



North Tyneside Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

October 2021



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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Tyneside experienced extensive flooding in 2012, these events highlighted that flooding can occur at anytime and anywhere with potentially devastating consequences. The 2012 flood events, along with other historic events demonstrated that North Tyneside can be susceptible to flooding. The risk of flooding is expected to increase as the effects of climate change are realised.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 placed certain duties on local authorities. As a Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA), North Tyneside Council has a responsibility for leading the co-ordination of local flood risk management within the North Tyneside area. This includes ensuring that flood risks from all sources, including surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses are identified and managed. North Tyneside Council has the duty, under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), to put in place a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to manage all sources of flooding using a risk-based approach.

North Tyneside's first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (the Local Strategy) was approved by Cabinet in July 2014. The document requires updating to take into account changing circumstances, the emergence of new national strategies and the work completed over the lifetime of the first Local Strategy.

This updated Local Strategy sets out the roles and responsibilities of flood risk management partners along with North Tyneside Council's position as a Lead Local Flood Authority. It functions alongside the national Flood and Coastal Risk Management Strategy 2020 and also makes reference to the former North Tyneside Flood Risk Implementation Plan which outlined which sites should be prioritised for flood risk reduction work.

There are seven key objectives within the updated Local Strategy. The objectives, set out below, reflect how North Tyneside will continue to manage flood risk across the borough.

North Tyneside Council Local Objectives

- 1) We will continue to encourage direct involvement in decision making through partnership working with key organisations and communities.
- 2) We will target resources where they have the greatest effect by continuation with a risk-based approach.
- 3) We will contribute to wider social, economic and environmental outcomes by encouraging sustainable multi benefit solutions for the management of local flood risk.
- 4) We will continue to encourage and support communities and local landowners to take action and contribute to the reduction of flood risk.
- 5) We will continue to ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings.
- 6) We will ensure that our infrastructure is resilient to flooding and be ready to adapt to flooding change
- 7) We will provide further support to local residents to increase their own resilience to flooding.

The Local Strategy also outlines the various funding options available to North Tyneside for flood risk management. It highlights the ongoing need for a partnership approach in delivering local flood risk reduction schemes. Although flooding cannot be prevented entirely, the risk of flooding can be reduced. Through the implementation of this Local Strategy it is intended that the effects of flooding can be minimised and managed in a co-ordinated way.

2 THE LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2.1 What is a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) places a responsibility upon Local Authorities, as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs), to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management (a 'Local Strategy').

The Local Strategy forms the framework within which communities can have a say in local risk management decisions. In combination with the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2020 (led by DEFRA and the Environment Agency), the Local Strategy encourages continued effective risk management by enabling people, communities, business and the public sector to work together to:

- Ensure a clear understanding of the risks of flooding and erosion, nationally and locally, so that investment in risk management can be prioritised more effectively;
- Set out clear and consistent plans for risk management so that communities and businesses can make informed decisions about the management of the residual risk;
- Encourage innovative management of flood and coastal erosion risks, taking account of the needs of communities and the environment;
- Form links between the local flood risk management strategy and local spatial planning;
- Ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings;
- Help communities to recover more quickly and effectively after incidents;
- Support local residents and businesses to increase their own resilience to flooding

The Local Strategy will do this by acting as the evidence base for the decisions and actions required for managing flood risk. The main requirements for a Local Strategy are summarised below:

- Identify risk management authorities in the local authority's area
- Describe the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those Authorities in relation to the area
- Set objectives for managing local flood risk
- Describe the measures proposed to achieve those objectives
- Define how the objectives are to be achieved
- Identify funding sources for delivery of the objectives
- Show how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives
- Consider how flooding assets are managed over the long term and what adaptations may be required to deal with future changes
- State how and when the strategy is to be reviewed

2.2 Purpose of the Local Strategy

The Local Strategy is an important tool to help understand and manage flood risk within North Tyneside. The management of flood risk will be marked by better knowledge of the risks in the region, continued good co-operation between organisations involved in flood risk management and communication with the public about those risks and what can be done.

North Tyneside Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, is only responsible for management of local flood risk. Local flood risk is defined as surface water flooding, ordinary watercourse flooding and groundwater flooding. This area of responsibility is defined by the Flood and Water Management Act. Therefore, this Local Flood Risk Management Strategy only addresses local flooding and the interactions it might have with other sources of flood risk.

