

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

LOCAL COMMITTEE (TANDRIDGE)

DATE: 3 MARCH 2017



SURREY

LEAD OFFICER: TOR PEEBLES, FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND PARTNERSHIPS TEAM LEADER

SUBJECT: SURREY'S LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DIVISION: ALL TANDRIDGE

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Surrey County Council (SCC) has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for its area. This Strategy was first published in 2014 however much has changed since then. SCC has therefore refreshed its LFRMS in order to bring it up to date with these changes.

This report provides the Local Committee with a draft version of the refreshed strategy and the rationale behind it.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Tandridge) is asked to:

- (i) Note and comment on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's approach which sets out a more holistic set of objectives to flood risk across the County
- (ii) Support the Strategy as it goes to the Surrey County Council's Cabinet on the 28 March 2017.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The refreshed Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out a series of updates and changes to the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) business as usual activities to reduce the impact of flooding in the County. The long term benefits will include improved maintenance of watercourses and drains, clearer targeting of high risk areas for investment and effective flood risk management through the planning process. The broad understanding of delivering these outputs and support for the strategy will ensure its successful delivery.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

1. 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 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 RMA's objectives and ambitions for flood risk management. Therefore, a refreshed version of the document (**Annex A**) summarises the goals of the Strategy in 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.

ANALYSIS:

5. 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
6. 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 have been developed and will be included as appendices to the Strategy.

CONSULTATIONS:

7. 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
8. 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.

Member and Public consultation

9. The Economic Prosperity, Environment and Highways Board, Local Committee Chairmen's Group and Local Committees have all been invited to comment on the Strategy. SCC's Resident Experience Board will also shortly comment on the proposals.
10. The Strategy has been approved by the Surrey Chief Executive's Group. All Chief Executives have been given the opportunity to seek approval of the Strategy from their District/Borough's relevant scrutiny committee.
11. A public consultation is currently underway that seeks to capture the views of residents and anyone else who has not yet had the opportunity to submit their feedback. This is available to view online via the following link <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/flooding-advice/more-about-flooding/surrey-local-flood-risk-management-strategy> .
12. As has been the case with consultation with partners to date, all views submitted will be considered and incorporated into the Strategy where appropriate.
13. The LFRMS has been developed in partnership through the Flood Risk Partnership Board and consultations with the public on the strategy ran from 6 January 2017 until 24 February 2017. The results of this consultation are being implemented at the time of this committee.

FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

14. The overall financial and value for money implications of the Strategy will be positive, as its objectives and proposed ways of working will allow for the provision of a more efficient approach to flood risk management.
15. The LFRMS seeks to use existing officer resource to implement the changes the strategy sets out. This will rely heavily on partnership working. Short term implementation should be delivered with in current budgets and staffing plots.
16. A detailed financial commentary will be provided in the Strategy's final report to SCC's Cabinet.

EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

17. This report does not require an equalities impact assessment. The final version of the LFRMS will include an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment.

LOCALISM:

18. Objective 5 of the LFRMS sets out the RMA's localism aspirations. This objective details the plan to support communities, set out methods of engagement and development of a network of self-supporting groups who are partners on the Flood Risk Partnership Board as well as implementing resilience measures at the individual and community level.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

19. There is a need to refresh and update Surrey's LFRMS in order for it to take account of amendments to UK legislation and to reflect changing Council priorities.
20. The refreshed LFRMS 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 RMAs and other organisations.
21. The Committee are asked to comment on and note the vision and objectives of the LFRMS support submission of the strategy to the Surrey County Council Cabinet.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

22. The LFRMS will be presented at the next Surrey County Council Cabinet on the 28 March 2017 for approval. Assuming approval is granted, implementation of the action plans will then take place starting from 1 April 2017.

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

N/A

Annexes:

Annex A: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy