



Surface Water Management Plans

Are you prepared to take the lead in identifying
and managing the risks of flooding?

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Why you need a Surface Water Management Plan

Statutory provisions in the draft Flood and Water Management Bill, driven by the Pitt Review recommendations, mean that Local Authorities now take the lead role in identifying and managing significant risk from all sources of flooding. This includes surface water run-off, groundwater, and watercourses.

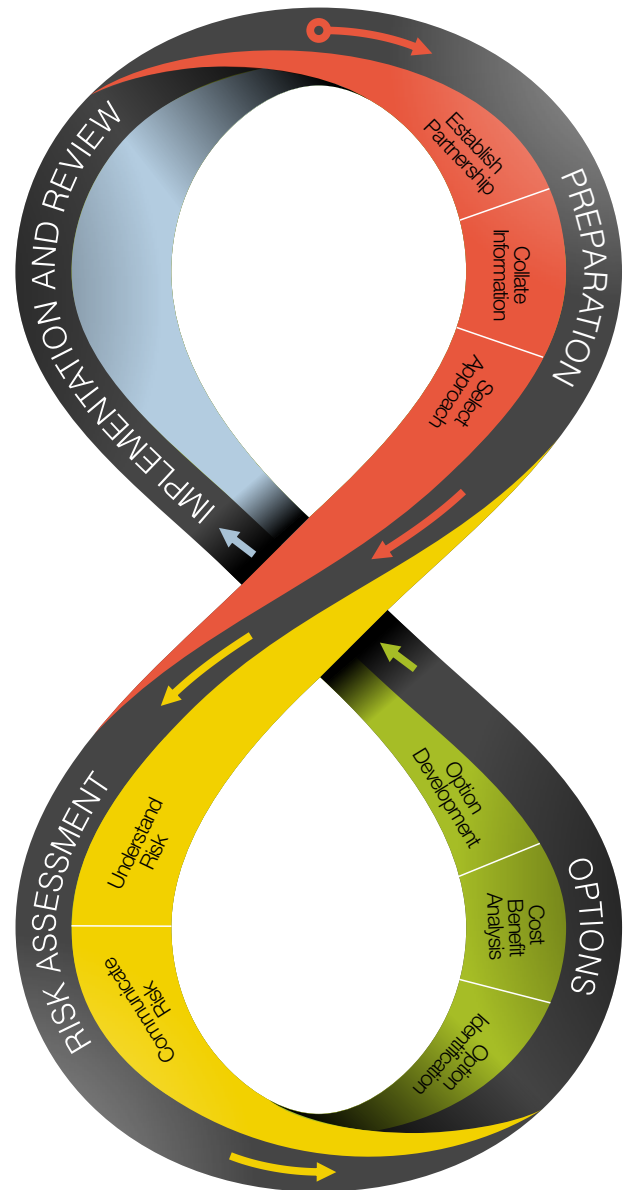
The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is Defra's framework for integrated urban drainage management. Through this, local authorities can understand and resolve complex and high-risk surface water flooding problems in urban areas.

The plan will also determine the constraints on development and identify the infrastructure that may be needed to accommodate planned growth. Backed by a pragmatic approach to the investigation of risks and options, it defines a robust programme for delivery.

SWMPs also make a vital contribution to longer-term strategic planning for new developments such as housing and infrastructure improvements. Drawing upon other spatial planning tools and procedures, such as Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, a SWMP facilitates the sustainable delivery of the spatial vision and objectives set out in your Local Development Framework.



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Surface Water Management Plan Process

The four stages of Surface Water Management Plan preparation

The four stages of SWMP preparation



1. Preparation

Establish your partnership and collate data required to determine your approach.

2. Risk assessment

Understand and communicate risks.

3. Options

Assess the impact of new development and complete a cost-benefit analysis.

4. Implementation and review

Put plans into action and regularly evaluate the outcome.

