

REPORT FOR DECISION



DECISION OF:	Cabinet
DATE:	18th April 2018
SUBJECT:	A revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Bury
REPORT FROM:	Cllr Alan Quinn – Cabinet Member, Environment
CONTACT OFFICER	Fran Smith, Senior Planning Officer
TYPE OF DECISION:	<i>CABINET</i> KEY DECISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is within the public domain
SUMMARY:	<p>As a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act), Bury Council has a statutory duty of “develop, maintain, apply and monitor” a Local Flood Risk Strategy for the Borough. This 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.</p> <p>A Strategy has been produced in consultation with local partners and the designated “Risk Management Authorities” under the Act within the Borough. Although it covers wider causes of flooding, its focus is on flooding from surface water runoff, groundwater and smaller ‘ordinary’ watercourses.</p> <p>The adopted Flood Risk Management Strategy will provide a framework to deliver a prioritised programme of works and initiatives to manage flood risk across the Borough.</p> <p>Bury’s first LFRMS was produced in 2014 and consultation on an updated Strategy took place between October and December 2017. The final Strategy has been revised in light of comments received.</p> <p>The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is attached as an Appendix to this report.</p>
OPTIONS & RECOMMENDED OPTION	<p>Option 1 (Recommended Option)</p> <p>That members approve the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for adoption.</p>

	<p>Option 2 That members seek revisions to the proposed contents of the LFRMS prior to adoption. Members to specify the nature of any revisions to be sought.</p> <p>Reasons To enable the Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority to comply with its statutory duties and responsibilities required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.</p>
IMPLICATIONS:	
Corporate Aims/Policy Framework:	<p>Do the proposals accord with the Policy Framework?</p> <p>Yes</p>
Statement by the S151 Officer: Financial Implications and Risk Considerations:	<p>The Strategy has to be developed / delivered within existing resources.</p> <p>Cabinet Members should note work is ongoing to secure funding required for flood relief works in Radcliffe / Redvales.</p> <p>The strategy has been produced in consultation with local partners and the designated "Risk Management Authorities" under the Act within the Borough</p>
Health and Safety	
Statement by Executive Director of Resources:	There are no wider resource implications
Equality/Diversity implications:	<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>
Considered by Monitoring Officer:	<p>Yes</p> <p>The recommendations would enable the Council as a lead local flood authority to meet its statutory duties.</p>
Wards Affected:	All
Scrutiny Interest:	

TRACKING/PROCESS

DIRECTOR:

Chief Executive/ Strategic Leadership Team	Cabinet Member/Chair	Ward Members	Partners
03/04/2018			
Scrutiny Committee	Committee	Council	
	18/04/2018		

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 System).
- 1.2 The Act identified 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 requirements 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.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 Section 9(4) of the 2010 Act sets out what a LFRMS should contain. Bury's 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 Strategy should be local flood risk (as the 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 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.
- 2.2 A series of technical studies (strategic flood risk assessment and surface water management plan) and 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 confirmation as to which areas of the Borough are susceptible to flooding.
- 2.3 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.

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

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 identified funding sources.

- 2.4 Progress on the Action Plan will be reported quarterly to the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Action Plan will be refreshed annually.
- 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 After the 2015 Boxing Day floods, advice sessions were held in the immediate aftermath, flood action groups were formed in Radcliffe and Ramsbottom and public meetings were held in Summerseat, where flood issues have been on the agenda. Also, a number of drop in sessions have been held to provide information on the evolving Radcliffe and Redvales Flood Defence Scheme. 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 A total of 35 representations were received during the consultation on the draft Strategy raising a number of points. In summary the main themes of the comments made were:
- Concern at the perceived lack of support from the Council following the 2015 Boxing Day Floods;
 - Site specific comments and queries such as Parkside Close in Radcliffe, Crow Lane in Ramsbottom and Moor Road in Holcombe;
 - Information regarding how the voluntary sector can help during a flood event;
 - The need for a glossary within the Strategy;
 - The need for additional links to identified reports and documents;
 - Formatting and wording changes to individual paragraphs;
- 2.8 The Strategy has been amended in response to these comments.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy identifies 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.

List of Background Papers:-

- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, 2018

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