

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT CAPITAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 5
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Report of the Director of Growth and Regeneration

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PETERBOROUGH FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report is to inform and consult the Sustainable Growth and Environment Capital Scrutiny Committee about the draft Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy before it is presented to Cabinet on 22 September 2014. Cabinet will be requested to approve the draft for the purpose of a six week public consultation period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The following recommendations are proposed:
- Acknowledge the statutory requirement for a Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy (FMS)
 - Review and provide comments on the FMS with such comments reported to Cabinet

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 The FMS contributes to all of the priorities and many of the outcomes from the Sustainable Community Strategy as flood and water management is about protecting people and property; working in partnership; helping communities to understand risks and take action to make themselves more resilient; about improving our natural environment and ensuring that Peterborough is sustainable in the long term so that it is able to attract continued economic investment.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA 2010) makes Peterborough City Council a Lead Local Flood Authority with responsibility for co-ordinating the management of surface water flood risk (flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses). Lead Local Flood Authorities have a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a 'local flood risk management strategy' which must specify:

- The level and types of flood risk in the area
- The flood management organisations and their responsibilities
- The functions these organisations carry out
- Objective for managing the risk
- The costs of the actions and how these will be paid for
- The benefits of the actions
- How the strategy contributes to the wider environmental objectives

- 4.2 The statutory obligation for the local flood risk management strategy is to consider the types of flood risk for which Peterborough City Council is responsible. However the FMS has been developed as a partnership plan with all of the flood and water management organisations. The FMS therefore proposes to cover flood risk from all sources and includes actions from all

partners in order to prepare one document that can be a resource and central point of contact for all organisations, City Council officers and residents interested in finding out about flood risk.

5. KEY ISSUES

5.1 Issues for focus:

- Understanding the City Council's responsibilities (Chapter 1)
- Understanding the most significant flood risks in Peterborough (Chapter 7)
- The need for all flood and water management organisations to financially contribute to schemes in order to unlock any Government funding (Chapter 9)
- The range and type of actions to be delivered and the costs of these (Chapter 10 and appendix F)

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Location

The impact of the FMS is city-wide.

6.2 Equality

No significant equality impacts have been raised by the FMS. In future if the FMS is adopted and if individual schemes within the action plan are implemented, the equality impacts of these schemes will need to be fully considered through the design and consultation processes.

6.3 Legal

The Council must prepare an FMS and must follow due Regulations in its preparation in order to fulfil the requirements under the FWMA 2010.

6.4 Financial

At this stage the draft FMS is proposed for public consultation, so the immediate costs are those associated with consultation and these can be easily covered by existing budgets. If the plan should be adopted there are future financial implications to be considered. All of the projects proposed in the action plan will need to have business cases developed and approved before delivery could take place and approval would be sought from all project partners.

6.5 The following City Council budgets are currently funding the type of flood risk related work that is included in the action plan: Resilience, Flood and Drainage, Highway Maintenance, Highways Salary budget, Strategic Planning and the Future Cities Demonstrator project (Peterborough DNA).

6.6 Implementation of the FMS does not require any additional City Council revenue budgets. Delivery of the draft action plan in full would require budgets to remain at their present value but at this stage the action plan is effectively a wish list until business case approval is granted for each scheme. The significant budgetary constraints that the City Council faces are well noted. Projects will have to be carefully prioritised based on the benefits, and funding will be sought from a range of sources. While the total cost of the ten year partnership action plan is notable the larger schemes making up most of these actions are Main River schemes proposed for Government funding. These will be led by the Environment Agency. In order for Government funding to be drawn down, local contributions from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, local authorities, communities and/or businesses are required for all schemes. The split of this contribution over several sources means, however, that any direct contributions from the City Council will be small compared to the total project costs and the benefits that would be delivered.

6.7 Currently the City Council's flood and water management function has no capital budget. Depending on the designs of schemes and agreements over which organisation is to own the asset(s) produced we may need to establish a small capital budget stream in future. In the first instance projects that deliver growth benefits will apply for monies collected through the Planning Obligations Implementation Scheme (POIS) or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The risk with regards to competition for these funds is noted.

6.8 Dependencies and Risks

Delivery of projects may be affected by the need to obtain planning consent; flood defence or ordinary watercourse land drainage consent, landowner permission, maintenance agreements, funding and partner approval as well as by updated information about the levels of risk (e.g. flood modelling).

6.9 Environmental

Wherever possible the delivery of flood risk management schemes must also bring wider environmental benefits such as improvements to water quality, biodiversity and public amenity. This is borne in mind through the FMS.

7. **CONSULTATION**

7.1 Extensive engagement with the public and partner organisations has taken place since the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Evidence from this has been gathered to shape the emerging FMS. The engagement includes holding public flood awareness events and flood warden training, consulting on the Flood and Water Management Supplementary Planning Document, writing to Parish Councils, attending resident, neighbourhood and Scrutiny meetings, learning from flood incidents and working very closely with other flood management organisations to share understanding and develop the FMS.

7.2 The principal flood and water management authorities involved in developing this plan (the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Boards and Anglian Water) have supplied information and have had the opportunity to review the FMS iteratively as it has developed.

8. **NEXT STEPS**

8.1 If Cabinet approves the draft FMS on 22nd September it will be published for six weeks public consultation in October to November 2014. This will provide an opportunity for the public to input to and comment on both the main strategy document and the action plan. The City Council can then make any necessary changes to the FMS and adopt it in early 2015.

8.2 Progress with the action plan within the FMS will be monitored on a yearly basis with updates made as required. The rest of the FMS will be reviewed on a five year cycle.

9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

9.1 The following documents have been used

- Draft preview of the Anglian Flood Risk Management Plan, Environment Agency, 2014. This regional plan aligns with the FMS and is out for public consultation at the same time.
- The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, Defra, 2011

10. **APPENDICES**

10.1 The following is attached to this report:

- Draft Peterborough Flood Risk Management Strategy and appendices

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