

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	6 th November 2018
Subject:	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Annual report to Overview and Scrutiny		
Report of:	Head of Locality Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Locality Services, Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary: The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires 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. This annual report satisfies that requirement.

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 and Well Being) for consideration.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that requires Lead Local Flood Risk Authorities to report on progress on an annual basis to their Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

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

The Council could choose not to undertake its duties as set out in the Flood Risk Management Act 2010. This would reduce the Council's ability to manage flood risk in the Borough and may result in sanctions from Government for failing to deliver statutory functions. It will also reduce the Council's ability to secure external funding.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs. Costs can be contained within existing budgets

(B) Capital Costs. Existing projects are being funded via grant from the Environment Agency, the main element of which has been secured until 2021. Grant aid will be sought for additional projects and schemes as required.

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): No additional resource implications to those required to deliver service.</p>
<p>Legal Implications: Sefton Council will comply with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that requires the work of the Lead Local Flood Risk Authorities be scrutinised.</p>
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</p>

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 a FCERM strategy and performance management systems in place we are able to utilise resources efficiently to maximise outcomes.
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 Sefton 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 Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5317/18) and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 4542/18) have been consulted and have no comments on the report

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Enc 1. Appendix 1 Time and Billing report 2017/18

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 Strategy, Investment Plan and Service Plan

<http://smbc-modgov-01/mg!ssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=41245&Opt=0>

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (subsequently referred to as the Act) has placed a number of new duties on the Council as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority; these have been previously presented to the committee. One of these is the requirement to make arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's progress and it was agreed that this would be achieved through the provision of an annual report.
- 1.2 Since our last update in November 2017 The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management team has gone through a restructure as part of the integration with Parks & Greenspaces and Coast & Countryside services to become the new Green Sefton service and deliver a significant saving through a Public Sector Reform project. The restructure was completed on the 30st April 2018, although some posts remain vacant. Further details of the restructure can be found in section 3.2.
- 1.3 This report sets out progress that has been made in the last year, highlights key issues and sets out priorities for the coming years. Key items of work are detailed below.

2 Flood and Coastal Erosion events

2.1 Inland Flood events

- 2.1.1 November 2017; Norburn Crescent, Formby. Back garden flooding. Lack of maintenance of watercourse by riparian land owners. Riparian owners were written to, reminding them of their responsibility to maintain the watercourse.
- 2.1.2 Winter 2017/18; Hartdale Road, Thornton. Back garden flooding for extended duration. Potential blocked watercourse. Works to culverted section in highway took place in March 2018.
- 2.1.3 May 2018; Essex Road, Birkdale. Garden flooding but internal flooding prevented by mitigation measures. System capacity exceeded due to heavy, intense rainfall associated with thunderstorms. A scheme is in development.
- 2.1.4 June 2018, Melling. Canal breach. A culvert under the canal collapsed and caused a section of the canal to breach. This in turn flooded a significant area of fields and the highway. There was internal flooding to 2 properties. The collapse occurred at 10pm and was responded to by the Council's Emergency Duty Coordinator, fire and police. FCERM officers attended site the following morning. Work to repair the breach and reinstate, and upgrade, the culvert has been completed.
- 2.1.5 July 2018. Sherwoods Avenue and Wango Lane. External and highway flooding. The location is the boundary between Sefton, Knowsley and Liverpool. The Local Authorities are working together to investigate the causes of the flooding and to seek solutions. Initial understanding is that heavy, intense rainfall, uncontrolled flow off a new development during construction and root infested watercourses were the main cause. To date the piped system has been jetted and fine roots

have been removed, though some larger tap roots remain. Investigations are continuing into the development and solutions moving forward.

- 2.1.6 July 2018, St Andrews Lane, External Flooding. A burst watermain caused external flooding in this area. United Utilities have repaired the pipework.

2.2 Coastal Flooding

- 2.2.1 There were three storm events over the last year with Storm Eleanor, 02/01/2018, being the most significant causing overtopping and flooding to the car park at Hall Road, Crosby and erosion to the dunes across Sefton.

