

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA):

Name of Report/Proposal/Strategy:	Torbay Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy		
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Since the Equality Act 2010 came into force the council has continued to be committed to ensuring we provide services that meet the diverse needs of our community as well as ensure we are an organisation that is sensitive to the needs of individuals within our workforce. This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed decisions on the community.

This EIA will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposal / strategy and carried out appropriate consultation with key stakeholders. The EIA will allow Councillors and Senior Officers to make informed decisions as part of the council's decision-making process.

Relevance Test – ‘A Proportionate Approach’

Not all of the proposals or strategies we put forward will be ‘relevant’ in terms of the actual or potential impact on the community in relation to equality and vulnerable groups. For instance, a report on changing a supplier of copier paper may not require an EIA to be completed whereas a report outlining a proposal for a new community swimming pool or a report proposing a closure of a service would.

Therefore before completing the EIA please answer the following questions. If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions below you must complete a full EIA.

1)	Does this report relate to a key decision?	Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/>
2)	Will the decision have an impact (i.e. a positive or negative effect/change) on any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community (including specific impacts upon the vulnerable or equality groups) • Our Partners • The Council (including our structure, ‘knock-on’ effects for other business units, our reputation, finances, legal obligations or service provision) 	Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> Y <input checked="" type="radio"/>	N <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 1: Purpose of the proposal/strategy/decision

No	Question	Details
1.	Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal	Torbay Council as a Unitary Authority is classified as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In order for Torbay Council to meet its statutory duties to manage flood risk and deliver the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Torbay must be produced. The LFRMS provides a high level strategy for addressing flood risk from local sources including surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.
2.	Who is intended to benefit / who will be affected?	<p>The strategy aims to reduce the impact and consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>As a LLFA Torbay Council has as a statutory responsibility for the leadership and management of local flood risk and will be working with the following partners. The strategy identifies the authorities and organisations involved and their roles in helping to reduce flood risk within Torbay and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Torbay Council • Environment Agency • South West Water • Local householders, landowners and businesses
3.	What is the intended outcome?	<p>The aim of this Strategy is to help manage flood risk in a way that will benefit people, property and the environment. The following outcomes have been developed to support this aim. These outcomes will be used to guide the development and implementation of the Strategy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To improve the understanding of local flood (surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourse) and coastal risks. 2. Increasing individual and community awareness and preparedness for flood and coastal erosion events and the impacts of climate change of flood risk. 3. To collaborate with Flood Risk Management Authorities stakeholders and the public to reduce flood and coastal risks and share data and resources to the greatest benefit. 4. To reduce the impact and consequences for individuals, communities, businesses and the environment from flooding and coastal erosion. 5. To ensure that planning decisions are properly informed by flooding issues and the impact future planning

No	Question	Details
		<p>may have on flood risk management and long term developments.</p> <p>6. Improve and/or maintain the capacity of existing drainage systems by targeted maintenance.</p> <p>7. Take a sustainable approach to flood risk management balancing economic, environmental and social benefits.</p> <p>8. Increase approaches that utilise the natural environment.</p> <p>9. Ensure the development of skills required to implement effective and innovative flood risk management measures.</p> <p>10. Identify projects and programmes which are affordable, maximising capital funding from internal and external sources.</p>

Section 2: Equalities, consultation and engagement

Torbay Council has a moral obligation as well as a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to eliminate discrimination, promote good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not.

The **equalities, consultation and engagement** section ensures that, as a council, we take into account the Public Sector Equality Duty at an early stage and provide evidence to ensure that we fully consider the impact of our decisions / proposals on the Torbay community.

Evidence, consultation and engagement

No	Question	Details
4.	Have you considered the available evidence?	<p>The development of the Strategy has been overseen by the Torbay Council Flood Steering Group which includes representatives from Torbay Council (both officers and members), the Environment Agency and South West Water.</p> <p>Details regarding the local flood risk issues within Torbay have been produced following a review of the historic flooding records between 1991 and 2014, held by Torbay Council, South West Water and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>Specific responsibilities for each risk management authority have been produced in accordance with the National Strategy and following detailed consultations with the relevant risk management authority.</p>

No	Question	Details
5.	How have you consulted on the proposal?	In accordance with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England prior to the publication of the final LFRMS the draft document was made available for public consultation between 7 th November and 19 th December 2014. The LFRMS was also presented to the Members of the Place Policy Development Group on 15 th October 2014.
6.	Outline the key findings	Following the consultation process we received seven responses of which four were internal responses from departments within Torbay Council, two responses where from the Environment Agency and the final response was from South West Water. No responses were received from the general public. All of the responses were fully supportive of the strategy and identified that the document provided a clear explanation of the enacting/background legislative framework, roles of the various parties/partners and strategies for helping deliver a reduction in flood risk.
7.	What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?	Following the consultation process only minor amendments were made to rectify typographical errors and to provide a number of minor clarification points.

Positive and negative equality impacts

No	Question	Details		
8.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups			
		Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Neutral Impact
	All groups in society generally	All groups are intended to benefit from the strategy as the impact and consequences of flooding and coastal erosion are reduced.		
	Older or younger people			No differential impact
	People with caring responsibilities			No differential impact
	People with a disability			No differential impact
	Women or men			No differential impact

No	Question	Details		
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)			No differential impact
	Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			No differential impact
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			No differential impact
	People who are transgendered			No differential impact
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			No differential impact
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			No differential impact
	Socio-economic impacts (including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			No differential impact
9.	Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and / or foster good relations?	N/A		

Section 3: Steps required to manage the potential impacts identified

No	Action	Details		
10.	Summarise any positive impacts and how they will be realised most effectively?	All groups are intended to benefit from the strategy as the impact and consequences of flooding and coastal erosion are reduced. By delivering the measures for managing flood and coastal erosion risk identified within Section 14.3 of the strategy the future risk of flooding and coastal erosion will be significantly reduced. Items of work proposed to be carried out each financial year will be identified in the annual action plan.		
11.	Summarise any negative impacts and how these will be managed?	There are no anticipated negative impacts from this policy.		

Section 4: Recommended course of action

No	Action	Details
12.	<p>State a recommended course of action</p> <p>[please refer to action after section 5]</p>	<p>Outcome 1: No major change required - EIA has not identified any potential for adverse impact in relation to equalities and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.</p>

Section 5: Monitoring and action plan

No	Action	Details
13.	<p>Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of your proposals</p>	<p>It is proposed that an annual action plan will be produced to provide a more detailed overview of the works Torbay Council wish to undertake each year in order to manage the flood risk within its area.</p> <p>Torbay Council as a Unitary Authority has been designated as the LLFA for Torbay and under Section 10 of the FWMA is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Torbay.</p> <p>As part of the LFRMS an annual action plan will be produced identifying the proposed works to be undertaken that financial year. This action plan will be reviewed every three months by the Flood Steering Group.</p>

Action plan

Please detail below any actions you need to take:

No.	Action	Reason for action / contingency	Resources	Responsibility	Deadline date
1	Production of annual action plan	To detail works needed in the coming year to manage the flood risk within the area.	Engineering team as part of FWMA statutory duties	Service Manager Engineering	End of February
2	Review annual action plan	To review progress on the annual action plan	Engineering team as part of FWMA statutory duties	Flood Steering Group	Every three months