

HIGHLAND & ARGYLL Local Flood Risk Management Plan *Interim Report*

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Contents

1 Background 3

2 How current is the Plan 4

3 Significant issues 4

4 Other actions 5

5 Next steps..... 5

6 Conclusions..... 6

7 Assessment of progress..... 7

1 Background

The Interim Report is a legal requirement under Section 37 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the Act), which must be published between July 2024 and December 2025. This report includes a review of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (the Plan), published in December 2022, and information on the progress that has been made towards implementing the actions identified in the Plan.

Further details on flood risk management responsibilities in Scotland and the legal requirement for the publication of this Interim Report can be found in Appendix 1.

A copy of the Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan can be found at [H&A LPD Local FRM Plan](#) or a hard copy of the plan can be obtained from Argyll & Bute Council or The Highland Council.

2 How current is the Plan

The Plan was published in December 2022 as a supplement to the Flood Risk Management Plan (SEPA Plan) issued by SEPA in December 2022. It outlines how the actions identified in the SEPA Plan will be carried out during the period from 2022 to 2028. Both the SEPA Plan and the Plan are informed by the National Flood Risk Assessment and the designation of Potentially Vulnerable Areas at that time. The Plan continues to be considered appropriate based on the current understanding of flood risk within the Highland & Argyll Local Plan District.

3 Significant issues

Based on a progress review of the Plan for Highland & Argyll, the following key themes and issues have been identified that have or may have an impact on the delivery of actions to manage flood risk. Arrangements planned to deliver the remaining actions are described below. Where these issues have had an impact on the delivery of specific actions or actions across an LPD, this is detailed in the 'Assessment of the progress of actions'.

Funding of New Flood Alleviation Schemes

The distribution of capital funding through the local authority general capital grant, including for flood protection schemes, is jointly agreed by Scottish Ministers and COSLA Leaders.

The implementation of the 2022 Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) have been significantly affected by capital funding availability through the general capital grant for new flood protection schemes.

There is a commitment to fund flood protection schemes from the 2015 FRMPs first and many of these schemes have experienced cost escalations and extended delivery timelines.

As a result, there have been no capital allocations through the general capital grant for the development and delivery of new flood protection schemes. This has delayed early-stage procurement and design activity for new flood protection schemes by other Responsible Authorities and disrupted the intended sequencing of flood risk interventions across the country. There is therefore a backlog of flood protection schemes that remain in

development or have been paused pending the availability of capital funding. through the general capital grant.

The cumulative effect of these delays is a shortfall in the delivery of the flood protection schemes in the 2022 FRMPs

4 Other actions

Highland Council

The Council has completed a Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan, covering coastal flood and erosion risk areas within the Highlands. This plan is a high-level review, identifying priority sections of coastline for more detailed Local Coastal Change Adaptation Plans in the future, as funding allows.

SEPA

Over the past four years, SEPA has made significant improvements in the flood forecasting and warning service through its Flood Warning Development Framework 2022–2028. Key achievements include:

- **Scottish Flood Forecast:** A new 3-day public forecast developed with the Met Office, providing earlier and clearer flood risk information.
- **MyFloodline:** A redesigned registration platform that improves public access to flood warnings.
- **AI Integration:** SEPA has also embraced digital transformation and begun exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence to enhance forecasting capabilities.

5 Next steps

A Final Report on the Plan will be published between July 2027 and June 2028. This will include an updated assessment of the progress made towards implementing the current actions, a summary of the current measures which were not implemented, with reasons for their non-implementation; and a description of any other measures implemented since the Plan was finalised which the lead authority considers have contributed to the achievement of the flood risk objectives.

6 Conclusions

The majority, approximately 73%, of the actions identified in the Plan are expected to be delivered within the timescales set when the plan was published in December 2022.

Approximately 10% of the actions identified are delayed but expected to be delivered before the end of cycle 2 in 2028. Approximately 17% of the actions are not expected to be delivered in the first cycle and will now be considered for future cycles.

In addition to funding availability for Flood Alleviation schemes, delays in implementing actions are generally due to factors that can't be anticipated over a six-year period, such as funding adjustments and modifications to the scope of work after plans are published. Efforts will continue to be made to complete the outstanding actions as efficiently as possible.

7 Assessment of progress

This section sets out an assessment of the progress towards implementing the actions set out in the Plan. There are actions that apply across all of the Highland & Argyll LPD and actions that are specific to each of the 30 Potentially Vulnerable Areas (as defined under Section 13 of the Act), which are shown below in Figure 1.

