



To: Executive Councillor for Planning Policy and Transport: Councillor Kevin Blencowe
Report by: Head of Planning Services
Relevant scrutiny committee: Development Plan Scrutiny Sub Committee
Wards affected: All Wards

Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report concerns an update to the Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Strategy).
- 1.2 The Strategy has been produced by Cambridgeshire County Council as the lead local flood authority, in conjunction with other flood risk authorities such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Cambridge City Council and other district councils.
- 1.3 The Strategy outlines a number of objectives to manage flood risk in Cambridgeshire, including understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood and impacts of flooding, helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risks, ensuring appropriate development and improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

2. Recommendations

- 2.2 The Executive Councillor is recommended:
 - To endorse the content of the Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Appendix A);

3. Background

Introduction

- 3.1 The Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been developed by Cambridgeshire County Council (as lead local flood authority) in conjunction with other flood risk authorities such as the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Cambridge City Council and other district councils. The purpose of the Strategy is to outline the objectives and actions in managing flood risk in Cambridgeshire.
- 3.2 There are five objectives outlined in the Strategy and these are:
- Objective 1: Understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire
 - Objective 2: Managing the likelihood and impacts of flooding
 - Objective 3: Helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risks
 - Objective 4: Ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire
 - Objective 5: Improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

Status

- 3.3 This is an update to the Strategy that was published in 2013.
- 3.4 Although the Strategy will not be formally adopted by Cambridge City Council, there is a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 for flood risk authorities, of which Cambridge City Council is one, to act consistently with its objectives.

Objectives of the Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 3.5 Objective 1: Understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, this objective outlines the current understanding of flood risk by briefly summarising maps, reports and assessments that have been undertaken by the flood risk management authorities.
- 3.6 Objective 2: Managing the likelihood and impacts of flooding, this objective explains the partnership approach to managing flood risk that is employed in Cambridgeshire. It lists the flood risk management authorities, key stakeholders and outlines their duties and

responsibilities.

- 3.7 Objective 3: Helping Cambridgeshire's citizens to manage their own risk, this objective explains the approach to stakeholder and community engagement.
- 3.8 Objective 4: Ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire, this objective outlines the relationship between local flood risk management and the planning system.
- 3.9 Objective 5: Improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery, this objective outlines the approach to responding to flood emergencies and post flood recovery.
- 3.10 There is also a section that explains funding and delivery and central government's current approach and local funding streams.
- 3.11 The final section contains a list of actions that are undertaken by each risk management authority. For Cambridge City Council this includes: adopting an up to date strategic flood risk assessment; adopting an up to date water cycle strategy; designating structures when appropriate; participating in flooding investigations; sharing appropriate information; producing Project Appraisal Reports for grant funding; maintaining the City's awarded watercourses; undertaking appropriate enforcement under the Land Drainage Act 1991; ensuring environmental impacts are considered in flood risk management activities; working with citizens to help them manage their own risk; the adoption of a supplementary planning document for flood risk*; encouraging appropriate development; adhering to the national planning policy guidance; assessing flooding risk in planning and including appropriate policies in local plan making*.

* The Cambridgeshire Flood and Water Management SPD has been drafted and is due to be publicly consulted on with a view to adoption when the new local plan is adopted. The draft local plan contains policies that are consistent with the objectives of the Strategy.

Consultation

- 3.12 Public consultation for the Strategy took place from 3rd June 2015 until the 14th July 2015.

Implications

(a) Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(b) Staffing Implications (if not covered in Consultations Section)

There are no direct staffing implications arising from this report

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no direct equalities or poverty implications arising from this report. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council for the first publication of the Strategy in 2012. The amendments are not considered to have an impact on the original assessment.

(d) Environmental Implications

The Strategy will help to strategically manage flood risk across Cambridgeshire. The Strategy also highlights that all flood risk management authorities must aim to make a contribution to sustainable development under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Overall there should be a positive climate change impact.

(e) Procurement

There are no direct procurement implications arising from this report.

(f) Consultation and communication

Public consultation for the Strategy took place from 3rd June 2015 until the 14th July 2015.

(g) Community Safety

The Strategy will help benefit community safety by having a strategic approach to flood risk management that aims to reduce the risk of flooding and therefore benefitting the community as a whole.

5. Background papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

None used.

6. Appendices

- Appendix A – Cambridgeshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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