3 Progress

3.1 Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy Update

- 3.1.1 This Strategy is a requirement under section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Sefton's first strategy was adopted by Cabinet on the 1st October 2015 and covers the period 2015-2018. This Strategy sets out how Sefton will deliver flood and coastal erosion risk management, what investment will be needed to deliver this and the manner in which this service will be delivered. It defines the outcomes, outputs and actions for this service area.

- 3.1.2 The Strategy is currently being updated and is due to be adopted in early 2019.

- 3.1.3 The updated strategy will:

- consider changes in risk, including improvements in understanding, flooding events and future developments.
- align with Sefton 2030
- consider Defra's 25yr Environment Plan
- consider the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- seek to address recommendations made by Cabinet Member and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.1.4 The strategy will be structured to clearly support the work programme of the team ensuring that operational procedures and practices are developed in line with the strategy. This will support staff clarifying workloads and expectations.

3.2 Green Sefton Service Restructure

- 3.2.1 A restructure to populate the Green Sefton Service was undertaken during March and April 2018. The restructure created three teams, Development (incorporates FCERM and landscape development), Community and Resources, and Land Management.

- 3.2.2 The Development Team consists of 9 posts. Under the Team Leader, there are six posts allocated to FCERM duties and two to landscape development. Of the seven posts (including team leader) involved in FCERM activity four full time equivalents (FTE) are externally funded to undertake the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and support the delivery of the Shoreline Management

Plan. Another 0.5 FTE is capital funded through capital scheme delivery. The remaining 2.5 FTE's undertaking FCERM and Lead Local Flood Authority role for Sefton Council and the two landscape development officers are all core funded

- 3.2.3 As part of the restructure the FCERM service was reduced by 1 post.
- 3.2.4 The available controllable revenue budget (excluding staff) for FCERM has been set at £96,950; a reduction of c£70,000 from previous budget. This budget will cover maintenance, investigations, investment, software licences and upgrades.
- 3.2.5 Discussions are underway across Green Sefton service to identify if any maintenance and reactive works can be undertaken in-house as a cost saving exercise or provide additional benefits.

3.3 **Resilient Communities**

- 3.3.1 This area of work has been developed to help deliver Sefton Council's priorities to create Resilient Communities and Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy. These projects aim to support communities to become more resilient during flood events and to have an input in the decisions made about flood risk management. This has been extended to align with Sefton's 2030 Vision theme of Resilient People and Places.

- **Formby Flood Group**

- There has been little progress with the Formby Flood Group recently due to resources within the group. Sefton Council is exploring alternative options to reduce flood risk in Formby, whilst still working with the flood group.

- **Thornton Parish Council**

- Dialogue is continuing with Thornton Parish Council as resources allow. The Parish council are acting as a conduit for information and are helping identify issues early on enabling them to be addressed

3.4 **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review**

- 3.4.1 The Flood Risk Regulations, 2009 requires Sefton to undertake an assessment of the strategic flood risk within the borough this was completed in 2011. The regulations require a review on a six-year cycle. This review was completed and approved by Cabinet in December 2017.
- 3.4.2 Overall there was little change to the 2011 PFRA following the review with much of the understanding remaining unchanged or with minor amendments. There have, however, been improvements or confirmation of understanding particularly in respect of our future flood information. The following pieces of work have contributed to our understanding:
 - Sefton Council PFRA desktop study 2013 to improved understanding of initial PFRA assessment and flood risks.
 - Modelling of catchments in Formby, Maghull and Seaforth/Litherland.
 - Groundwater monitoring locations across Sefton.
 - Sefton Council Local Plan. The plan identified flood risks on development sites.

3.5 **Working with the Planning Authority**

3.5.1 As a statutory consultee for major planning applications (>10 properties or 0.5ha) we have commented on 42 major planning applications and, in addition, have commented on 157 minor applications between 1st October 2017 to end of September 2018.

