



Carlisle City Council Flood Plan

In December 2015 Carlisle experienced devastating flooding affecting more than 1,800 homes and businesses. Parts of the £38million flood defences that had protected Carlisle since the last major flood in 2005 were overtopped as unprecedented levels of rainfall fed into the Eden Catchment area.

The Environment Agency is implementing a £25million phased plan to further enhance the flood defences in the light of the 2015 flood, which will protect 2,100 homes. Find out more at <https://thefloodhub.co.uk/carlisle/>

We have been working with residents and businesses to make properties and communities more resilient to flooding. In partnership with the lead flood authorities, Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency, we identified these actions we can take to make a difference.

Action undertaken since 2015 includes the temporary employment of a Flood Recovery Support Officer to help vulnerable households affected by the floods. Carlisle City Council has also offered expert consultant advice on individual property protection or community protection schemes; and delivered Property Resilience Grants to flood affected residents and businesses.

We will...

Help reduce the risk of flooding by:

- Working collaboratively through the Cumbria Strategic Flood Partnership on flood risk management: www.cumbriastrategicfloodpartnership.org
- Building a new partnership with Newground and the Environment Agency to look at the development of community flood resilience schemes.
- Planning for minor watercourse maintenance through the Making Space for Water Group, to include:
 - Undertaking regular inspections of ordinary water courses (culverts, grills and open sections) on Carlisle City Council land; and
 - Undertaking regular inspections of bridges maintained by Carlisle City Council.
 - Reviewing the impact of significant severe weather events and reports of flooding.

Help prepare for flooding by:

- Continue to invest in mobile and Cloud ICT to enable home and agile working.
- Including operational managers in multi-agency teleconferences and increasing their access to the Hazard Manager online tool.
- Inspecting and cleaning ordinary water courses on our own land.
- Working with Cumbria County Council and the Environment Agency, through the Cumbria Resilience Network, to engage with Community Flood Action Groups.
- Providing a single point of contact for existing and developing Community Flood Action Groups.
- Providing sandbags to Community Flood Action Groups as part of an agreed and targeted action plan. These will be a temporary measure as they are not an effective form of flood defence.
- Increasing our capabilities by maintaining a flood equipment store including adding 4x4 vehicles to our fleet so that we are ready to deal with the clean-up.
- Increasing our capacity to respond with a plan to divert resources to help with clean-up operations.

Respond to flooding by:

- Setting up reception centres as set out in the Cumbria Welfare Plan.
- Supporting the clean up after the flood water has receded.
- Engaging with Community Flood Action Groups during acute and recovery phases of an emergency through a new liaison role.
- Supporting the warning and informing communications, led by the Environment Agency and other key partners.
- Support councils that suffer similar scale events with advice on operating and managing a DEFRA Property Resilience Grant scheme.

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