

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Date: 21st February 2022

Report of: **Flood Risk Manager**

Report to: **Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board**

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- 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).
- This report examines the implementation of the Strategy over the last 12 months and provides a summary of the measures that are set out for the years ahead
- Allows the scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- A comprehensive briefing is provided in Appendix one of this report.
- Flooding is a theme within Sustainable Infrastructure of the Best Council Plan, improving the resilience of the City's infrastructure and the natural environment, reducing flooding and other risks from future climate change.

Recommendations

That the Board review the implementation of the strategy and provide comments to help inform its further development and be considered at the next strategy update due to take place in 2023.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Allow scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected: ALL

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 2 The report will provide an update to the Board on the implementation of the Local Flood Risk Strategy along with an opportunity for Board members to provide comment and scrutiny

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 3 A wide consultation was carried out for the adoption of the Strategy. Further local consultation has been undertaken on certain individual schemes:
 - Otley Flood Alleviation Scheme
 - Regular email newsletters to residents and key stakeholders including Ward Cllrs
 - Regular on site walk throughs with residents and key stakeholders
 - Direct mailings to residents affected by the scheme on key developments
 - Legacy information will be made available online post-completion
 - Wharfedale Communities
 - A drop-in community consultation session was held online and in person
 - Mailing list has been compiled for future use
 - Potternewton Flood Alleviation Scheme
 - Meanwood Beck Communities
 - An online survey has been issues to residents
 - Answers to the survey were outlined via an e-newsletter to respondents
 - Leeds FAS 2
 - Monthly updates are issued to Leeds City Council and Bradford City Council ward councillors and MPs to update them on progress of the scheme.
 - Residents newsletter is issued quarterly.
 - Community involvement in certain initiatives, e.g., tree planting to take place in February 2022. Local community groups have been invited to help with this event, and the Lord Mayor of Leeds is also set to join this.
 - Monthly community surgeries to restart in January 2022 (depending on COVID guidance).

The Executive Member for Infrastructure and Climate receives regular monthly briefings.

What are the resource implications?

- 4 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.

What are the legal implications?

- 5 The F&WM Act places a requirement on Leeds to prepare and manage the LFRMS. The Act requires Scrutiny of the Council's activities in this area.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 6 The Strategy allows the Council to prioritise its work on Flood Risk, leading to reduced overall risk of flooding.

The Significant Risks identified are:

- COVID safe working practices continue to impact on resourcing of some activity, along with the additional risk of further changes in COVID restrictions, which may impact further on the implementation of the Strategy.
- Financial pressures on the Flood Risk Management Revenue Account and wider Council and how this may impact on future service levels.
- Shared Corporate risk of not being a net zero carbon city by 2030.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 7 Climate Emergency – Ongoing work to reduce the risk of flooding is a key activity within sustainable infrastructure and reflects the councils 2019 declaration of a climate emergency and its intention to work towards being a net zero carbon city by 2030. Delivery of the LFRMS will help to reduce the impacts of flooding and therefore deliver managed adaptation to the future impacts of climate change. In delivering the capital programme for flood alleviation the carbon impact of these schemes will be considered to promote lower carbon solutions.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 8 This is not a decision report and so consideration of other options was not needed.

b) How will success be measured?

- 9 Eight key monitoring indicators will be used; listed below; additional monitoring indicators will be added as appropriate:

1. The number of measures in the 'List of Measures' which have been completed.

2. Are there active measures in the 'List of Measures' which cover each of the six 'Objectives for managing flood risk'?
3. Improving engagement on flood risk - How many public engagement events have taken place? (School events, flood action group meetings).
4. The number of new developments where Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) have been installed? Such as, green corridors, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, land management (tree planting).
5. Are Property Flood Resilience (PFR) schemes reducing flood risk.
6. Number of Leeds City Council staff engaged in flood risk management activities.
7. Reliability of public transport – Number of Metro bus and train routes disrupted by flooding/drainage problems?
8. Is the LFRMS consistent with the plans and actions of partner organisations?

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 10 The implementation of the LFRMS is a continuous process.
The next refresh of the LFRMS is scheduled for 2024.

Appendices

- 11 Appendix 1 – Update on the LFRMS
Appendix 2 - Updated LFRMS Appendix C (i) Measures (2020/21)
Appendix 3 – FRM Incidents up to 2021
Appendix 4 - Equality, diversity, cohesion, and integration screening form

Background papers

- 12 Leeds, Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2018 Update.