

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	8th November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual report to Overview and Scrutiny		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Locality Services, Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:** The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 previously required that arrangements be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions. Following the cessation of this requirement, O&S has requested that an annual Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) review be brought to them.

**Recommendation(s):** That Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills):

(1) Review the report

(2) That any comments from this committee be referred to the Cabinet Member (Health & Wellbeing) for consideration.

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To ensure the committee's views are considered in the future delivery of the Council's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management function.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs.**

There are no direct revenue costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

**(B) Capital Costs.**

There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

Existing projects are being funded from grants from the Environment Agency. Grant aid will be sought for additional projects and schemes as required.

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> No additional resource implications to those required to deliver service.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> There are no legal implications.	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  <b>The recommendations within this report will</b>	
Have a positive impact	Y/N
Have a neutral impact	Y/N
Have a negative impact	Y/N
The author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y/N
  The content of this report sets out the work and project undertaken by the FCERM in managing flood risk. The nature of this work is to manage a climate impact on our communities. The approaches taken by FCERM are to adapt and mitigate the risks posed by climate change, from assessing planning applications to ensure future climate prediction are considered in designs, to designing in sustainable drainages systems within our sites. The schemes undertaken are designed to better understand and address flood risk now and into the future. Though over the short term some of the work, especially any construction can have a negative impact, its long-term goal is to provide improvements. It is therefore considered that the work has a positive effect on climate change.	

**Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The work FCERM does is about informing and educating our communities about flood risk and ensuring they understand their role in managing flood risk.
Commission, broker and provide core services: not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: We actively work in partnership with communities and other risk management organisations and authorities to ensure we can deliver our

outcomes that tie into the 2030 vision.
Drivers of change and reform: by having an FCERM strategy in place and performance management systems in place we can ensure we are doing the right thing in the right way.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: not applicable
Cleaner Greener: the assets we manage on the coast and inland as part of the Green Infrastructure service enable people to come and enjoy Sefton's natural beauty. The work we do to manage risk, understand risk, avoid increasing risk, reduce risk and reduce the consequences of flood risk both coastal and inland, directly supports Sefton's economy and people's health and wellbeing.

### **What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

#### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into the report (FD 6988/22)

The Chief Legal & Democratic Officer has been consulted and has no comments on the report (LD 5188/22).

#### **(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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### **Appendices:**

### **Background Papers:**

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

[Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategy](#)

[Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management business plan](#)

[FCERM Flood Investigation Policy](#)

## 1. Introduction

The Annual Review covers a 12-month period from September 2021-2022 and details the following key areas:

- Information on **flooding & erosion incidents** experienced over the last year.
- Work progress relative to our **legislative responsibilities** as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Riparian Owner & Coastal Authority.
- Work progress relative to our own **actions** set out in our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) 2022-2030.
- Overview of annual finances

## 2. Overview of Flooding & Coastal Change Incidents 2021-22

### 2.1 Inland Surface Water Flood events

The total flood incidents (all types) reported between Oct-2021 and Sep-22 was 20, this is a reduction of 58 incidents on the previous year. The reduction in flood incident reports may be owing to the reduced rainfall rates experienced in Sefton and across the country. In comparison to 2020/21, there was a reduction in precipitation across the North-West (Figure 2) which will have reduced pressure on the drainage network and minimised the likelihood of flash flooding and surface water incidents.

Out of the 20 flood incidents, only 8 related to surface water flooding, 2 from the highway flooding, 2 related to main river flooding and 8 were on the United Utilities systems. Figure 1a highlights the distribution of flood incidents across the Sefton borough for 2021/22. The highest number of flood reports were received in the Church ward (Crosby), due to bursts in the rising main sewer operated by United Utilities in Crosby Coastal Park, and Park and Sudell (Maghull) wards due to main river flooding and highway related flooding as shown in figure 1b. Figure 1c highlights the land use of the areas that are experiencing flooding.

