

# Sefton Councils Plan on Flooding and Coastal Erosion

Easy Read





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# Why it is important to plan for floods and coastal erosion?



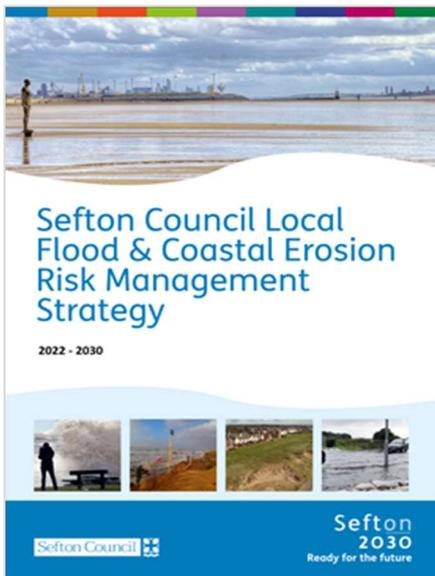
There is a law called the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

It made Sefton Council responsible for the management of its local flood and coastal erosion risk.



Coastal erosion describes the loss of land from the movement of wave and tides.

Flooding describes the presence of water in unexpected or unusual areas e.g. heavy rain causing river water to flow into residential or industrial areas.



Under the law Sefton Council must develop a plan. This plan shows how they manage the risk of flooding and erosion across Sefton.

The law also says that the Council must work to the same goals of the National Strategy.

The Council also thinks it is important to consider other important regional and local plans. This includes the Sefton 2030 vision.

This vision is about making Sefton a great place to be.

# Who should be doing it?



Managing flooding and coastal erosion risk requires lots of organisations and people to work together.

The three main organisations who manage risk are:

- Sefton Council
- The Environment Agency
- United Utilities



Sefton Council look after:

- Flooding that happens from rain falling on the ground and pooling in places where it shouldn't. This is called surface water.
- Flooding from small ditches, called ordinary watercourses.
- Water that builds up underground, called groundwater.
- Flooding on our roads, known as highways.



The Environment Agency look after:

- Flooding from rivers, known as main rivers.
- Flooding on our coast, known as coastal flooding



United Utilities look after:

- Flooding from sewers and clean water pipes, known as foul flooding or a burst water main.



People who own a property that a river, ditch or pipe runs next to or through must look after them.

They must make sure water can enter and leave their property freely and not stop the flow of the water by blocking it. This may cause other properties to flood.

# What are the risks in Sefton?



Sefton has a high risk of flooding compared to other areas in England. This is because we live in low-level areas, not up a hill. We need pumps to move the water through the rivers and out to sea.

We also have 22 miles of beautiful coastline that is shaped by the Irish Sea and its three estuaries. Estuaries are where rivers meet the sea.



High risk areas from flooding in Sefton are

- Southport
- Formby
- Maghull
- Crosby
- Seaforth
- Litherland.



High risk areas of coastal erosion are

- Formby
- Crosby
- Hightown.



It is our job to look for ways to lower this risk in these areas. We need to make sure we:

- Know where the risk is and why it happens.
- What actions can be done to make it flood less often.
- Find money to help pay for work to be done to make it flood less.



# What makes it worse?



There are lots of things that can make flooding and coastal erosion worse in Sefton. These are:

- Climate Change
- The low-lying nature of the land
- Ageing and old pipes, sea walls and water pumping stations
- Rising water levels underground
- Changing coastal patterns – such as rising sea levels as bigger storm



# What actions are Sefton Council doing to reduce the risk?



Sefton Council wants to do all it can to help areas flood less or erode less.

To do this we have an action plan that will be updated every year.

The plan also shows what actions will help achieve the Sefton 2030 vision.

## Action plan

### Together a stronger community

	Action	Timescale
	Tell people about the risk of flooding and coastal erosion in Sefton.	July 2022
	Ensure people know if they need to look after a ditch, river or pipe that runs through or next to their property.	Ongoing
	Let people know about our projects and how they can be involved.	Ongoing
	Work with other organisations who look after flooding and coastal erosion to look for ways of lowering the flood risk in an area.	Ongoing

## A borough for everyone

	Action	Timescale
	Make sure work we do to lower flood and coastal erosion risk, has other benefits at the same time.	Ongoing
	Apply for money from lots of different places to do work to lower flood and coastal erosion risk.	Ongoing
	Review our rules on some actions that can and can't be done.	2023

## Living Working and Having Fun

	Action	Timescale
	Make sure we check the condition of drainage networks and coastal defences.	Every Year
	Look for ways to use water differently for other benefits.	Ongoing

## Clean, green and beautiful borough

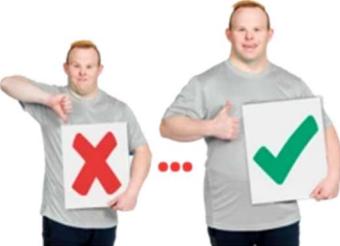
	Action	Timescale
	<p>Make sure people who look after a ditch, river or pipe that runs through or next to their property are keeping them in a good condition and come to the Council for advice and permission to change them in anyway.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

## On the move

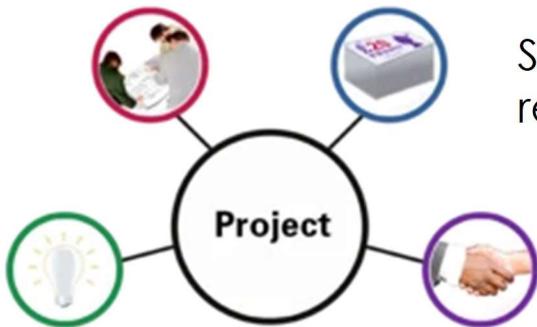
	Action	Timescale
	<p>Make sure Council majors projects consider flooding and coastal erosions in their plans</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

