

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Committee name	Residents' Services Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ian Thynne
Papers with report	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Ward	All

HEADLINES

The Council is designated a Lead Local Flood Authority by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act). This is a statutory function that requires the Council to lead on flood risk matters, through collaboration with other providers and within communities. As part of this duty, Section 9 of the Act requires the Council to produce and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. 'The Strategy' sets out how the Council will manage flood risk at a local level.

The Strategy is currently out for public consultation which will end in early March 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:

- 1. Notes the content of the Strategy**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Strategy is a key tool in establishing the relevant authorities involved in managing flood risk, identifying sources of flood risk, and presenting strategic objectives and actions. The Strategy also provides information on flood prevention, reduction, preparation and response.

The current Strategy was given a 6-year timeframe to reflect the period required for the parent national flood risk strategy. The current Strategy is now due for review based on that timeframe. However, the statutory requirement is for the local Strategy to be maintained and consequently there is no specific statutory timeframe.

The draft Strategy is intended to be a 'living document' hosted on a webpage (available in PDF form if requested). It will be collated into sections so that selective changes can be made as and when necessary, as opposed to a holistic resource intensive review. Officers consider this allows for a more dynamic strategy that better serves residents and communities.

The Strategy will be subject to an annual review and status report to ensure it is kept up to date in accordance with legislation. Prior to adoption of a Strategy, the Council must embark on a

consultation. The consultation is intended to commence in January 2024 and last for a minimum of 6 weeks. This consultation will help shape the Strategy, so it best reflects the communities it is intended to benefit. More information is available on the Council's website via the following link: [Local Flood Risk Management Strategy consultation - Hillingdon Council](#)

The consultation on the Strategy will also be an opportunity to refine information on flood risk and hopefully empower community groups to engage further on this subject. The Strategy also provides information on what residents can do for themselves, particularly around managing their own land i.e. increase green spaces, install water butts etc.

On completion of the consultation, officers will review the feedback and present the final Strategy for Cabinet for sign off and adoption. This will be accompanied by a refresh of how we collect and collate reports on flood risk to provide a more interactive and effective process for residents.

PERFORMANCE DATA

Strategy will be subject to annual review in consultation with residents.

RESIDENT BENEFIT

The Strategy aims to provide a clear approach to flood risk management for the direct benefit of communities within the Borough. The consultation will allow residents to feedback on the scope of the Strategy as well as providing information on existing areas of flooding.

The consultation also seeks to understand any information gaps or areas where residents would like to see more support.

The Strategy will result in an improved approach to flood risk management and is intended to provide for a more collaborative arrangement between residents and flood risk management authorities (i.e. The Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Environment Agency and Thames Water)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a financial cost in developing the Strategy but beyond that the implementation has a range of potential cost implications. Delivery of projects is costly, and funding is the largest constraint to delivering the physical projects to benefit residents. Funding is available from various sources, such as the Environment Agency, DEFRA, and the Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (TRFCC). Officers have a good track record of securing funding from these sources and delivering projects as set out in the Strategy.

There are a range of projects currently at various stages of funding application through to design and implementation within the Borough. The majority of these are funded from external sources.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The production and implementation of the Strategy fulfils a statutory obligation set out in the

Flood and Water Management Act.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil.

APPENDICES

[Local Flood Risk Management Strategy](#)