

	Environment Committee 28 November 2018
Title	Approval of the Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Report of	Chairman of the Environment Committee
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix - 1 Stakeholder Consultation Summary
Officer Contact Details	Jamie Blake, Strategic Director Environment Jamie.Blake@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

This report seeks Members approval to adopt the Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). Along with other Lead Local Flood Authorities, Barnet Council is required under section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce a LFRMS and publish it on its web page. The LFRMS is consistent with the regulations set out in the Flood Water Management Act and provides a clear strategic approach to managing flood risk within the borough.

Recommendations

1. **That the Environment Committee agrees to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The London Borough of Barnet has been designated a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as such has a statutory responsibility for leading the coordination of local flood risk management within the borough. This includes ensuring that flood risks from local sources, including surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and their interactions, are identified and managed.
- 1.2 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (section 9) places a duty for all Lead Local Flood Authorities to produce and publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) to manage all sources of local flood risks consistent with EU and national risk management approaches.
- 1.3 The draft LFRMS was consulted on between May and June 2017. To adhere with the Council's governance, it is necessary for the Environment Committee to approve adoption of the LFRMS.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 Following the severe flooding in the north of England in 2007, in July 2010, the Flood and Water Management Act set out the new governance for dealing with flooding. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 have placed new duties on local authorities. These new duties mean there is now greater clarity regarding the lead for management of flooding such as surface water, groundwater and flooding from ordinary watercourses. The lead for managing these local types of flooding now falls to Lead Local Flood Authorities, namely Local Authorities.
- 2.1.2 Across the borough we have experienced flooding incidents every year since 2010. This flooding is often localised, but these events highlight that flooding can occur at any time with potentially devastating consequences. The surface water flooding experienced in 2012 further reinforces the risk faced by the borough from local sources. Climate change is predicted to result in more storm events and even greater levels of rainfall, and consequently the probability of flooding is increasing.

2.2 Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for Barnet

- 2.2.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out to achieve the following:
 - Produce a summary of local flood risk within the London Borough of Barnet;
 - Identify the roles and responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities;
 - Demonstrate the Council's position as a Lead Local Flood Authority;
 - Outline the national and local objectives and measures for managing flood risk within Barnet; and
 - Identify the possible funding sources and the feasible implementation

approaches.

2.2.2 The strategy has ten local objectives. These local objectives have been developed to be consistent in line with the national objectives, which have been previously outlined in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy (2011) and have been developed in collaboration with the relevant Risk Management Authorities. These objectives are outlined below:

- Prevent risks of flooding in new developments;
- Promote flood resistance and resilience;
- Evaluate maintenance and update the flood risk asset register;
- Prepare emergency plans for flood warnings and alerts, efficient response to flood incidents and emergency recovery following a flood incident;
- Establish and maintain long term partnership working, both internally within Barnet Council departments and externally with other Risk Management Authorities;
- Update and review hydraulic modelling of Critical Drainage Areas Modelling of Barnet catchment sewerage network;
- Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management of the area;
- Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps; and
- Prepare flood risk management plans.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 No alternative options were considered, as the Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, has a statutory requirement to produce and publish the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Upon Committee approval of the recommendation to adopt the LRFMS, officers will publish the LFRMS on the Council's website. This will then be a live strategy, with a statutory requirement under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 that it be updated every six years as a minimum.

4.2 The LFRMS identifies areas within the borough that are predicted to be at the greatest risk from local sources of flooding, and subject to funding, officers will develop flood risk management schemes in consultation with other Risk Management Authorities. The LFRMS will be a live document with ongoing updates, and it is proposed that future iterations may include proposed measures to reduce the consequences of flooding.

4.3 Currently the Council is developing hydraulic modelling and flood risk management proposals for the following five Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs)

within the borough. These CDA areas are at greatest risk from local sources of flooding:

- Hadley and Longmore Avenue
- Underhill
- Folly Brook and Bittacy Park
- Oak Hill Park and Friern Barnet
- Muswell Hill

- 4.4 Should the hydraulic modelling quantify flood risk and viable flood risk management proposals can be developed, the Council will seek funding to take proposals forward.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2015 – 2020 states in its strategic objectives that it will work with partners to create the right environment to promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough. We want to ensure that the borough continues to be a place where people aspire to live.

