



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

scrutiny



**Infrastructure,
Investment and
Inclusive Growth**

Scrutiny Statement
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Update



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Introduction

1. There is a requirement, in accordance with the Constitution of Leeds City Council for the Scrutiny of the development of key policies which form part of the Council's Budget and Policy Framework. The updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was considered by the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) on the 9 January 2019.
2. In addition, the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is allocated special responsibility for the scrutiny of flood risk management functions which may affect the Leeds City Council area (under sections 4 and 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010). The Scrutiny Board considers flood risk management on an annual basis unless specific events arise which impact significantly on a community.
3. The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Board of the deliberations and conclusions of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) in order to meet constitutional requirements and support the decision making process of the Executive Board.

Evidence and Information Considered

4. We predominantly focused on the report of the Director of City Development, with appendices, presented to the Executive Board on the 19 December 2018. This outlined the scope and preparation of the updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The report confirmed the extent of work undertaken to update the strategy in order to ensure it is current and reflects events since the

previous strategy was adopted by Full Council on 26th March 2014,

5. The following representatives were in attendance to participate in debate, provide information and to respond to Members questions and comments.
 - Cllr. Richard Lewis – Executive Board Member
 - Martin Farrington – Director of City Development
 - Jonathan Moxon – Flood Risk Manager
6. We were advised that all legislative changes have been reflected in the updated draft strategy to ensure that it will be fit for purpose.

Deliberations and Conclusions

7. We explored the extent of the consultation that had taken place with regard to the updated draft strategy and was advised that Appendix 4 detailed the long list of lead Local Flood Authorities who had been consulted, in addition to Yorkshire Water, Highways England and Environment Agency. We were also advised that the strategy objectives have not changed since the first strategy was adopted. This was subject to full public consultation, therefore a repeated public consultation on the updated strategy was not required.
8. Clarity was sought regarding any statutory requirement for further external inspection or scrutiny of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. We were advised that although there is a legal requirement to produce a strategy it is not subject to formal inspection, however it has become practice to share



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strategies with other Flood Authorities in order to obtain peer feedback and identify good practice.

9. We were reassured that there is extensive consultation with local communities regarding the specific schemes identified in the strategy. Individual members of the Scrutiny Board spoke of their own recent positive consultation experiences relating to schemes in Garforth and Wyke Beck, and praised those officers who supported this process. We acknowledged the importance of speaking with communities to gain practical flood related intelligence and to identify the impact of flooding in defined areas. We also stressed that communities should be aware of available government funding for schemes, and that limits in available funding can result in the phasing of solutions over time.

Recommendation

The Executive Board is recommended to note the deliberations and conclusions of the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) when considering the updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

**Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth)
Statement for the Executive Board - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
31 JANUARY 2019**

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