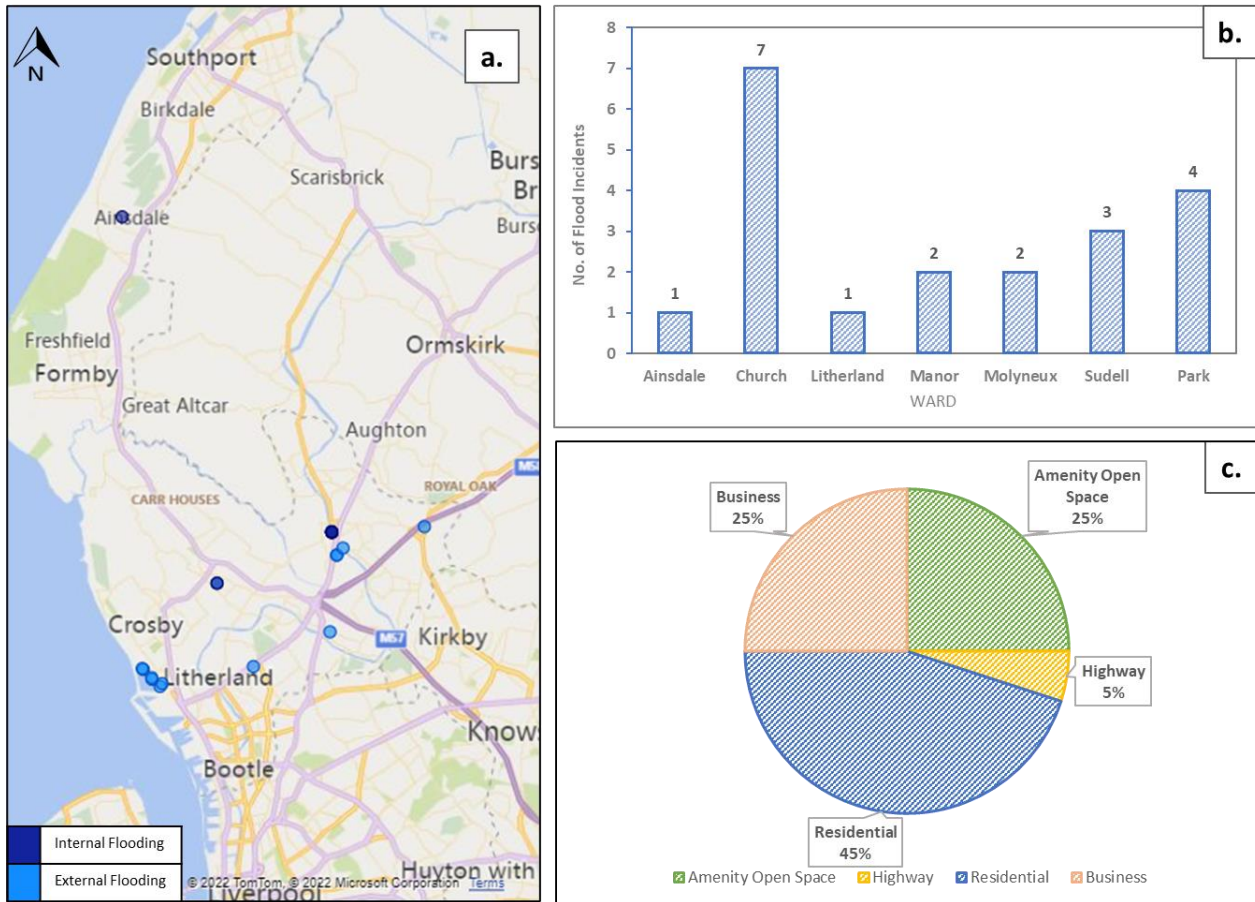


Figure 1a-c: This figure highlights the flood incidents across the Sefton Borough between Oct-21 to Sep-22. a.) Distribution and type of flooding incident - internal or external b.) Flood incidents reported by ward c.) Flood incident reports relating to land use type.

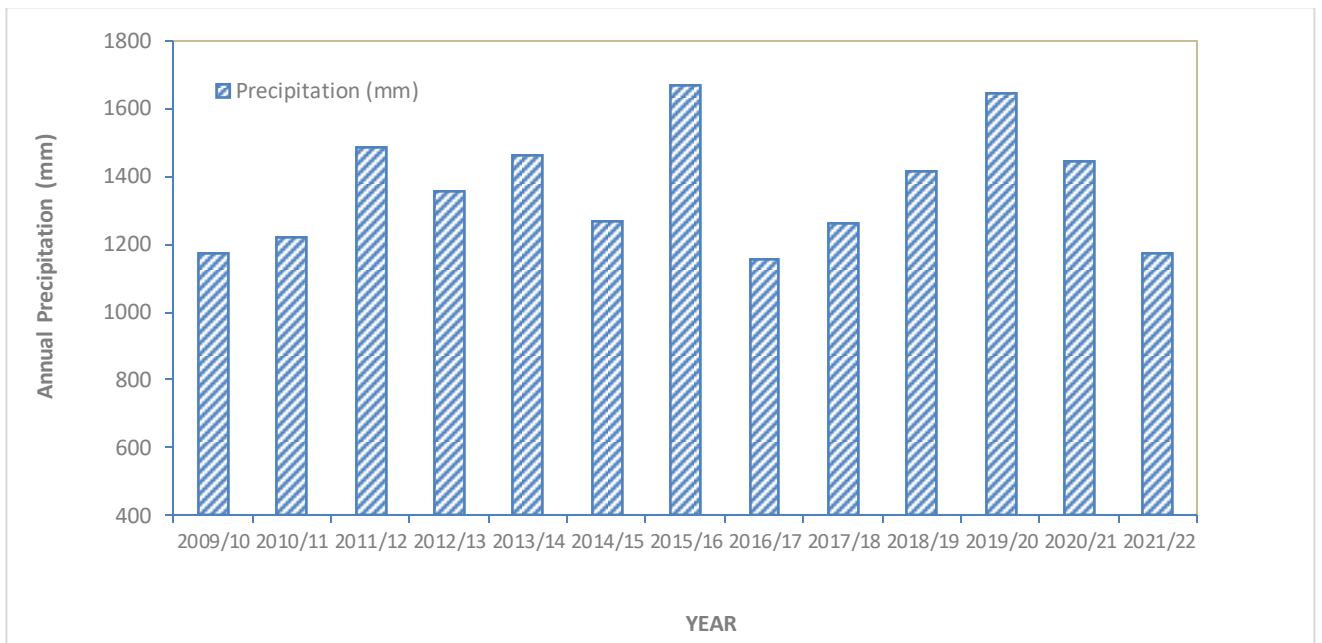


Figure 2: Displays the average annual precipitation (Sep-Sep) for North-West & North Wales between 2009-2022

## 2.2 Coastal Flooding & Change

During the 2021/2022 period there were not any significant flooding or erosion events along the coast. The most significant impacts were experienced during Storm Franklin (20th-21st February 2022) which coincided with a high tide and resulted in erosion at Hightown and damage to the timber breastwork along Crosby sea wall. Storm Franklin was the last of three named storms (Eunice, Dudley & Franklin) that affected the UK in the space of a week. These storms formed part of a turbulent spell of wet and windy weather for the UK, associated with a powerful jet stream and caused significant damage to trees across the borough with extremely high winds triggering a red weather warning.

## 3. Legislative Responsibilities

Sefton's statutory duties and legislative responsibilities have been integrated into the actions of the FCERM business plan which is reported in section 4. However, it is useful to separate these actions out here for clarity to demonstrate how they are being delivered.

### 3.1 Delivery of Duties Under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010)

The Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 established Sefton Council as a LLFA making it responsible for the management of 'local flood risk'. 'Local Flood Risk' refers to flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (ditches, stream and smaller rivers). **As an LLFA, Sefton Council has several responsibilities (a-f)**. The delivery of these responsibilities is outlined beneath each subtitle:

***a) Prepare and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which manages surface water runoff, groundwater & ordinary watercourses.***

Under Section 9 of the FWMA, an LLFA has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. In January 2022, Sefton Council adopted its new [Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2022-2030](#) (see background papers to this report) which aligns with Sefton Council's 2030 Vision and takes into consideration the National FCERM strategy.

The local strategy provides information on who the risk management authorities are in Sefton, their relevant functions and how our approach to flood risk management is coordinated. It offers information on how wider environmental objectives will be achieved in Sefton and provides timescales of when our approach will be reviewed.

The strategy is supported by a [Business Plan](#) which outlines Sefton's future actions for managing flood and coastal erosion risk and provides detail on the process, timescales, benefits and costs associated with any proposed actions. This strategy provides local communities and stakeholders with clarity on flood risk management in Sefton.

***b) Co-operate with other Risk Management Authorities (RMA) and work closely to ensure local and national plans are linked.***

Over the past year Sefton Council has continued to work in partnership with other RMAs to reduce flood risk across the borough on a national-, regional- and project-scale. Sefton Council's interests have been represented at the working groups displayed in Table 1 (both virtual and in-person, where suitable).

The attendance of these meetings has allowed RMAs to share examples of best practice, exchange data & information and examine more efficient & prioritised ways of achieving our actions in collaboration with our RMA partners.

