

**TO: EXECUTIVE
14 FEBRUARY 2017**

**LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2017 - 2020
Director of Environment, Culture and Communities**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Council retains a number of significant duties in respect of flood risk management. Bracknell Forest Council identified as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must comply with the Floods and Water Management Act (FWMA) (2010) and manage present and future flood risk holistically and in a sustainable manner.
- 1.2 The FWMA places responsibilities on Lead Local Flood Authorities to maintain and update an Asset Register, to designate structures, to investigate flooding incidents and to be the responsible authority for Surface Water flooding and Groundwater flooding.
- 1.3 The preparation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) is also one of the key duties placed on the LLFA. The current LFRMS is dated 2013 – 2016 (version 1) and has therefore required review and update for 2017 – 2020 (version 2) – see Annex 1.
- 1.4 Balanced against a backdrop of increased national public awareness of flooding (most notably due to the widespread floods of winter 13/14) and decreasing resource levels the LFRMS must be used to determine how flood risk is to be managed in a way that is proportionate to the local level of risk. The borough has been classified as at low risk of flooding (from fluvial, groundwater or surface water) and we are fortunate enough not to have the significant flood related issues that some of our neighbouring authorities have.
- 1.5 Progress with respect to meeting objectives has been perhaps slower than anticipated but delivery of our requirements under the FWMA has to be done so proportionate to the level of risk. Since the production of the initial LFRMS document resource levels to deal with flood related issues within the community are now at 50% as one of the drainage engineer posts was made redundant in April 2016. The borough does not have a specific flood risk manager and the flood risk management function is within ECC, in the emergency planning, highways asset management and the development management team.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Executive approves the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2020 attached as Annex 1 prior to issue.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure the Council meets its statutory obligation with respect to the duties placed upon it as LLFA.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 As LLFA the Council has a duty to continue to deliver the requirements of the FWMA, including the LFRMS. There are no alternative options.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 In order to ensure that the LFRMS works towards meeting the criteria of managing flood risk we have identified three overarching principles of MAINTAINANCE, IMPROVEMENT and PREVENTION. These are supported via 9 specific objectives (page 11 of the LFRMS) and action plan highlights how these objectives will continue to be delivered (page 12 of the LFRMS).
- 5.2 Formal engagement with the Environment Agency is more limited due the national changes in responsibility and the LLFA becoming responsible for surface water and ground water flooding, however we do liaise with them with respect to specific local operational issues and in discussion for potential schemes. Likewise operational contact with Thames Water has been variable in the past but has improved due to a change in personnel.
- 5.3 The main forum for monitoring the objectives is via the internal flood liaison meeting which meets twice a year. In addition opportunities are also sought to progress objectives via internal engagement with relevant services, as examples recent activities include a focus around the approach to enforcement and consideration of water quality within the Borough. We will encourage Parishes to be self enabling and where they wish to work with us on a one to one basis to address specific concerns and potential schemes we will do so under the engagement objective. Winkfield PC is very proactive in this area.
- 5.4 There have been no significant updates or changes with the exception of Schedule 3 of the FWMA which related to a SuDs approval board, this was abandoned by the Government in December 2014. The FWMA sought to ensure that Sustainable Drainage Systems were adopted and maintained by Local Authorities so as to reduce the risk of failure of systems due to maintenance. Instead changes were implemented via the National Planning Policy Framework. The Environment Agency are now only a Statutory Consultee for Planning Applications which fall within Flood Zone 2 or 3. From April 2016 the LLFA became the statutory consultee for all Major Developments, with a duty to consider sustainable drainage provisions. The duty to adopt SUDS schemes has been removed and SUDS will remain largely in private ownership. The developer may maintain the SUDS themselves or get a third party to maintain the system
- 5.5 The Strategy has also been updated with additional signposting to Environment Agency flood warnings, surface water flood maps and fluvial flood zones which will assist residents if they are trying to find out information. Over recent years the Council has received an increase in calls where residents are trying to source information about flooding within their area, this relates to both house sales and insurance premiums.
- 5.6 The updated strategy has been circulated to Thames Water, the Environment Agency and to the Parishes for consultation and comment by the end of January 2017.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Not applicable to this report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 Not applicable to this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 An EIA has been completed in relation to Version 1 of the LFRMS.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 Not applicable to this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Parish Councils, Risk Management Authorities. Consultation to take place during December.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Web site.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable at this time.

Contacts for further information

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