

**REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE****LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the formal adoption of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 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 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 to the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy being complete and ready for adoption by the Authority via approval from the Policy Committee. This followed two public consultation periods with revisions being made to the draft document as a result of responses from interested parties to each of them.

**Consultation Responses**

5. At the end of the final public consultation period which ran from the 7th January to 31 March 2016 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. As part of the consultation response 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. A copy of the Strategy is attached to this report and a full copy is available via the Council Diary.

## **Strategy Objectives and Action Plan**

10. By formally adopting the Strategy the Authority will endorse its Overarching Objective and the various objectives that follow on from this as well as the Action Plan that identifies the specific tasks that need to be done to achieve them. The Overarching Objective is: -

‘To reduce flood risk to people, properties and critical infrastructure wherever possible, maximise multiple benefits and ensure that the inequalities gap does not widen’.

In order to deliver the Overarching Objective of the Strategy, a number of other objectives have been devised and are included in the document. These are: -

1. To pursue new solutions, partnerships and alleviation schemes to manage future flood risks and adapt to climate change in Nottinghamshire.
2. To increase levels of awareness and cooperation within local organisations and communities so they can become more resilient to flooding and understand their land drainage responsibilities.
3. To improve delivery of flood risk management by working in partnership across functions and organisations, taking a catchment based approach.

4. To integrate local flood risk management into the planning process and support sustainable growth.
  5. To consider the environmental impact of proposed flood risk management measures, maximise opportunities to contribute to the sustainable management of our cultural heritage and landscape and deliver environmental benefits.
11. These objectives are further subdivided into measures which are supported by actions contained in an annually reviewed Action Plan. The Plan sets out the specific actions that the Authority has identified as being necessary to achieve the various objectives.
12. Having identified both the objectives and actions required to meet them within the Strategy this will enable the Authority to incorporate these into any future funding bids.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. 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.
14. 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**

15. 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.
16. 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 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be formally adopted by the Policy Committee.

**County Councillor Kevin Greaves**  
**Chairman of Transport and Highways Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments (SLB 12/08/2016)**

Policy Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

**Finance Comments (SES 19/08/16)**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

**Background Paper**

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

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All