Table 1: Meetings & Working Groups attended during the past 12-month period.

Meeting	Scale	RMAs Attending	Frequency	Outcomes
<b>The Merseyside Flood Risk Partnership: Operational, Tactical and Strategic</b>	Regional	EA, UU, Merseyside LLFAs	Quarterly	Worked in partnership to resolve local flood issues. Administered quick win funding
<b>The NW Regional Flood &amp; Coastal Committee</b>	Regional	EA, UU, Regional Strategic Partnerships	Quarterly	New business plan approved. Increased quick win funding to £100k per partnership.
<b>The Liverpool Bay Coastal Sub-Group</b>	Regional	EA, maritime authorities	Biannually	Supported PhD studying coastal sediment dynamics from Great Orme to Formby Point
<b>Northern Coastal Sub-Group</b>	Regional	EA, maritime authorities	Quarterly	Supported and provided feedback to the coastal monitoring programme
<b>The North West and North Wales Coastal Group</b>	Regional	EA, UU, maritime authorities	Quarterly	Advancement of SMP action plan, funding secured for Eco buffers project.
<b>Alt Crossens catchment Partnership</b>	Regional	EA, UU	Quarterly	Coordination of project activity across catchment inc. several bids for watercourse improvements, studies on Alt and Melling Brook
<b>National Network of Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Steering Group</b>	National	EA, national regional monitoring programmes	Quarterly	Exchange of knowledge across network – defining specification for survey work
<b>Flood Resilience Strategic Working Group</b>	Sefton	EA, UU	Bimonthly	Reviewed options for Maghull and Lunt Meadows
<b>The Maghull Operational Officer Group</b>	Local	EA, UU	Monthly	Catchment based flood map, programme of works

***c) Establish and maintain a register of structures or features which have a significant effect on flood risk.***

Currently, we have a standard, excel-based asset register, however, this year we have been investigating new ways of cataloguing and maintaining our assets. The use of new software will allow an overhaul of our asset register, making it easier to record new asset locations and update records in real-time. The software will provide a collaborative and inclusive system that can be used across the team for inspecting and maintaining our assets. We aim to get the software running in 2022/23, making data available across the team and, where suitable, to the public. This move to an updated

system will provide clarity to our record keeping and improve our ability to organise and manage future inspection/maintenance timetables.

**d) Undertake the role of a statutory consultee to Sefton planning authorities by providing technical advice on surface water drainage.**

Sefton Council, in its role as LLFA, is a statutory consultee and, therefore, provides technical advice on surface water drainage for major planning applications ( $\geq 10$  dwellings/  $\geq 0.5$  Ha).

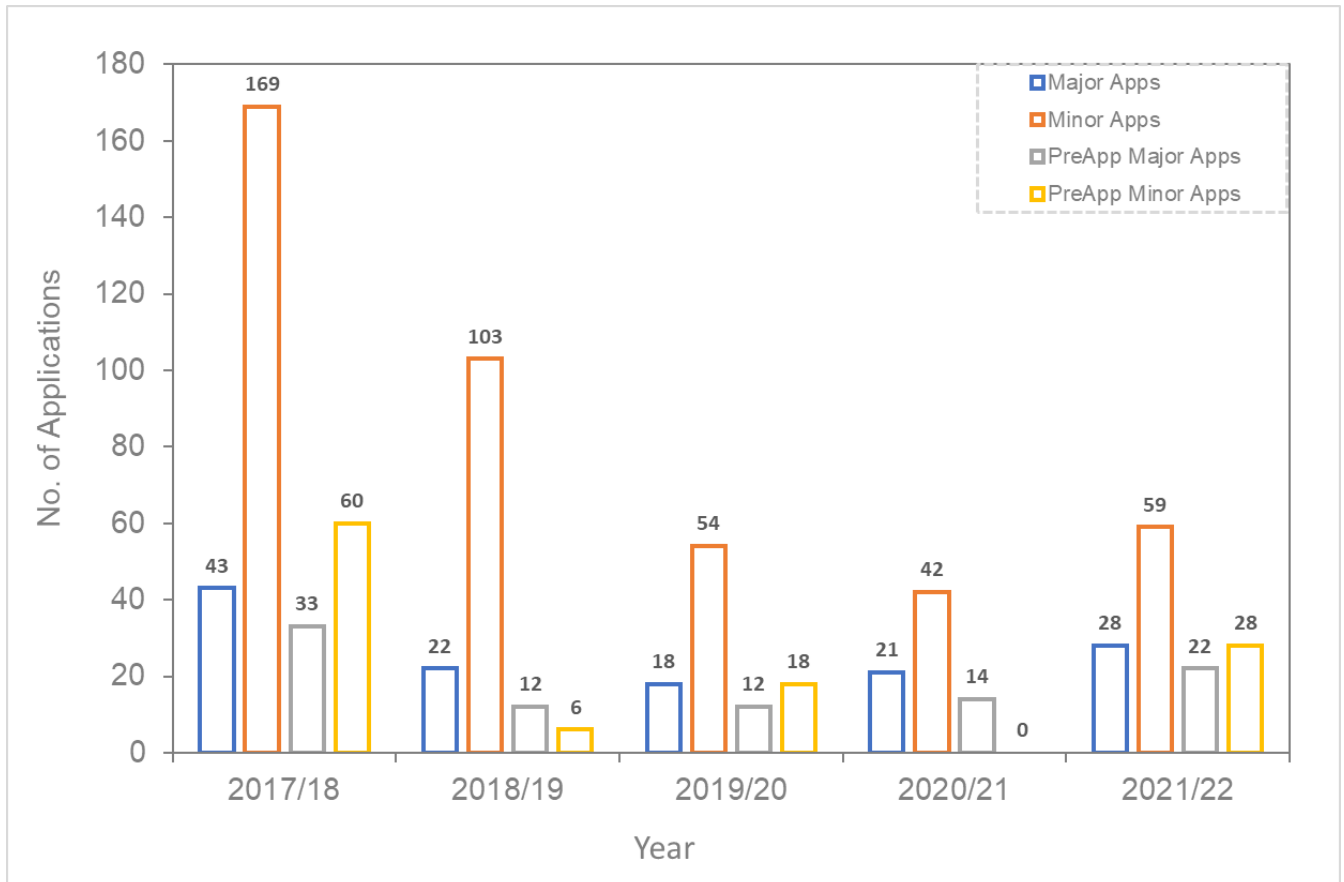


Figure 3: The annual (Sep-Sep) number of planning applications (Major, Minor, Major Pre. App, Minor Pre. App) received by the FCERM team from 2017-2022.