3.5.2 We have undertaken a significant review of how we work with the planning section to ensure we are delivering an efficient and robust service. The changes to the process were approved by Cabinet on 26th July 2018. This included a Pro Forma for Sustainable Drainage Systems document, Guidance notes, and SuDs and Flood Risk Information Notes for developers of major sites. The cabinet report can be viewed at <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=9375> and the documents can be viewed within the information notes at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-including-local-plan-and-neighbourhood-planning/adopted-supplementary-planning-documentsguidance.aspx>

3.6 **Asset inspections**

3.6.1 Coastal defence inspections:

- Post storm January 2018
- Annual Summer 2018

3.6.2 Inland assets visual inspection:

- Brooms Cross ponds,
- Dobbs gutter,
- Sandbrook, Ainsdale
- Nile outfall, Birkdale beach

3.6.3 CCTV investigations:

- Nile Watercourse
- Watchyard Lane, Formby
- Rosemary Lane, Formby
- Bull Cop, Formby
- Melling Lane, Aintree
- Old Race Course, Maghull
- Liverpool Road, Birkdale
- Sherwoods Lane, Aintree

3.7 **Riparian Owners and Enforcement**

Eight properties have been written to, reminding them of their duty to maintain the watercourse on or adjacent to their property. Enforcement proceedings are being undertaken on two properties in Maghull.

3.8 **Capital Schemes**

3.8.1 **Ainsdale and Birkdale Land Drainage Scheme**

The scheme has been delayed due to the need to undertake further habitat impact assessments. However, we are looking to undertake the practical works in house and make best use of the skills and resources within Green Sefton.

3.8.2 Nile and Pool Investigations, Southport

Investigations into the Pool watercourse have been completed and a consultant is being sought to help undertake the option assessment and develop the business case for grant in aid to implement the preferred option.

The investigations into the Nile watercourse have proved much more difficult to complete as the actual network doesn't match the mapped plans. The network has been significantly modified over the years.

3.8.3 Merseyside Natural Flood Risk Management

It has proved difficult to identify viable schemes from the initial mapping exercise due to issues around land ownership and cost benefits. Additional bids for grant in aid have been made to support further development work, to date these have been unsuccessful. A pilot scheme in Knowsley has been identified but requires further assessment and design prior to being implemented

3.8.4 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

Sefton Council coordinate the monitoring programme on behalf of maritime authorities in the North West. The programme has secured grant funding for the continuation of the programme, from the Environment Agency, for a 5 year period from 2016 to 2021. The programme employs 3 full time equivalents posts that bring additional benefits and skills into the Council. The team undertake the coastal surveys for the Sefton area and have worked with colleagues across the North West to support their survey programmes. The skills and equipment used for the monitoring programme is also available for inland survey work to the FCERM team and wider Council. The programme successfully piloted a radar monitoring system at Crosby seafront, that provided significant information for the Crosby Coastal defence scheme. Additional funding is being sought to undertake a large-scale pilot from North Wirral to Fleetwood. The Programme has collected coastal vertical colour aerial photography across the north west and collaborated with Liverpool City Region partners to collect inland photography as well.

3.9 Partnership Working

3.9.1 Merseyside Strategic and Flood Risk Partnership

Sefton Council continues to work closely with other partners in Merseyside through the Merseyside Tactical and Strategic Flood Risk Partnership meetings. These meetings look at improving cross boundary working and improved efficiencies through partnership working. The Merseyside Strategic group also prioritises the Grant in Aid bids through the Local Choices and administers a £50k support fund.

Cllr McKinley represents Sefton and chairs Merseyside Strategic Partnership and represents the Merseyside Strategic Partnership at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) as an elected member. The RFCC is a statutory committee required by DEFRA, who amongst other responsibilities administer a Levy fund of circa £4M each year. Attendance by a Sefton Council Elected Member for the Strategic Group, which feeds into the RFCC on behalf of Merseyside is essential to enable drawing down of capital funds (such as for the Crosby Coastal Defence scheme), and to steer the work across the region.

3.9.2 North West and North Wales Coastal Groups

Sefton Council sit on the North West and North Wales Coastal Group to report progress on the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and the Shoreline Management Plan. This group reports on the progress of the actions of the Shoreline Management Plan to DEFRA. It is also represented on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The group oversees two sub groups both of which Sefton Council are represented at. Sefton Council is a member of the Liverpool Bay Coastal Sub Group. Our staff also attend this group and the Northern Coastal Sub Group to report on progress of the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. The group supports the exchange of best practice and partnership working. Sefton Council host the Shoreline Management Plan coordinating officer, who is working with all coastal authorities in the north west and is representing them at the national SMP review.

