

FLOOD ACTION PLAN

Cabinet Member(s)	Councillor Eddie Lavery
Cabinet Portfolio(s)	Environment, Housing and Regeneration
Officer Contact(s)	Vicky Boorman / James Latham - Planning, Environment, Education and Community Services
Papers with report	Appendix 1 – Flood Action Plan

HEADLINES

Summary	<p>To approve the Flood Action Plan which sets out the actions that the Council is and will be undertaking in the coming months to ensure that Council services and residents are resilient to the impacts of flooding.</p> <p>It is intended to capture the current actions and approaches ahead of a review of the Statutory Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which needs to be adopted by Mid-2022.</p>
Putting our Residents First	<p>This report supports the following Council objectives: Our People; Our Natural Environment; and Our Built Environment.</p> <p>This report contributes to delivering Objective C6 (Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation) of the Draft Strategic Climate Action Plan.</p>
Financial Cost	Flood measures within the plan are expected to be delivered within existing budgets and resources.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee
Relevant Ward(s)	All Wards

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet:

- 1. Approves Hillingdon's Flood Action Plan capturing work ahead of development and publication (including full public consultation) on the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (statutory requirement to be adopted by mid-2022).**
- 2. Agrees to the implementation of the actions in the Flood Action Plan.**

Reasons for recommendation

Due to the ongoing impacts of climate change, more residents are at risk of flooding than 15 years ago and flooding is happening more frequently in the Borough. In the future, there are predicted to be wetter winters and drier summer in London but rain will fall in more intense showers in the summer months.

There are potentially over 30,000 residential properties currently at risk of flooding from various sources across the Borough. With over 180km of ordinary watercourses draining predominantly impermeable clay soils, often flowing through dense residential areas in ageing infrastructure, there are challenging constraints to managing flood risk. With so many locations facing risk all services will need to contribute to managing the flood risks faced by residents.

The Council has an excellent track record in securing funding to work with residents and communities to understand and reduce the risk of flooding. By piloting innovative approaches such as Natural Flood Management and taking a whole catchment approach to managing the risk of flooding, Hillingdon Council is in a good position to face the challenges posed by climate change.

This Flood Action Plan states the actions that the Council is and will be undertaking in the coming months to ensure that Council services and residents are resilient to the impacts of flooding. It is intended to capture the current actions and approaches ahead of the review of the Statutory Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which needs to be adopted by mid-2022. To avoid excessive consultation on flood risk plans this Action plan is only intended to capture actions associated with adopted plans and strategies ahead of the statutory consultation on the Strategy (developed on a 6 yearly cycle). The current strategy can be found here: [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)

Recommendation 1 – The Flood Action Plan will help deliver the requirements of the Climate Change Action Plan and the current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2016) and provides a base for the Council to update the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as part of the statutory 6 year planning cycle (required mid 2022).

Recommendation 2 – To identify opportunities within current operational practices and budgets to improve flood risk management practices, for example through changes to land management practices.

Alternative options considered / risk management

The option to take no action was not considered. To achieve the climate emergency declaration requires leadership from the Council and targeted action working in partnership with residents, public sector organisations, community groups and businesses.

Policy Overview Committee comments

The Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview Committee received an update on Flooding at a recent meeting and such committees will be able to participate actively in the forthcoming consultation.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. Hillingdon is the second largest London Borough and has potentially over 30,000 residential properties currently at risk of flooding. With over 180km of ordinary watercourses draining predominantly impermeable clay soils, often flowing through dense residential areas in ageing infrastructure, there are challenging constraints to managing flood risk.
2. As Lead Local Flood Authority, Hillingdon Council has been working over the past 10 years to understand the risk of flooding, investigate significant flood incidents and implement measures to reduce the risk of flooding. The council has other roles and responsibilities that integrate with the statutory flood risk duties.
3. In a changing climate there has been an increased burden on many council services due to flooding in recent years. The headline impact of climate change on rainfall in London, is for there to be less rainfall in the summer concentrated into more intense showers, and for more rainfall over winter months. Climate change is already impacting on the risk of flooding in Hillingdon, with there being a noticeable increase in the frequency and intensity of summer rainfall events and wetter winters in recent years.
4. The Flood Action Plan provides a context of the real risk of flooding in the Borough both now and in the future, restates the actions currently being undertaken to reduce the risk of flooding to residents, and sets out the intention of the Council to allocate appropriate resources across all services to manage the increasing flood risk.
5. The Flood Action Plan includes **statutory actions** required by law, actions that promote **climate resilient places**, actions that consider **today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate**, as well as actions that promote the national objective of **a nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding**.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations to this report. The workstreams identified within the Flood Action Plan are expected to be contained within existing budgets. Any specific proposals that require additional funding will be raised with the Cabinet Member for further consideration.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon Hillingdon residents, service users and communities?

The Flood Action Plan will provide benefits to residents by setting out how all Council services are prepared for the projected impacts of flood risk and have plans in place to respond to these increasingly more frequent flood incidents. The review of planned works with the flooding team will also ensure proposed works maximise opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding to our residents and communities. Coordinated communications will ensure that residents are engaged in understanding their individual risk of flooding, as well as being more informed of the projects that the Council is implementing to reduce the risk of flooding.

Consultation carried out or required?

The Flood Action Plan builds on the work the Council has undertaken to date in line with the current adopted Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (which was subject to full consultation) to understand the risk of flooding and implement projects to reduce the risk of flooding. Cabinet is asked to approve the Flood Action Plan and for the actions to be implemented by the respective service areas.

The updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be developed towards the end of 2021 with a view to adopting by mid-2022. This will be subject to a full consultation as part of the statutory requirements.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that there are no direct financial implications associated with the recommended implementation of the Flood Action Plan, noting that measures within the plan are expected to be delivered within existing budgets and resources. Financial implications associated with the emerging Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be quantified alongside development of the strategy and reflected in future iterations of the Council's Medium-Term Financial Forecast as appropriate.

Legal

The Borough Solicitor confirms that the legal implications are included in the report and action plan.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Strategic Climate Action Plan](#)

[Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#) and accompanying [Objective and Measures](#) (published in 2016)