

Roles and Responsibilities for the management of flood risk within Bedford Borough

Risk Management Authority	Flood Source responsible for	x. in Bedford Borough	Organisation name (in Bedford Borough)	Key Flood Management Responsibilities	Key Powers to Manage Flood Risk
Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic overview 	1	Anglian (Central) RFCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the Environment Agency to consult with and receive advice from a wide range of interests Co-ordinate the Flood Defense Grant in Aid (FDGiA) process at a local level to determine which schemes get what funding 	N/a
Environment Agency (EA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Rivers The sea Reservoirs 	1	EA Central Region	<p>Adopting a strategic overview for all flood risk management issues, as set out by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing long-term plans for sustainable flood risk management Building physical flood defenses. Maintaining designated main rivers, including flood defences (10% of all watercourses within the Borough) Flood forecasting, alerts and warnings and producing flood risk maps Advising on waste disposal practices in order to prevent pollution and harm to human health 	<p>Permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain or improve any watercourses which are designed as main rivers Maintain or improve any sea or tidal defences, To install and operate flood warning equipment, To serve notice to control the actions of riparian owners which could interfere with the free flow of main rivers To protect land against coastal erosion and control third party activities on the coast To enforce the safety legislation for reservoirs in the UK
Lead Local Authorities (LLFA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary water courses (non-main) outside of an IDB area Surface water Ground Water 	1	Bedford Borough Council	<p>Co-ordinating Local Flood Risk Management through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary watercourse regulation outside of IDB areas (76% of watercourses in the Borough) Flood investigations, where appropriate, to ensure transparency and accountability for residents Maintaining a register of structures and features that have a significant effect on flood risk Approval and adoption of SuDS schemes Providing co-ordination and a strategy for Local Flood Risk Management Represent the Borough's interests at the RFCC Carry out routine watercourse maintenance on watercourses which flow directly through or adjacent to council owned land (where the council is the riparian owner) 	<p>Permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To request information To do works in order to manage flood risk To serve Notice where a riparian land owner fails to carry out their duties or causes a nuisance To carry out the works in default and expenses To designate a Structure or Feature which affects flood risk Emergency powers to enter a property and correct changes to a designated feature if there is an immediate threat of flooding and there is not enough time to serve an enforcement notice. To issue consent and enforcement notices for land drainage and ordinary watercourse regulation
Internal Drainage Boards (IDB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary watercourses within IDB area IDB Main Drains 	1	The Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards	<p>General supervision over all matters relating to the drainage of land within their district including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinary watercourse regulation (14% of all watercourses within the Borough) Routine maintenance of designated 'main drains' Consenting and enforcement for works affecting ordinary watercourses 	<p>Permissive powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow the Environment Agency to consult with and receive advice from a wide range of interests Maintain or improve existing works or to construct new works. Enter land to carry out works, Purchase land (e.g. of land intended for projects such as Flood Alleviation Schemes) Regulate activities in and alongside the drainage system (e.g. so the actions of others does not damage defences, impede flow or reduce access to carry out maintenance work or future improvements)
Water Utilities Companies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Sewers Company assets 	1	Anglian Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Properly maintaining, cleaning and inspecting the public system (e.g. to stop blockages from tree-roots, collapsed sewers, and silt build up) Register properties that are 'at risk' from flooding (known as the DG5 register), and record all sewer flooding incidents Undertake work to solve known sewer flooding problems (e.g. upsizing the sewer capacity, installing pumping stations to help manage flows) Respond to flooding from their sewers and investigate the cause (remedial work is then prioritised on a risk basis) 	<p>Permissive powers under the Water Industry Act 1991;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To remove unapproved connections to the public sewer and recover associated costs from the owner To lay pipes under notice To enter land for purposes related to water infrastructure and sewerage infrastructure
Highway Authorities (HA)	Water on the public highway and footpath	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Highways Agency The Local Highways Authority (Bedford Borough Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of highways drainage and road closures Responsible for bridges and for culverted watercourses under the highway Enforcing maintenance of land drainage by riparian owners where the highway is affected Ensuring that road projects do not increase flood risk Maintain adopted SuDS that are within public roads 	<p>Permissive powers under the Highways Act 1980;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construct or lay drains in the highway (or land adjoining or lying near to the highway) Erect barriers in the highway (or in land adjoining or lying near to the highway) to divert surface water into or through an existing drain Scour, cleanse and keep open all drains situated in the highway (or in land adjoining or lying near to the highway) Discharge into or through any inland or tidal waters, including private watercourses Drain water off of the road into ditches and watercourses adjacent to the highways, even though if these are riparian owned Fill in ditches which are considered unnecessary for drainage and/or a danger. If consent cannot be obtained from the landowner to do this, the Authority is entitled to fill the ditch in so long as it ensures drainage pipes are laid in substitution for the ditch
Riparian Owners	Ordinary watercourses on private land	Unknown	N/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for maintaining ordinary watercourses (unless directed otherwise), as well as any structures in or adjacent to the watercourse Regulated by the LLFA, IDB and EA 	N/a