



**Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board**  
19 October 2016

**Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

**Purpose of the report:** Policy Development and Review

As flooding falls within the remit of the Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board, Members are asked to comment on the refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Surrey prior to its approval by Cabinet.

**Introduction:**

1. Surrey County Council (SCC) is designated as 'Lead Local Flood Authority' under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). This brings with it a number of responsibilities, including the duty for SCC to "develop maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area".
2. Surrey's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) was first published in December 2014. However, much has changed since then and it is important for the Strategy to take these changes into account and remain up to date.
3. Key factors driving the need for the Strategy to be updated include:
  - Amendments to legislation that have placed more responsibilities on Risk Management Authorities (RMAs)
  - Significant national and local flood events that have required Local Authorities to learn lessons and adapt their approach to managing flood risk
  - Increasing demand for new development that has heightened the need for SCC to ensure that local drainage solutions are sustainable and do not increase the risk of flooding
4. There is also a need to make the Strategy more public facing. The previous document was very technical, overly detailed and did not clearly set out the Council's objectives and ambitions for flood risk management. Therefore, a refreshed Strategy (**Annexe A**) has been developed consisting of ten pages, making it much more accessible and

easier to understand for the public. Details such as action plans, flood maps and explanations of associated legislation will be attached to the final version as appendices.

### **Development of the refreshed Strategy**

5. The Strategy has been updated in consultation with a number of partners, including the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board (a partnership of RMAs in Surrey that take strategic decisions on flood risk management across the County). The views of these partners have been captured through a variety of activities including workshops, face to face meetings and written submissions. People approached to contribute to the refreshed Strategy include:
  - Districts and Boroughs
  - Thames Water
  - Environment Agency
  - Natural England
  - Network Rail
  - Historic England
6. The views of these partners have been incorporated into the document wherever possible and as a result, the Strategy has the support of a variety of RMAs at the officer level.

### **Member and Public consultation**

7. Following scrutiny of the document by the EPEH Board, County Councillors will very shortly be invited to comment on the Strategy by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Environment and Flooding. The Local Committee Chairmen's Group and Local Committees with an interest in flood risk management have also been kept updated as to progress regarding the updating of the Strategy.
8. As the Strategy is a multi-agency document (i.e. its objectives apply to all RMAs in the County) it is important for Borough and District Members to comment on and approve it. Therefore following the sharing of the Strategy with County Members, Districts and Boroughs will be given the opportunity to provide their input.
9. A public consultation will then be conducted in the early 2017 once Boroughs and Districts have approved the Strategy. This will seek to capture the views of residents and anyone else who has not yet had the opportunity to submit their feedback.
10. As has been the case with consultation with partners to date, all views submitted will be considered and incorporated into the Strategy where appropriate.

## Objectives of the refreshed Strategy

11. Using the feedback already obtained from partners, eight core objectives have been developed for the Strategy:
  - Improving information sharing between authorities
  - Establishing robust maintenance processes for flood risk assets
  - Clearly defining RMA responsibilities
  - Increasing riparian awareness
  - Supporting communities to be more resilient
  - Using planning policy to reduce flood risk
  - Investing in flood alleviation schemes
  - Investigating and learning from flood events
12. Further details regarding these objectives can be found in the attached draft strategy. Action plans setting out how these objectives will be achieved and measured are being developed and will be included as appendices to the final Strategy.
13. The Board is asked to review the attached Strategy document and comment on the proposed objectives.

## Conclusions:

14. There is a need to refresh and update Surrey's LFRMS in order for it to take account of amendments to Central Government legislation and to reflect changing Council priorities.
15. The refreshed Strategy has been developed and updated in partnership with other RMAs and stakeholders with an interest in flooding. It therefore closely represents the priorities of a wide range of organisations and bodies.

## Recommendations:

- a. That the EPEH Board notes and comments on the refreshed LFRMS for Surrey.

## Next steps:

Comments from the Board will be incorporated into the Strategy where appropriate. A final version of the document will be submitted to Cabinet for approval in early 2017.

---

## Report contact:

Thomas Pooley, Flood Risk and Network Resilience Specialist, Highways.

**Contact details:**

Email: [thomas.pooley@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:thomas.pooley@surreycc.gov.uk)  
Phone: 020 8541 9902

**Sources/background papers:**

None.