



**REPORT OF INTERIM SERVICE DIRECTOR, HIGHWAYS
FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Purpose of the Report

1. To report on the responses received to the recent public consultation on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and seek approval to present the Strategy to Policy Committee for formal adoption by the County Council.

Information

2. In its role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) the County Council has permissive powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities in Nottinghamshire. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses). Main River watercourses, as defined by Defra, are the preserve of the Environment Agency.
3. As part of its duties as a LLFA the County Council is required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to develop and publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy including an Action Plan that identifies key objectives to shape the delivery of the flood risk management services in Nottinghamshire in partnership with the other Risk Management Authorities.

General update

4. Transport and Highway Committee gave approval at its meeting on the 7th January to the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy being subject to a 12 week public consultation period running from the 7th January to 31 March 2016. Accompanying the strategy is an Action Plan that identifies key objectives to shape the delivery of the flood risk management services in Nottinghamshire in partnership with the other Risk Management Authorities. It should be noted that the draft Strategy had already been subject to a previous consultation process and from this a number of amendments were incorporated into the present document.

5. The draft strategy document and the associated appendices were available to view and download from the County Council's website during the consultation period as well as being available in the County Council's libraries. Comments and views concerning the strategy could be made by letter, on-line form, email or via a dedicated phone number. The consultation process was publicised with media releases and direct electronic notifications to relevant organisations. The survey itself was carried out through the electronic Survey Monkey website although it was made clear in publicity that responses by other means would be accepted.

Consultation Responses

6. At the end of the consultation period the Authority received seven detailed and specific comments. Whilst this was a lower than expected response rate, especially in light of the wide publicity that was given to the consultation process and the continued interest shown by residents of the County in flood related matters, it is perhaps indicative of the robustness of the initial consultation and the subsequent resulting amendments to the document that initial respondents were happy with the changes made and felt no further need to contribute. In the consultation response. Of interest and to be welcomed is that Nottingham City Council as a neighbouring Lead Local Flood Authority who has recently published its approved Flood Risk management Strategy document provided a very supportive response to the Nottinghamshire consultation
7. The summary of responses to this consultation was that overall the document was well received with five of the responders agreeing that the strategy described the roles and responsibilities of Risk management Authorities clearly enough. Four respondents agreed with the overall vision of the Strategy whilst two had no view either way and one disagreed. In respect of the objectives and indicators that have been developed for Flood Risk Management five respondents agreed with these whilst one each did not agree and had no view. On the questions as to whether the Strategy has the right approach six of the respondents agreed that it did.
8. Based on the information provided by respondents two live in Broxtowe, two in Mansfield and one each in Rushcliffe and Gedling. Unfortunately it is not possible from the Survey Monkey results to establish who all the respondents were i.e. Individuals or organisations.
9. The consultation comments have been considered carefully and additional information relating to partnership working with the City Council on flood risk management schemes and some further examples of communities within the county affected by flooding matters have been added.
10. A copy of the Executive Summary for the Strategy is attached as Appendix A to this report and a full copy is available via the Council Diary.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. The County Council has a number of statutory duties and powers under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and the Flood Risk Regulations (2009). This report is intended to enable the County Council to comply with these new duties and powers.
12. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

13. The Flood Risk Management Strategy and its accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment have been prepared by the Flood Risk Management Team with support from external consultants and costs have been contained within the existing staffing and Flood Risk Management budgets.
14. The Strategy document by its very nature identifies potential areas for future flood risk management projects which will require funding. These potential projects will be subject to consideration and approval or otherwise through the committee system.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee approve that the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is presented to Policy Committee for formal adoption by the County Council.

Neil Hodgson
Interim Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:
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Constitutional Comments

Finance Comments (RWK 27/04/2016)

The financial implications arising from the report are set out in paragraphs 12 and 13.

Legal Comments (LB 26/05/2016)

Transport and Highways Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Background Paper

Strategic Environmental Assessment for Nottinghamshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy July 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All