

WHAT IS LOCAL FLOOD RISK?

Local Flood Risk is the process or the ability to understand the extent of flood risk across a local area and what steps should be taken to consider flooding from all sources, taking into account climate change.

We have a responsibility to manage local flood risk in a coordinated way including developing a “**Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**” (LFRMS) for the South Gloucestershire region.

The LFRMS aims to deliver the greatest benefit to the people, property and environment of South Gloucestershire.

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) outlines our priorities, as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for South Gloucestershire for local flood risk management and provides a delivery plan to manage the risk over the next six years.

Local Flood Risk

Local Flood Risk is defined as the risk of flooding from local sources which includes;

- Surface water (pluvial)
- Groundwater
- and Ordinary Watercourses (small ditches and watercourses)

Surface Water (pluvial) Flooding:

Surface water flooding happens when rainwater flows or ponds over the surface of the ground and does not soak into the land or enter a drain or river. It usually happens during heavy rainfall (more than 30mm per hour) and is made worse by blocked ditches, drains and compacted or waterlogged soil. There is no early warning system for surface water flooding and it is difficult to predict.

Groundwater Flooding:

Groundwater flooding happens when water levels in the ground rise above the surface. It is common after long periods of constant heavy rainfall and likely in low lying areas, those with natural springs and where chalk is present under the ground (which acts like a sponge to store water).

Ordinary Watercourses (small ditches and watercourses)

Ordinary watercourses include every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dyke, sluice, sewer (other than a public sewer) and passage through which water flows, above ground or culverted, which is not designated as a main river.

Other sources of flooding:

Other sources of flooding that can occur includes tidal, main river and sewer.

In practice these sources of flooding can occur in combination and therefore managing local flood risk involves:

- Understanding and communicating the different types of local flood risk to local communities and stakeholders.
- Reducing flood risk and the impact of flooding by effective management and preventative actions.
- Planning and preparing for flooding emergencies.

- Responding to and recovering from flooding.
- Avoiding inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and directing development away from areas of high risk.