

## **Update on work to implement and update the Leeds Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Report of: Executive Manager, Flood Risk and Climate Resilience

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

### **Brief summary**

Under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, Leeds City Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Leeds is required to have a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

This update 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.

This report allows the consideration of the implementation of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

A comprehensive briefing was provided to the Infrastructure, Investment & Inclusive Growth Scrutiny Board on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 as part of an annual review process and a copy of the report and appendices are attached for consideration.

The Executive Manager, Flood Risk and Climate Resilience, City Development, will attend the meeting to provide the Committee with a presentation.

### **Recommendations**

- a) That the Committee review the implementation of the Strategy and provides comments to help inform its further development and be considered at the next strategy update due to take place in 2025

## What is this report about?

- 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). This update 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. This also allows the scrutiny of the implementation of the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

## What impact will this proposal have?

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

## How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing       Inclusive Growth       Zero Carbon

- 3 Ongoing work to reduce the risk of flooding is a key activity within sustainable infrastructure and reflects the council's 2019 declaration of a climate emergency and its intention to work towards being a carbon net zero 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 is considered and we promote lower carbon solutions. Prevention of flooding also positively impacts carbon emissions by avoiding the need to rebuild, repair and refurbish properties impacted by flooding, we are able to demonstrate this using carbon calculator tools developed with the Environment Agency.
- 4 Inclusive Growth is promoted by the prevention and amelioration of flooding to properties and businesses and the resilience of the city to flooding is enhanced. Business is confident that its property will be protected, are encouraged to remain and invest. The increased resilience of infrastructure networks and structures also supports inclusive growth.
- 5 The threat of and experience of flooding can impact on people's mental health and general health and wellbeing, schemes to prevent flooding can have a very positive impact on improving peoples mental health by enhancing people's ability to feel safe in their home and not under threat of flooding.

## What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected: ALL

Have ward members been consulted?       Yes       No

- 6 A wide consultation was carried out for the adoption of the Strategy. Further local consultation and engagement has been undertaken across the flood risk management service from the development control functions, day to day investigations, the maintenance of our flood risk assets, to the specific events and updates undertaken by the Strategy and New Works team in relation to the Flood Risk Management Capital Programme. Further information on the service can be found at [How we are reducing flood risk \(leeds.gov.uk\)](https://leeds.gov.uk/how-we-are-reducing-flood-risk)

**Strategy and New Works:** undertake a wide range of consultation and engagement with those residential properties and businesses directly impacted by flooding, ward members, stakeholders

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 7 The implementation of the LFRMS will continue to have an impact in the Council's revenue budgets but the LFRMS will ensure that any expenditure is prioritised. Furthermore, it will allow stronger cases to be built for future externally funded grant applications. A case has been made to the Strategic Investment Board for capital funding which has been shown to attract external funding at a rate of at least 1 to 7 (for every £1 of the council capital funding we have attracted at least £7 of external funding).

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

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

The Significant Risks identified are:

- Financial pressures on the Flood Risk Management Revenue Account and wider Council and how this may impact future service levels.
- Shared Corporate risk of not being a net zero carbon city by 2030
- Impact of changing climate risk, flooding is the greatest climate risk the city faces
- Recruitment and retention of skilled technical staff

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 9 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.

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 10 This is not a decision report and so consideration of other options was not required

### **How will success be measured?**

- 11 Eight key monitoring indicators are used in the Flood Risk Management Strategy and are listed below and are reported on in more detail in Appendix 2.

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

- a. Are there active measures in the 'List of Measures' which cover each of the six 'Objectives for managing flood risk'?
- b. Improving engagement on flood risk - How many public engagement events have taken place? (School events, flood action group meetings).
- c. 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).
- d. Are Property Flood Resilience (PFR) schemes reducing flood risk.
- e. Number of Leeds City Council staff engaged in flood risk management activities.

- f. Reliability of public transport – Number of Metro bus and train routes disrupted by flooding/drainage problems?
- g. Is the LFRMS consistent with the plans and actions of partner organisations?

**What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?**

12 The implementation of the LFRMS is a continuous process. The next refresh of the LFRMS is scheduled for 2024, preparation for commissioning that work will begin in 2023.

**Appendices**

- Report and appendices to Scrutiny Board Infrastructure, Investment and Inclusive Growth, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Background papers**

- None