3.10 Performance monitoring

The method implemented is based on time and billing information, which records time spent on activities as set out in the FCERM strategy.

In summary 14% of the team's time was spent delivering the outcomes as set out in the strategy. This is broken down into Understanding risk 4%, Avoiding an increase in risk 8%, Reducing consequences 0.23%, Reducing risk 2%. However, it must be noted that the capital schemes also contribute to delivering these outcomes, particularly reducing risk to our communities. 43% was spent on capital schemes and recharge works, this includes the regional coastal monitoring programme and pumping station contract management. 41% was non-chargeable or non-available, this includes annual leave, sickness, doctor appointments, staff and performance management, administrative tasks, team meeting and training. This also includes service reviews, which clearly took a lot of time over the last year while the integration into Green Sefton took place. Sickness accounted for 3.7% of hours recorded.

3.11 Communications

We have been working with Sefton's Communications team to look at options for improving our communication with Councillors and the wider community. The progress has been slower than anticipated and there is still a significant amount of work to undertake.

The Service manager for Green Sefton, Mark Shaw has been meeting with all the ward councillors to discuss the new service, key issues and expectations. It is planned that these will become regular, to update members on current issues, seek their views and aspirations and to establish a regular dialogue.

4 Priorities for the next year

4.1 Supporting the delivery of the Local Plan

Continue to work with the planning authority to ensure flood risk and sustainable drainage systems are designed and delivered in accordance to the National Planning Policy Framework and Sefton's Local Plan.

4.2 Crosby Coastal Scheme

The Crosby Coastal Scheme is underway with Mott McDonald awarded the contract to support the development of the business case. The scheme aims to gain planning permission by Autumn 2019 and be on site during summer 2020. This project requires circa £15-20M of capital funding and we are working with partners in the Environment Agency and United Utilities to secure contributions to the funding required.

4.3 **Surface Water Management Plan level 2**

Undertake a level 2 Surface Water Management assessment on key flood risk communities to identify options for reduction of surface water flood risk. This will involve more detailed modelling of the system and risk.

4.4 **Fouracres, Maghull, flood risk scheme**

Complete the modelling and option assessment of the Fouracres drainage system and, assuming a viable scheme is identified, seek grant in aid to deliver the scheme. An initial list of options has been identified but a number of assumptions were made, further detailed assessment is needed to minimise risk of delivery.

4.5 **Pool, Crossens watercourse**

Complete modelling and option assessment of the Pool watercourse system and, assuming a viable scheme is identified, seek grant in aid to deliver the scheme. Initial options are looking at separating the combined system in a number of roads around the watercourse. United Utilities are supportive of the scheme and are likely to make a financial contribution for its delivery.