The risk of flooding from the sea and coastal erosion is covered separately by the North Tyneside Coastal Strategy.

2.3 How we will work with others

Several organisations have a role to play in minimising the risk and impact of flooding in the North Tyneside. The North Tyneside Drainage & Surface Water Partnership was established in 2013 and this brought together the key organisations such as the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water so that we could work together to address flooding issues. The Partnership oversaw the delivery of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which delivered over 30 flooding schemes over the lifetime of the 2014 Local Strategy with a total value of over £20 million. It also developed a number of successful initiatives such as the flood warden scheme. Having achieved its aims and objectives, the Partnership was dissolved in January 2020. However, the good working relationships that were developed became firmly embedded and still operate as part of daily business. This includes the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership which will continue to develop joint solutions to surface water and flooding problems.

The Local Strategy clarifies the responsibilities of the above partner organisations involved in flood risk management including how they work together and what their role should be.

North Tyneside Council's Responsibilities

North Tyneside's roles and responsibilities relating to flood risk management are as follows:

- As the Lead Local Flood Authority and a Risk Management Authority we have legal duties and powers to investigate flooding events, maintain a register of significant flood risk assets and manage flood risk from ordinary watercourses,
- As the Highway Authority we are responsible for ensuring that highways are drained of surface water and carry out maintenance of drainage systems,
- As an emergency responder, along with other organisations, we are responsible for maintaining emergency plans and business continuity plans for use during an emergency,
- As the Local Planning Authority we need to consider flood risk associated with new developments and to advise the Planning Committee on flood risk relating to planning applications,
- As an asset owner for flood risk assets on our own land, we have responsibility to manage and maintain these to ensure they operate as required and do not increase flood risk. We also need to adopt a long term plan for monitoring and managing these assets and adapt them if necessary if things change in the future (for example, if the climate changes or there is a change brought about by adjacent new developments). This is known as "adaptive pathway development"

2.4 Sources of Flooding – Local Flood Risk

There are several potential sources of flooding within the North Tyneside. They are summarised in the table below. The local flood risk sources that are addressed by the Local Strategy are surface water flooding, ordinary watercourse flooding and highways flooding. The non-local sources of flooding are the responsibility of the stated Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). Further information on the roles and responsibilities of RMAs for flood risk is provided in Section 3.

The various sources of flooding can interact with each other and can create complex flooding mechanisms in certain areas. This can make it difficult to determine the overall responsibility for flooding in a specific area and it is often concluded that flooding is caused by multiple sources. While the Local Strategy is focussed on reducing the consequences of surface water flooding, it also facilitates partnership working to manage risk with other organisations where multiple sources of flooding have occurred historically or are predicted to occur in the future.

Table 1: Sources of Flooding

Flood Source and Mechanism	Responsibility					
	North Tyneside Council	Environment Agency	Northumbrian Water Limited	NTC Highways	National Highways	Riparian Owner
<u>Surface Water</u> - Runoff as a result of high intensity rainfall when water is ponding or flowing over the ground surface before it enters the underground drainage network or a watercourse.	●					
<u>Ordinary Watercourse</u> - Flooding which occurs as a result of the capacity of the ordinary watercourse being exceeded resulting in out of bank flow (water coming back out of rivers and streams).	●					●
<u>Groundwater</u> - Occurs when the water level within the groundwater aquifer rises to the surface.	●					
<u>Main Rivers</u> - Occurs when a designated 'Main River' cannot cope with the volume water draining into it from the surrounding		●				●

land and it spills onto the surrounding area.						
Coastal - Occurs when a high astronomical tide and / or storm (tidal surge) exceeds the level of coastal land or coastal flood defences. Inland flooding can also be caused by 'tide locking' of rivers or estuaries.		●		●		
Reservoirs – Occurs when a reservoir / canal embankment or control fails and releases a large volume of retained water into the downstream area.	●	●	●			
Sewer - Flooding which occurs when the capacity of the adopted underground drainage system is exceeded, resulting in flooding inside and outside of buildings.			●			
Burst pipes or water mains – Occurs when water supply or drainage infrastructure fails			●			
Highways Flooding – A combination of sewer and surface water flooding located on a highway				●		

2.5 Historic Flooding

North Tyneside has a history of flooding, the risk of which has been considerably reduced over the lifetime of the 2014 Local Strategy. Flooding has typically been as a result of uncontrolled surface water run-off and inundation of ordinary watercourses. There is no significant flood history from fluvial or tidal sources in the council area.

