Flood Risk Management Strategy

Solway Local Plan District

This section is the most relevant for individuals, communities and businesses seeking to understand their local flood risk and its management. There is an overview of the Local Plan District, as well as further detail for every Potentially Vulnerable Area. For each Potentially Vulnerable Area, there is a short description of the causes and consequences of flooding. The agreed objectives are clearly set out and, most importantly, the actions that will deliver these objectives are prioritised and described.

Section 2: Understanding and managing flooding

2.1 Summary of flooding in the Solway Local Plan District

The Solway Local Plan District extends from Drummore and Portpatrick in the west, to beyond Langholm and Newcastleton in the east (see Figure 2). The Local Plan District has a total area of approximately 7,000km^2. There are 24 Potentially Vulnerable Areas and two candidate Potentially Vulnerable Areas within this Local Plan District. The location of these areas is shown in Figure 2.

Flood risk in the Solway

There are approximately 3,900 residential properties and 900 non-residential properties at risk of flooding within the Local Plan District. This equates to approximately 4% of all properties at risk of flooding nationally. Within the Local Plan District, approximately 5% of residential properties and almost 13% of non-residential properties are at risk and it is estimated that 74% of these properties are located within Potentially Vulnerable Areas. A further 10% of properties at risk are identified within two candidate Potentially Vulnerable Areas. The Annual Average Damages from flooding (see glossary) are approximately £14 million.

River flooding is the main source of flooding in the Local Plan District, closely followed by surface water flooding (Figure 1). The Annual Average Damages caused by river flooding are £9.8 million, those caused by coastal flooding are £2.7 million and those caused by surface water flooding are £1.2 million.

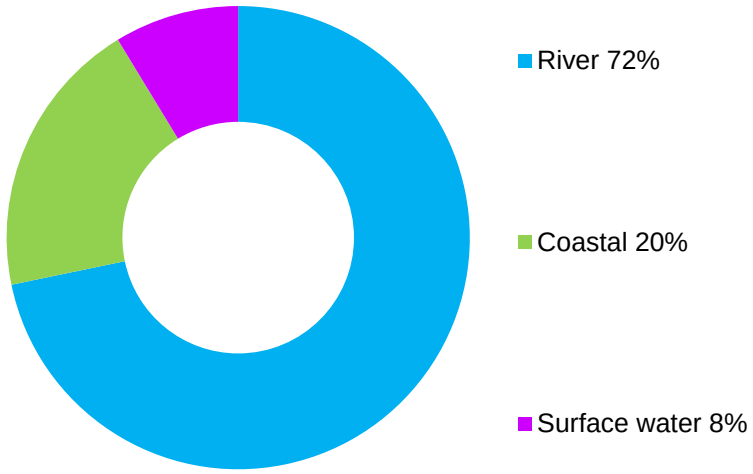

Figure 1: Annual Average Damages by flood source

Table 1 and Figure 3 show the main areas, number of properties at risk and the Annual Average Damages caused by flooding in the main towns and cities within the Local Plan District. This includes damages to residential properties, non-residential properties, transport and agriculture. Please note that economic damages to airports and rail infrastructure were not assessed as strategic information on damages at this scale is not available.

	Residential and non-residential properties at risk of flooding	Annual Average Damages
Dumfries (including Lincluden)	840	£3.7 million
Moffat	350	£630,000
Stranraer	350	£430,000
Dalbeattie	290	£510,000
New Cumnock (including Mansfield)	240	£490,000
Newton Stewart / Minnigaff	210	£490,000
Langholm	190	£270,000
Annan	180	£530,000
Castle Douglas	170	£440,000
Newcastleton	140	£160,000

Table 1: Main areas at risk of flooding

Background information on the Solway Local Plan District

The extent of the Solway Local Plan District and the location of the Potentially Vulnerable Areas are shown in Figure 2. The main urban areas are Dumfries, Stranraer and Annan and it has a population of approximately 160,000 people.

The area is predominantly within Dumfries and Galloway Council. However, there are parts of four further local authorities and cross-border arrangements with Cumbria County Council and Carlisle City Council.

The largest river catchment is the River Nith. Other watercourses include the River Annan, River Cree, River Esk and River Dee. The area is predominantly rural with large areas of agricultural grazing and woodland. Coniferous woodland is mainly found on the gentle side slopes of the upper catchment areas of the district, while broadleaved woodlands are scattered at lower elevations on edges of coniferous forests and along the valley floors and coastline.

The Solway Local Plan District includes 625km of coastline, mainly along the Solway Firth.

Further details of flood risk from distinct sources can be found in the river, coastal and surface water sections of this report.