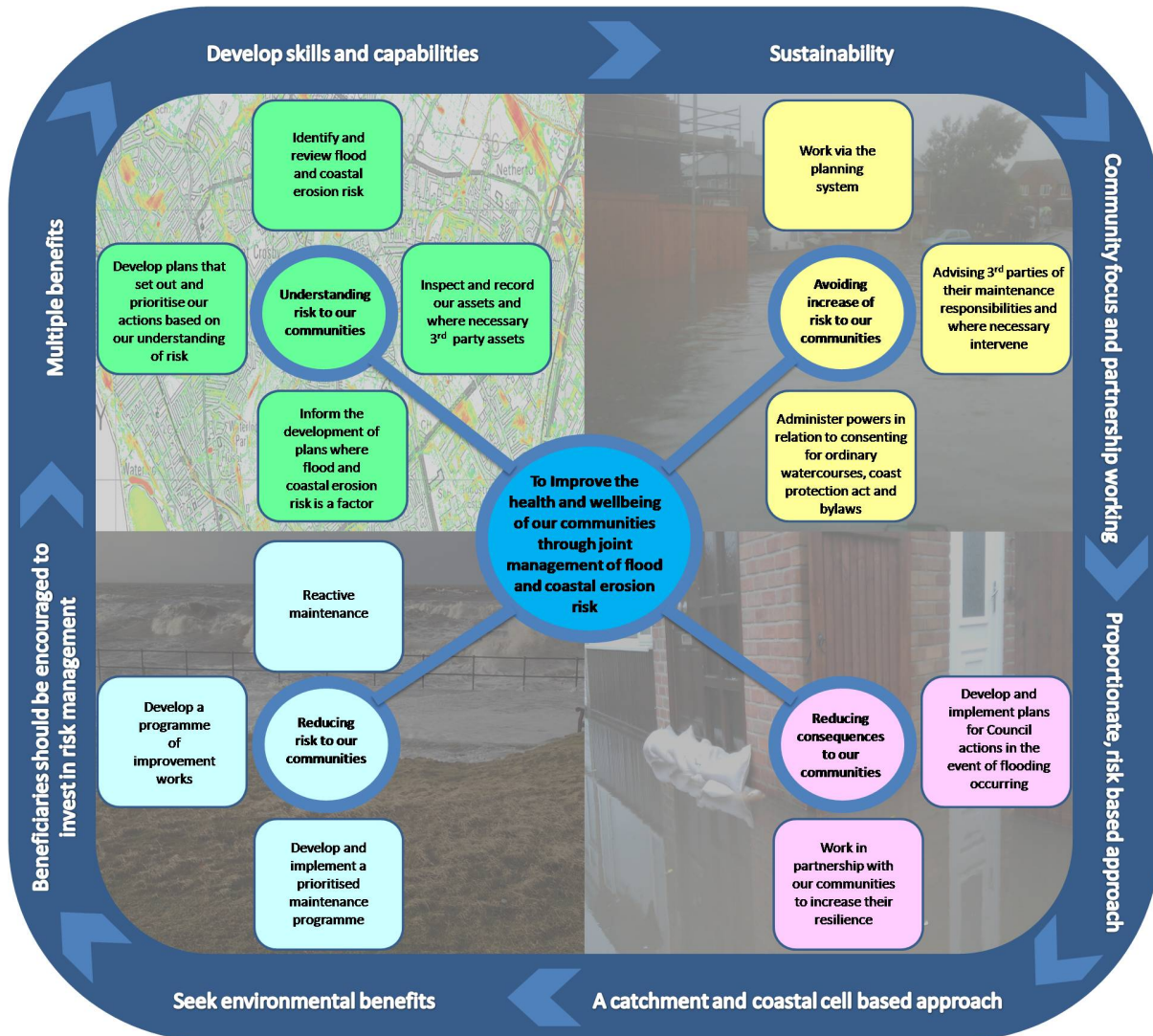
4.6 **Develop new investment programme post 2021**

The Environment Agency's current 6 year funding cycle ends in 2021 and it is expected that a new 6 year programme will be agreed. This programme is likely to have additional criteria to be satisfied to secure grant in aid. It is anticipated that this will look at wider multiple benefits, and better incorporation of surface water flood risk.