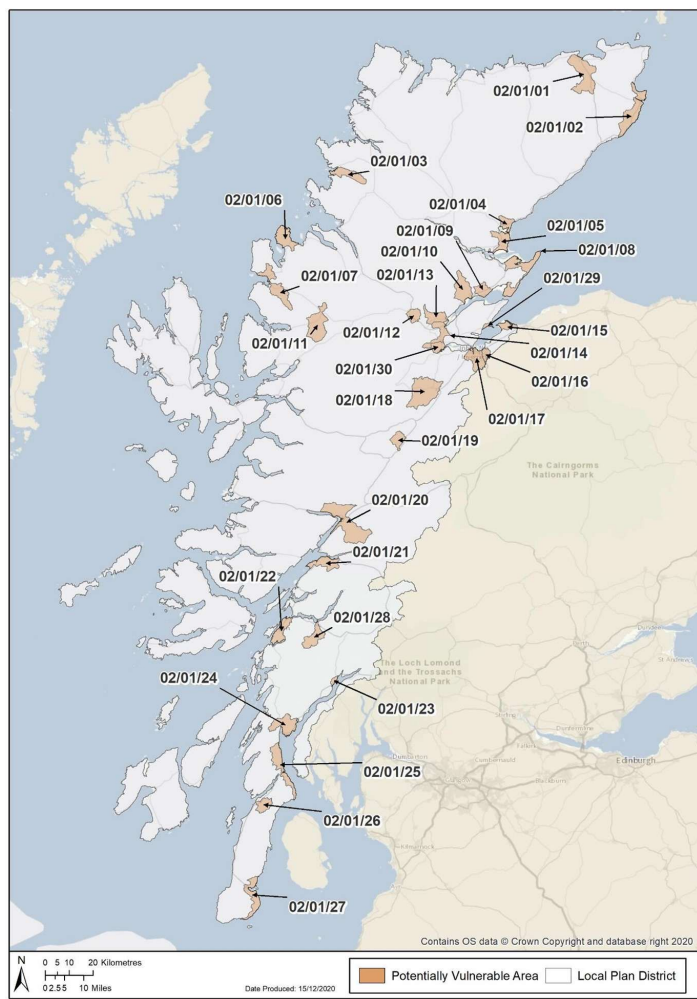


Figure 1: The Highland & Argyll LPD with Potentially Vulnerable Areas identified
Details of Potentially Vulnerable Areas taken from Highland & Argyll Flood Risk Management Plan, SEPA (December 2022)

The actions that apply to individual PVAs are shown in Figure 2. The summary progress is shown using the traffic light system, where each item is marked as Red, Amber or Green (RAG) and where:

- **GREEN** – The action has been completed successfully or is progressing as planned.
No immediate attention is required.
- **AMBER** – The action is behind schedule or progressing slowly, but it is not critical.
Some attention or action is required to get it back on track.
- **RED** – The action is significantly behind schedule or has not started at all.

RAG																	
	Community engagement	Community flood alert	Community resilience group	Flood defence maintenance	Flood risk management review	Flood scheme or works implementation	Flood scheme or works design	Flood study	Flood study (existing flood defences)	Flood warning maintenance	Flood warning scoping	Property flood resilience scheme	Sewer flood risk assessment	Shoreline management plan (coastal adaptive plan)	Site protection plan	Strategic mapping improvements	Surface water management plan
Alness										GREEN							
Ardersier										GREEN						GREEN	
Aultbea								GREEN			GREEN						
Avoch								GREEN		GREEN						GREEN	
Balintore								AMBER		GREEN						GREEN	
Ballachulish					GREEN			GREEN									
Beauly										GREEN							
Blairninich						RED	RED										
Campbeltown						GREEN				GREEN			AMBER	GREEN			GREEN
Clachan	GREEN	GREEN				RED	RED										
Conon Bridge				GREEN				GREEN		GREEN							
Corpach and Caol				GREEN		GREEN				GREEN			GREEN				GREEN
Dingwall				GREEN		RED	RED			GREEN			GREEN			GREEN	GREEN
Dornoch					GREEN			GREEN									
Drumnadrochit				GREEN		GREEN		RED		GREEN							
Fort Augustus				GREEN						GREEN							
Fort William								GREEN		GREEN			GREEN				GREEN
Gairloch					GREEN												
Garve										GREEN					AMBER		
Glencoe					GREEN			RED									
Golspie						RED	RED			GREEN						GREEN	
Halkirk																	GREEN
Inver								AMBER		GREEN						GREEN	
Inveraray					GREEN									GREEN			
Invergordon										GREEN							
Inverness				GREEN		RED	RED	AMBER		GREEN,AMBER			GREEN			GREEN	GREEN
Kerrysdale					GREEN												
Kinlochewe					GREEN												
Lochgilphead								GREEN		GREEN		RED		GREEN			
Lochinver															AMBER		
Maryburgh								RED		GREEN							
Muir of Ord					GREEN												
Oban	GREEN					RED	RED			GREEN							AMBER

Portmahomack								AMBER		GREEN						GREEN	
Rockfield								AMBER		GREEN						GREEN	
Smithton and Culloden				GREEN									GREEN				GREEN
Strathpeffer																	GREEN
Tarbert	GREEN					RED	RED			GREEN			AMBER				AMBER
Taynuilt and Brochroy					GREEN			GREEN						GREEN			
Thurso						RED	RED									GREEN	
Wick										GREEN						GREEN	

Figure 2: Summary of progress of actions to manage flood risk in the Potentially Vulnerable Areas of the Highland & Argyll LPD

Progress with LPD-wide Actions

This section sets out an assessment of the progress towards implementing actions that apply across all the Highland & Argyll LPD over the six-year Plan, which is presented in Figure 3.

Action	Delivery Lead	RAG status - Interim Report	Update
Awareness raising	ABC THC SEPA	GREEN	<p>Argyll and Bute Council have promoted flood advice for property owners and landowners on our website https://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/flood-advice. In addition, we are now working with our Climate Change Officer and ABCAN to support communities in carrying out area-based risk assessments and, where possible, implementing local mitigation measures. This work highlights the importance of embedding community resilience, particularly in areas where flood risk has been identified.</p> <p>The Highland Council are committed to promoting property flood resilience and have worked in partnership with SEPA, Scottish Water, and the Scottish Flood Forum to do so. The Highland Council continue to engage with Community Resilience Groups, helping them to identify means to reduce flood risk themselves and become better prepared to deal with future flooding.</p> <p>SEPA has delivered a range of awareness-raising activities through targeted campaigns and collaborative partnerships. A key achievement has been the development of a suite of online flood education resources for pupils in P5–P7, designed to help young people build their understanding of flood risk and resilience.</p> <p>We have also refreshed how we communicate our flood warning and information tools to the public, guided by a user-led approach. Our emphasis on accessibility ensures that communities are better equipped to understand their flood risk and take action to build resilience.</p> <p>In addition, SEPA hosted its first-ever national online community event. The event attracted over 65 participants from communities across Scotland, with 96% of attendees reporting that they felt better informed about how their community could prepare for flooding."</p>
Data to support climate resilience	ABC THC SEPA	GREEN	<p>SEPA is undertaking extensive work to upgrade the Hydrometric Network both in terms of infrastructure and technology, including dramatically increasing the number of sites and utility of near live data across numerous users.</p> <p>A strategic vision and strategy is being developed for Hydrology Monitoring in Scotland to ensure that our service</p>

