

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
6 NOVEMBER 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Angus Ellis, Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport	
Contact Officer(s):	Nick Greaves, Highway Development & Drainage Manager Rohit Singh, Principal Sustainable Drainage Officer	Tel. 07572 463 918

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director of Place and Economy	Deadline date: N/A
It is recommended that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee considers and scrutinises this report and endorses the approach being taken.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 As detailed in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027 we are required to update councillors as to the progress made on the action plan.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 In the current Peterborough Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027 we identified 25 actions that need to be achieved to meet the aims of the strategy, and this report is to update members and allow scrutiny on the progress to date.

2.2 This report is for the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference Part 3, Section 4 - Overview and Scrutiny Functions, paragraph No. 2.1 Functions determined by Council:

2. Flood Risk Management

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
---	-----------	----------------------------------	------------

4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 In the approved Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027 appendix H sets out actions required to achieve the objectives of the strategy. This includes indicative timeframes and target dates for completion of the projects which will be reviewed annually and amended as required due to changes in priorities and as opportunities arise.

Below is a summary of the actions that have been delivered, those that are ongoing, and those that have not yet started. A full breakdown including details can be found in Appendix A.

Actions Completed

1. Multi-Agency Flood Plan
2. Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans
3. Thorpe Meadows Electric Cut
4. Culverts & Bridges
5. Highway Sustainable Drainage Systems Standards
6. Review of use of telemetry

Actions Ongoing

1. Adaptation Plan
2. Long Term Maintenance Programs
3. Rivergate
4. Fletton & Woodston
5. Werrington Brook Improvements
6. Paston Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme
7. Flood Storage Capacity Study
8. City Centre Combined Sewers
9. Future Fens
10. Drainage District Modelling
11. Ground Water Knowledge
12. Welland & Dogsthorpe
13. Natural Flood Management
14. Digitization of Asset Data
15. Community Engagement
16. Flood Wardens
17. Partnership Data Sharing
18. Supplementary Planning Document
19. Understanding the future risk

Additional Actions

1. **Partnership working in the Multi-Agency Group or MAG007** – We have been working with Anglian Water on various schemes across the city with the MAG007 focusing on covering the area of Helpston, Bainton & Ashton, Barnack, Ufford and Southorpe. The group aims to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery efforts related to prolonged wet weather periods that can result in flooding and loss of toilet facilities due to high groundwater levels and surface water runoff, thereby minimising risks to communities, infrastructure, and the environment. The group includes representatives of Anglian Water, Welland & Deepings Internal Drainage Board (IDB), PCC and the various Parish councils. We continue to attend these sessions and respond to concerns and actions as they are raised by partners and Parish Councils. To date PCC have met on site with Parish Council representatives, whereby we investigated surface water concerns in both Helpston and Southorpe Villages, with a proposed schedule of works drawn up thereafter to help to mitigate surface water flooding, additionally, information was given out with regards to responsibilities for drainage assets that do not form part of the Public Highway.

2. **Work with CCC on cross-boundary sites such as Great Haddon** – Concerns from Yaxley Parish Council over the impact of the Great Haddon Development has been helpful in highlighting the need for greater collaboration with neighbouring authorities and IDBs on developments on the border of our jurisdiction. In this particular case we have found that there is no compelling issue. However, the need for greater collaboration beyond the statutory requirements has been highlighted across the board and we will look to operate in this capacity and expect the same from our neighbours moving forward.

3. **Northminster 'Grey-to-Green' Project** – We have recently put in a bid for £50k to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to develop Peterborough's very own 'Grey-to-Green' project with a leading architect in the field following discussions around the station quarter scheme. This scheme will seek to use innovative SuDs (Sustainable Drainage Systems) to add greenery in an urban environment to re-vitalise this north-eastern route into the city-core.

Changes to Legislation that may have an impact on LFRMS Actions.

1. **Schedule 3 of the Flood & Water Management Act and the formation of SAB.**

The implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will see the formation of a Sustainable Drainage Approval Body, or SAB. Ultimately this will increase the statutory duties of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), and we will therefore require additional staff to carry out this function which will have funding implications.

This legislation requires new developments which have more than one dwelling, or a construction area of at least 100 square metres, to include Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) for surface water management.

Under this legislation, SuDS must be designed and built in accordance with statutory standards and construction must not commence until the proposals are approved by local authority SuDS Approving Bodies (SABs) and would need to be completed within the standard planning application timeframe stipulated by the Local Planning Authority. Failure to be able to meet our statutory duties as a SAB or on developers' part to provide the appropriate level of information will result in delayed planning applications and/or a developer being unable to start on site once planning consent is granted, which will hamper growth.

For context, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is currently only obligated to be consulted on major planning applications, with no obligation to adopt and maintain infrastructure other than systems that have been adopted as part of Highway Agreements. This is dealt with by the local highway authority where it is in the public interest to do so with a team of eleven carrying out this function.

When the legislation comes into force, it effectively establishes a new statutory regime within the Local Authority, and the Council shall become a SAB. This shall require incorporation into the Council's constitution and decisions made as to where this new role shall sit within Member oversight.

This legislation has been in effect in Wales since 2019 and we have been in extensive consultation with Welsh SABs ahead of the implementation which is anticipated in 2025. There is a need to highlight this to members given the statutory duties which the current LLFA team will be obligated to fulfil, and to set out the case for additional funding which will be required to increase the size of the team to meet these obligations at the appropriate time.

The impact of this legislation is substantial and the reason we highlight this now is that it may well have an impact on the actions outlined in the LFRMS, and the current deadlines for completion. If this is the case a follow up report will be produced outlining said impacts.

5. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

5.1 The recommendation links to the Council's Corporate Priorities as follows:

The Economy & Inclusive Growth

Environment - Carbon Impact Assessment: The overall impact is expected to be a positive one both in terms of providing wider environmental benefits and reducing emissions or capturing carbon, however those values are difficult to assign at present as the details of the actions are yet to be developed. As such the Strategy sets out the need to consider the carbon impact as

well as adaptation to a changing climate as a part of the development of any solutions to the proposed actions, officers will need to carefully assess the impacts and look for more suitable alternatives if impacts are found to be negative. The Strategy itself is not anticipated to have any new demands on energy, transport or waste or create any new streams of carbon that are not already being considered by ours and our partners normal day to day operational activities. However, as plans get actioned, the individual projects within the plan might have an emission impact and should have a CIA completed with opportunities for reducing impact.

Homes and Workplaces: The flood management actions help to improve the sustainability of the housing and workplaces and contributes to ensuring the future growth and delivery of infrastructure. This would enable more new and more affordable homes for purchase or rent, and the improvement of existing properties.

Jobs and Money: Flood management actions are aimed at ensuring business continuity.

Our Places & Communities

Places and Safety (including any rural implications): Actions undertaken to mitigate against flooding as well as flood warning ensure safety of communities. In 2021 we commissioned the Flood Mobile to visit various locations across the city including Peakirk, Paston, Gunthorpe and are seeking to do more as budget allows. We have recently moved our website in-house which offers advice to residents and potential developers on SuDs and flood prevention measures. We continue to communicate through Flood Wardens and have the newly formed MAG007 group. Through this group we are working to address the flooding issues in rural communities in collaboration with our partners Anglian Water and Environment Agency.

Lives and Work. Flooding can have a significant impact on people's lives and work. It can result in displacement, loss of income, health concerns, financial concerns, and loss of utilities. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prepared website provides information about how residents can prepare for severe weather.

Health and Wellbeing. Flooding has extensive and significant impacts on health and is frequently associated with both acute and long-term effects on health and wellbeing. There could be direct impacts on health such as drowning, physical trauma, skin, and gut infections. And there could be long-term health effects that may occur because of flooding such as mental health impacts. Our officers are creating awareness about these risks while visiting various flood affected locations.

Prevention, Independence & Resilience

Education and Skills for All: We are adopting flood management using nature-based solutions which also provide for opportunities for education in schools. We have joined up with Anglian Water to implement a sustainable drainage pilot project at Discovery primary school. In future such projects will be implemented in other Peterborough schools as well. It will ensure that children and young people are aware of flood management and become confident, resilient, thrive in their learning, and engage positively and actively in their communities.

Adults. Our flood risk management team works to mitigate any flooding to ensure that the risk of flooding is reduced or removed.

Sustainable Future City Council

How we Work: We ensure that flood mitigation procurement prices are low to ensure value for money for the taxpayers. We maintain transparency and accountability in our work.

How we Serve: We provide flooding advice to the residents of Peterborough through our website. This contains phone numbers to dial during various emergencies as well as to report blocked gullies. We constantly work to break down departmental silos through collaborative working. Drainage team works seamlessly with Highway maintenance and Bridges and Structures to

resolve flooding issues at various locations in Peterborough. We work collaboratively with Anglian Water and Environment Agency to provide a more effective service to the residents of Peterborough.

How we Enable: We enable people to develop a plan for emergency. Through our website Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prepared we advise that residents should prepare for flooding emergency in the following ways: make sure they have suitable insurance, think about where you would go and stay – and how you would get there – if an emergency meant that you couldn't stay at home, and make an emergency plan or a flood plan and discuss it with your family and friends so they know what to do.

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 A formal consultation was carried out prior to the adoption of the Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027, and we have regular informal consultations with our partnership organisations such as Anglian Water and the Environment Agency, to progress the aims of the strategy.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee will note the content of this report. Any comments or suggestions offered by members of the committee will be fed back to the relevant officers to ensure improvements can be delivered.

8. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 8.1 To allow the scrutiny committee to scrutinise the development and progress of the FMS.

The production and monitoring of the FMS action plan update are a statutory requirement and the existing FMS and associated action plan that were produced in 2021 require updating.

9. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The alternative option was to not present this report to the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee; this option was not taken forwards as it is important to allow clear and transparent scrutiny of this key strategy.

10. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 10.1 Gully cleansing – We are seeing an increase in surface water and costs are increasing which has resulted in us getting less for our money resulting in an increase in flood risk. It will be necessary to ensure adequate budget is allocated to carry out our flood mitigation and our duties under the Highways Act 1980, where we have an obligation to keep the roads free of obstruction. Furthermore, due to Peterborough's ongoing substantial growth within the city, this has seen a large increase in the adoption of highway drainage infrastructure and in particular carriageway gullies. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, we have a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate all types of flooding. We are, however, seeing these reports increase annually given our reduced service in routine cyclic gully cleansing. With the current global warming/climate change situation, we are experiencing more torrential rainstorms and as a result roads are becoming flooded/impassable and residential properties at risk of internal flooding. This budget was previously reduced by £50k in 2020, and in the absence of additional funding the pressure to adequately resource this work will need to be managed through careful prioritisation across the highways service and reducing service levels where it represents the lowest risk.

Legal Implications

- 10.2 This report provides an update on the FMS and as such does not carry any legal implications.

Equalities Implications

- 10.3 This report provides an update on the FMS and as such does not carry any equalities implications.

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

[Peterborough Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027.](#)

12. APPENDICES

- 12.1 Appendix A - Local Flood Risk Management Actions Table – In detail.