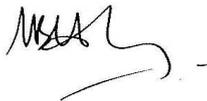


Report to:	Environment and Neighbourhood Committee	Date:	18 June 2015
Report title:	Sutton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Adoption and Publication Proposals		
Report from:	Mary Morrissey, Strategic Director – Environment, Housing and Regeneration		
Ward/Areas affected:	Borough Wide		
Chair of Committee:	Councillor Jill Whitehead		
Author(s)/Contact Number(s):	Davina Millership, Interim Head of Highways and Transport Tel. 020 8770 6657		
Corporate Plan Priorities:	A Fair Council – Building safe, strong and healthy communities.		
Open/Exempt:	Open		
Signed:		Date:	22 May 2015

1. Summary

- 1.1 Sutton Council is a designated Lead Local Flood Authority and is required under the Flood and Water Management Act to prepare and keep under review a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Through joint working with other sub-regional partners, and following consultation of the draft Strategy, a final Strategy has been prepared for publication.
- 1.2 The Sutton Local Flood Risk Management Strategy outlines our priorities and provides a delivery plan to manage risk over the next six years. Our action plan will feed into the Environment Agency's Thames Flood Risk Management Plan (set for publication in 2015).

2. Recommendations

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the amended final Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for publication following recent public consultation.

3. Background

- 3.1 Following the severe floods across the UK in 2007, the Government commissioned Sir Michael Pitt to undertake a review. The outcome of this, 'Learning Lessons from the 2007 Floods' outlined the need for changes in the way England adapts to the increased risk of flooding and the roles different organisations have to deliver this function. The recommendations made within the review were taken forward to form the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR) and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).
- 3.2 Sutton Council is designated a Lead Local Flood Authority and is required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan and Sutton Council is to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management within the borough by December 2015.
- 3.3 The Environment Agency (EA) is also required to prepare a wider Plan and in order to prevent duplication invited Sutton to produce an individual plan. The objectives and subsequent measures and actions developed in the Sutton's strategy were fed into the EA's plan. The EA consulted on the plan between 10 October 2014 and the 31 January 2015 and had asked that Sutton run our Strategy consultation in parallel with these dates.

- 3.4 It was agreed by Environment and Neighbourhood Committee on the 4 September 2014 to proceed to consultation and report back to this Committee to agree the final Strategy in time for publication in December 2015.

4. Issues

Consultation

- 4.1 Sutton Council's draft Strategy was open to public consultation from 10 October 2014 to 31 January 2015. All stakeholders were able to review and comment on the objectives and measures proposed to reduce flood risk associated with surface water, groundwater and watercourses. A digital version of the full document, along with the Flood Risk Maps, Action Plan, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment, were made available on the Council's Citizen Space Consultation Hub. The documents were accompanied with a survey which allowed consultees to comment on the Strategy. Additionally, the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) were contacted and invited to review and comment on the Strategy. Throughout the consultation's timeframe, social media was used to promote the consultation. In addition hardcopies of the Strategy and its appendices were distributed around the borough's libraries.
- 4.2 In total, 4 consultation responses were received: 3 via the Consultation Hub and 1 from Sutton Council's Scrutiny Committee. The responses and how they were taken into account in the final amended strategy is summarised in Appendix C.
- 4.3 Additional changes were also made to the draft strategy to update it in light of legislative changes Flood and Water Management Act.

Proposed Strategy

- 4.4 The London Boroughs of Sutton, Merton, Croydon, Richmond, Wandsworth and Kingston have formed the South West London Strategic Flood Group, together with the EA and Thames Water. The partnership worked together to develop a strategy for the sub region.
- 4.5 The aim of the Strategy is to work in partnership with local communities, and organisations responsible for managing flooding, in order to better understand and reduce local flood risk in Sutton where it is economically, technically, socially, and environmentally feasible to do so.
- 4.6 To achieve this aim the following key objectives have been identified.
- Improving our understanding and data regarding flooding in Sutton
 - Building relationships with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and maximising joint working
 - Encouraging sustainable and holistic approaches to flood risk management
 - Reducing the number of homes at risk from flooding
 - Supporting local residents to increase their own resilience to flooding.
- 4.7 The Strategy contains proposals to prioritise the short, medium and long term actions which can be taken to better manage the risk of flooding. The Action plan against each objective is included in Appendix B.
- 4.8 The progress on the Action Plan will be monitored annually by assessing which actions have been delivered and determining whether there has been any change to in the allocated priorities. Findings from this monitoring process will be presented to the Sutton Flood Group

and the South West London Strategic Flood Group. Progress against the Action Plan will be reported in an Annual Monitoring Report to Sutton Council's Scrutiny Committee. The Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis or following a significant and timescales for delivery. Updates to the Action Plan will be discussed and agreed by the Sutton Flood Risk Management Team.

4.9 The next step is to publish the Strategy and its associated documents on the Council's website by December 2015.

4.10 Strategy will be formally reviewed in 2020, and thereafter every six years (as a minimum).

5 Options Considered

5.1 There are no other options but to publish this strategy following consultation.

6 Impacts and Implications

Financial

6.1 Capital grants agreed have been partly utilised to develop this strategy. Future improvements from these proposals will rely on further Environment Agency (EA) grants and other partnership schemes to be agreed.

6.2 A provisional capital budget of £120,000 has been allocated in 2015/16 although confirmation of this is awaited from the EA.

Legal

6.3 There are no legal implications at this stage.

One Planet Living

6.4 The Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee has agreed to targets proposed by the One Planet Board for the reduction in floodwater risk from 2013/14 onwards. The current target for flood is: SW1.1A: by 2017 identify all areas at risk of local flooding. Begin to implement flood resilience measures, and document number of homes with reduced risk of flooding.

Integrated Impact Assessment

6.5 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed for this reviewing the strategy which shows that we are meeting our duty to manage flood risk to benefit all users.

Risk

6.6 The EA requires risk assessments to be completed for any proposed schemes to assist in assessing the cost benefit analysis of funding applications.

7. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix Letter	Title
A	Flood Risk Maps
B	Action Plan
C	Consultation Analysis
D	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Background Documents		
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Final) - held by Interim Head of Highways and Transport		

Audit Trail		
Version:	Final	Date: 22 May 15
Consultation with other officers		
Officer	Comments Sought	Comments checked by
Finance	Yes	Tony Cooke
Legal	Yes	David Fellowes/ John Qualtrough