			meets future user needs in an effective and efficient way in a changing climate.
Emergency plans	ABC THC	GREEN	<p>Argyll and Bute benefits from a highly effective and well-established Local Resilience Partnership, which works collaboratively to ensure strong preparedness and coordinated responses to disruptive challenges. Its capabilities are regularly tested and proven in real situations. We take reassurance in knowing that, regardless of the cause of any incident, the consequences are effectively managed through this partnership and the tactical response groups within the Council and HSCP.</p> <p>The Highland Council continues to provide support as a Category 1 responder, updating emergency plans.</p>
Flood forecasting	SEPA	GREEN	SEPA delivers the Scottish Flood Forecasting Service in partnership with and the Met Office, continues to deliver daily outlooks of flood risk and potential impacts for the nation through its 3 day Scottish Flood Forecast for the public and 5-day Flood Guidance Statement for professional partners. Flood Alerts and Warnings are issued by SEPA's flood duty officers when flooding is possible and/or expected.
Flood warning development framework	SEPA	GREEN	<p>SEPA published the Flood Warning development Framework for 2022-2028 including a programme of works to maintain and improve SEPA's forecasting and warning services. SEPA has developed a road map for improving surface water forecasting and SEPA now have a surface water forecasting tool that has been developed called PREDICTOR. Further recommendations exist to develop these surface water capabilities.</p> <p>SEPA's partnership with the Met Office continues with the publication of daily 3 day forecasts for the public and 5-day forecasts for professional partners.</p>
Future flood risk management planning	SEPA	AMBER	<p>Argyll and Bute Council and The Highland Council reaffirm their commitment to supporting SEPA in the development of Flood Risk Management Plans. The Councils will work closely with communities through consultation on the preparation of Local Flood Risk Management Plans during 2026 and 2027.</p> <p>SEPA is currently preparing the Flood Risk Management Plans for the upcoming cycle (2027–2033) in collaboration with key stakeholders. This process includes a formal consultation phase scheduled for 2026. The new plans will introduce key elements of the Scottish Flood Resilience Strategy and align with the objectives of other national frameworks, such as the Scottish National Adaptation Plan.</p> <p>Following the publication of the Scottish Flood Resilience Strategy in 2025, SEPA is embedding its principles and ambitions into a refreshed vision and strategic direction for its flooding services."</p>
Guidance development	SEPA	AMBER	As part of delivering the Scottish Flood Resilience Strategy, SEPA is contributing to the development of a flood advisory service. This includes updating and creating tailored guidance

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			to support flood risk management projects. In collaboration with Scottish Forestry and other UK forestry agencies, Forest Research published the UK Forestry Standard Practice Guide in October 2022. This guide offers practical advice to landowners, land managers, and public authorities on how to design and manage forests and woodlands to help reduce flood risk.
Hazard mapping updates	SEPA	GREEN	<p>SEPA has a phased, multiyear programme of hazard map updates. Updates to our coastal map for Outer Hebrides, Orkney and North East Scotland were published in November 2023 and South East Scotland is due to be published in 2026. A review of coastal modelling and mapping in South West Scotland will follow.</p> <p>In February 2025 SEPA published a new national flood hazard map for surface water and small watercourses, entirely replacing the previous surface water map release.</p> <p>SEPA is updating its approach to fluvial hazard map updates including user needs analysis, technological and methodological improvements in order to meet the next statutory hazard map update deadline of December 2031.</p>
Land use planning	ABC THC SEPA	GREEN	<p>Argyll and Bute Council and The Highland Council Flood Risk Management Teams continue to assess planning applications to ensure compliance with National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) and to confirm that new developments do not increase flood risk to communities or existing infrastructure. The Teams also work closely with the relevant Local Development Plan teams to ensure that Strategic Flood Risk Assessments address known risks within their respective council areas.</p> <p>Following the publication of the Scottish Government's National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) in February 2023, SEPA has undertaken a programme of updates to its land use planning guidance on flood risk. This work, carried out in consultation with key stakeholders, has focused on ensuring alignment with Policy 22 in particular. The programme is now largely complete, and planning authorities are progressing with the implementation of NPF4 through the spatial elements of their upcoming local development plans.</p>
Maintenance	ABC THC	GREEN	<p>Argyll and Bute Council are developing the WDM WebFRMS asset management system for recording the assessment and clearing of relevant bodies of water. The system will allow the publication of a schedule of clearance and repair works online. The WebFRMS system is being effectively built from the ground up of the basic operating framework, rather than implementing any existing system and is therefore expected to be significantly more aligned with Council requirements but take longer to finalise. Development of the system is progressing well during 2025, and it is expected that a full implementation will be in place by early 2026.</p> <p>The Highland Council continue to publish their clearance and repair schedules. These works are based on inspections carried out under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act</p>

