



Isle of Wight
Council

Corporate Scrutiny

Flooding – 9 January 2024

Key questions

Q1: How is the IWC, in its role as LLFA, responding to the flood events of late October / early November 2023?

Q2: When is the Isle of Wight Local Flood Risk Management Strategy going to be reviewed and updated?

Q3: How are the Isle of Wight Council, Southern Water, Island Roads and the Environment Agency working together to address flooding on the Isle of Wight?

Topics to cover

1. **Recap - the role of the Isle of Wight Council as LLFA**
2. **Resourcing of the LLFA**
3. **LLFA work programme**
4. **Joint working with other organisations**
5. **Questions / contacts / information**

1. Recap – the role of the IWC as LLFA

- The Isle of Wight Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the island – a ‘different hat’ to the IWC as Local Planning Authority (LPA);
- In 2010, a wide range of duties and responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act passed from the Environment Agency to IWC as LLFA;
- Key responsibilities include carrying out investigations into serious flooding events, preparing various flood risk documentation, ensuring compliance with the Land Drainage Act and processing Ordinary Watercourse consent applications

2. Resourcing of the LLFA

- Responsibilities and duties of the LLFA currently sit within Planning Services;
- Since 2017 and up until October 2022, there was no dedicated LLFA resource within Planning Services to undertake this work;
- In October 2022, a Drainage & Flood Risk Management Officer was appointed to help support ongoing LLFA work as well as provide drainage advice on planning applications & enforcement cases and respond to increasing numbers of flooding enquiries
- The number of flood events and flood-related enquiries / cases has increased significantly over the past 2- 3 years – often complex

3. LLFA work programme

There are a variety of ongoing LLFA workstreams, including:

- Review and update of the Flood Risk Management Strategy (IWC & JBA consultants) (Q2);
 - *Work commenced late 2022, first draft completed and run past RMAs – next stage public consultation – on hold at present**
- Preparation of the first IOW 'Asset register' (IWC & JBA consultants);
 - *Work complete and being used to help log / capture flood information as cases responded to*
- Preparation of a SuDS Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (IWC & JBA consultants);
 - *Draft SPD completed – next stage public consultation – on hold at present**
- Section 19 investigation follow up work;
 - *Binstead – FCERM / Locally Levy; Bembridge – PFR scheme; Monktonmead - EA*
- Ongoing liaison with landowners over riparian responsibilities under the Land Drainage Act 1991;
- Handling of Ordinary Watercourse Consent (OWC) applications;
- Reacting to flood enquiries and events;
- Update meetings with Town, Parish & Community Councils
- *Running evidence gathering exercise for Oct/Nov 23 flood events prior to any S19 investigations (Q1)*
- *Reviewing Draft FRMS / SuDS SPD after Oct/Nov 23 flood events* (Q1)*
- *Supporting One Council response on handling of government flood grants after Oct/Nov 23 flood events (Q1)*

Note: Most of this work is currently undertaken / managed by planning officers

4. Joint working with other organisations

- (Q3) The IWC as LLFA works closely with a number of other 'risk management' authorities including:
 - **Environment Agency** (main rivers, coastal defences)
 - **Southern Water** (storm overflows, combined sewer system, WwTWs)
 - **Island Roads / Highway Authority** (road gullies, highway drainage)
 - **Landowners across the island** (watercourse management)
- Some ongoing multi-agency projects:
 - Storm Overflow Pathfinder Project;
 - Section 19 investigation follow up (e.g. Binstead surface water management project, 5-year PFR scheme);
 - SuDS into public realm improvements;
 - Highway SuDS programme of works

5. Questions / contact / more information

- James Brewer, Planning Policy Team Leader: james.brewer@iow.gov.uk
- Neil Youngs, Drainage & Flood Risk Management Officer: neil.youngs@iow.gov.uk

- [Flood risk and investigation \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk)

- [Ordinary watercourses and consent \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk)

- [2821-Flood-Investigation-Protocol-March-2015.pdf \(iow.gov.uk\)](http://iow.gov.uk)

- [Pathfinder projects \(southernwater.co.uk\)](http://southernwater.co.uk)

- [Statutory Main River Map \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)



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