

West Sussex LLFA Roles & Responsibilities – An Overview in the Context to AVVG

Lead Local Flood Authorities are County Councils and unitary authorities. Under the FWMA, LLFAs are required to:

- Prepare and maintain a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas, coordinating views and activity with other local bodies and communities through public consultation and scrutiny, and delivery planning.
- maintain a register of assets – these are physical features that have a significant effect on flooding in their area
- investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations
- establish approval bodies for design, building and operation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- issue consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses
- Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.

WSCC LLFA and the Environment Agency work closely together to ensure that their strategic decisions/plans they are making locally and nationally complement each other in the sharing of common goals or outcomes. An essential part of the WSCC LLFA in managing local flood risk across the districts and boroughs is proportionally risk assessing the potential significant effects of new development in any plans or strategies.

In times of flood events, most recently/notably June 2012, WSCC LLFA is a 'category one responder' under the Civil Contingencies Act. A prerequisite is we must have plans in place to respond to emergencies, and control or reduce the impact of an emergency. WSCC LLFA has a duty to determine which risk management authorities (RMA's) have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.

WSCC LLFA continually works in partnership with our professional colleagues and communities, raising awareness of flood risk with respect to surface water and groundwater in particular and a more strategic overview with respect to other sources and potential coastal/fluvial erosion risks. 22 Local flood action groups as well as other organisations that represent those living and working in areas at risk of flooding exist across the county. These partnerships are extremely useful and trusted channels for sharing up-to-date information, guidance and support direct with the community.

WSCC LLFA actively encourages local communities to participate in local flood risk management via a number of channels. Proportionally to local circumstances, this includes developing and sharing good practice, training community volunteers so that they can raise awareness of flood risk in their community, and helping the community to prepare flood action plans. WSCC LLFA has a duty to consult local communities about its local flood risk management strategy.

The following summary table outlines the key duties in the left hand column with some supporting background and explanation as to how WSCC LLFA is seeking to/addressing these.

Flood & Water Management Act LLFA Requirement	What West Sussex LLFA do/have done to comply? (AVVG Context)
<p>Prepare and maintain a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas, coordinating views and activity with other local bodies and communities through public consultation and scrutiny, and delivery planning.</p>	<p>WSCC LLFF has prepared and continues to maintain ,under the FWMA and Flood Risk Regulations, a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PRFA), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and a local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/dealing-with-flooding/flood-risk-management/. We coordinate with Arun DC and Horsham DC with respect to planning, implementation and applicability of these plans/Strategies. We consult at town and parish level also (e.g. Arundel Town council)</p>
<p>Maintain a register of assets – these are physical features that have a significant effect on flooding in their area</p>	<p>WSCC LLFA maintains a digital record including mapping of over 200 potential Flood Risk Assets that are the responsibility of various districts/boroughs and gather information where possible of potential for 3rd party asset intervention although we have no direct responsibility for these. As part of AVVG this ‘crowd sourcing’ of potential data from stakeholders will hopefully yield some key information for future evidence based decisions on the catchment scale. This will allow us to target information and awareness campaigns.</p>
<p>Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations</p>	<p>Section 19 of FWMA requires LLFA to investigate and produce a report on significant flood events. Since the formation of the LLFA and identification of requirements in the PFRA there has been one flood investigation report covering various places across the county that flooded between 10th- 12th June 2012.</p>

	<p>https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/fire-emergencies-and-crime/dealing-with-extreme-weather/dealing-with-flooding/flood-risk-management/flood-reports-projects-and-policies/. To date, no further events have met the outlined criteria under the flood risk management regulations however smaller investigations and corrective actions continually take place on the micro scale with significant improvements delivered through partnership working and local community groups.</p>
<p>Establish approval bodies for design, building and operation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</p>	<p>Schedule 3 of the FWMA has not, and is unlikely to be/been implemented. This advocated the formation of a standalone body (SAB) to regulate, implement and drive forward the SuDs agenda. The majority of the functions of a potential SAB were taken on by WSCC LLFA with some elements devolved to the competencies identified within the districts and boroughs.</p>
<p>Issue consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses</p>	<p>These regulatory functions lie within the WSCC LLFA and relevant district or borough. WSCC LLFA has a strategic overview however D&Bs technically appraise and grant the consent for ordinary watercourses only.</p>
<p>Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.</p>	<p>WSCC LLFA encompasses and works closely with West Sussex Resilience team. We are Cat 1 Responders and play an active role in supporting the recovery phase of a significant flood event.</p>