

# Flood Risk Management Strategy

## Outer Hebrides 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.

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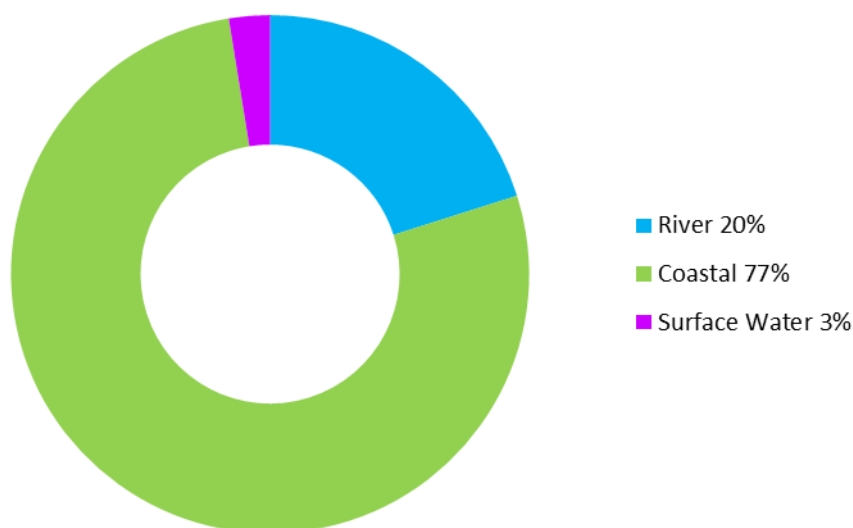
## 2.1 Summary of flooding in the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District

The Outer Hebrides Local Plan District comprises all of the islands which form the Outer Hebrides. It has an area of approximately 3,100km<sup>2</sup> and a coastline with a length of approximately 2,300km. There are eight Potentially Vulnerable Areas in the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District. The locations of these 8 areas are shown in Figure 2.

### Flood risk in the Outer Hebrides

There are approximately 220 residential properties and 170 non-residential properties at risk of flooding within the Local Plan District. This equates to less than 1% of all properties at risk of flooding nationally. Within the Local Plan District, approximately 2% of all residential properties and 5% of all non-residential properties are at risk and it is estimated that 71% of these are located within Potentially Vulnerable Areas. The Annual Average Damages from flooding (see glossary) are approximately £2.3 million, with an estimated 63% of the damages for the entire Local Plan District accounted for in Potentially Vulnerable Areas.

The main source of flooding is coastal flooding which accounts for approximately 77% of the Annual Average Damages (Figure 1). Annual Average Damages caused by coastal floods are approximately £1.8 million, with those caused by river and surface water floods being approximately £470,000 and £59,000 respectively.



**Figure 1:** Annual Average Damages by flood source

Table 1 shows the number of properties at risk and the Annual Average Damages caused by flooding in the main areas within the Local Plan District. This includes damages to residential properties, non-residential properties, transport and agriculture. Please note that economic damages to airports are not included as information on damages at this scale is not available.

	Residential and non-residential properties at risk of flooding	Annual Average Damages
Benbecula	110	£560,000
Stornoway	90	£210,000
South Uist	80	£530,000

**Table 1:** Main areas at risk of flooding

### Background information on the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District

The extent of the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District and the location of Potentially Vulnerable Areas are shown in Figure 2.

The population of the Outer Hebrides is in the region of 28,000. There are 14 inhabited islands and more than 60 uninhabited islands. Stornoway is the largest settlement in the Outer Hebrides with a population of around 6,300. Of the inhabited islands, Lewis and Harris is the largest and the majority of the population of the Outer Hebrides live here (approximately 21,000 people). South Uist, North Uist, Benbecula, and Barra all have populations between 1,000 and 2,000 people. The remaining inhabited islands have populations of less than 300 people.

Only about 1% of the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District is classed as urban. The predominant land cover for the islands is bog which covers 46% of the area. Heather grassland and rough grassland are also important covering 20% and 11% respectively. Approximately 6% of the area of the islands is covered by freshwater lochs.



**Figure 2:** Outer Hebrides Local Plan District, Potentially with Vulnerable Areas identified

## Objectives and actions in the Outer Hebrides 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 the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District	Avoid an overall increase in flood risk	200001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 220 residential properties</li> <li>• 170 non-residential properties</li> <li>• 480 people</li> </ul>
Applies across the Outer Hebrides Local Plan District	Reduce overall flood risk	200002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 220 residential properties</li> <li>• 170 non-residential properties</li> <li>• 480 people</li> </ul>

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>FLOOD FORECASTING (2000020009)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	SEPA		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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.		

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>SELF HELP (2000020011)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	-		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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.		

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>AWARENESS RAISING (2000020013)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	Responsible authorities		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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.		

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>MAINTENANCE (2000020007)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	Local authority, asset / land managers		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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.		

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>EMERGENCY PLANS / RESPONSE (2000020014)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	Category 1 and 2 Responders		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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.		

<b>Action (ID):</b>	<b>PLANNING POLICIES (2000010001)</b>		
<b>Objective (ID):</b>	<b>Avoid an overall increase in flood risk. (200001)</b> <b>Reduce overall flood risk. (200002)</b>		
<b>Delivery lead:</b>	Planning authority		
<b>Status:</b>	<b>Existing</b>	Indicative delivery:	<b>Ongoing</b>
<b>Description:</b>	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
02/01			✓					N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/02			✓	✓			✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/03			✓					N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/04			✓	✓				N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/05			✓	✓			✓	N/A	N/A	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/06	✓		✓	✓			✓	N/A	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/07	✓		✓				✓	N/A	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
02/08			✓	✓			✓	N/A	N/A	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

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