
Report of Flood Risk Manager

Report to Scrutiny Board – Sustainable Economy and Culture

Date: 17th March 2015

Subject: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Annual Review

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, Leeds City Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority is required to have a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Strategy, for Leeds, was adopted by Full Council on 26th March 2014.

At their meeting on 21st January 2014 this Scrutiny Board considered the Council's draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and it was agreed that they would review the Strategy on an annual basis

This report examines the implementation of the Strategy over the last 12 months.

Recommendations

That the Board reviews the progress made with regard to the Strategy and makes comments.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 Allow for the scrutiny of the Council's Flood Risk Management 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 Authorities (Leeds City Council for this area) to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).
- 2.3 Following this Boards review of the draft Strategy, on 21st January 2014, it was adopted by the Full Council on 26th March 2014.

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 take with regard to 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 in Appendix C of the Strategy, which is to be updated regularly to ensure it is reactive to latest priorities.

Progress against priority measures identified in Appendix C of the Strategy for 2014/15 is included in Appendix 1.

Other actions that have been taken and continue to be taken are

- Ongoing maintenance of watercourses and flood alleviation features
- Partnership working with other key agencies
- Close working with Flood Groups – increase awareness of flood risk
- Develop and maintain a comprehensive Register of flood risk features
- Manage flood risk generally
- Investigate flooding events – where necessary producing a Section 19 Report

- Promote sustainable development – particularly with regard to Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Support Planning with determining the impact of development on flood risk

The eight monitoring indicators, included within chapter 7 and Appendix c (iii) of the LFRMS, will be utilised during the 6 year review process and not the annual review

3.2 South East Leeds Flooding – August 2014

Unfortunately during early August two weather systems hit the SE of Leeds, causing major flooding (in excess of 100 properties were internally flooded and around 300 other were at imminent threat of flooding).

The rainfall on the 8th August was extreme with only a 0.5% chance of occurring in any year, which overwhelmed all drainage systems in the area.

The residents in this area have suffered several events of flooding over the last 15 years and therefore they feel more should be done to reduce their risk of further flooding.

Flood Risk Management has successfully bid for funds from the Environment Agency to commence an assessment of the issues that led to such extreme flooding.

Initial assessment of the key locations has shown that the likely cost of addressing these issues could be around £3.6m – these schemes will be assessed and prioritised in accordance with the Strategy.

3.3 Measures being Examined

Following the August 2014 floods a number of meetings have been held to discuss the actions the Council is currently taking and additional measures that could be taken, the following are some of the issues that came out of those discussions:

- Planning Allocations and Decisions – should take account of flood risk and developments should be required to provide new/improved drainage infrastructure. Furthermore Government have announced new guidance for Planning Authorities from 6th April 2015 regarding the implementation of SuDS for major developments
- Emergency Contacts – Emergency Planning are making sure that contact details are made more clear for Members and the public
- Sand Bags – there were concerns regarding the availability and provision of sand bags. Leeds has an existing policy on the issue of sand bags which gives priority in order of vulnerability of the resident. A review of the policy is being undertaken which will also consider the merits of having Community Stores for the storage of sand bags.

- Closer Working with other Agencies – there has been an increase in closer working relationships with the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Flood Groups. These are a combination of regular planned meetings and day to day contact on specific issues.
- Gulley Maintenance – the best location for the delivery of this service was raised. . A review was undertaken previously and E&N are introducing significant changes to the delivery of this service as a result of this review. Part of these changes includes some collocated working with H&T to identify risks and priorities.
- Ramsden St, Kippax Flood Alleviation Scheme – there has been issues which have delayed its implementation, but these have now been resolved. It is currently programmed to commence on site in June 2015 but this is subject to securing planning approval, third party land and funding from the Environment Agency.

3.4 Proposed Capital Works on Flood Alleviation

Appendix C – The List of Measures in the Strategy (included as Appendix 2 in this report) has been updated on the progress made and to include new priorities identified following the flooding event on 8th August 2014.

Also these Measures are being used to form the Medium Term Programme, for bids to the Environment Agency for Grant in Aid.

Having a Leeds Capital Budget for these works would assist in that bidding process, as it is important that we have partnership/match funding.

A bid has been made for LCC Capital and at the time of preparing, allocations of £150k for 2015/16 and £350k have been included in the Council's Capital Programme.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 A wide consultation was carried out for the adoption of the Strategy. Further local consultation will be undertaken on individual schemes.

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

4.4.2 A bid has been made for LCC Capital funding towards flooding issues across the District, the allocation at present is for £150k in 2015/16 and £350k in 2016/17.

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 The Act requires Scrutiny of the Council's activities in this area

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 The Strategy allows the Council to prioritise its work on Flood Risk and lead to reduced overall risk of flooding.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Flood Risk is a key threat to the wellbeing of the residents across the District and in order to ensure action is taken it is important that Council continues a proactive approach to mitigating the impact of flooding.

5.2 There has been progress in the delivery of projects identified in the Strategy in 2014, but the priorities will need to be reviewed following an evaluation of the works identified from the assessment study following the flooding events on 8th August 2014.

5.3 Allocating a Capital budget will assist in achieving the proposed aims set down in the Strategy.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the Board reviews the progress made with regard to the Strategy and make comments.

7 Background documents¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website,

7.1 None

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 - Progress on LFRMS Appendix C (i) Schemes (2014)

8.2 Appendix 2 – Updated version LFRMS Appendix C (i) Schemes (2015)

8.3 Appendix 3 – Updated version LFRMS Appendix C (ii) Measures (2015)