

# SCREENING REPORT

## STEP 1 – DETAILS OF THE PLAN

**Responsible Authority:**

Aberdeenshire Council as Lead Local Authority in the North East Local Plan District

**Title of the plan:**

North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) 2022 to 2028

**What prompted the plan:**

(e.g. a legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)

Aberdeenshire Council is required to produce the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

As it is required by legislation the LFRMP is therefore a qualifying plan under section 5(3) (b) of the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

**Plan subject:**

(e.g. transport)

Water Management

**Screening** is required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Based on Boxes 3 and 4, our view is that:

**An SEA is required, as the environmental effects are likely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

**An SEA is not required, as the environmental effects are unlikely to be significant:** Please indicate below what Section of the 2005 Act this plan falls within

Section 5(3)

Section 5(4)

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**Date:**

13 October 2021

## STEP 2 – CONTEXT AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

### Context of the Plan:

The LFRMP (to be published by Aberdeenshire Council) has a parent Strategy/ Plan namely the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP), which has been produced by SEPA. The FRMP for the North East Local Plan District establishes where flood risk management studies and works will take place within the boundary of the plan, as well as a range of more general actions to manage flooding across the area.

The FRMP is currently being assessed through the SEA process and Scoping and Environmental Reports have been consulted on.

There are no additional measures or actions within the LFRMP that were not included in the Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement for the FRMP. The only additional information that the LFRMP will contain (above and beyond the FRMP) is timing of the proposed actions and how they will be funded. Aberdeenshire Council therefore plans to refer to the Environmental Report, consultation responses and Post Adoption Statement for the FRMP as these will have been carried out an appropriate level of assessment for the LFRMP.

### Description of the Plan:

The LFRMP will describe all flood risk management activities that are ongoing or planned within the North East Local Plan District. The Local Plan District includes most of Aberdeenshire Council's administrative area, Aberdeen City Council's entire administrative area and some of Moray Council's. The LFRMP must be approved and adopted by all three Local Authorities and the other Responsible Authorities named in the Act before being implemented.

This is the second iteration of the plan and will run from 2022 to 2028 and will continue to be reviewed every six years.

The aim of the plan is to take a risk based plan-led approach to flood risk management rather than a reactive approach. This will help focus attention and resources to the areas which can achieve the greatest benefits.

The Plan will help raise the level of understanding within the Local Plan District and help inform future Development Plans.

### What are the key components of the plan?

The LFRMP will be drafted prior to March 2022, with final publication due for June 2022. Although these dates may be delayed due to current national funding uncertainties.

Aberdeenshire Council is Lead Local Authority for the North East LFRMP and is therefore responsible for its content. It is our intention that the LFRMP will be a mirror to the FRMP (Currently being screened by SEPA) and will generally summarise the content of the FRMP and refer readers to it for the detail of the Plan. The LFRMP will essentially provide an Executive Summary of the FRMP, with added detail (namely the funding and timing of the actions) provided.

The summary will cover all existing and recommended actions to be taken forward through the Plan at the Local Plan District (LPD) level and Potentially Vulnerable Area (PVA) level. For each this will include a characterisation, the objectives to reduce flood risk and the recommended actions and measures to meet the objective.

As is set out in the FRMP, the recommended measures that will be taken

forward in the Plan are a number of studies (Flood Protection Studies and Natural Flood Management Studies) and a small number of Works (i.e. construction of Flood Protection Schemes). The FRMS also includes a number of non-structural recommendations (which are again included within the LFRMP) such as Flood Warning Schemes, raising awareness and improvements to Land Use Planning.

The LFRMP will identify a number of Surface Water Management Plans where the risk of surface water flooding is greatest and where priorities for surface water management planning should be focused. The purpose of a Surface Water Management Plan is to provide sufficient information to support the development of an agreed strategic approach to the management of surface water flood risk within a given geographical area by ensuring the most sustainable measures are identified. The surface water management plan should take account of the Aberdeen Integrated Catchment Study being undertaken by Scottish Water, in partnership with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Council.

A Surface Water Management Plan area can extend beyond the boundaries of a PVA (which are based on river catchments) if some of the sources and pathways of surface water flooding or part of the urban drainage area, lies out with a PVA. In addition, the LFRMP will also identify when, in which FRM cycle, the action and/or measure is planned to be carried out and who will be funding its progression.

The LFRMP will not include any areas or actions not previously assessed in the FRMP.

**Have any of the components of the plan been considered in previous SEA work?**

As mentioned previously all the actions and measures proposed in the LFRMP are already progressing through the screening process.

There are to be no new proposed measures or actions within the LFRMP that have not been assessed within SEPA's submission.

**In terms of your response to Boxes 7 and 8 above, set out those components of the plan that are likely to require screening:**

As the LFRMP is intended to form an Executive Summary of the FRMP we do not consider an additional SEA will be necessary.

The only additional areas the LFRMP included that were not within the FRMP concern the timing of the proposed studies and works and confirmation on how they are to be funded. As a precaution these two components are screened below.

**STEP 3 – IDENTIFYING INTERACTIONS OF THE PLAN WITH THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
CONSIDERING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF ANY INTERACTIONS (Error! Reference source not found.)**

Plan Components	Environmental Topic Areas										Explanation of Potential Environmental Effects	Explanation of Significance
	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Population and human health	Soil	Water	Air	Climatic factors	Material assets	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Inter-relationship issues		
Timing of implementation of the Plan measures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		We do not believe the timing of the proposed actions or measures with the LFRMP will have a significant effect on the environment.
Funding of the Plan measures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		We do not believe how the actions and measures are to be funded will have a significant effect on the environment.

**STEP 4 – STATEMENT OF THE FINDINGS OF THE SCREENING**

**Summary of interactions with the environment and statement of the findings of the Screening:**  
(Including an outline of the likely significance of any interactions, positive or negative, and explanation of conclusion of the screening exercise.)

The proposed measures highlighted within the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) could have significant environmental effects. However, these have already been discussed and assessed through the consultation on SEPA’s Environmental Report for the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), with particular reference to the North East Local Plan District in [Appendix J](#). There are no new measures within the LFRMP that have not already been identified or appraised in the Environmental Report and Post Adoption Statement for the FRMS. The only additional information that will be included in the LFRMP that is not within the FRMS will be information regarding timing of proposed measures and how they are to be funded.

The way funding is sourced and who is responsible for funding proposed measures will not have a significant effect on the environment.

A number of Flood Protection Studies, Natural Flood Management Studies and Surface Water Management Plans feature as recommended measures in the FRMS which are to be implemented through the LFRMP. Since these are un-intrusive desk based studies, the timing of when these take place is not considered to have a significant effect on the environment. There is likely to be, at some stage of the study, some ground investigations to determine soil types and the location of utilities, however these would be small scale and directed away from any environmentally sensitive areas. In addition, as each study progresses, more detailed environmental surveys and consultations will be carried out to inform the progress of the scheme, and these will have been led by the findings of the FRMS Environmental Report and consultation responses.

The timing of proposed Works may, in principle, have an effect on the environment, if for example, the Works were to be built in the same catchment as each other.

All Works are proposed to be delivered within the second cycle. The local consultation and understanding of the environmental constraints in these catchments is already well understood and has been taken account of through the initial planning of the projects.

This additional information we believe will not have a significant effect on the environment. Therefore in conclusion we believe that the North East Local Flood Risk Management Plan and does not require a separate Scoping or Environmental Report to be produced.

When completed send to: [SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SEA.gateway@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or to the SEA Gateway, Scottish Government, Area 2H (South), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ.