While there have been regular storm events over the last 20 years, the Borough suffered from exceptional rainfall in June and September 2012 which resulted in widespread surface water flooding. The return period for the short duration two hour event on June 28th 2012 was recorded as 1 in 160 year event in Whitley Bay. Flooding was experienced at a number of other locations including Dudley, Shiremoor, Murton Gap and key road networks including the A1056/A189 Weetslade Roundabout. Again, the successful implementation of schemes identified in the first Local Strategy has greatly reduced the risk to a point where all of the major flooding hotspots have dealt with.

No groundwater flooding incidents have been reported to North Tyneside Council. Although there are extensive records of surface water flooding captured by the Environment Agency and North Tyneside Council, it is not thought that groundwater was a significant contributing factor.

Despite the good work done over the last few years, the risk of localised flooding will continue to be present in areas of North Tyneside and the measures recently put in place will be tested under severe weather conditions which climate change is likely to make more frequent. The aim of this Local Strategy is to continue to reduce the risks where possible and continue to have our emergency plans in place to deal with exceptionally severe events to make the borough and our communities more resilient to the risk of flooding.

2.6 Risk of Flooding

North Tyneside is at greatest risk of flooding from surface water run-off and it is predicted that this will increase in the future, influenced by climate change and increasing pressures on development and housing need.

Risks from river flooding are relatively well understood and have been managed at a catchment level for many years by the Environment Agency. These risks are mapped and delineated into Flood Zones, which are available through the Environment Agency's website and are used to guide planning decisions. However, flood risk from local sources is less well understood; these are typically very localised events which are often difficult to predict and there are few historical records available to provide supporting evidence. This is the case for flooding from ordinary watercourses, which is overall considered to be a low risk across the Borough.

Flood risk from groundwater is less well understood within the borough than that from surface water, rivers or sewers but is not considered to be a significant source of flooding in North Tyneside.

Sewer flooding is recorded and mapped by Northumbrian Water Limited under their role as the sewerage undertaker in North Tyneside. Climate change is anticipated to increase the potential risk from sewer flooding as summer storms become more intense and winter storms more prolonged. This combination may increase the pressure on the existing efficiency of sewer systems, thereby increasing the risk of flooding from the public sewer network.

North Tyneside Council, in partnership with the Environment Agency, Northumbrian Water Ltd and other partners, have identified, designed and constructed over 30 flood alleviation schemes within our Borough over the last 6 years and some examples are listed below. These schemes have been constructed to reduce the risk of flooding to property and infrastructure and provide resilience to areas within North Tyneside:

1. Fairfield Green, Monkseaton - Flood alleviation scheme
2. Briar Vale, Monkseaton - Flood alleviation scheme
3. Wellfield - Flood alleviation scheme
4. Nelson Road, Wellfield - Culvert diversion
5. Nexus Culvert Repairs – Fairfield Green, Monkseaton and Etal Lane, Shiremoor
6. Backworth Golf Course – Culvert repair
7. Green Lane, Dudley – Flood alleviation scheme
8. Shiremoor area - Culvert repairs
9. Murton Village – Flood alleviation scheme
10. Otterburn Avenue / Rocket Way, Forest Hall – Flood alleviation scheme
11. Gerrard Road, Whitley Bay – Culvert improvement scheme
12. Astley Drive, Whitley Bay – Culvert renewal
13. Killingworth & Longbenton – Integrated sustainable drainage project (national award winning scheme)

2.6.1 Flooding Interactions

Whilst the primary focus of this strategy is local flooding (from surface run-off and ordinary watercourses), flooding can arise from a combination of different sources. Where the source can be clearly identified, the responsible organisation will be the main point of contact. However, it is often not easy to determine the source or where multiple sources are involved. In these cases, North Tyneside

Council, as LLFA will take the lead and work with partners to investigate and deal with the issue in a manner appropriate to the level of risk.

The partner drainage agencies will continue to share data to assist with the identification of sources of flooding and potential solutions.

Investigations will take into account all elements of information such as stakeholders' historic records, hydraulic model outputs and information obtained from members of the public at the time of the flooding incident. Local communities, landowners and the public will be crucial to helping us increase our knowledge and understanding of localised flooding.

2.6.2 Prioritisation of Risk Areas

The work undertaken during the course of the 2014 Local Strategy was done using a system of prioritisation using criteria such as number of homes flooded, frequency of flooding and so on. The major hotspot areas have now been dealt with but there are still many localised areas that will benefit from further smaller scale work. Having successfully delivered the 2014 Flood Implementation Plan, the council has reduced its capital investment in flooding work and schemes are now more dependent on grant funding from the Environment Agency and other external contributors. The demand for resources to manage flood risk will usually exceed what is available and we will therefore continue to prioritise locations where the focus of effort will derive the maximum benefit in terms of overall flood risk reduction in North Tyneside.

2.7 Management of Other Sources of Flooding

2.7.1 Main Rivers – Catchment Flood Management Plans

Flooding caused by Main Rivers (eg the River Tyne) is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency has produced Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) which provide an overview of the Main River Flood risk across each river catchment. They recommend ways of managing those risks now and over the next 50-100 years.

North Tyneside is located within the Tyne CFMP. As part of the CFMP a policy appraisal was carried out a number of years ago. Six standard policies for managing flood risk within the Tyne catchments were considered. North Tyneside falls within the Lower Tyne Policy Unit. The Policy chosen for the policy unit was "Take further action to sustain flood risk at the current level in future". Whilst the Environment Agency is responsible for this area of work, North Tyneside will continue to provide support if there are any interactions with drainage activities under our control.

2.7.2 Sewer Flooding – Northumbrian Water Ltd

Water and sewerage companies are responsible for making appropriate arrangements for the drainage of foul water, the treatment of waste, surface water sewers and combined sewers. They have primary responsibility for flooding from water and sewerage systems, which can include sewer flooding, burst pipes or water mains or floods caused by system failures.

Flooding from sewer systems can occur for a number of different reasons. This includes capacity of the network being exceeded or blockage. The impact of sewer flooding is usually confined to relatively small areas. Flood incidents can be rapid and unpredictable when flooding is associated with blockage or failure of the sewer network. A flood from a sewer can pose a risk to health particularly from a combined or foul sewer.

A key distinction between the responsibility for surface water and sewer flooding between Northumbrian Water Ltd and North Tyneside Council is that Northumbrian Water Ltd have an agreed level of service with their industry regulator, Ofwat for sewerage capacity.

The agreed level of service states that “Increased demands on the sewerage system should not put properties at risk of flooding from storm events with a return period less than 1 in 20 years”. Storm events in excess of this return period are classed as “extreme events” and whilst Northumbrian Water will still have involvement in dealing with the customers after the event, the flooding itself may not alone be used to justify investment in a flood risk reduction scheme.

If flooding occurs during an event that exceeds this defined level of service, then it is classified as surface water flooding. North Tyneside Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority has a responsibility for the investigation of these events. This will involve an assessment of the problem and the identification of who is responsible for remediation work. It is important to note that the cause of flooding could be different sources and could ultimately fall under different organisations to provide mitigation, including the Highway Authority or private landowners for example. In all cases all parties including NWL will work together to present, where possible, workable solutions to the flooding issue. North Tyneside Council will aim to investigate and publicly report on significant flood incidents within two months of their occurrence. This investigation will include the identification of all responsible parties for mitigation.

Northumbrian Water Ltd is responsible for internal and external property flooding caused by sewer systems not operating to their normal design conditions. Causes for flooding may include blockage or other operational problems with the sewer network. When problems occur because of hydraulic flooding, Northumbrian Water is required to maintain a register of locations that incur damage from the flooding and prioritise funding for works to alleviate the problem. Funding priorities are defined using a five year cycle called Asset Management Plans (AMP). The AMP is the programme of work agreed with the Regulator (Ofwat). Northumbrian Water Ltd are currently in the AMP period (2020 – 2025).