			2009 and are prioritised according to the risk of flooding that identified issues may present.
Natural flood management mapping	SEPA	GREEN	SEPA is developing an improved evidence base for updating natural flood management mapping using the Potentially Vulnerable Areas published in December 2024 and the revised National Flood Risk Assessment data which will be available in March 2026. This will enable a focussed catchment approach to be developed, building on the existing national approach and providing a higher resolution of opportunity mapping.
National flood risk assessment	SEPA	GREEN	SEPA is applying updated evidence and methodologies to produce the revised National Flood Risk Assessment, scheduled for publication in December 2025. The underlying data informed the identification of Potentially Vulnerable Areas for the next flood risk management cycle, which were published in December 2024. This evidence base will also shape the objectives and actions set out in the 2027–2033 flood risk management plans, due for release in December 2027.
National surface water mapping	SEPA	GREEN	In February 2025 SEPA published a new national flood hazard map for surface water and small watercourses, entirely replacing the previous surface water map release. This new release included publication for the first time of a future flood map, to help users understand the potential impacts of climate change. To accompany the publication a number of improvements were also made to the "Check an area's long term flood risk viewer".
Reservoirs	SEPA	GREEN	SEPA continues to develop its assessment of flood risk from dam failure and use these assessments to direct a proportionate regulatory approach to ensure reservoir safety. We are exploring the use of the UK emergency alerts service for issuing warnings in the event of a reservoir emergency.
Scottish Flood Defence Asset Database	SEPA	AMBER	<p>Argyll and Bute Council will store asset information on all flood protection and alleviation works in the WebFRMS asset register. The development of this new The WebFRMS system is being effectively built from the ground up of the basic operating framework, rather than implementing any existing system and is therefore expected to be significantly more aligned with Council requirements but take longer to finalise. Development of the system is progressing well during 2025, and it is expected that a full implementation will be in place by early 2026.</p> <p>SEPA's ongoing Flood Asset Project is strengthening the quality of evidence and data management on behalf of all flooding partners. This work will deliver an improved national database to replace the outdated original, which is no longer available, enabling more informed decisions on asset location, maintenance, flood warnings, risk management, and land use planning.</p>

Self help	ABC THC	GREEN	Argyll and Bute Council and The Highland Council continue to sign post communities and individuals to sources of help with respect to improving property resilience through its Flood Advice webpage, answering public enquiries regarding flood issues and through the work of the Scottish Flood Forum.
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Figure 3: Progress with LPD-wide Actions for the Highland & Argyll LPD

Progress with PVA-specific Actions

This section sets out an assessment of the progress towards implementing actions that are specific to each of the 14 PVAs as shown in Figure 2. Assessments of the progress of Red and Amber actions within each PVA are presented.

Target Area	Clachan	353
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design	35301
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 3 = Medium.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>	

Target Area	Clachan	353
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	35302
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 3 = Medium.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>	

Target Area	Tarbert	361
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design	36101
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 3 = Medium.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>	

Target Area	Tarbert		361
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation		36102
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status	RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 3 = Medium.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>		

Target Area	Tarbert		361
Action Type	Surface water management plan		36105
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status	AMBER
Update	<p>Progress dependent on confirmation of existing committed expenditure schemes against currently available funding . Confirmation of this is anticipated by December 2025.</p>		

Target Area	Lochgilphead		365
Action Type	Property flood resilience scheme		36501
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status	RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 2 = High.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>		

Target Area	Oban		366
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design		36601
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status	RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 2 = High.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>		

Target Area	Oban	366
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	36602
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>Scope, timescales and funding arrangements for Cycle 2 and 3 externally capital funded schemes are not yet confirmed. Previous (Cycle 1) capital funding was 80% Scottish Government with Council being responsible for 20% (plus any additional spend over budget estimate).</p> <p>Scheme was submitted to SEPA for prioritisation in 2019. Benefit Cost Ratio classification is 2 = High.</p> <p>Unlikely to progress in Cycle 2 (2022-2028) due to capital funding not being secured.</p>	

Target Area	Oban	366
Action Type	Surface water management plan	36604
Action Delivery Lead	ABC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	<p>Maintenance works carried out at Lochavullin (Target Area). Larger projects in the SWMP are dependent on securing additional capital funding.</p>	

Target Area	Golspie	333
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design	33301
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.</p>	

Target Area	Golspie	333
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	33302
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	<p>This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.</p>	

Target Area	Golspie	333
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	33303
Action Delivery Lead	Transport Scotland	RAG Status
Update	No update available	

Target Area	Blairninich	335
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design	33501
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.	

Target Area	Blairninich	335
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	33502
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.	

Target Area	Dingwall	336
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design	33602
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.	

Target Area	Dingwall	336
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	33603
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.	

Target Area	Portmahomack	338
Action Type	Flood study	33802
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	Identified to commence in 2026. A Highland wide Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. This plan has identified that Portmahomack is not a priority area for a Local CCAP. No further study planned at this stage.	

Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028: Interim Report

Target Area	Inver	339
Action Type	Flood study	33902
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	Identified to commence in 2026. A Highland wide Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. This plan has identified Inver for a Local CCAP, subject to funding.	

