

## Lambeth Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy.

### A summary for citizens.

#### The risk of flooding in Lambeth

Up to 43,740 residential properties in Lambeth are at risk of flooding from a range of sources, including [surface water runoff](#) and [ponding, groundwater, sewer surcharging](#), rivers and tidal watercourses (the River Graveney and River Thames) and reservoirs. Often more than one of these sources can combine to cause a flood event.

Flooding is likely to increase in the future as we see the effects of climate change and the demand for development and housing grows.

The Flood Management Act 2010 names Lambeth Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the London Borough of Lambeth. This means that we now have a responsibility to lead and co-ordinate local flood risk management.

#### The Lambeth Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

We are required by law to create, maintain, introduce and monitor a strategy to manage flood risk in Lambeth.

The strategy explains:

- The current level of flood risk in the borough
- [Risk Management Authorities](#) and their responsibilities
- Our plans for managing local flood risk
- How we will fund these projects
- How long it will take
- How the changes will impact on the local environment
- How we will monitor and review projects to make sure they are working

The strategy is based on three main principles. We want to:

- Enable citizens to prevent flood risk in their local areas
- Introduce sustainable solutions that will benefit present and future generations
- Work with others to make sure that we have a complete understanding of water related issues in the borough and identify the best ways of reducing risk together.

## How will we do this?

- We have already started working with citizens on [Depaving](#), [green roof](#) and [sustainable drainage \(SuDS\)](#) projects. We will continue to work with you to introduce measures such as these in your local communities.
- We will work more closely with our neighbouring boroughs, and external organisations such as Thames Water to identify and solve problems quickly.
- We will use the information that we already have and information we are currently gathering, such as rainfall data, to help us to predict areas at risk.
- We will improve communication with you around flood risk and highlight easy ways in which you can work with us to prevent flooding.

You can see a full list of the planned projects, proposed timescales and funding details in our Action Plan.

## How will you make sure that the strategy is working?

We'll look at the strategy each year and produce a report which will be published on our website for you to download. The report will also be presented to the Lambeth Flood Risk Management Group. Elected Members will assess whether the measures are working and action will be taken accordingly.

## How will the strategy be reviewed?

As we learn more about the flood risks facing Lambeth we will review the documents to make sure that they are still appropriate. A full update of the strategy is due in 2018; however it may need to be updated before this date if there is, for instance, a major flooding event or a significant change to our funding.

## Environmental benefits

Many of the proposed projects have environmental benefits in addition to reducing flood risk. A good example is rain gardens and green roofs which provide an opportunity to improve [biodiversity](#) and the appearance of your local area.

To support these benefits, we will look to:

- Manage and plan for the impacts of Climate Change
- Maintain and improve the quality of water bodies in the borough
- Reduce water usage
- Promote sustainable development

If you would like to download the full Strategy and supporting documents, you can do so at [www.lambeth.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/flooding)

If you have any questions or comments on the contents of the Strategy, please contact us at [flooding@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:flooding@lambeth.gov.uk)

Glossary:

**Surface water runoff** – surface runoff is water from rain, melted snow or other sources that flows across the surface of the ground. It is more common in urban areas where permeable or absorbent surfaces such as soil and grass have been replaced by non-permeable surfaces such as paving and concrete.

**Ponding** – When water gathers on the surface of the ground without draining away.

**Groundwater** – Water beneath the surface of the ground that supplies wells and springs.

**Sewer Surcharging** – The overloading of a sewer system beyond its capacity which leads to water escaping through manhole covers and other outlets.

**Risk Management Authorities** – other organisations e.g. Thames Water and the Environment Agency, with responsibility for flood risk management.

**Depaving** – replacing surfaces such as concrete which water cannot drain through, with surfaces that allow water to seep back into the ground such as soil and gravel.

**Green Roof** - A green roof is a roof partially or completely covered with vegetation.

**Water bodies** – Areas of water such as rivers, reservoirs and streams.

**Biodiversity** – the variety of wildlife and plant life in an area.