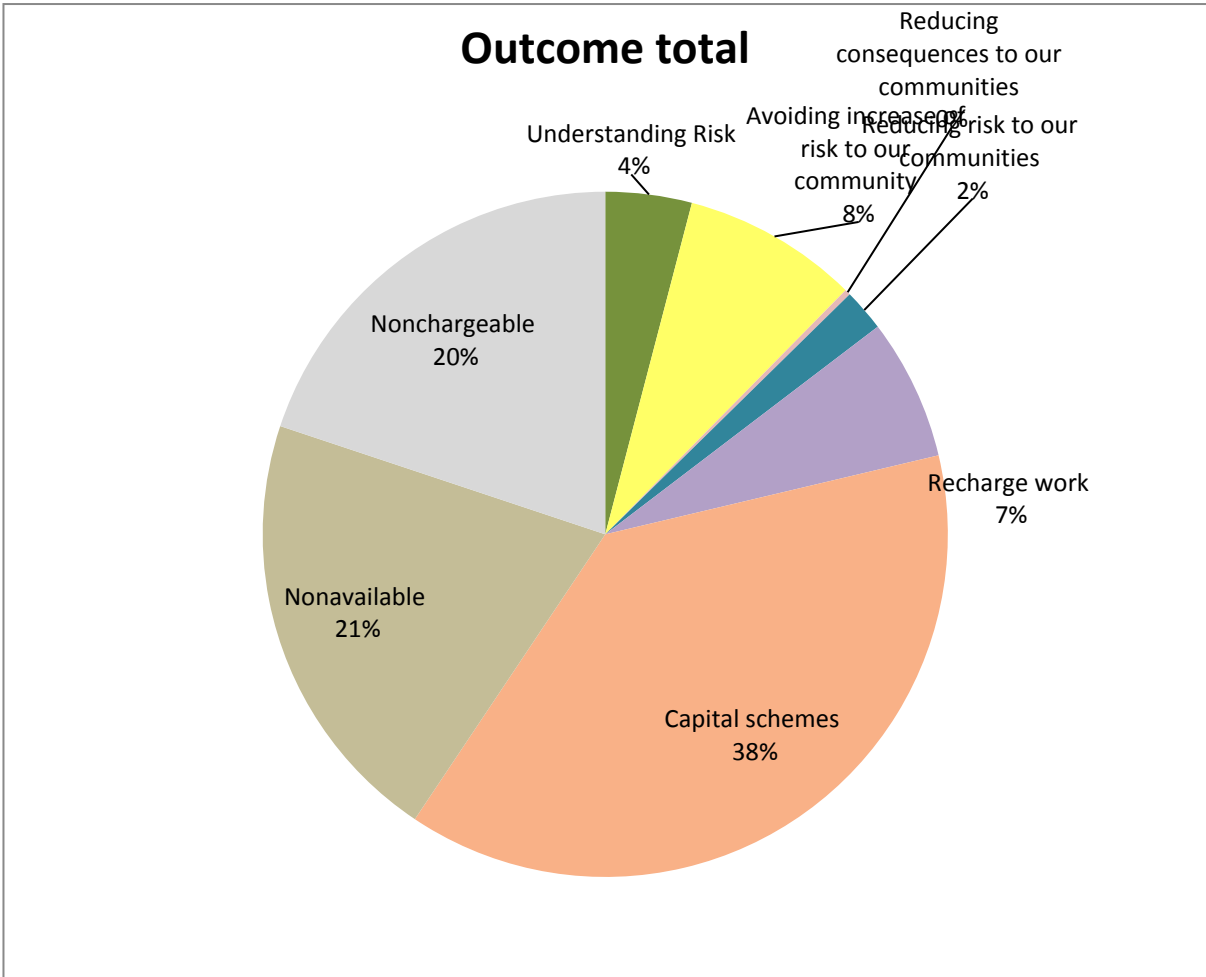
Appendix 1:

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Time and billing review 2017/2018

The FCERM Team implemented a monitoring system through time and billing based on the outcome model below. In addition to the four main outcomes there are also recharge works and the capital programme schemes to which time has been charged.



The proportion of staff time spent against these activities is detailed below.

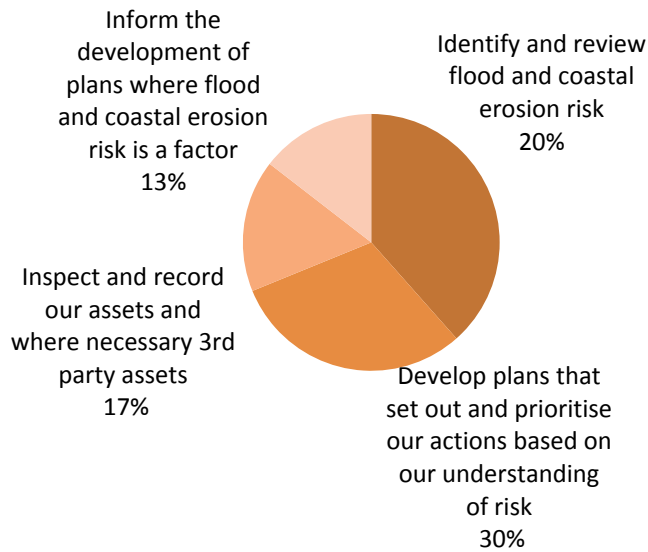


In summary 14% of the team's time was spent delivering the outcomes as set out. However, it must be noted that the capital schemes also contribute to delivering these outcomes, particularly reducing risk to our communities.

