

**Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)**

**Date: 9 January 2019**

**Subject: Review of the Council’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Budget and Policy Framework**

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

**1 Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is advise the Scrutiny Board about the Budget and Policy Framework and how this relates to the Review of the Council’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

**2 Main Issues**

2.1 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, (LFRMS), which is refreshed every 6 years. The previous strategy for Leeds was developed in 2012 and was adopted by Full Council on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014, an exercise has been undertaken to update the strategy to ensure it is current and reflects events since 2014 and what has been done since.

2.2 Since the publication of the previous LFRMS a variety of schemes have been implemented and completed, the most significant being the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme Phase One. Leeds FAS Phase 2 remains the highest priority and profile flood risk scheme in the city. The city councils proposal is to proceed with a “pragmatic two-step solution” to provide enhanced flood protection measures for Leeds as the government is currently unable to offer funding above £65m towards the scheme. The council proposes to proceed with a planning application and tenders to be presented shortly to deliver the scheme in full, but it will now be carried out in two parts. Using the government funding supported by council and other

financial support, works will begin next year to deliver an initial one-in-100-year level of protection. This will then be upgraded to the full one-in-200-year level with a further phase of work after the remainder of the funding has been secured.

- 2.3 The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy requires Scrutiny consideration. This process is in accordance with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework (Article 4 of the Council's Constitution) and the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules (Part 4e Rules of Procedure) which identifies the specific plans and strategies which will be referred to Scrutiny for consideration and advice.
- 2.4 In addition, the Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is allocated special responsibility for flood risk management (under sections 4 and 6 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010), to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood risk management functions which may affect the Leeds City Council area. The Scrutiny Board considers flood risk management annually and this was last reviewed in March 2018.
- 2.5 Whilst considering the draft LFRMS, the purpose of Scrutiny is not to duplicate the work commissioned by the Executive Board, but to consider the adequacy of information provided in the draft strategy, and the robustness of the review process, making comments or providing advice/recommendations as deemed appropriate to inform the decision making process further, when the draft LFRMS is submitted to the Executive Board in February 2019 and for agreement at Council in March 2019.
- 2.6 To support this process the Scrutiny Board is provided with the Executive Board report and appended information from 19 December 2018, submitted by the Director of City Development.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth) is recommended to:
  - a) Note the advice provided in this report
  - b) Consider the appended Executive Board report of the Director of City Development.
  - c) Consider the draft LFRMS as part of the Budget and Policy Framework consultation phase and provide advice as deemed necessary to support the decision making processes of the Executive Board and Council.
  - d) If required, request that the Principal Scrutiny Advisor prepares a Scrutiny Board statement for submission to the Executive Board in February 2019.

### **4. Background papers<sup>1</sup> - None**

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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.