

Responses

Short term

- Temporary railway stations built where stations flooded
- The army built temporary walk ways
- Over 200 people were rescued by the emergency services including the Armed Forces, RNLI, Mountain Rescue and 50 of these people were rescued by RAF helicopter.
- 20 schools were closed and used as a shelter by those made homeless by the flooding.
- Tesco built a temporary store to serve the local area.
- A flood recovery grants scheme was set up to help local businesses within 4 days after the floods and similar funds were made available to help local residents and farmers.

Long term

- Commercial and residential property need extensive repair due to flood damage. By November 2010, 78 businesses had started trading again with most fully reopened by March 2011
- Many of the roads damaged by the tarmac being ripped away by flood waters and the damaged bridges were repaired and replaced. Within twelve months of the 2009 floods, Cumbria had made a remarkable recovery and the damaged infrastructure had largely been restored. 17 of the 20 bridges closed in the floods were open to traffic.
- Farmers received government financial assistance to remove sand, gravel and other debris left by the floods.
- The Environment agency spent £500,000 on flood protection improvements including higher defence walls, new higher embankments and floodgates. The river Cocker is also to be dredged to help it cope with higher water levels at times of heavy rain. These are to be maintained but with limited funding. The town of Cockermouth now has a flood risk management scheme which has reduced the risk of flooding to more than 400 homes and businesses. The scheme features a 120m wide innovative self-closing flood barrier that rises automatically when the river is in flood.