Based on the values in Figure 3, we are beginning to again receive an increasing number of minor planning applications which are outside the consultation duties of a LLFA.

Previously, in a bid to reduce the number of minor applications submitted to us for consultation, a set of standard conditions were developed by FCERM to be applied by the Planning Department in 2018. The application of these standard conditions was aimed at reducing the number of minor applications being forwarded to FCERM. Applications have decreased since the implementation of the standard conditions, however, it appears numbers are beginning to rise again (Figure 3). Therefore, it is important we re-establish the utilisation of these conditions with the Planning Department to further reduce numbers.



In the period 2021/22, 10% of major planning applications (full) submitted to us for consultation had deadlines missed (3/28). However, the number of deadlines missed has improved on the previous year (20/21) where 33% of deadlines were missed. These missed deadlines are mainly as a result of ongoing discussions with developers to resolve flooding issues, which took longer than the standard consultation period, however, the consultation period does not stop whilst further information from developers is sought.

To streamline response times, a SuDs (Sustainable Drainage) Pro-forma was developed in 2018/2019 and made a mandatory part of the checklist expected from applicants which should not be validated by planning until all documents requested in the checklist are submitted. The Pro-forma helps the Planning Department to ensure any major planning application has the required information before being passed to the LLFA for consultation. Some major applications are still coming through to us without the necessary documentation therefore increasing pressure and leading to failures in meeting deadlines. We continue to work with planning colleagues to improve and utilise the pro-forma effectively.

### ***e) Investigate and publish reports on significant flooding in Sefton***

Sefton Council has a duty to publish flood investigation reports under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The FCERM Flood Investigation Policy defines what is considered to be a 'significant flood event' and the criteria for triggering a Section 19 report. Section 19 reports provide an overview of the circumstances of the event for public record with the objectives of the report being to:

- Identify and explain the probable cause of flooding
- Identify which authorities, communities and individuals have relevant flood risk management powers and responsibilities
- Provide recommendations for each of those authorities, communities, and individuals
- Outline whether those authorities, communities or individuals have or will exercise their powers or responsibilities in response to the flooding incident.

The report does not include analysis of flood mechanisms or hydraulic modelling as it is not intended to provide solutions or mitigation options in relation to the event.

The LLFA cannot:

- Resolve the flooding issues or provide designed solutions
- Force authorities to undertake any of the recommended actions.

During the previous 12-month period there has been one flood incident that required investigation – Storm Christoph (18<sup>th</sup> January 2021). The section 19 report for Storm Christoph is in the final stages of completion and will be published by the end of the calendar year.

Furthermore, two older Section 19 reports from 2020 have been completed and published on the council website ([www.sefton.gov.uk/flooding](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/flooding)). These two Section-19 reports cover storm induced flooding incidents that resulted in intense rainfall across south Sefton, flooding areas of Maghull and Thornton. Prior to publication of the reports,

Sefton Council engaged with the affected communities to understand the full impact of the event and inform the communities of actions going forward in relation to the protection.

A further Section 19 will also be produced for Liverpool Road North, Maghull due to internal, repeated flooding within a five-year period from the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

**f) Regulate ordinary watercourses through consent and enforcement powers to ensure riparian owners are undertaking their duties**

The Land Drainage Act 1991 and amended by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires anyone wishing to alter an ordinary watercourse to obtain consent from the Council prior to undertaking the work. Failure to do so can result in the enforcement action being taken by Sefton Council to ensure the capacity and condition of the watercourse are not compromised.

Where the flow of an Ordinary Watercourse is impeded, Sefton Council also has permissive powers to undertake enforcement action which are set out in the Land Drainage Act 1991 in three key sections:

- Section 21: Enforcement of obligations to repair watercourses, bridges, etc.
- Section 23 & 24: Prohibition on obstructions etc. in watercourses.
- Section 25: Powers to require works for maintaining flow of watercourse

Enforcement action will be considered within available resources, by serving notice, where it is in overriding public interest and efforts of negotiation have failed to resolve. Sefton Council will prioritise enforcement action as set out in table 2:

Table 2: Flood risk prioritisation

Priority	Likely consequence of flooding
1	Internal flooding to a dwelling or business premises
2	Flooding to highways defined as part of Sefton’s Key Route Network or critical infrastructure*
3	Flooding to highways defined as classified roads or local distributor roads.
4	Flooding to outbuildings, gardens, open space and farmland that is not on part of the functional floodplain

\*Critical infrastructure refers to:

- Railway lines and stations.
- Police, ambulance and fire stations and command centres.
- Hospitals.
- Universities, colleges and schools.
- Local authority main offices.
- Residential institutions supporting vulnerable people.

Whilst there haven’t been any formal enforcement action, we are undertaking negotiated actions with a number of Riparian owners.

### 3.2 Delivery of Duties as a Riparian Owner (Land Drainage Act, 1991)

Under the Land Drainage Act (1991), riparian landowners have a legal responsibility to maintain the free passage of water through the section of watercourse that flows across their land. A riparian owner possesses land which has a watercourse running next to, underneath or through it. As a landowner, and a riparian owner, Sefton Council has a legal obligation to actively maintain watercourses across its land.