## Ready for the future

	Action	Timescale
	<p>Keep up to date with climate research and how the changes may affect flooding and coastal erosion in Sefton</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Deliver actions the Council has in National, Regional and Local plans</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Look for options to lower the risk of surface water flooding in high risk areas</p>	<p>2024</p>
	<p>Collect information and look for changes in how the coast is behaving and where risk is changing across the North West Coast and make sure plans are in place to manage this change</p>	<p>2021-2026</p>
	<p>Ensure developments big or small in Sefton do not make flooding or coastal erosion worse</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Collect more information about how ground water levels are changing across Merseyside</p>	<p>2022</p>
	<p>Better manage drains that cross the beach to the sea where beach height and width is increasing</p>	<p>2022</p>

	<p>Put more water level monitors around Sefton to give more live information on how rivers, ditches and drains are reacting to heavy rain</p>	<p>2022</p>
	<p>Respond to flooding incidents and look for issues that may be causing the flood</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>Keep an up to date record of all Sefton owned drainage networks and sea defences</p>	<p>Every Year</p>



Some of these actions in the table above relate to these projects below:

### **Crosby Flood and Coastal Defence Scheme**



Looking at ways to protect the coastline at Crosby where the Sea wall is beginning to fail. The rubble beach also needs work as waves are eating away at the coastline causing it to move inland. There are also some homes at risk from surface water flooding and we are looking at ways to lower their risk.

## **The Pool Project**



There is a small river called the Pool in Churchtown. The river in parts runs through pipes, people's gardens and open greenspaces. 3,000 properties drain into it. Some of these properties flood and we think by making the river bigger and taking it out of some of its smaller pipes may lower the risk of flooding.

## **North West Regional Coastal Monitoring project**



Sefton Council oversees making sure all Councils in the NW with a coast are collecting and sharing information about how the coast is changing. This helps Councils make decisions on the need to do any work to protect their coast.

## **Surface Water Management Plan**



To better understand why some areas flood more detailed information needs to be collected to see what the problem may be. We then look for ways to overcome these problems and lower the risk of flooding in these areas. This can sometimes mean laying bigger pipes, creating areas where it is safe for water to gather away from properties or roads or areas where we can hold water until it is safe to release it when the heavy rain has gone.

## Maghull Flood Group



In January 2021 a really big storm caused water levels in the rivers in Maghull to become too high. Residents were told to leave their homes as there was a danger to life. Thankfully the river burst its banks downstream away from the properties and the river levels went down. A group has been set up with all organisations who manage flood risk to look at ways to lower the risk of this happening again.

## Hightown Coast Project



In 2011 Sefton Council took sand from Crosby and placed it on the beach at Hightown where the sand dunes used to be in 1970. It also re built a sea wall in front of the sailing club. Since 2011 the sand dunes have continued to be washed away and either side of the sailing club sea wall is being washed out. There is also now a very thin and low band of dunes on the northern section of Hightown beach by the river Alt that high tides under a storm could wash over toward people's homes. Sefton Council needs to monitor this part of the coast more closely and have some options ready to lower the risk of this happening.

## **Ainsdale and Birkdale drainage across the beach project**



Some water from the villages of Ainsdale and Birkdale drain through small pipes through the sand dunes and out to sea. But over the years the sand dunes have been growing in height and width making it difficult for water to flow out of these pipes. Work is needed to allow this water to drain out to lower the risk of flooding in these villages.

## **Formby Flood Risk Project**



Formby is a high-risk flood area. We are looking into ways to lower this risk and work with the Formby Community Flood Group to do some work in the area such as creating storage areas for flood water, making pipes and ditches bigger or changing the course of small ditches to let water flow more easily.

## **Merseyside Groundwater Project**



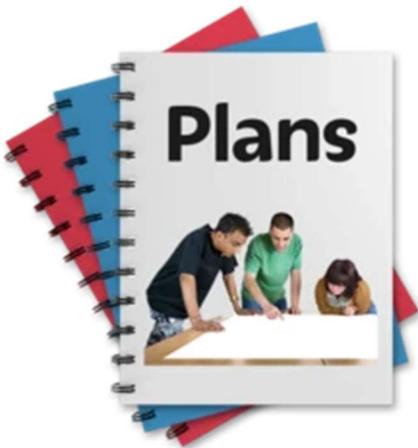
Councils across Merseyside are working together to better understand how water under the ground is changing in its levels. Sefton Council are leading this project to put in place some monitoring stations underground to record this water level and look for ways of lowering the risk of groundwater flooding across Merseyside.

## **Water Level Monitoring Project**



Sefton Council want to put water level monitoring devices on some small rivers and drains that we look after. This will help us get live information of the height of the water in them and be able to warn people if they might burst.

## **National and Regional Flood Management Action Plans**



Sefton Council need to do some actions that are in higher level plans written by organisations whose job it is to make sure flood and coastal erosion risk is managed across the whole of England. These plans are known as Flood Risk Management Plans and are written by the Environment Agency.

## **Creating Coastal Vegetation Buffer Strips Project**



This project will be across the entire North West Coast. It will be looking for areas where special plants can grow on the coast to protect it. These areas will be created and used by the community for other benefits. Formby Point has been selected as one of these areas.

## Climate Emergency Plan



Sefton Council has announced a Climate Emergency. This means the Council has a plan in place to make sure we are all doing what we can to tackle the effects of climate change and change the way we all do things.



## Highway Flooding Project

Sefton Council will be looking at ways to better manage how and when highways drains are cleaned especially in high flood risk areas.

## When will this be updated?



The main plan will be updated in 2030 and the action plan every year, unless there are any big changes in laws or risk.