Figure 2: Solway Local Plan District with Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified

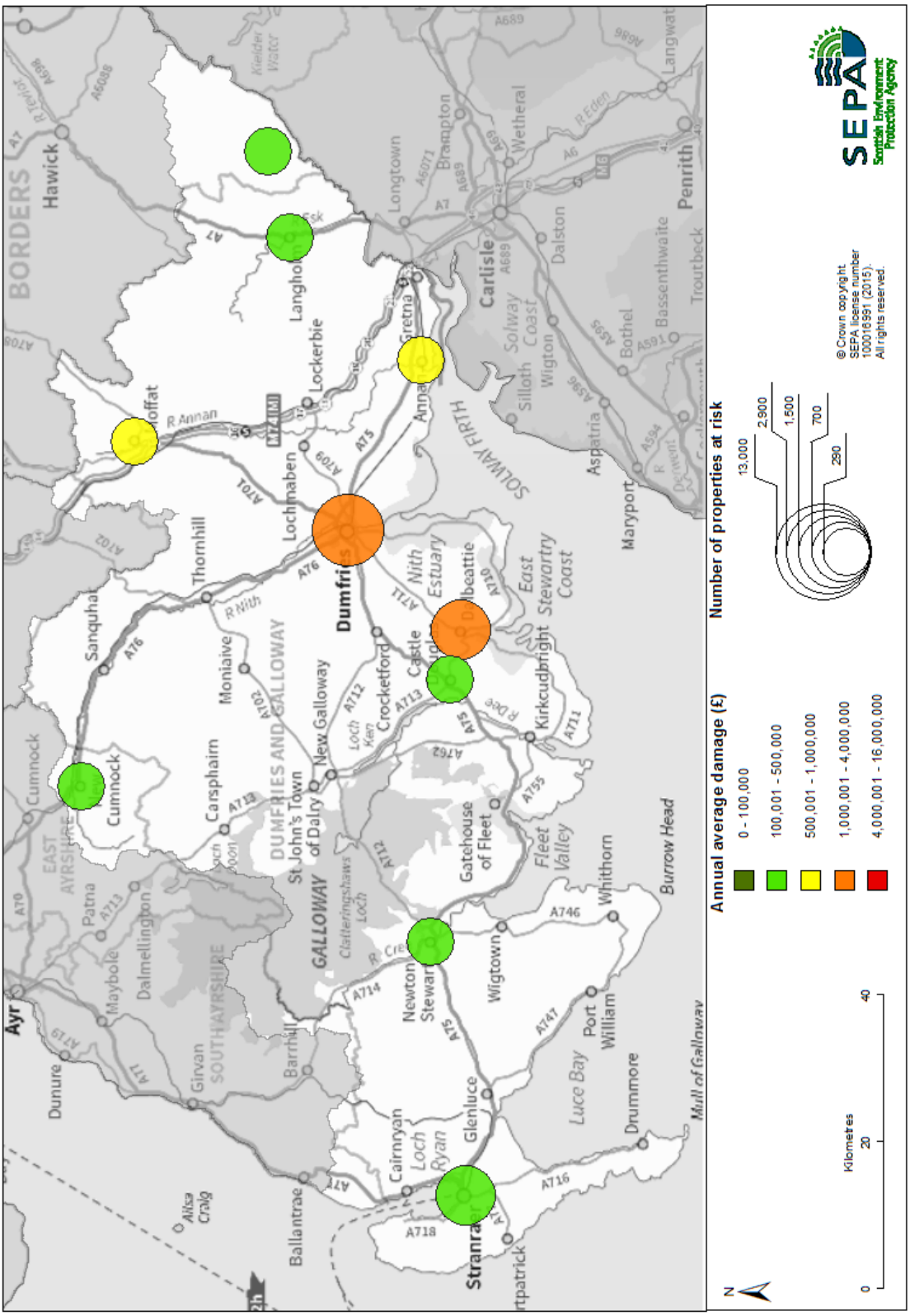

Figure 2: Solway Local Plan District showing areas with most properties at risk of flooding and associated damages

Objectives and actions in the Solway Local Plan District

The objectives are the shared aims for managing flooding. Actions describe where and how flood risk will be managed. Objectives and actions have been set by SEPA and agreed by flood risk management responsible authorities following consultation.

Some flood risk management objectives and actions apply to all areas, whether designated as a Potentially Vulnerable Area or not. For example, flood risk can be managed through national planning policy or as part of ongoing statutory duties for local authorities. The focus of this Flood Risk Management Strategy is to manage flood risk in Potentially Vulnerable Areas where specific actions apply in addition to the generic actions listed below. Further detail on specific actions can be found in the relevant Potentially Vulnerable Area chapter. Local authorities may have further information on how they manage flooding across their area.