What you can expect from a SWMP

An appreciation of the causes of surface water flooding, together with a rigorous analysis of all available data, will provide guidance for good practice.

Although the size and scope of a SWMP will vary for each location, as a minimum you can expect the following:

- Identify areas of critical drainage within urban areas
- Identify and investigate areas of historic flooding and opportunities to reduce flood risk
- Assess impacts of future urbanisation and redevelopment
- Understand the interaction of local drainage systems
- Proposed framework for implementation of mitigation measures

Essential factors for delivery of SWMPs

Effective collaboration

An integrated approach is essential to deliver a successful SWMP. A number of key local partners have responsibility for surface water and drainage, and such stakeholders need to pull together to understand fully the causes of flooding and agree the most cost effective way to proceed. You may require additional technical or managerial support to coordinate the delivery, establish the terms of reference and develop the mission for the SWMP.

Blend of public and private sector expertise

There will be complex political, managerial, technical and commercial aspects to consider. Ensure your team includes diverse stakeholders and advisers able to appreciate numerous perspectives and bridge the gaps.

Technical knowledge and experience

It is unusual for local authorities to have in house the level of technical support required of a SWMP. While SWMPs are relatively new, they require a rapid assessment of available data relating to historic flooding and infrastructure. This would be collated into a unified GIS model to inform the scope of works for the risk assessment stage. Each location is unique, and you should expect to access, use and manage these tools in house long after the technical professionals have completed their work.

Supports the Local Development Framework

The SWMP is not a programme to be created in isolation, but one which works in the context of your broader urban development strategies and ambitions. It should actively contribute to the success of your Local Development Framework, by embracing the relevant data when exploring options and assessing risks.

Our services

Identify relevant partners and stakeholder contributions.

Prepare an implementation plan and programme for delivery of preferred solutions.

Collate historic data into a unified model.

Devise options which address specific local issues.

Work with stakeholders to agree and prioritise achievable mitigation measures.

Assess, plan and improve current and future drainage asset maintenance regimes.

Review and monitor the effectiveness of the SWMP.

Desirable outcomes from a SWMP

An effective SWMP will provide improved management and control of new developments and policies, and an opportunity to work more closely with the development sector for the benefit of the local community in the longer term. SWMPs can also support:

- Preparation of emergency plans with resilience forum
- Allocation of land use and adoption of surface water management policies
- Control of drainage from new developments through planning
- Strategic use of planning opportunities to work with developers and reduce flood risk
- Planning of operation and maintenance regimes
- Creation of opportunities to enhance biodiversity and improve recreational facilities.

How we can support your SWMP partnership

Our pragmatic approach is well suited to the requirements of SWMPs, and we have already moved beyond technical theory to practical delivery of the preparation stage for one of the UK's first SWMPs.

We appreciate the benefits of working in close partnership with your local authority team within the context of the Local Development Framework. We also understand first hand the challenges of operating seamlessly between the public and private sector to achieve consensus, and the need to consider both political and commercial factors alongside technical data.

Ultimately, it is our aim to deliver practical SWMP programmes and ensure the effective transfer of knowledge to the local authority.

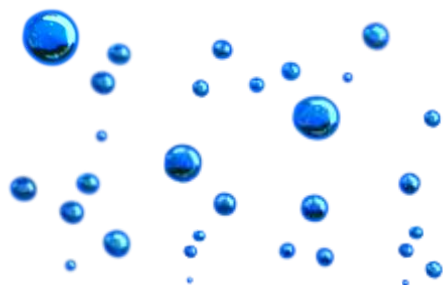
For more information on how we could support your local SWMP preparation, please contact:

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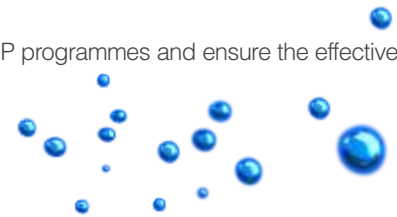
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