43% was spent on capital schemes and recharge works, this includes the regional coastal monitoring programme and pumping station contract management.

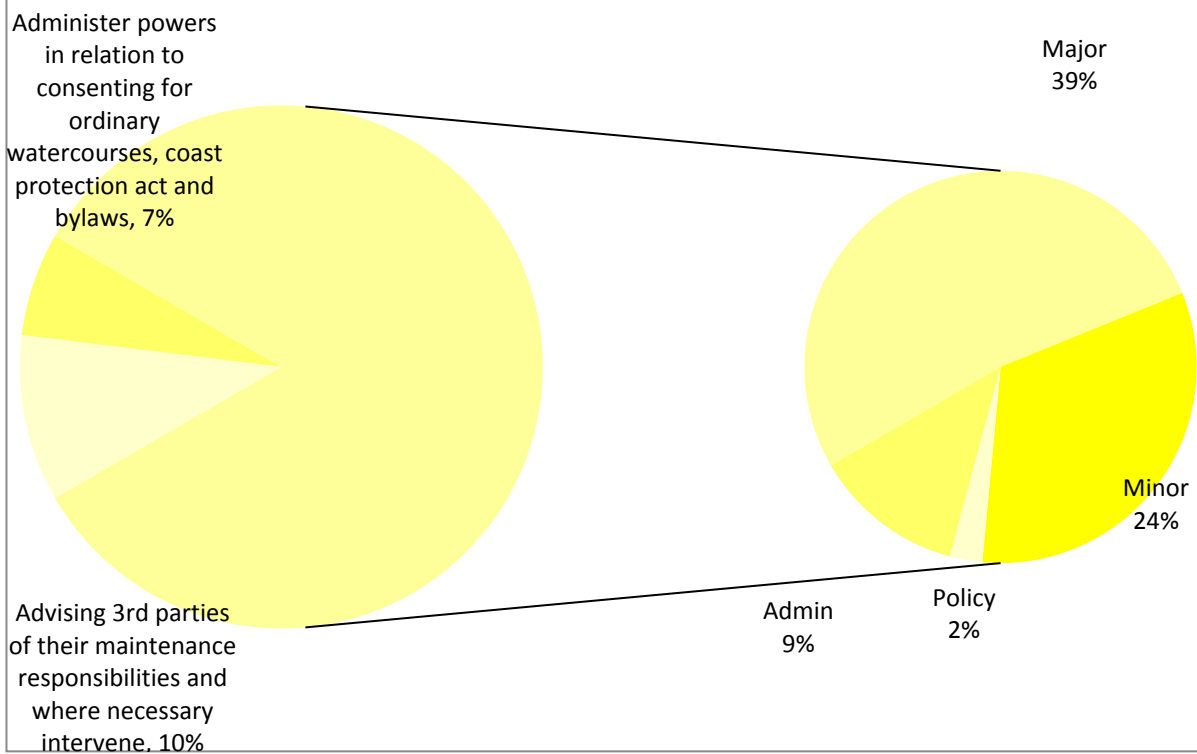
41% was nonchargeable or non-available, this includes annual leave, sickness, doctor appointments, management, administrative tasks, team meeting and training. Sickness accounted for 3.7% of hours recorded.

Understanding risk



Understanding risk accounts for 4% of hours charged overall.