Target Area	Garve	341
Action Type	Site protection plan	34101
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	No works undertaken to date.	

Target Area	Drumnadrochit	343
Action Type	Flood study	34301
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	No works undertaken to date. Not identified in the Council capital programme	

Target Area	Campbeltown	346
Action Type	Sewer flood risk assessment	34601
Action Delivery Lead	Scottish Water	RAG Status AMBER
Update	This action is on course to deliver within Cycle 2, however the programme of studies has been delayed due to data sharing challenges. This is due to a requirement to ensure consistency of assessment by using the same underlying datasets as SEPA's updated pluvial mapping project.	

Target Area	Glencoe	348
Action Type	Flood study	34802
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	No works undertaken to date. Not identified in the Council capital programme	

Target Area	Clachan	353
Action Type	Community resilience group	35304
Action Delivery Lead	Community resilience group	RAG Status
Update	No update available.	

Target Area	Lochinver	351
Action Type	Site protection plan	35101
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	No works undertaken to date.	

Target Area	Tarbert		361
Action Type	Sewer flood risk assessment		36104
Action Delivery Lead	Scottish Water	RAG Status	AMBER
Update	This action is on course to deliver within Cycle 2, however the programme of studies has been delayed due to data sharing challenges. This is due to a requirement to ensure consistency of assessment by using the same underlying datasets as SEPA's updated pluvial mapping project.		

Target Area	Maryburgh		363
Action Type	Flood study		36301
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status	RED
Update	No works undertaken to date. Not identified in the Council capital programme		

Target Area	Thurso		367
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design		36701
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status	RED
Update	Whilst prioritisation of schemes nationally has not concluded, the River Thurso scheme has not progressed to later rounds due to the low benefit cost ratio. Without government grant funding, the scheme will not be progressed.		

Target Area	Thurso		367
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation		36702
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status	RED
Update	Whilst prioritisation of schemes nationally has not concluded, the River Thurso scheme has not progressed to later rounds due to the low benefit cost ratio. Without government grant funding, the scheme will not be progressed.		

Target Area	Inverness		387
Action Type	Flood scheme or works design		38702
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status	RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.		

Target Area	Inverness	387
Action Type	Flood scheme or works implementation	38703
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status RED
Update	This action was subject to funding agreements being in place for Cycle 2 Flood Schemes. At present, there is no indication of when funding will be made available. Therefore, it is unlikely that this action will be completed within the timeframe originally highlighted.	

Target Area	Inverness	387
Action Type	Flood study	38704
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	Identified to commence in 2026. A Highland wide Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. This plan has identified South Kessock for a Local CCAP, subject to funding.	

Target Area	Inverness	387
Action Type	Flood warning maintenance	38709
Action Delivery Lead	SEPA	RAG Status AMBER
Update	SEPA has paused this action to investigate improvement to the River Ness flood warning scheme, as efforts have focused on advancing flood forecasting and warning systems to improve the resilience of the services we deliver across Scotland. For details on improvements to SEPA's flood forecasting and warning service, see the 'Other Actions' section.	

Target Area	Balintore	438
Action Type	Flood study	43802
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	Identified to commence in 2026. A Highland wide Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. This plan has identified that Balintore is not a priority area for a Local CCAP. No further study planned at this stage.	

Target Area	Rockfield	439
Action Type	Flood study	43902
Action Delivery Lead	THC	RAG Status AMBER
Update	Identified to commence in 2026. A Highland wide Regional Coastal Change Adaptation Plan has been developed. This plan has identified that Rockfield is not a priority area for a Local CCAP. No further study planned at this stage.	

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

FRM	Flood Risk Management
ICS	Integrated Catchment Study
LFRMP	Local Flood Risk Management Plan
LPD	Local Plan District
NFM	Natural Flood Management
PVA	Potentially Vulnerable Area
Q&S	Quality & Standards (Scottish Water)
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SR10/15	Spending Review periods for 2010-2015 and 2016-2021 for Scottish Water capital maintenance expenditure
SWMP	Surface Water Management Planning
TEAMB	Tay Estuary and Montrose Basin

Appendix 1: Flood risk management responsibilities in Scotland and the legal requirement for the publication of this Interim Report

Flood risk management in Scotland

The Scottish Ministers, SEPA and responsible authorities must exercise their flood risk related functions with a view to reducing overall flood risk (reference Section 1(1) of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009).