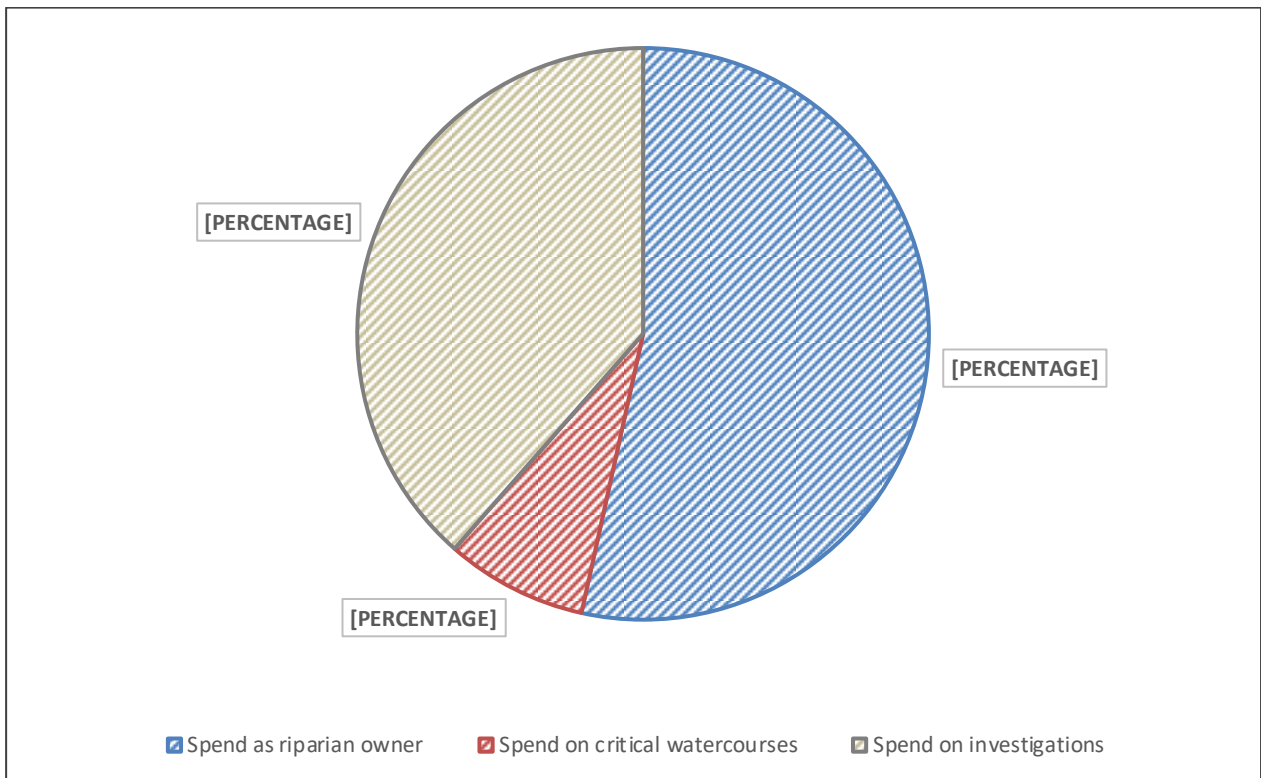


Figure 4: Revenue spend on watercourses as a riparian owner, on a critical watercourse or investigation.

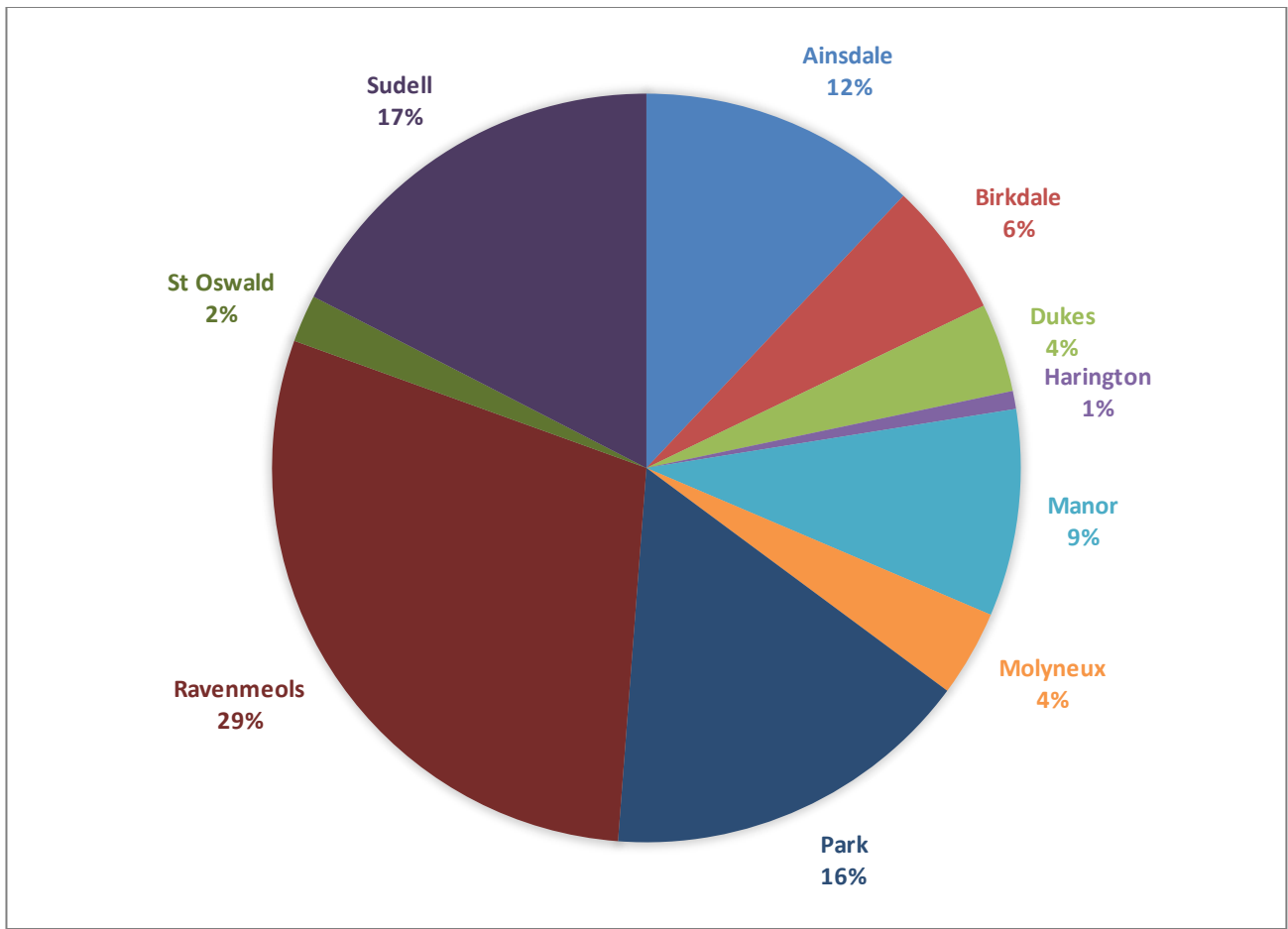


Figure 5: Revenue spend on watercourses based on ward.

### 3.3 Delivery of Duties under the Coast Protection Act (1949)

Under the Coast Protection Act (1949) Sefton Council was designated as a Coastal Protection Authority and as such has powers to protect and maintain the Sefton coast.

To ensure we are fulfilling our obligations the following maintenance has been undertaken:

- Crosby Seawall  
Repairs are underway to the railings and promenade, both of which are ongoing issues. Railings are regularly damaged during storm events.
- Crosby Navigation Markers  
The Trinity House inspection flagged the need to replace a navigation marker on the Alt training bank, this has been commissioned along with painting of a marker on Far Moss Pool outfall, Hightown.
- Coastal Defence Inspection.  
Both hard and soft defences have been inspected.

