

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND SPORT

TO:	Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee		
DATE:	26 March 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	10
TITLE:	FLOOD & WATER MANAGEMENT ACT 2010 - LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR READING		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR A. PAGE	PORTFOLIO :	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORT	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Reading Borough Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local management of flood risk within its area.
- 1.2 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Reading is shown in appendix 1.
- 1.3 This report seeks **Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee** approval to delegate to the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport authority to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Reading following the public consultation currently underway.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee note the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Reading.
- 2.2 That the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee delegate to the Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport the authority to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Reading.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) gained Royal Assent on 8th April 2010. This includes statutory provisions for implementation of recommendations in the Pitt Review following the July 2007 exceptional rainfall event. County and Unitary Authorities have been designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and given the leadership role for local flood risk management from all sources of flooding, except main rivers and the sea.
- 3.2 Section 9 of the FWMA 2010 identified that LLFA's must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local management of flood risk within its area. This provision came partially into force from 1st October 2010 and the LFRMS should be developed within a reasonable timeframe. The LFRMS must include the following elements:
- a) the risk management authorities in the authority's area,
 - b) the flood risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities,
 - c) the objectives for managing local flood risk,
 - d) the measures proposed to achieve those objectives,
 - e) how and when the measures are expected to be implemented,
 - f) the costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for,
 - g) the assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy,
 - h) how and when the strategy is to be reviewed, and,
 - i) how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

The LLFA must consult the other risk management authorities and the public about its LFRMS and publish a summary. The LFRMS must be consistent with the National Strategy produced by the EA for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) for England.

4 PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Reading's LFRMS has been prepared in conjunction with the Berkshire Five Flood Risk Authorities, (excludes Slough as they are not within Thames catchment area), the Environment Agency and Thames Water who together form the Berkshire Strategic Flood Risk Group.
- 4.2 The LFRMS, (refer to Appendix 1), is currently out on public consultation which closes on 27th April 2015.
- 4.3 This report seeks **Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee** approval to delegate authority to Lead Member for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport authority to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Reading following the public consultation.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Corporate Plan Service priority: Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 6.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be placed in the public domain through the Council's Consultation Pod.
- 6.2 This report on the work of the Local Flood Risk Strategy will be placed in the public domain.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the Borough Council to take the leadership role for ensuring significant risk from all sources of flooding is identified and managed. This will be done through the preparation of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, a Surface Water Management Plan and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 7.2 Section 9 of the FWMA 2010 identified that LLFA's must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local management of flood risk within its area. This provision came partially into force from 1st October 2010 and the LFRMS should be developed within a reasonable timeframe.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Borough Council will continue to bid for funding from DEFRA and the EA through the annual Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) funding mechanism.
- 8.2 The Borough Council has a dedicated Revenue budget to comply with the requirements of the FWMA.

9. Risk Assessment.

Lead Local Flood Authority Councils are required to carry out their designated statutory duties, as described in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

10. Appendixes

- 10.1 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Reading.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 SEPT Committee report dated 9th July 2013 setting out the statutory duties of the LLFA under Flood & Water Management Act 2010.
- 11.2 Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Land Drainage Act 1991.