Through the preparation of a national flood risk assessment and setting of objectives to reduce the level of flood risk by SEPA, which is published in the Flood Risk Management Plan, and the publication of Local Flood Risk Management Plans by 'lead' local authorities, which detail how and when the actions agreed to meet these objectives are to be done, SEPA and all responsible authorities must act to manage flood risk in a sustainable way.

Flood Risk Management Plan for Highland & Argyll

Local Flood Risk Management Plan for Highland & Argyll

Legal requirement

This document sets out the conclusions of the review of the Local Flood Risk Management Plan (LFRMP) for the Highland & Argyll LPD as required by Section 37 of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 (the "Act").

37 Local flood risk management plans: Interim Report

(1) Not earlier than 2 years and not later than 3 years after a local flood risk management plan is finalised, the lead authority must —

- (a) review the plan, and
- (b) publish a report on the conclusions of the review including information on the progress that has been made towards implementing the measures identified in the implementation part of the plan.

(2) The lead authority must make copies of the report available for public inspection.

The Highland & Argyll LFRMP was published in December 2022, therefore, the Interim Report needs to be published between December 2024 and December 2025. The Interim Report provides a summary of the LFRMP actions ('measures') and the proposed delivery timescales.

The information on progress will include:

- an assessment of the progress towards implementing each of the actions;

- reasons for any actions where delivery is not as planned; and
- a description of arrangements planned to deliver the remaining actions and to address delayed actions.

The Interim Report is published by the 'lead authority' as defined by Section 34(9) of the Act in partnership with SEPA and the 'responsible authorities', as defined by Section 5 of the Act. The approval of the Interim Report will be in accordance with the agreed governance arrangements in the LPD. The responsible authorities for the Highland & Argyll LPD are:

- The Highland Council (lead authority)
- Argyll & Bute Council
- Cairngorm National Park
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Forestry and Land Scotland
- Scottish Water.

The lead authority must also publish a Final Report on the LFRMP under Section 38 of the Act between December 2026 and December 2082 (not earlier than 5 years and not later than 6 years from the publication of the Plan). The Final Report will provide an assessment of current actions and a summary of current actions not implemented, with reasons for their non-implementation. The Final Report will also include a description of any other measures implemented, which the lead authority considers have contributed to the achievement of the objectives summarised in the LFRMP.

Publication

The published Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll LFRMP will be made available for public inspection, as per Section 37(2) of the Act, via the website of the lead authority, The Highland Council:

www.highland.gov.uk; search for "Interim Report LFRMP".

Links to the published Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll LFRMP will also be provided from Scottish Government, SEPA and other responsible authority websites.

Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk Management Plan 2022-2028: Interim Report

A hard (paper) copy of the published Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll LFRMP is also available for public inspection on weekdays between 9am and 5pm at the following location(s):

Council access points at Highland Council's offices in Dingwall.

Copies of the published Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll LFRMP may also be available at offices of other responsible authorities.

Detailed arrangements for publication of the Interim Report for Highland & Argyll LFRMP are in Appendix 2.

Appendix 2: Publication details

Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009
Publication of Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll Local Flood Risk
Management Plan –
Summary of Proposed Communications Activities

The following communications activities will be used to publicise and make the Interim Report available:

- Upon finalising the Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll Local FRM Plan, Sections 37(2), 53 and 54 of the Act specifically require The Highland Council, as the lead authority, to
 - Publish an Interim Report on the Highland & Argyll Local FRM Plan;
 - Make copies of the Interim Report available for public inspection free of charge and at all reasonable times;
 - Publicise the arrangements for making it available by means of a notice in the appropriate newspapers (at least one Scottish newspaper and such local newspapers within the LPD as considered appropriate)
- The Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll Local FRM Plan will be published in a hard copy format and a pdf version will also be made available on the Council's website at [The Highland Council FRM Plans](#)
- Hard copies of the Interim Report for the Highland & Argyll Local FRM Plan will be held and made available upon request at The Highland Council's offices in Dingwall.
- A letter (with a pdf version of the report on DVD) will be sent to SEPA and the Scottish Ministers.
- On or before the publication date [*to be advised*], public notices will be placed in the *Press and Journal* and *The Northern Scott*, fulfilling our duties to publicise the Interim Report in accordance with Sections 37, 53 and 54 of the 2009 Act.