Target area	Objective(s)	ID	Indicators
Applies across Solway Local Plan District	Avoid an overall increase in flood risk	14033	• 3,900 residential properties • 900 non-residential properties • 8600 people
Applies across Solway Local Plan District	Reduce overall flood risk	14040	• 3,900 residential properties • 900 non-residential properties • 8600 people

Action (ID):	**FLOOD FORECASTING** (140400009)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	SEPA		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	The Scottish Flood Forecasting Service is a joint initiative between SEPA and the Met Office that produces daily, national flood guidance statements which are issued to Category 1 and 2 responders. The service also provides information which allows SEPA to issue flood warnings, giving people a better chance of reducing the impact of flooding on their home or business. For more information please visit SEPA's website.		

Action (ID):	**SELF HELP** (140400011)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	–		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Everyone is responsible for protecting themselves and their property from flooding. Property and business owners can take simple steps to reduce damage and disruption to their homes and businesses should flooding happen. This includes preparing a flood plan and flood kit, installing property level protection, signing up to Floodline and the Resilient Communities Initiative, and ensuring that properties and businesses are insured against flood damage.		

Action (ID):	**AWARENESS RAISING** (140400013)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	Responsible authorities		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	SEPA and the responsible authorities have a duty to raise public awareness of flood risk. Improved awareness of flood risk and actions that prepare individuals, homes and businesses for flooding can reduce the overall impact. Local authorities will be undertaking additional awareness raising activities, further details will be set out in the Local FRM Plans.		

Action (ID):	**MAINTENANCE** (140400007)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	Local authority, asset / land managers		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Local authorities have a duty to assess watercourses and carry out clearance and repair works where such works would substantially reduce flood risk. The local authorities produce schedules of clearance and repair works and make these available for public inspection. Scottish Water undertake inspection and repair on the public sewer network. Asset owners and riparian landowners are responsible for the maintenance and management of their own assets including those which help to reduce flood risk.		

Action (ID):	**EMERGENCY PLANS / RESPONSE** (140400014)		
Objective (ID):	**Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	Category 1 and 2 Responders		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Providing an emergency response to flooding is the responsibility of many organisations, including local authorities, the emergency services and SEPA. Effective management of an emergency response relies on emergency plans that are prepared under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 by Category 1 and 2 Responders. The emergency response by these organisations is co-ordinated through regional and local resilience partnerships. This response may be supported by the work of voluntary organisations.		

Action (ID):	**PLANNING POLICIES** (140330001)		
Objective (ID):	**Avoid an overall increase in flood risk.** (14033) **Reduce overall flood risk.** (14040)		
Delivery lead:	Planning authority		
Status:	**Existing**	Indicative delivery:	**Ongoing**
Description:	Scottish Planning Policy and accompanying Planning Advice Notes set out Scottish Ministers' priorities for the operation of the planning system and for the development and use of land. In terms of flood risk management, the policy supports a catchment-scale approach to sustainable flood risk management and aims to build the resilience of our cities and towns, encourage sustainable land management in our rural areas, and to address the long-term vulnerability of parts of our coasts and islands. Under this approach, new development in areas with medium to high likelihood of flooding should be avoided. For further information on the application of national planning policies see Annex 2.		

2.2 Potentially Vulnerable Areas

The table below summarises the actions to manage flood risk in the Potentially Vulnerable Areas of this Local Plan District. Further detail is provided in each Potentially Vulnerable Area.

PVA	Flood protection scheme/ works	Natural flood management works	New flood warning	Flood protection study	Natural flood management study	Surface water plan/study	Strategic mapping and modelling	Maintain flood protection scheme*	Maintain flood warning*	Flood forecasting	Property level protection scheme	Community flood action groups	Self help	Awareness raising	Maintenance	Site protection plans	Emergency plans/ response	Planning policies
14/01			✓	✓			✓	✓	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/02			✓	✓			✓	✓	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/03				✓		✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/04	✓		✓				✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/05	✓		✓			✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/06						✓	✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/07			✓				✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/08			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/09							✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/10								✓	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/11					✓		✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/12	✓		✓				✓	N/A	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/13								✓	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/14							✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/15	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/16								N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/17				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/18							✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/19			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/20							✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/21				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/22				✓	✓		✓	N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/23								N/A	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/24				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/25c				✓				✓	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
14/26c	✓						✓	N/A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

*Note: N/A is used where there is no formal Flood Protection Scheme or flood warning scheme present.