
Report of Flood Risk Manager

Report to Scrutiny Board – Sustainable Economy and Culture

Date: 21st January 2014

Subject: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

Under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authorities are required to prepare and adopt a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Leeds City Council is the Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority for the District and has therefore drafted a Strategy.

This Strategy has been recently consulted on and the Draft has been reviewed to ensure it takes account of issues raised.

Recommendations

That the Board reviews the latest draft of the Strategy and makes comments.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 Allow for scrutiny of the Council's Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 1.2 Once the Scrutiny Board have reviewed it and made comments, the Strategy will be presented to the Executive Board for Adoption.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Following major floods during 2007, Government set up the Pitt Review to look into the way flood risk management agencies dealt with such a major event. This review came up with 93 recommendations, which Government accepted.
- 2.2 A number of these recommendations needed legislation to give the agencies the powers or duties necessary and hence the introduction of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA). One of these duties was for all Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authorities (Leeds City Council for this area) to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).
- 2.3 A draft of this Strategy was presented to the Board on 18th October 2012, this has been further developed and consultation has taken place with interested organisations and the public.

3 Main issues

3.1 *Leeds Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*

The Strategy is intended to outline the approach the Council and other agencies will approach flood risk management. The Strategy contains:

- a. The Objectives for managing flood risk.
- b. The measures proposed to achieve those objectives.
- c. Timeframe for any measures.
- d. Costs and benefits of the measures and how they are to be funded.

The specific measures are contained with Appendix C and this is to be updated regularly, to ensure it is kept up to date.

3.2 *Public Consultation*

The geographical spread and survey results from the public consultation are given in Appendix 1. In addition to completing the questionnaire the respondents were also invited to comment on the Draft Strategy; these are listed in Appendix 2.

The main issues highlighted by the consultation were that the Strategy did not show sufficient detail of the flood alleviation schemes proposed and the funding sources.

It is accepted that further details are required on these issues and Appendix C will be regularly updated to provide this, as it becomes available.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 The consultation was carried out across a wide variety of interested bodies, the public and Ward Members. Details on who were consulted are provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 An EDCI screening (Appendix 3) has been completed and indicated that an Equality Impact Assessment is not required for what is being proposed.

It should be noted that by carrying out flood alleviation works the Council will be ensuring the safety of the local community and particularly those residents that have children and members of the families have a disability, where these benefits will be greater – as currently these individuals may struggle to get to safety if flooding occurred.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

- 4.3.1 The approach to flood risk management is in keeping with Council Policies and City Priorities - to reduce the risk of flooding to various communities, industrial premises and the environment.

4.4 Resources and value for money

- 4.4.1 The implementation of the LFRMs will potentially have an impact in the Council's budgets but the Strategy will ensure that any expenditure is prioritised. Furthermore it will allow stronger cases to be built for future Grant applications.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

- 4.5.1 The F&WM Act places a requirement on Leeds to prepare and manage the LFRMs.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 The LFRMs will allow the Council to prioritise its work on Flood Risk and lead to reduced overall risk of flooding.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 That this latest version of the Draft Strategy takes account of the consultation comments made and should be recommended for adoption by the Council.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the Board reviews the latest draft of the Strategy and makes comments, before it is submitted to Executive Board for adoption.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 Draft Leeds Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Dec 2013)

7.2 Appendix C to the LFRMS

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.