

## Report of the Director of City Development

### Report to Executive Board

**Date: 5th March 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

1. 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.
2. Leeds City Council is the Lead Local Flood Risk Management Authority for the District and has therefore drafted a Strategy.
3. As part of our Best Council Objectives in ensuring high quality public services by involving people in shaping their city, the Strategy has been recently consulted on and the Draft has been reviewed to ensure it takes account of the issues raised.
4. The Strategy was endorsed by the Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board (as required by the regulations) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

### Recommendations

5. Executive Board is requested to recommend to Full Council that the Leeds Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be formally adopted and to note that the Head of Engineering Services will be responsible for implementing the strategy once adopted.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 For the Executive Board to adopt the Leeds Local Flood Risk Strategy as a Leeds City Council Strategy.

## **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).

## **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 within Appendix C of the Leeds LFRMS 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 of this report. 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.

### **3.3 Scrutiny Board**

The Strategy was considered by the Sustainable Economy and Culture Scrutiny Board (as required by the regulations) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Scrutiny Board was supportive of the Strategy and requested that progress and outcomes of the

strategy is reported back to Scrutiny Board annually. The comments from the Scrutiny Board (SE&C) to Executive Board are included in Appendix 4.

### **3.4 Current Situation**

Leeds City Council recognises the impact of flooding and the risk of flooding have on its residents and businesses and has been proactive in Flood Risk Management over the last few years. The Council is currently carrying a number of major works to mitigate the impact of flooding across, these include:

- Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme – providing a key part of the city centre with reduced flood risk from the River Aire. The initial proposals were for a flood alleviation scheme for the major part of the River Aire through Leeds District, for a 1:200 year standard of protection, but due to difficulties with funding Phase 1 is being progressed that will provide a 1:75 year scheme for the city centre section only. Further phases will be dependent upon funding being made available.
- Lowther Road, Garforth – replacement culvert to reduce the flood risk in this locality
- Ramsden Street, Kippax – floodbank to reduce the flood risk to properties in this area.
- Otley Culvert works – repairs to a culvert that is in a state of collapse
- Examining development proposals for their flood risk, ensuring mitigation measures are included.
- On-going maintenance of watercourses
- Investigation of flood incidents to determine cause.

## **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 was 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.
- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.5.2 This Strategy forms part of the Budget and Policy Framework and decisions taken in line with the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules are not eligible for Call-in.

### **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 adopted as a Council Strategy

## **6 Recommendations**

- 6.1 Executive Board is requested to recommend to Full Council that the Leeds Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be formally adopted and to note that the Head of Engineering Services will be responsible for implementing the strategy once adopted.

## **7 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 7.1 None.

## **8 Appendices**

- 8.1 Draft Leeds Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Jan 2014) including Appendices A - E.
- 8.2 Appendices to the report:

Appendix 1 – Public Consultation Responses to Questionnaire

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Appendix 2 – Public Consultation Comments on the Strategy and Responses

Appendix 3 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Form

Appendix 4 – Scrutiny Board (SE&C) comments to Executive Board