2.7.3 Artificial Sources – Reservoirs and Canals

There are no canals within the North Tyneside boundary. A review of the Environment Agency reservoir flood maps indicates there are no ‘large raised reservoirs’ (i.e. a reservoir that holds over 25000m³) directly located within the boundaries of North Tyneside or surrounding Councils. There are two underground reservoirs that NWL maintain. Chirton Service has a capacity of 14,500 m³ and Billy Mill service reservoir which has capacity of 20,000 m³.

2.8 National Objectives

One of the statutory requirements of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is that it is consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Risk Management. The overall aim of the National Strategy is to ensure the risk of flooding and coastal erosion is properly managed by using the full range of options in a coordinated way. The National Strategy outlines three long-term ambitions concerning future risk and investment; these have been used to develop the seven local objectives listed below for North Tyneside. The Local objectives are supported by a series of more detailed measures which outline more specifically how North Tyneside Council will implement the objectives of the strategy.

The three long-term Ambitions from the National Strategy are: -

1. Climate resilient places: working with partners to bolster resilience to flooding and coastal change across the nation, both now and in the face of climate change
2. Today’s growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow’s climate: making the right investment and planning decisions to secure sustainable growth and environmental improvements, as well as infrastructure resilient to flooding and coastal change
3. A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change: ensuring local people understand their risk to flooding and coastal change, and know their responsibilities and how to take action

2.9 Local Objectives

A key aim of the Local Strategy is to establish a series of local objectives that can be taken forward to deliver effective risk management through local measures and actions. The following local objectives have been developed based on the guiding principles of the national strategy, interpreting them for the specific North Tyneside context. This will also enable North Tyneside Council to effectively work with the Government, the Environment Agency and neighbouring Lead Local Flood Authorities as they will all be aiming to achieve a similar set of objectives. The following sections detail the local flood risk management objectives for North Tyneside along with the measures that will be used to achieve them. These objectives will complement the National Strategy which states that between now and 2030, owners of flood defences will understand and take responsibility for achieving flood and coastal resilience.

North Tyneside Council Local Objectives: -

- 1) We will continue to encourage direct involvement in decision making through partnership working with key organisations and communities.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will actively participate in the Northumbria Region Flood and Coastal Committee and seeking funding for schemes. We will continue our partnership working with the other drainage agencies using the relationships built up through the North Tyneside Drainage & Surface Water Partnership. This will include the continuation of the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership.

- 2) We will target resources where they have the greatest effect by continuation with a risk-based approach.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will use objective data gathered through detailed studies to prioritise work and adhere to the criteria set out by the Environment Agency to maximise our chances of securing grant funding. We will monitor the performance of schemes completed during the 2014 Local Strategy period to assess whether further work may be required. We will continue to invest in intelligent gully cleansing systems and operate the service using a risk-based approach in order to ensure the best use of resources and prioritise flooding hotspots.

- 3) We will contribute to wider social, economic and environmental outcomes by encouraging sustainable multi benefit solutions for the management of local flood risk.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will clearly identify all the beneficiaries from proposed flood risk management work and seek financial contributions accordingly. We will work with our partner agencies and housing developers to make sure that drainage measures are sustainable and integrated to provide multiple benefits such as environmental improvements and removal of surface water from the public sewerage system. In line with the National Strategy, we will look to use nature-based solutions to improve the environment. We will encourage environmental net gain in new developments to support resilience to flooding.

- 4) We will continue to encourage and support communities and local landowners to take action and contribute to the reduction of flood risk.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will continue to engage with residents and businesses to seek their support and involvement in flood risk management issues. We will work with the Environment Agency Engagement Team in order to access all areas of the community.

- 5) We will continue to ensure that emergency plans and responses to flood incidents are effective and that communities are able to respond properly to flood warnings.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will keep our emergency response plans under constant review and undertake advance maintenance work ahead of severe weather at critical drainage locations such as culvert grilles. We will continue with the flood warden scheme. We will aim to carry out investigations into flooding incidents and report on these within 2 months.

- 6) We will ensure that our infrastructure is resilient to flooding and be ready to adapt to flooding change.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will make sure our schemes are designed to factor in future climate change. We will adopt a long term approach to managing our assets and consider how these may need to be adapted to take into account future changes.

