

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 02/18

Date: 6 February 2018

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Purpose:

To brief Members on the Annual Action Plan 2018/19 relating to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

1. Background

- 1.1 As a Lead Local Flood Authority, Medway Council is responsible for local flood risk management (defined as flood risk associated with surface water, ground water and ditches/streams).
- 1.2 Part 1, Article 2, Section 9 of the FWMA 2010 states that a Lead Local Flood Authority must develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area (a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy).
- 1.3 The current Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted by Cabinet on 5 August 2014. The strategy complements and supports the National Strategy published by the Environment Agency, which outlines a national framework for flood and coastal risk management and aims to balance the needs for communities, the economy and the environment. The strategy is due to be reviewed in 2019, but this may be reviewed if there any significant changes to legislation.

2 Annual Action Plan 2018/19.

- 2.1 Measures included for the Annual Action Plan 2018/19 reflect a continuation of those integral to the delivery of the Lead Local Flood Authority Role.

- 2.2 In that context, many of the ongoing actions included within Annual Action Plan 2017/18 have been carried forward as a rolling programme for continuation. These are reflected within Appendix 1.
- 2.3 Funding to carry out the day-to-day flood risk management functions and delivery of identified projects is included in existing revenue budgets.

Summary of key planned actions 2018/19

- Surface Water Management Plan for Hoo to account for proposed development options in order to understand the flood risk issues under those scenarios. The outputs of this work will inform the planning system with regards to management of surface water via sustainable options and appraise strategic options to reduce flood risk.
- Surface Water Management Plan for Rainham as having been identified as one of a number of national Flood Risk Areas under the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment process. Therefore an assessment is required in order to inform planning decisions for proposed developments.

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Appendix 1			
LFRMS Annual Action Plan 2016-17			
Theme	Objective	Action 2016-17	Action 2018 -19
Understand the risks	Work with stakeholders to develop a collective understanding of local flood risk	Maintain partnership with established external stakeholder group via quarterly meetings.	Ongoing. A Surface Water Management Plan for Hoo is to be proposed to account for development options in and around Hoo to understand the local flood risk issues under those scenarios. The outputs of this work will inform the planning system regards management of surface water via sustainable options and appraise strategic options to reduce flood risk. Similar is proposed for Rainham which has been identified nationally as a potential national Flood Risk Area under the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment process.
	Monitor flood risk	Complete and maintain an Asset Record & Register of structures and features.	Maintenance of system is ongoing.
		Undertake a condition survey of Council owned structures and features.	Annual inspections continuing.
		Use the results of the condition survey to identify assets that require maintenance/capital works.	Annual maintenance works ongoing.

Prevent inappropriate development	Ensure local planning policy is consistent with wider flood risk management policies and legislation and provide clear advice on how to achieve those policies within Medway.	Input into Local Plan policy process during 2017 to ensure consistency with local strategy.	Continuation into 2018 Local Plan policy setting.
	Promote the use of SuDs	Investigate feasibility of retrofitting Sustainable Drainage (SuDs) to reduce areas at significant risk identified within the Surface Water Management Plan before end 2016.	No retrofitting opportunities identified, however we continue to work with Highways and Southern Water to identify mutually beneficial projects to partnership fund. One such location is Commercial Road, Strood. We are awaiting outputs of Southern Water flow studies in order to investigate the potential for partnership projects to reduce flood risk in urban areas throughout Medway. This includes sites in Strood, Rochester, and Gillingham.
		Develop guidance and standards for developers to assist with the design of drainage schemes.	A Technical Guidance document is currently being produced alongside an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment due for completion in March 2018.
		Provide annual training to the Planning Service on Sustainable Drainage.	Ongoing – ‘Espresso’ style training to be delivered in 2018.
	Take account of the cumulative effects of developments and climate change on the risk of flooding throughout Medway.	Deliver the Statutory Consultee role in accordance with the 21 statutory consultee period.	Ongoing.

Manage the likelihood of flooding	Ensure development has a positive or nil effect on risk of local flooding to and arising from new development.	As above.	Input via statutory consultee role.
	Consider how future infrastructure improvements (e.g. highways, rail, public realm) could be used to deliver local flood risk reduction/benefits.	Ongoing as required via planning process.	Ongoing as consulted by Project Board and Regeneration Team.
	Use flood risk information to implement a risk - based approach to capital investment decisions and maintenance programmes	Use the Asset Register Management Database as a tool for informing a risk based approach to capital investment decisions and maintenance programmes.	Ongoing as consulted by Project Board and Regeneration Team.
		Identify council owned flood risk/drainage assets included on the Asset Register that require operational procedures.	One asset identified; the Whitewall Creek Penstock. No operational procedures in place currently. One of the culverts is currently broken and currently the tide ingresses into the fresh water habitat. This is a project which could potentially attract Local Levy or improvements via S106 for any nearby developments. This will be looked at in 2018.
Help people to manage their own risk	Share flood risk information with Risk Management Authorities and the public.	Maintain website improve accessibility to flood risk information.	Ongoing.

	Increase public awareness with respect to flood risk and responsibility for flood risk management.	Engage with Hoo Parish Council and community regarding responsibilities for flood risk management under the Land Drainage Act 1991. Annual action.	Annual action. Annual letters sent to riparian owners to advise of responsibilities. Annual and ad hoc inspections of the Hoo Stream undertaken.
		Appoint flood wardens in Hoo to clear structures and respond to flood warnings by December 2016.	This has been investigated but was not possible due to insurance/liability issues and therefore is not a continuing action.
	Use information on local flood risk as a tool for flood prediction and warning.	Maintain / improve local flood risk mapping using outputs from Surface Water Management Plan.	Ongoing – maintenance of data on Geographical Information Systems (GIS).
		Maintain telemetry system to the Hoo Stream at Vicarage Lane, to assist Highways with asset management of the trash screen and to provide a means of flood warning to nearby residents.	Ongoing maintenance. Partnership working with Highways Service to ensure contractor call out on receipt of an alarm.