- 5.1.2 In particular, the LFRMS aims to put in place measures to reduce the risk of flooding, which will help to improve the local environment and the quality of life for the residents and help create conditions for a vibrant economy.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 There is a risk to the Council if it were not to agree the LFRMS, that the Department of Environment Food Fisheries Rural Affairs (DEFRA) could instruct this statutory function to be undertaken by parties outside of the Council and the associated costs levied against the Council.

- 5.2.2 As a Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council has received external funding since 2011/12 to carry out duties as set out in the Water Management Act 2010. Further funding may be at risk if the LFRMS is not adopted.

- 5.2.3 To date this external funding has come from The Environment Agency. The current 2018/19 financial forecast position for Environment Agency funding, allocated by the Thames Regional Flood and Costal Committee is £150,000. This budget allocation is subject to the submission of a bid and has been identified for the development of a flood alleviation scheme for the Decoy Brook catchment. However, the funding required to progress the scheme is £600,000 and at this cost, the Benefit Cost Ratio means the scheme may not be viable as the proposals do not safeguard enough residential properties or critical infrastructure. As such the Council will need to seek approval to carry forward this budget allocation to future years to fund other CDA flood mitigation proposals that may be developed.

- 5.2.4 There are no financial implication in adopting the Local Flood Risk Management

Strategy.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. This report does not relate to the procurement of service contracts.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (section 9) places a duty for all Lead Local Flood Authorities to produce and publish a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 The Council has an established approach to risk management, which is set out in the Risk Management Framework.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 The Equality Act 2010 outlines the provisions of the Public Sector Equalities Duty which requires Public Bodies to have due regard to the need to:
 - a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other contact prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
 - b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day to day business and keep them under review in decision making, the design policies and the delivery of services. There is an on-going process of regularisation and de-clutter of street furniture and an updating of highway features to meet the latest statutory or technical expectations.
- 5.6.2 Any flooding event tends to disadvantage people with mobility problems and places more strain on the emergency services in the case of an evacuation. The LFRMS identifies objectives to reduce the risk of flooding and this will, therefore, reduce the impact on the community.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 In January 2017, prior to undertaking public consultation on the draft LFRMS, officers consulted elected Members, other Council departments and other Risk Management Authorities. The results of this consultation are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 5.7.2 Between May and June 2017, officers undertook a public consultation on the

draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. No responses were received to the public consultation.

- 5.7.3 As the LFRMS will be a live strategy, ongoing engagement will be necessary with DEFRA, the Environment Agency and other Risk Management Authorities.
- 5.7.4 The Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), in order to fulfil its duties, needs to coordinate with all stakeholders and partner organisations. It is recognised that much of the local knowledge and technical expertise necessary for the Council to fulfil their duties as LLFA lies with partner organisations. It is therefore, crucial that the Council works alongside these partner organisations to ensure the effective and consistent management of local flood risk and the provision of a coordinated and holistic approach to flood risk management.

5.8 **Insight**

- 5.8.1 Not applicable.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Draft Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy available on the Council's website <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/planning-conservation-and-building-control/flood-risk-strategy.html>

Appendix 1 Stakeholder Consultation Summary

Organisation	Response
LBB Councillors	
LBB Environment Committee Chair	
LBB Interim Strategic Lead Commissioner – Highways	
LBB Strategic Director Environment	
LBB Emergency Planning	
LBB GIS	
LBB Development Control	
LBB Oakleigh Ward Councillor	Councillor requested a hard copy of the draft strategy
LBB Woodhouse Ward Councillor	I notice there are 17 incidents recorded for N12 8 which is in Woodhouse. Several of these probably relate to one property, No. xx Lodge Lane where the resident has been flooded several times, the drain in the front garden has only just been rectified which should solve the problem but the resident has lived there for many years without problem - the flooding is relatively recent, over the past 3 or 4 years and happened after a new building was constructed at the High Road end of Lodge Lane – I suspect but don't know that the drainage may have been incorrectly linked up causing blockage further down the road – my point being to ensure effective monitoring of building control to mitigate possible flooding.
Environment Agency	Generally the Environment Agency feels that the strategy meets the Flood and Water Management Act statutory requirements. The only area where it needs some work is the identification of measures to achieve the objectives. Whilst the EA accepts the justification on page 42 that these will be identified over time, there are areas where Barnet are implementing schemes (Decoy Brook, Mill Hill) so these could at least be identified as examples of where things are being done to address flood risk.
Thames Water	
TfL	
TfL Asset Operations	
GLA	
LB Enfield	
LB Harrow	
LB Camden	
LB Haringey	
LB Brent	