Avoiding increasing risk to our community



Avoiding increasing risk accounts for 8% of hours charged

Reducing consequences to our communities

Work in partnership
with our
communities to
increase their
resilience
22%

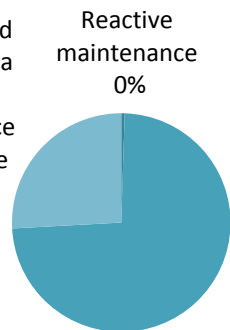


Develop and
implement plans for
Council actions in
the event of flooding
occurring
78%

Reducing Consequences accounts for 0.26% of hours charged

Reducing risk to our communities

Develop and
implement a
prioritised
maintenance
programme
26%

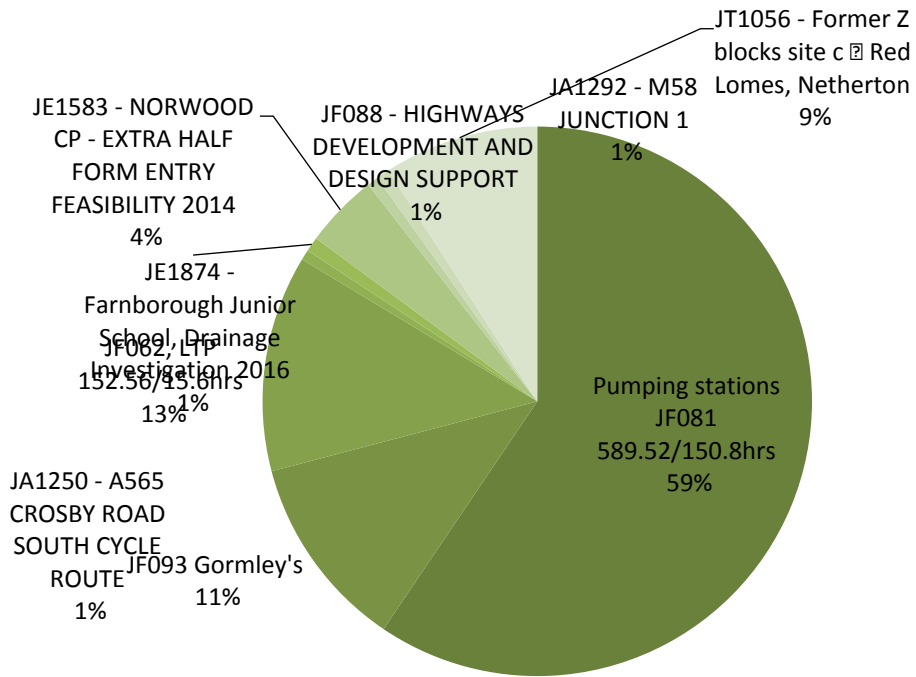


Reactive
maintenance
0%

Develop a
programme of
improvement works
74%

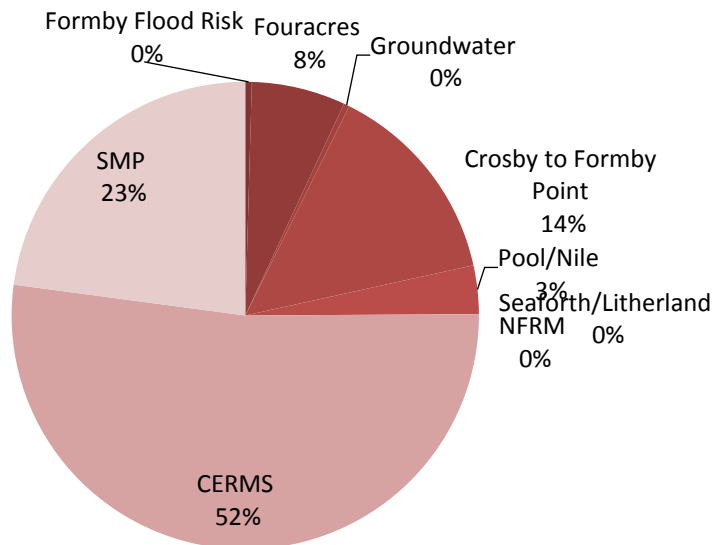
Reducing risk to our communities accounts for 2% of hours charged

Recharge works



Recharge work accounts for 7% of hours charged

Capital Schemes



Capital schemes account for 38% of hours charged.