## 4. Delivery of Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) Actions (2022-2030)

In 2021/22, the FCERM produced and adopted a new LFRMS and Business Plan. To ensure we are delivery on our actions our progress will be measured relative to the actions set out in the LFRMS Business Plan which were based on the Sefton 2030 Vision themes (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Themes of the Sefton Council's Vision 2030

### Together a Stronger Community

#### Develop a FCERM communications plan to support the Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy

**Progress 2021/22:** The 2021/23 Communications Plan was written, adopted and used with social media platforms for the dissemination of our own flooding information and The Flood Hub's campaigns. Further communicative progress was made with a refresh of Sefton Council's 'Flooding' webpages which now contain up-to-date information and documents.

**Action 2022/23:** The 2022/23 Communications Plan is completed and will be in effect from September 2022. This year there is a greater emphasis on partnering with the Flood Hub Campaigns and releasing seasonally relevant information to the public to inform them of flooding and erosion in Sefton.

#### Engage with riparian owners about their responsibilities (Highways Maintenance to work with FCERM on this)

**Progress 2021/22:** Officers have engaged with numerous residents in responding to queries regarding watercourses and riparian responsibilities. Furthermore, officers met with ward councillors and residents from Westbourne Road, Birkdale to discuss and agree a plan to restore the riparian section of the watercourse that then flows into the Council maintained watercourses that drains onto Birkdale beach.

**Action 2022/23:** Following the inspection of riparian-owner ordinary watercourses, letters containing recommended actions will be sent to owners of poorly maintained watercourses to ensure the watercourse is able to receive water and discharge water across their land. This will be done on a risk-based priority.

### Exchange knowledge and best practice with wider partners to ensure improvements, efficiencies and effective ways of working

**Progress 2021/22:** Over the past year Sefton Council has continued to work in partnership with other RMAs to reduce flood risk across the borough on a national-, regional- and project-scale. Sefton Council's interests has been represented at the working groups displayed in Table 1 in Section 3.1b.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to attend partnership meetings and seek to co-develop, co-fund and co-deliver projects. Work with colleagues from Highways and Emergency Planning to review emergency response plans for flooding.

### Work with other Risk Management Authorities to identify viable options for Maghull

**Progress 2021/22:**

**Sefton Strategic Flood Resilience Working Group:** Sefton Council established a member-led, multi-agency working party following Storm Christoph (Jan-21) to continue the good partnership working between the RMAs and other partners and support the development of schemes. The group have continued to meet and work towards improving the coordinated management of risk across Sefton, with the priority being Maghull.

**Maghull Flood Planning Officer's group:** An officer group was established following Storm Christoph to re-assess the risks in Maghull and re-visit options considered for the area to try and identify a viable package of work that will contribute to flood risk management.

A feasibility study was undertaken by the Mersey Rivers Trust to develop options to slow the flow/increase storage to Melling Brook which was funded by the EA. Shortlisted options are being considered and the work has been extended to include the whole of the upper Alt.

**Action 2022/23:** Seek to co-develop, co-fund and co-deliver projects with partners based on the outcomes of investigations and feasibility studies.

### Ensure council-delivered SuDs schemes achieve multiple benefits

**Progress 2021/22:** A swale was included in the development of the driving range at Bootle golf course, to take flows from the course and ensure water is discharged at a controlled rate (Figure 7a-b). It also created areas of habitat that would previously have been mown grass, therefore, improving the biodiversity of the course.



Figure 7a-b: a) Swale slowing the flow of water following heavy rain b) Vegetation beginning to become established in the swale.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to seek opportunities to incorporate SuDs schemes in projects being delivered by

Green Sefton and Sefton Council.

### Engage with communities about the broader issues of FCERM, climate change and flood risk awareness (Highways Maintenance to work with FCERM on this).

**Progress 2021/22:** Work has been undertaken to review and update Sefton Councils website pages on FCERM. A communications plan is in place to apply a targeted approach to awareness raising of the community. Pamphlets and social media tweets have begun to be disseminated about different topics in accordance with the communication plan and campaigns at a regional level run by the Flood Hub.

**Action 2022/23:** Engage with wider teams across the Council to create a Council communications plan that covers, climate, weather related hazards and emergency response.

### Engage with communities where FCERM projects will be undertaken

**Progress 2021/22:**

- **Hightown:** Communication with the Parish Council about coastal change and our plans for future monitoring and management were outlined in a presentation and subsequent briefing note to the community.
- **Maghull:** Communication has been undertaken with residents on Liverpool Road North and Southport Road, where investigation works are underway to establish if a flood alleviation scheme can be developed.
- **Birkdale:** Communication with the community of Westbourne Avenue to ensure the watercourses in the area are maintained effectively by both the Council and residents (who are Riparian Owners in parts of the system).

**Action 2022/23:**

- **Crosby:** Communication with users and residents of the cycle path north of the coast guard station at Hall Road where some interim works to shore up the coastline should take place this year.
- **Maghull:** Liverpool Road North and Sefton Lane depending on the outcome of investigations and options development.
- **Churchtown:** Depending on the outcome of feasibility and funding confirmation for the Pool Project engagement with the community will be needed.

### Work collaboratively with wider partners to identify opportunities to deliver multiple benefits and ensure Sefton's interests are considered

**Progress 2021/22:**

**Annual Grant in Aid refresh submissions:** Every year in early Summer Sefton Council can submit new schemes into the grant-in-aid funded programme managed by the Environment Agency. This is the opportunity for the Local Authority to indicate what potential investment they will be seeking over the next 6 to 20 years. The schemes submitted in 2021/22 are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Capital estimates 2021-2027

Scheme	2022/23 allocation
Hightown Coastal Protection Investigation	£60,000
The Pool, Southport	£25,000
Crosby Marine Lake to Formby Point Strategy Delivery Programme	£0
Sefton Strategic Surface Water Management Plan Delivery Programme	£100,000

Schemes currently under review:

- Seaforth and Litherland Strategic Flood Risk Management Programme
- Sefton Watercourses Under Highways Study
- Essex Road Birkdale Flood Alleviation Scheme

Sefton Council still must develop and have approved business cases to secure and draw down the funding.

