to act as a point of contact in the community on flooding issues.



Do not drive through flood water

## How to help shape the Strategy

Your comments on the Strategy are a vital part of making local flood risk management as effective as possible. Here's how to get involved:

You can read the Strategy document online, in One Stop Shops and in libraries, and you can give your views by completing an online feedback questionnaire or a paper version.

Paper versions of the questionnaire are available at One Stop Shops and in libraries, and you can also hand them back there

Please give your feedback by **26 October 2015**



Review the Strategy and give your feedback at

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/consultations/)



Be prepared!

## Winter is on the way: Are you ready?

### Top tips for preparing and coping with floods



#### BE PREPARED

Find your own flood risk by visiting the Environment Agency's website at [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk). You can also check live flood warnings, sign up for flood alerts and create your own personal flood plan.

Make sure you know where the water, gas and electricity isolation points are in your property so that you can act quickly if you need to.

Buy appropriate bags and sand from builders' merchants ready for making sandbags if you need them.

If you think your property is at risk, remove important documents and belongings and store them at a safe location.

#### IF FLOODING STRIKES

Turn off utilities if flood water is about to enter your home, but don't touch electricity sources if you are standing in water.

Flood water can rise rapidly so move people and pets upstairs where there is a means of escape.

Do not drive through flood water on the highway

If you are in danger, call 999.

#### USEFUL CONTACTS

Call Floodline for help and advice on 0345 988 1188.

To report flooding on roads or properties in your area, call the Council on 01225 394041 or email [councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk). For out of hours emergencies, call 01225 477477.

Public consultation on the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy takes place throughout September and October.



Effective flood management is key

## Find out more



For more info about the Council's role and responsibilities as Lead Local Flood Authority and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, please visit the website [www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/land-drainage](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/environment/land-drainage)