

Forest Heath District Council

(This report is a key decision. This report has been subject to appropriate notice of publication under the Council's Access to Information Rules)

Report of the Cabinet Member for Families and Communities

CABINET

5 FEBRUARY 2013

CAB13/061

SUFFOLK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (Key Decision Reference: FEB13/05)

1. Summary and reasons for recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010, (Section 9), requires Suffolk County Council, (as Lead Local Flood Authority), to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Section 9 of the Act requires the County Council to consult with the other 'flood risk management authorities, (local authorities, Environment Agency, water companies and Internal Drainage Boards), that may be affected by the strategy' as well as the public.
- 1.2 This report presents the final version of the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, (Appendix 1), for adoption by Cabinet following the period of formal public consultation, hosted by Suffolk County Council and carried out in the period July to September 2012.
- 1.3 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be a statutory document, which will impact on the activities of all flood risk management authorities, i.e. local authorities, the Environment Agency, highways authorities and Internal Drainage Boards. Such bodies have a 'duty to act consistently with the local strategy' when undertaking their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions and have a 'duty to have regard for the strategy' when discharging other duties that may affect flood and coastal risk, (for example spatial planning & development).
- 1.4 With the ongoing enactment of the numerous provisions contained within Flood and Water Management Act, (notably Section 3 - the sustainable drainage provisions), and other changes to legislation and government guidance it is inevitable that the Strategy and associated 'action plan' will need to be regularly reviewed and updated. It is proposed that this will be carried out by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership with any substantive changes subject to further political endorsement. The Suffolk Joint Flood Scrutiny Panel will continue to monitor the actions of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partners and the Action Plan itself.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 Cabinet recommends that the content of the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

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3. How will the recommendations help us meet our strategic priorities?

3.1 The preparation of the Strategic Flood Risk Management Strategy relates to a number of our Strategic Priorities including Economic Development, Community Development, Housing and potentially achieving Value for Money.

3.2 The recommendation impacts on the following, as contained within the Strategic Plan:

1. Economic Development: A stronger economy which is capable of growing
2. Housing: Working to meet the district's housing need
3. Community Development: Supporting stronger, more active communities

4. Key issues

4.1 As the Strategy defines how the various powers and duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will be discharged, once adopted, its contents will impact the decision making of all the flood risk management and planning authorities in the County of Suffolk.

5. Other options considered

5.1 None.

6. Community impact

6.1 **Crime and disorder impact** *(including Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998)*

6.1.1 None directly.

6.2 Diversity and equality impact *(including the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment)*

6.2.1 Flooding can affect all sectors of the community but its impact can be more acute for more vulnerable residents.

6.3 Sustainability impact *(including completing a Sustainability Impact Assessment)*

6.3.1 The policy seeks manage flood risk to take account of the environment, including taking action to tackle climate change and making improvements under the Water Framework Directive.

6.3.2 The policy seeks to prevent increased flood risk as a result of new development by preventing additional water entering existing drainage systems wherever possible.

6.4 Other impact *(any other impacts affecting this report)*

6.4.1 Increased community engagement in and awareness of flooding and flood preparedness measures.

7. Consultation *(what consultation has been undertaken, and what were the outcomes?)*

7.1 A three month public consultation was undertaken from July to September 2012. The resulting changes to the Strategy were approved by the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership at their meeting in October 2012 and incorporated into the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as presented.

7.2 The Flood and Water Management Act does not fully specify the scope and detailed content of a local flood risk strategy. For Suffolk, this was proposed by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership and endorsed by Councillor Guy McGregor and Councillor Colin Spence and the relevant portfolio holders from all Districts and Boroughs at the end of 2011 and fully incorporated into the draft Strategy.

8. Financial and resource implications *(including asset management implications)*

8.1 The complex nature of funding action to reduce flood risk is explained in Section 6 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

9. Risk/opportunity assessment *(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)*

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
	High/Medium/Low		High/Medium/Low
Flood risk to property and facilities.	Medium	Risk variable dependant on type of flooding (e.g. river, highway, sewer) geography and development.	Medium
Resources allocated to the wrong priorities.	Medium	Resources allocated to in response to flooding risk based on Suffolk	Low

Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
		flood Risk Management Strategy	
Flood maps are inaccurate or out of date	Medium	Information to be updated by local community groups using local knowledge.	Low
Flood risk increases through inappropriate development	Medium	Adoption of SuDS principles.	Low

10. Legal and policy implications

10.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010, (Section 9), requires Suffolk County Council, (as Lead Local Flood Authority), to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Section 9 of the Act requires the Council to consult with the other 'flood risk management authorities, (local authorities, Environment Agency, water companies and Internal Drainage Boards), that may be affected by the strategy' as well as the public.

11. Ward(s) affected

11.1 The content of the Strategy is applicable Borough wide and therefore all Wards are affected.

12. Background papers

12.1 None.

13. Documents attached

- 13.1 Appendix 1 - Suffolk Flood Risk Management Strategy
- 13.2 Appendix 2 - Summary Document
- 13.3 Appendix 3 - Action Plan