**Action 2022/23:**

The 'Merseyside Partnership Quick Win' (MPQW) money has recently doubled in value to £100k per year, consequently, Sefton Council has recommended several projects to be used by partners across Merseyside. Projects that have previously not qualified for 'Grant in Aid' funding can request funds from the MPQW which would be allocated based on discussions and need as a partnership. Projects that would be beneficial to Sefton for this year would be the contribution to a pump at Fouracres and increased water level monitoring across the region. We will therefore see to secure this funding and deliver projects this year.

Working with Mersey Rivers Trust and the Alt Crossens partnership to identify opportunities to improve the water quality of our watercourses and tap into alternative funding sources that whilst primarily are there to fund improvement to water quality they have multiple benefits, including flood risk alleviation.

### Work with land managers and NW coastal group on the delivery of the Eco buffers project at Formby Point

**Progress 2021/22:** Officers have engaged with the National Trust and other regional partners on Eco-buffers project to discuss the programme and outcomes. Whilst there is broad support on the outcomes there are several site specifics that still need to be agreed prior to the project moving forward.

**Action 2022/23:** Set up a workshop with partners to scope the outcomes and actions for the project at Formby and commence actions.

## A Borough for Everyone

### Seek funding to deliver the Crosby Flood & Coastal Defence Scheme

**Progress 2021/22:** Discussions with United Utilities (UU) have continued with them agreeing to submit a business case to OFWAT (Water Services Regulation Authority) to seek a contribution to the scheme. The outcome of this decision will be in 2024 for the next spending review period by UU. This realistically means the scheme will be unable to start until Summer 2027. In the meantime, UU has agreed that the £300k already committed for the northern section of the coast (North of the Coastguard Station) can now be used as interim and enabling works. The Council has agreed to match this funding giving £600k available to manage and undertake emergency, interim and enabling works to the section of the coast at most concern, north and south of the Coastguard Station. Discussions are ongoing as to how this will be managed and delivered. Bird surveys required for the interim works will be undertaken in-house by Green Sefton. Discussions are also taking place to review the costs and benefits of the scheme following cost increases experienced globally and changes to the funding mechanisms at the Environment Agency.

**Action 2022/23:** Deliver interim works, continue to monitor bird life, review costs and seek funding contributions to deliver the whole scheme with enhancements in later years.

### Assess deliverability and seek funding to deliver the Pool Scheme

**Progress 2021/22:**

**The Pool Watercourse – Southport:** Detailed design work is underway to assess the viability of the options modelled for the project.

**Action 2022/23:** Finalise design and develop business case for submission and approval.

### Support the delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan

**Progress 2021/22:**

**Climate Emergency:** Green Sefton sits on the working group and has helped develop the strategy and action plan. Within the action plan, three key actions have implications to flooding and/or coastal erosion that we will either be leading on or actively involved with as detailed in Table 4.

Table 4: actions within the corporate climate emergency that have implications relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management.



Local Action	Impact	Phase
Improve knowledge and understanding of how the Council is affected by extreme weather events in terms of providing its services and financial impacts.	High	Phase 1 - 3
Complete a full risk assessment of Climate Change impacts, identifying threats and how they can be managed as well as realising the opportunities (such as offsetting emissions and assessing carbon capture).	High	Phase 1
Work with the Planning Authority on developing guidance for development, that includes climate benefits, for the built and natural environment.	Medium	Phase 1

The FCERM team has had the coastal erosion predictions updated and begun sharing this information within the Council, in order for it to be brought into Council plans, strategies, and policies.

The FCERM team has established a Green Sefton Climate Emergency working group and has been working with team members from across the service to ensure climate risk is considered and embedded in all ways of working. An assessment of the various climate changes and the impact that may have has been undertaken across operational activities for the service.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to develop work streams to deliver actions set out in the Climate Emergency Plan.

### **Review FCERM policies & develop new policies were necessary.**

#### **Progress 2021/22:**

**National Flood Risk Management Plans:** Sefton Council has been working with the Environment Agency on the development of the National Flood Risk Management Plans which look at the flood risk areas identified in the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments. This covers most of the urban area within Sefton. A series of measures will be developed. The draft Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP) led by the Environment Agency are due for publication this Autumn.

**Action 2022/23:** Review policies against the FRMP when published to identify any requirements to update our local policies.

### **Inspect Council-owned assets (Highways Maintenance to review highway drainage asset).**

**Progress 2021/22:** The annual coastal defence asset inspections were completed in summer 2022. The inland asset inspections have continued on an ad-hoc/reactive basis – this will need to improve for 2022/23 through the development of scheduled inland maintenance inspections similar to those set-up for coastal defence inspections. The purchase of new software is aimed at improving the inland inspections by allowing real-time updates on assets in the field.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue with planned programme of inspections.

## **Living, working & having fun**

### **Reactive inspection of private-owned assets following reports of flooding.**

**Progress 2021/22:** There has been little work in this area, mainly due to the very dry year. However, the following assets were inspected:  
Watercourse between Rosslyn Ave and Gainsborough Ave in Maghull following reports of watercourse being filled in. The investigations concluded that there wasn't a positive connection from the mapped watercourse and it was likely that it was abandoned when the houses were built.

**Action 2022/23:** Seek to inspect assets following reports of flooding as resources allow.

### **Explore opportunities to manage water differently by working with wider partners in**

## order to support the work of Green Sefton

**Progress 2021/22:** Continued to engage with the Mersey Rivers Trust and explored opportunities to work with them on catchment-based approaches to managing water. Have supported assessments of Melling Brook and River Alt catchments led by Mersey Rivers Trust. Delivered swale system in Bootle Golf Course.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to work with Mersey Rivers Trust. Seek opportunities within Sefton Council to manage water differently.

## Clean, green, beautiful borough

### Undertake consenting with Riparian owners as required

**Progress 2021/22:** There have been no applications for land drainage consent over this last reporting period.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to assess applications as and when they are received.

### Undertake enforcement with Riparian owners as required (Highways Maintenance to undertake this where it impacts on the highway drainage)

**Progress 2021/22:** Negotiated with Southport Old Links Golf Course to provide compensatory storage along a watercourse and create more wet habitat and improvements to pumped system after unconsented culverting of a section of watercourse.

**Action 2022/23:** Undertake negotiation and enforcement action as required to ensure systems are operating as required, as resources allow.

## On the move

### Ensure flood and coastal erosion risk is considered in all council-led projects.

**Progress 2021/22:** The FCERM team have been supporting colleagues in Highways to deliver Highways drainage Capital money to alleviate flooding to the highway as well as reducing flood risk to properties. Two key projects are currently underway in Maghull (Liverpool Road North and Sefton Lane) that have both been affected by flooding on multiple occasions over the past 10 years which has led to road closures and internal property flooding.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to engage at various meeting and raise the profile of flood risk management and sustainable drainage in all projects.

