

Executive Decision Report

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Decision to be taken by: City Mayor
Decision to be taken on: 9 March 2015
Lead director: Andrew L Smith



City Mayor

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Martin Fletcher
- Author contact details: Tel 0116 454 4965
- Report version number: 1

1. Summary

To seek the City Mayor's approval of Leicester's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Appendix 1) in order to pro-actively manage flood risk in Leicester.

2. Recommendations

Approve Leicester's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for adoption, publication and implementation.

3. Supporting information including options considered:

The City Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority and has a statutory duty to develop maintain, review, update as well as apply, and monitor the application of a strategy for managing local flood risk.

Leicester's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out the City Council's ambitions with regard to managing flood risk and meeting deadlines set out in current legislation. The strategy details how the council will work with other flood risk authorities; the Environment Agency, neighbouring district councils and the County Council, the Highways Agency and Severn Trent Water Ltd.

The Strategy is linked in with national, regional and catchment based policies and strategies and contains a plan of actions which are to be completed within the short, medium and long terms.

Public consultation on the strategy took place from 4th August 2014 to 12th October 2014. The consultation was made available online and hard copy. 42 responses were received, mostly on line but a few were received on paper. A detailed feedback report on the consultation has been prepared (Appendix 2).

In addition work to raise the awareness of the public to flood risk in the city and gather information and feedback on the draft strategy took place under the following activities:

- i. An article was included in the Autumn issue of the Council's Link Magazine
- ii. The flooding section on the council's website was updated.
- iii. There is a generic email address where the public can send in their flooding enquiries.

- iv. On the 27th and 31st May the council took part in a Defra/EA public dialogue event where residents of Leicester were invited to comment on how information on flooding is communicated nationally.
- v. Officers staffed a stand at the Riverside Festival on Saturday 7th June where the public were invited to consider their flood risk and consider what actions can be taken to help reduce flood risk by limiting the amount of hard areas in gardens and looking at ways to protect homes and businesses from flooding.
- vi. A stakeholder meeting was held on the 19th June which gathered information and feedback from our professional partners on what should be included within the strategy that is specific to Leicester.
- vii. A public display took place in Gallowtree Gate on the 25th June to raise awareness of flood risk in the city and gather information to feed into the strategy document.
- viii. A rolling programme of displays in libraries and community centres across the city was delivered and information was made available during ward meetings taking place over the summer.
- ix. BBC radio and press coverage at the launch and during the consultation period.

4. Details of Scrutiny

None.

5. Financial, legal and other implications

5.1 Financial implications

'Implementation of the strategy will have due regard to the funds available to the Council, the Environment Agency and any other relevant partners/agencies

Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance.

5.2 Legal implications

Under Section 9 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, the City Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a duty to develop, maintain, review, update as well as

apply, and monitor the application of a strategy for managing local flood risk.

Under Section 19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, the City Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, on becoming aware of a flood in its area, must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

The Actions contained in this report and appended to it will help demonstrate that the Council is meeting its statutory duties in this respect.

Hannah Price, Solicitor, Legal Services.

5.3 Climate Change and Carbon Reduction implications

The publication of a flood risk management strategy for Leicester is a key action in the Council's Adaptation Action Plan. As flooding has been identified as one of the main risks of climate change likely to face Leicester, along with higher summer temperatures and lower summer water availability, delivering actions from the adaptation plan is of high importance in minimising these risks. The action plan contained within the proposed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out the short, medium and long term projects that will reduce flood risk to Leicester residents, and in doing so will contribute towards the Council's EMAS objective to 'reduce vulnerability to the expected impacts of climate change'.

Louise Buckley, Graduate Project Officer (climate Change).

5.4 Equalities Implications

Central Government funding criteria for flood defence is weighted towards managing flood risk in areas of high deprivation. Many of the flood risk areas in the City are areas of high deprivation.

5.5 Other Implications (You will need to have considered other implications in preparing this report. Please indicate which ones apply?)

6. Background information and other papers:

N/A

7. Summary of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Proposed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Adoption

Appendix 2 – Strategy Consultation Feedback Report.

Appendix 3 - Plan showing communication centres and location of where the responses came from.

8. Is this a private report (If so, please indicated the reasons and state why it is not in the public interest to be dealt with publicly)?

No

9. Is this a “key decision”?

Yes

10. If a key decision please explain reason

The decision will affect the whole city. The council will incur significant expenditure however most of this will be covered by grants from Defra and through partnership working.