

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION MAKER:	CABINET
DATE:	18th OCTOBER 2017
SUBJECT:	BURY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
REPORT FROM:	COUNCILLOR ALAN QUINN CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENT
CONTACT OFFICER:	FRAN SMITH
TYPE OF DECISION:	CABINET (KEY DECISION)
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>This report seeks approval to consult the public on the draft version of a 2017 review of Bury’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.</p> <p>As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (LLFA), Bury Council has a statutory duty to “develop, maintain, apply and monitor” a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Borough. The Strategy creates a framework for managing flood risk and is the means by which the Council, as LLFA, will discharge its duty to co-ordinate flood risk management on a day to day basis. The first Strategy was published in April 2014.</p> <p>The draft Strategy has been produced in consultation with local partners and the designated “Risk Management Authorities” under the Act within the Borough. Its focus is on flooding from surface water runoff, groundwater and smaller ‘ordinary’ watercourses.</p> <p>It is proposed that the final Flood Risk Management Strategy will be completed by the end of March 2018 when it will provide a framework to deliver a prioritised programme of works and initiatives to manage flood risk within the Borough.</p> <p>The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is attached as an Appendix to this report.</p>

<p>OPTIONS</p>	<p>Option 1 (Recommended option)</p> <p>That Members approve the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), as included with this report, and authorise the proposed measures for it to be subject to a period of public consultation.</p> <p>Option 2</p> <p>That Members seek revisions to the proposed content of the draft LFRMS prior to public consultation. Members to specify the nature of any revisions to be sought.</p> <p>Reasons</p> <p>To enable the Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority to comply with its statutory duties and responsibilities required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p>
<p>IMPLICATIONS:</p>	
<p>Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:</p>	<p>Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework? Yes</p>
<p>Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:</p>	<p>Consultation will be undertaken within existing resources.</p> <p>Council funding to address flooding issues is extremely limited, however the Council is committed to exploring all options for securing external / partnership funding.</p>
<p>Statement by Executive Director of Resources:</p>	<p>A clear Flood Risk Management Strategy is fundamental to future development plans of the Borough</p>
<p>Equality/Diversity implications:</p>	<p>No</p> <p>An initial screening has been undertaken and as there were no negative impacts identified for affected groups, there is no requirement to proceed to a Full Impact Assessment.</p>
<p>Considered by Monitoring Officer:</p>	<p>Yes JH</p> <p>Preparation and production of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a statutory duty for the Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The</p>

	recommendations are to meet these statutory requirements, with details in the report as to the Strategy and process.
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

INTERIM DIRECTOR: STEVE KENYON – RES & REG

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
Scrutiny Committee	Cabinet/Committee	Council	
	06/09/2017		

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 aimed to address the main concerns of Sir Michael Pitt’s review of the 2007 floods. The review identified an important role for unitary local authorities in co-ordinating the management of ‘local flood risk’, as well as other roles such as maintaining an Asset Register of structures affecting flood risk (e.g. culverts, bridges, etc) and the promotion of SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems).
- 1.2 The act established unitary authorities as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs). LLFAs are responsible for ‘local flood risk’ i.e. flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses¹. Interactions between different types of flooding are also considered in conjunction with the Environment Agency, which is the overseeing authority for managing the risk of flooding from the River Irwell.
- 1.3 In addition to the requirement to prepare a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), the Act prescribes the contents of the LFRMS and requires it to be consistent with the national strategy for flood risk management, which took effect in 2011. The LFRMS focuses on the management of ongoing flood risk rather than responses to flood incidents.
- 1.4 A level of subjectivity has been used in assessing relative flood risk and the results will be used to prioritise future, more robust investigations and assessments which will, hopefully, lead to reliable measures of risk.

¹ Ordinary watercourses include every river, stream, ditch, drain, cut, dyke and sluice which the Environment Agency has not identified as Main River.

Consequently, it is not appropriate to apply the information and recommendations in this report at a local property level.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 set out a range of new duties and responsibilities for local authorities in planning for, and delivering flood risk management.
- 2.2 Section 9(4) of the Act sets out what a LFRMS should contain. Bury's Draft LFRMS is attached at Appendix 1 to this report. The Strategy's principle aim is to set the objectives for local flood risk management in the Borough and demonstrate how these are to be delivered. Whilst the focus of the draft Strategy should be local flood risk (as its name suggests), a decision was made to integrate all flood risk within the Borough (local and main river) to give a more comprehensive picture of the flood risk as a whole. However, the Strategy makes it clear that plans and strategies governing main rivers are the responsibility of the Environment Agency.
- 2.3 A series of technical studies (strategic flood risk assessment and surface water management plan), assessment of historic flood incidents and inspection records of flood management assets have all been used in the production of Bury's LFRMS. In addition, the 2015 Boxing Day flood provided first hand information as to which areas of the Borough are susceptible to flooding.
- 2.4 An Action Plan has been produced as part of the strategy. The actions provide an overview of proposed flood risk management activities within the Borough. The Action Plan includes a number of potential flood alleviation schemes which require further investigation to assess their viability, schemes which have been submitted for government funding and potential improvement works. A number of actions do not currently have funding attached to them. This is largely because funding for any works required as a result of the Strategy will need to be found either externally or within the current capital and revenue budgets available for other work programmes.
- 2.5 Through the Strategy work, stronger links, understanding and cross-agency working has been established with key partners such as the Environment Agency, United Utilities, neighbouring authorities and local communities whose actions could impact on flood risk in Bury. As well as external stakeholders, stronger cross-working links within the Council have been enhanced with roles and responsibilities defined. These range from Planning, Highways and Engineers and Emergency Planning.
- 2.6 Since the 2015 Boxing Day floods, advice sessions were held in the immediate aftermath, flood action groups have been formed in Radcliffe and Ramsbottom and public meetings have been held in Summerseat, where flood issues have been on the agenda. In addition, a number of drop in sessions have been held to provide further information on the Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Defence Scheme. The Council, National Flood Forum, EA and United Utilities have attended a number of these

meetings. Through the Strategy, further work will be undertaken to establish what residents and stakeholders understand the risk to be and explore local communities' appetite for self-help and local solutions.

- 2.7 If approved the draft Strategy will be subject to a six week period of public consultation (30th October – 11th December 2017). A press release will advise residents of the public consultation period and copies of the Strategy will be made available to view at the Planning Reception at Knowsley Place and the Town Hall. The Strategy will also be available to download from the Council's website. An article will be placed in the Planzine e-newsletter and social media will be utilised.

Next Steps

- 2.8 Following consultation on this draft LFRMS, we will give thorough consideration to all comments made and produce a final Strategy.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy aims to set a programme for the Council and its external partners over the coming years. It looks towards a better integration of the various flood risk responsibilities and aims to develop capacity, build partnerships and promote a heightened awareness of risk and the responsibilities of all involved in flood risk management.
- 3.2 The draft Strategy sets out the significant challenges for the Borough in managing flood risk and Members are requested to approve the draft for a six-week period of consultation starting on Monday 30th October 2017 and ending on Monday 11th December 2017.

List of Background Papers:

- Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (August 2017)

Contact Details:

Fran Smith
Senior Planning Officer
Strategic Planning and Economic Development
3 Knowsley Place
Duke Street
Bury
BL9 0EJ

Tel: 0161 253 7391
Email: f.smith@bury.gov.uk