## Ready for the Future

### Review up-to-date climate change projections and consider how these may impact Sefton

**Progress 2021/22:** Predictions have been updated for coastal erosion and surface water flood mapping that are being used to assess risks, impacts and consequences associated with these.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to undertake assessments on service delivery. Communicate internally these impacts and develop adaptation and mitigation approaches for them. Seek to have these recognised in updates to service plans etc.

### Deliver actions set out in Shoreline Management Plan

**Progress 2021/22:** Officers have been working with the North West Shoreline Management Plan officer to review and refresh the actions in line with a national review. Key actions for the Council include progressing the coastal defence options for the coastline from Crosby to Formby, investigate adaptation options for the sand dunes and continue to work with the regional monitoring programme.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue working with regional monitoring programme to deliver actions. Seek to take forward work at Crosby and Hightown, subject to funding.

### **Undertake an annual review of resources to ensure Sefton Council (as LLFA) continue to deliver the actions set out in the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plan**

**Progress 2021/22:** Supported the update and review of the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP).

**Action 2022/23:** Await publication of the updated FRMP and confirmation of measures to cross reference against actions set out in the FCERM Business plan, identify any gaps and assess resource requirements.

### **Complete Surface Water Management Plan Level 2 and seek funding to deliver options**

**Progress 2021/22:** Surface Water Management Plan Level 2: The modelling and hotspot assessment for the Surface Water Management Plan has been completed for Formby, Maghull and Seaforth & Litherland. Only one area in Formby was identified for the options analysis, however, the initial analysis is indicating that there is limited viability of the options. It is proposed to extend the hotspot mapping to include those areas not covered in the first phase. This includes Ainsdale through to Southport.

**Action 2022/23:** Finalise reporting and seek funding to take forward any options identified.

### **Deliver the North West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme**

**Progress 2021/22:** The new programme 2021-2027 is well underway with data collection continuing across the region. New contract have been let for topographic survey (beach profiles), Hydrodynamics (waves and currents), radar (topographic, currents and bathymetry). Tendering is currently underway for analytical services (producing process reports).

Sefton Council leads on the programme and has 3 FTE staff employed to deliver this service to the northwest coastal authorities

**Action 2022/23:** Tender for vertical aerial photography of the North West coast. Develop web presence to improve community engagement and knowledge sharing. Quality check and share coastal process reports when received from consultant.

### **Establish plan and triggers for works to Hightown Coastline**

**Progress 2021/22:** Currently reviewing evidence and scoping work to enable a consultant to work with us to develop a business case to unlock grant in aid funding to deliver coast protection works.

**Action 2022/23:** Secure grant in aid funding to enable a consultant to be commissioned to develop a detailed plan for intervention works.

### **Ensure we support the Planning Service in undertaking its duty as a Local Planning Authority through our role as a statutory consultee on major developments, and as an advisory consultee on significant minor developments.**

**Progress 2021/22:** Planning Application assessment requests and responses are automatically extracted from emails and added to a database, which then updates the performance monitoring reports. This has standardised and automated an administration task that was previously undertaken as and when resources allowed.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to comment on planning applications as required. Continue to work with planning colleagues to improve the process.

### **Ensure we support the Planning Service in the preparation of evidence, other documents and draft policies to support the review of the Local Plan (e.g. new Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Coastal Change) and any other development plan documents and supplementary guidance.**

**Progress 2021/22:** Officers are in regular contact with planning colleagues to ensure the exchange of information between them. Currently there have been no new policies in development. But we have been kept up to date with changes in the national planning policy guidance.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to engage with planning colleagues and seek opportunities to support and influence content.

### **Deliver improvements to the surface water outfalls along the Ainsdale/Birkdale coastline.**

**Progress 2021/22:** The path of the open watercourses in the dune system and green beach area were cleared of vegetation and desilted to allow the water to discharge freely.

**Action 2022/23:** Inspect the watercourse and undertake maintenance as required.

### **Coordinate the delivery of groundwater monitoring across the Merseyside Authorities.**

**Progress 2021/22:** Delivery has been slow due to several legal issues with equipment being installed. This is being reviewed and escalated to the Merseyside Strategic Flood Partnership.

**Action 2022/23:** Seek mechanism to take forward the installation of these.

### **Pilot smart water level monitoring at key locations in Sefton.**

**Progress 2021/22:** Sites have been identified at key locations across Sefton. Permissions are being sought to install the equipment at those locations.

**Action 2022/23:** Install monitoring equipment at key locations Autumn 2022.

### **Undertake a programme of inspection for coastal assets**

**Progress 2021/22:** Annual coastal defence inspection carried out Autumn 2021<sup>42</sup>

**Antony Gormley's Another Place:** Visual inspections have been undertaken each month and a full inspection is planned in October 2022.

**Southport sea front Obelisks:** An inspection is programmed for October 2022.

**Action 2022/23:** Undertake annual inspection for coastal defences in Autumn 2023. Continue Another Place statue inspections.

### **Undertake a programme of inspections for Inland assets**

**Progress 2021/22:** Undertaken a number of inspections, both visual and cctv as detailed in section 3.2

**Action 2022/23:** Undertake inspections as per programme.

### **Undertake programmed and reactive maintenance for highways assets**

**Progress 2021/22:** Worked with colleagues in Highways to inspect the culverts under the A59 from Switch Island to the Boundary with West Lancashire just past Robins Island as well as Foxhouse Lane.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to flag blockages and flooding on the highway that affects properties and work with partners at an operational level to manage the risk to the highway.

**Develop asset management systems and a risk-based approach to maintenance for the highway drainage asset - to be undertaken by Highways Maintenance and co-ordinated with FCERM**

**Progress 2021/22:** Resource issues in Highways are being resolved and we hope to pick this element of work up this Autumn and discuss how to effectively manage this going forward.

**Action 2022/23:** Continue to work collaboratively with the Highway team and share knowledge and expertise to support a risk-based approach to highway drainage maintenance.

## 5. Finance

The revenue budget has reduced from £81k per year to £78k, with £3k being transferred to cover maintenance and repairs of the navigation markers. The key elements of the budget are detailed in Table 5. A planned and prioritised programme of works for both coastal and inland and a reactive/emergency works budget has been established to try to better understand the demand for the service.

Table 5: FCERM maintenance budget

Repair & Maintenance of Land & Buildings – coastal assets	10,000.00
Reactive/Emergency Call Out	12,000.00
Land Drainage Works – inland assets	56,000.00