

Annex A: Lewisham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022-2027 Action Plan update

Lewisham's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was approved by Mayor and Cabinet on 21st September 2022. This document and the associated report provide the first update since the strategy was implemented a year and a half ago. Officers will prepare an annual update against these actions and the Flood Risk Management KPIs to show the progress made on delivering the strategy objectives.

Objective 1: Understanding risk and opportunity:

Ref	Action	Action owner	Date	Jan 2024 Narrative	Jan 2024 Status
1.01	Produce a database for planned council works in the public realm, parks and open spaces to maximise the integration of flood adaptation in the Council's wider programme of works.	Place - Highways	April 2023	Lewisham's Highways team has started the process of completing GIS mapping of existing Highway assets, this needs to be completed before the development of a shared database mapping the locations of future projects. Revised completion date September 2024 .	Underway
1.02	Produce a shared SuDS Opportunities Register showing where flood storage could be incorporated into the public realm.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	April 2023	A SuDS opportunities register highlighting key sustainable drainage retrofit opportunities has been produced and shared with key stakeholders. This layer is available to view on Lewisham GIS.	Action Achieved
1.03	Record flood incidents and share data with partners to develop a picture of flood risk across the borough.	Place – Lead Local Flood Authority	Ongoing	Since this strategy's implementation 28 flooding incidents have been recorded, documenting the location, severity, and cause of the flooding, and noting what, if any, remediation actions were needed. All recorded flooding incidents are recorded on Lewisham's GIS.	Action Achieved

1.04	Maintain a register of significant flood risk management assets to ensure that the condition of major assets is known.	Place – Lead Local Flood Authority	Ongoing	The Flood Risk Management Asset Register has been updated with any newly constructed assets and all condition assessments of existing assets. This information is recorded on Lewisham’s GIS.	Action Achieved
1.05	Conduct a Surface Water Management Plan to identify options to manage flood risk to an acceptable level.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2025	London surface water management taskforce is producing London-wide mapping showing cost benefit ratio of installing SuDS on streets – this information will be used to feed into Lewisham’s Surface Water Management Plan.	Underway
1.06	Identify ownership and condition of assets that fall under the Thames Estuary 2100 Plan.	Place – Lead Local Flood Authority	March 2025	Lewisham Council is participating in the creation of the Joint Thames Strategy Refresh Project which will help boroughs to incorporate TE2100 Plan Recommendations which include the future management of riverside assets.	Underway
1.07	Conduct an asset and performance review of all highway drainage, culverts and flood risk management assets in Lewisham to help prioritise future asset management maintenance in the borough Conduct an asset and performance review of all highway drainage, culverts and flood risk management assets in Lewisham to help prioritise future asset management maintenance in the borough.	Place - Highways	Ongoing	Highways are currently reviewing highway flooding hotspots using drainage asset CRM, any historic locations will be removed from register. A full asset drainage review was carried out three years ago, gully maintenance regime is now based on silt levels within gully pots.	Underway
1.08	Internal flooding group to review actions on a yearly basis and identify projects where flood mitigation can be integrated.	Place – Lead Local Flood Authority	Feb 2023	Flood and Water Management Act Group reviewed the action plan at January’s meeting, providing updates on any relevant actions.	Action Achieved

1.09	Report Action Plan amendments to the Sustainable Development Select Scrutiny Committee.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2024	This annex and the associated document form the update on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2022-2027 and the reporting on actions to the Sustainable Development Select Scrutiny Committee.	Partly Achieved
1.10	Secure funding to carry out a programme of flood risk modelling to identify key opportunities for the installation of natural flood management measures across the borough.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2025		New
1.11	Secure funding to conduct a boroughwide condition assessment survey of Ordinary Watercourses.	Place – Lead Local Flood Authority	March 2025		New
1.12	Update the action plan and KPI tracker every six months at the Flood and Water Management Act Group meetings.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	Ongoing		New

Objective 2: Reducing the risk of flooding:

Ref	Action	Action owner	Date	Dec 2023 Narrative	Dec 2023 Status
2.01	Conduct flood risk mitigation works on the flood storage area within Chinbrook Meadows to reduce the risk of fluvial flooding on the River Quaggy.	Community Services – Green Scene	April 2023	Silt removal works to maintain to the functionality of the flood storage area within Chinbrook Meadows took place in May 2022.	Action Achieved
2.02	Deliver a constructed wetlands within Chinbrook Meadows to reduce the risk of siltation of flood risk management assets within the park	Community Services – Green Scene	April 2023	A new wetlands area in Chinbrook Meadows has been created by the Council's work in partnership with Thames 21, the Friends of Chinbrook Meadows group and Bromley Council. The new wetlands area provides an additional 1000m ³ fluvial flood storage, helps to manage silts and improves water quality in the River Quaggy.	Action Achieved
2.03	Integrate flood adaptation measures within Dalmain Primary School to reduce the risk of surface water flooding within the Carholme Road critical drainage area.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	September 2022	10 rainwater planters have been installed around the school intercepting rainwater runoff from 300m ² of roof area. A rain garden and outdoor classroom will be constructed in the summer 2024. Revised completion date September 2024 .	Partly Achieved
2.04	Integrate flood adaptation measures within Rathfern Primary School to reduce the risk of surface water flooding with the Carholme Road critical drainage area	Place - Climate Resilience Team	September 2023	Climate adaptation retrofit completed in partnership with Trees for Cities 2 rain gardens, 8 rainwater planters and veg patch have been installed with the school playground. The scheme intercept rainfall from 589m ² of hardstanding surfaces.	Action Achieved
2.05	Construct SuDS tree pits within areas of high surface water flood	Place - Climate	Ongoing	By the end of March 2024 there will be 6 SuDS tree pits/rain gardens with trees in the borough. Three along	Partly Achieved

	risk to reduce the likely of localised highway flooding	Resilience Team		Baring Road were constructed in 2022/23, two on Old Bromley Road and one on Crossfield Street which will be delivered by the end of financial year 2023/24.	
2.06	Carry out programme of community river restoration activities on the River Ravensbourne, River Pool and River Quaggy to reduce the likelihood of fluvial flooding.	Community Services – Green Scene	Ongoing	Programmes of community river restoration works are currently ongoing weekly along stretches of the Rivers Ravensbourne, Pool and Quaggy. Over 7400m of watercourse has been improved due to community river restoration activities.	Partly Achieved
2.07	Plant trees within the public realm, parks and open spaces in critical drainage areas to intercept rainfall and reduce surface water runoff.	Community Services – Green Scene	Ongoing	In the current planting season (2023/24) 201 street trees have been planted within Lewisham’s critical drainage areas.	Partly Achieved
2.08	Reduce the risk of flooding along the Ravensbourne by creating flood storage in Beckenham Place Park as part of the wider investment in the eastern side of the park	Place – Capital Delivery	December 2023	The Council is currently delivering a capital scheme to regenerate Beckenham Place Park East – this includes the creation of a 25,000m ³ flood storage. Revised completion date September 2024 .	Partly Achieved
2.09	Complete a business case for delivering a constructed wetlands within Sydenham Wells Park to reduce the risk of surface water flooding within the Upper Sydenham critical drainage area	Place - Climate Resilience Team	December 2026	In December 2023 the Council commissioned modelling to support the business case for implementing a series SuDS measures and natural play in Wells Park to reduce the risk of surface water flooding.	Underway
2.10	Complete a business case for delivering a capital flood alleviation scheme at Verdant Lane to reduce the risk of surface water flooding to properties and infrastructure on the Verdant Lane and Brownhill Road	Place - Climate Resilience Team	December 2026	In December 2023 the Council commissioned modelling to support the business case for implementing a flood alleviation scheme in the Verdant Lane critical drainage area – looking at possible options to store surface in Reigate Road Open Space.	Underway

2.11	Identify opportunities at natural permeable sites across the borough where Nature-based solutions can be implemented to reduce the risk of flooding.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	Ongoing	In collaboration with key stakeholders, the Council has developed a longlist of possible natural flood management projects including river restoration, deculverting and wetland creation. The following amendment is proposed for this action from 2024: investigate the cost-benefit ratio of NFM opportunities and identify possible funding avenues to deliver projects.	Partly Achieved
2.12	Work with partners to develop a masterplan for the Grove Park District Park that identifies areas where nature-based flood risk attenuation can be implemented	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2023	In January 2023 LDA completed a masterplan of the Grove Park District Park this identified several schemes where nature-based flood risk attenuation could be implemented. This included stream restoration in Northbrook Park and development of a business case for implementing NFM within Reigate Road.	Action Achieved
2.13	Secure additional funding to deliver SuDS and Pocket Parks in Lewisham including delivering projects where funding has already been secured at Staplehurst Road, Lewisham High Street and Clarendon Rise.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2025		New
2.14	Restoration of the stream within Northbrook Park to reduce risk of surface water flooding within the Verdant Lane Critical Drainage area.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2025		New

Objective 3: Resilient Planning:

Ref	Action	Action owner	Date	Dec 2023 Narrative	Dec 2023 Status
3.01	Produce procedural and guidance documents to enable planning officers to assess sustainable drainage strategies within minor applications to maximise the flood attenuate within new development.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	December 2022	Lewisham Council has developed a Minor SuDS Proforma and internal flooding guidance to help planning officers' assess SuDS and flood risk within minor developments.	Action Achieved
3.02	Update Planning Validation maps to ensure Ordinary Watercourses are identified as planning constraints.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	December 2022	Updated GIS mapping of ordinary watercourses has been shared with the Planning Validation and added to planning constraints on Acolaid.	Action Achieved
3.03	Deliver programme of SuDS training to planning and planning policy officers to ensure that SuDS and flooding benefit is maximised through the development process	Place - Climate Resilience Team	Ongoing	In 2023/24 the Council delivered two sessions of SuDS training for planning officers, a total of 24 planning officers have attended.	Partly Achieved
3.04	Ensure that (where feasible) all development within critical drainage areas will attenuate to greenfield runoff rates	Place - Climate Resilience Team	Ongoing	In 2022-23 the Climate Resilience Team reviewed over 33 (flood) major applications and where needed pushed for higher standards to ensure new developments play their part in a borough-wide effort to mitigate the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Of the applications reviewed by the team 78% of the relevant applications achieved over a 90% betterment from pre- to post-development attenuation rates.	Partly Achieved
3.05	New development will contribute over 5000m ² of new blue green infrastructure in the public realm	Place - Climate Resilience Team	March 2024	Over 5000m ² of new blue-green infrastructure has been contributed through development.	Action Achieved
3.06	Review opportunities to update planning policy including the Rivers Corridors Improvement SPD to	Place – Planning policy	March 2024	The delay in the Local Plan impacted the delivery of this action, it is suggested that this action is pushed back to March 2026 .	Not Achieved

	give a greater focus on Ordinary Watercourses				
3.07	Review local planning policy in the context of The Environment Bill and other changes to national policy to create opportunities to use offsite contributions for the delivery of blue green interventions within the public realm where developments are not able to do so onsite.	Place – Planning policy	March 2023	Lewisham Council are partnering with Thames21 to carry out a Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF) to identify how Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) funds can be utilised to deliver river restoration in Lewisham. Revised completion date September 2024 .	Partly Achieved
3.08	Evaluate local planning procedures in the context of the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act.		March 2025		New

Objective 4: Resilient Communities:

Ref	Action	Action owner	Date	Dec 2023 Narrative	Dec 2023 Status
4.01	Produce interpretive installations near watercourses that increase public knowledge on risk of flooding within Lewisham	Place – Climate Resilience Team	December 2022	As part of the In Living Memory project Lewisham Underway Water temporary installations were erected to engage residents on flood risk. In August 2022 a design competition to install a piece of public art to commemorate the Lewisham Floods of 1968 was carried out. Planning permission for the winning artist’s proposal was granted in January 2023, the sculpture has been fabricated and along with an interpretation board will be installed in September 2024.	Partly Achieved
4.02	Provide information and guidance on small-scale SuDS features and depaving to empower residents to retrofit their properties	Place – Climate Resilience Team	December 2022	The Council continues to actively review options for reducing the number of new front gardens that are paved over and encourage de-paving and the use of sustainable drainage, in 2022, the Council published guidance documents encouraging residents to remove hardstanding surfacing.	Action Achieved
4.03	Create online content to inform residents and landowners of the level of flood risk that they face and the steps they can take to increase resilience	Place – Climate Resilience Team	December 2022	In partnership with Goldsmiths and Brockley Brewery the Council produced beer mats with historic photos of flooding events in Lewisham and a call to action to direct residents to where more flood risk related information could be found, these were distributed to local numerous pubs.	Action Achieved
4.04	Conduct a flood preparedness study which will outline the level of flood risk properties face	Place – Climate Resilience Team	March 2026		Underway

4.05	Review and update the Multi Agency Flood Plan for the borough and hold a repeat local exercise with first responders, council services and others.	Place – Emergency Planning Team	March 2024	Following guidance from central government on how to develop consistent Multi-Agency Flood Plans officers from the Emergency Planning Team and the Lead Local Flood Authority met in February 2024 to discuss the upcoming update of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan which should be completed by July 2024.	Underway
4.06	Increase youth engagement in the implementation of blue-green infrastructure within Lewisham.	Place - Climate Resilience Team	September 2025		New