- 7) We will provide further support to local residents to increase their own resilience to flooding.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS? We will keep our website updated with the latest flood resilience information and offer residents and businesses advice on what they can do to protect their properties. We will support those affected by flooding so they can get back to normal quicker after recovery.

3 FUNDING

This section outlines the funding mechanisms that are available to North Tyneside Council to support its delivery of the Local Strategy.

It is often the case that funding will need to be sought from a variety of sources in order to deliver projects as central government funding is limited each year and may only provide a contribution towards the costs of planned schemes. Additional local funding may be required to facilitate projects going ahead. Current sources of funding include:

Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCRM GiA)

The 2007 Pitt Review recommended that a new funding scheme should be implemented to allow community and third party groups to invest in flood risk management. The resulting funding mechanism has now been active for a number of years with grants money based primarily on how many properties will be protected by the project. This payment is made from the Government's main pot of annual funding which is called 'Flood and Coastal Risk Management Grant in Aid' and is administered by the Environment Agency.

North Tyneside Council, in its role as lead local flood authority will normally make a submission annually to the Environment Agency setting out a forward plan of schemes where grant funding is requested. In July 2020, the government announced that nationally, £5.2 billion was being made available for a 6 year plan to better protect 336,000 homes with works for new flood and coastal defences, improvements to existing defences and the implementation of sustainable drainage systems.

Local Levy

Local levies are paid by upper tier authorities, such North Tyneside Council, to the Environment Agency for additional flood risk management schemes that would not otherwise proceed. The funds can be used to support projects relating to any source of flooding, as well as coastal erosion. Local levy can top up Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding.

The Community Infrastructure Levy

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is an important new funding source. It is intended to ensure that developers contribute to the cost of the infrastructure necessary to offset the impact of the development. Local planning authorities, which levy the charge, are required to focus CIL revenues on the provision of new infrastructure. It is not intended to remedy existing infrastructure deficiencies.

Developer Based Contributions

Section 106 Agreements provide a means of securing developer contributions towards schemes that are necessary for a development to be acceptable in planning terms and directly relates to the development. North Tyneside is responsible for negotiating, collecting and managing funding secured through this route. Section 106 contributions must be directly linked to the specific development and therefore there is limited opportunity for reallocation of funds.

Northumbrian Water contribution

Northumbrian Water Limited maintains a database of properties at risk of flooding due to incapacity of the public sewer network. This is known as the DG5 register. Often the areas that are highlighted as having surface water problems also appear on the DG5 register. Therefore, there is an opportunity for North Tyneside Council and Northumbrian Water Limited to continue to work together to deliver effective flood risk management collaboratively. Some schemes may attract part funding from Northumbrian Water Limited; this would be decided as specific schemes come forward.

Local fundraising / private contributions

In addition to the above, contributions from the local communities and businesses that benefit from schemes may be an important source of funding for local schemes.

North Tyneside has an excellent record of securing grant funding and other external contributions and will continue to explore all the above opportunities throughout the duration of this Local Strategy.

4 MONITORING AND GOVERNANCE

Since 2014 the council has delivered a wide range of flood risk reductions schemes which are now being managed and maintained as part of daily business. The performance of these schemes will be monitored on an ongoing basis. As further schemes are delivered through this updated Local Strategy, they will be added for monitoring. Operational reviews will also be undertaken annually with a view to identifying service improvements and ongoing efficiency savings. This will include ICT systems.

Progress will be reported regularly to the lead cabinet member and ward members will be consulted on any plans for new work in their wards.

5 STRATEGY REVIEW

The work undertaken under the previous 2014 Local Strategy was delivered at pace and with large levels of capital investment in order to address some serious flooding issues in the Borough. It was therefore deemed necessary to undertake a strategy review within a relative short period of time. The worst flooding hotspots have now been dealt with and the aims of the Drainage and Surface Water Partnership have been met.

This updated Local Strategy has been developed at a time of relative stability with regard to surface water and flooding issues and future works will be of a smaller scale. Whilst the effort to further reduce the risk of flooding in the Borough will not diminish in any way, this latest version of the Local Strategy will be reviewed and updated in 2032. This approach aligns with review dates for other related engineering strategies such as the Transport Strategy and Highway Asset Management Plan.