

# LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Cabinet Member	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
Cabinet Portfolio	Finance, Property and Business Services
Officer Contact	Vicky Boorman: Residents Services
Papers with report <b>CIRCULATED SEPARATELY</b>	<p>The following appendices are circulated separately to Cabinet Members and Executive Scrutiny Committee, with reference copies available in Group Offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix A - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2016</li><li>• Appendix 1 European and National Legislation</li><li>• Appendix 2 Roles and Responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities</li><li>• Appendix 3 Objectives and Measures</li><li>• Appendix 4 Community Engagement</li><li>• Strategic Environment Assessment Screening Document</li><li>• Appendix 1 List of SSSI sites</li><li>• Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Document</li></ul>

## HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To agree the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Borough. This strategy covers the different elements of the Flood and Water Management Act and Flood Risk Regulations. It sets out what the Council will do to manage local flood risk and references the strategies already produced, such as the Surface Water Management Plan.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	This report supports the following Council objective of: <i>Our People; Our Built Environment; Our Natural Environment;</i>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	None.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents' and Environmental Services
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Cabinet:**

- 1. Approves the adoption of the Hillingdon Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the Borough.**
- 2. Authorises officers to publicise the report on the Council's website and to notify all groups having a particular interest in it.**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to approve the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hillingdon (FRMP) and publish it on the Council's website. The FRMP, a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, has been produced to provide further information on the roles and responsibilities of flood risk management bodies and to set out the Council's aims and objectives in managing flood risk in the future. It is also a statutory requirement that this document be published to help engage residents and other stakeholders in flood risk issues.

### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

Cabinet could decide not to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hillingdon (FRMP) and not to make it available on the Council's website. In this case the Council would not be meeting the statutory requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act, and non compliance would have to be reported to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). DEFRA are considering financial penalties for non compliance, including reducing eligibility for flood grants.

### **Comments of Policy Overview Committee(s)**

None at this stage.

## **INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Information**

The Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 requires a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Local flood risk is defined by the Flood and Water Management Act as flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

The LLFA is responsible for ensuring a strategy is put in place. Hillingdon, as a London Borough and unitary authority, is a Lead Local Flood Authority and thus responsible for publishing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, once approved by Cabinet, will be a statutory document, which will impact on the activities of all flood risk management authorities active in the Borough. These bodies will all have a 'duty to act consistently with the local strategy' when undertaking their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions and have a 'duty to have

regard for the strategy' when discharging other duties that may affect flood and coastal risk (for example spatial planning and development).

This document explains the need for a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hillingdon, the evidence available to inform it, and the responsibilities each of the different parties has in managing flood risk. It will complement and support the national strategy.

In summary it contains:

- The Flood Risk Management Authorities in the London Borough of Hillingdon The flood risk functions that may be exercised by those authorities
- The objectives for managing local flood risk
- The measures proposed to achieve the objectives
- How and when the measure are expected to be implemented
- The costs and benefits of those measures and how they are to be paid for The assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy
- How and when the strategy is to be reviewed
- How the strategy contributes to the wider environmental objectives

## **Financial Implications**

The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was completed by Council officers. There were no financial costs to Hillingdon in producing this document.

The strategy has no direct financial implications, as it sets out current costs and funding for flood risk measures undertaken in the Borough, and future potential funding streams but it does provide a framework within which to prepare specific funding bids for flood risk management work.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

This Local Flood Risk Management Strategy balances the needs of communities, the economy and the environment, with the aim of reducing flood risk as much as is possible. The Strategy identifies objectives, based on the available evidence, and sets out ways to achieve them, within the limited resources available.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

The Cabinet Member authorised the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to be uploaded on to the Council's website on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016. The following were advised of its presence there and asked to comment:

- Statutory consultees; Natural England, Historic England and the Environment Agency MPs,
- Councillors,
- Key residents and associations who had previously commented on flood risk

- matters, Adjoining Lead Local Flood Authorities and Councils,
- Risk Management Authorities such as Thames Water and Transport for London
- Other key landowners such as Heathrow Airport London,
- Members of the Hillingdon Local Resilience Forum.

All those who provided comments welcomed the consultation and expressed their support. The majority of comments related to requests for minor wording changes or clarification. Some requested further detail to be provided, inappropriate for a Strategy document.

Following the interest expressed by local residents and community groups during the public consultation for the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, there have been requests for meetings from the Ruislip, Ickenham and Harefield Residents Associations, and interest from residents in other areas too, so officers led by Cllr Bianco as the portfolio holder for flooding, are planning to hold a Residents' Forum in April or May, to co-ordinate a response to some of the issues raised, and enable a discussion to take place with officers from a variety of service areas.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations. The costs associated with developing and monitoring the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be managed within existing revenue budgets.

### **Legal**

Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 ("the Act") requires all Lead Local Flood Authorities to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. As a unitary authority, Hillingdon is a Lead Local Flood Authority for the purposes of the Act. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy subject to this report is proposed for adoption pursuant to that obligation. The Act prescribes requirements for consultation and content of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (section 9). The Strategy must also be consistent with the Environment Agency's National Strategy.

Once adopted, Risk Management Authorities, as defined in section 6 of the Act (which includes the Environment Agency, local authorities and Highways England), must act in a way that is consistent with Hillingdon's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy when exercising flood and coastal erosion risk management functions, and have regard to it when exercising their functions in a manner that may affect flood risk (section 11 of the Act). The Council itself, when exercising functions such as flood risk management, planning or highways, will be required to act consistently with or have regard to (as appropriate) the adopted Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 respectively require a strategic environmental scoping assessment and a habitats scoping report to be undertaken in relation to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The scoping reports have been completed in

accordance with the relevant legislation and both reports concluded that further assessments are not required.

### **Corporate Property and Construction**

Whilst the Local Flood Risk Strategy is applicable to Council owned property, the recommendations in the report do not have any specific property implications at this stage."

### **Relevant Service Groups**

The Civil Protection Service has reviewed this report and agrees this is a reflection of the current ways of working within the Council. The Civil Protection Service will continue to work with the Flood and Water Management Officer to deliver the recommendations as detailed in these documents.

The Highways Service has reviewed the report and will continue to work with the Flood and Water Management Officer to deliver the recommendations as detailed in this service.

Green Spaces fully supports the recommendations as stated in this report.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The London Borough of Hillingdon is aiming to develop a greater understanding of flood risk amongst residents and property owners, a key requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act and the Flood Risk Regulations. Flood risk can best be demonstrated through flood modelling and mapping. Ultimately, the Council will have a flood risk management portfolio, which will include a series of maps and plans, for all types of potential flooding, to highlight the areas of highest risk, action plans for reducing flood risk and a clear emergency planning process. At present, this portfolio comprises the following documents:

- **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment** - Provides information on future flood risk
- **Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2008** - Collates evidence on all sources of flood risk and forms part of the evidence base for the Local Plan
- **Addendum to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Sequential Test 2014** - Provides an update on the flood risk information available to assess flood risk for the Local Plan Part 2 and Site Allocations.
- **Surface water management plan** - Required to look at local sources of flooding including surface water and groundwater.
- **Flood risk investigations** - Collating evidence and reports on significant flood events in the Borough.