



Environment Committee

30 June 2020

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Title | Objective Setting-Flood Risk Management Plans, 2021 |
| Report of | Chairman of the Environment Committee |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Urgent | No |
| Key | No |
| Enclosures | Appendix A |
| Officer Contact Details | Jamie Cooke, Assistant Director Transportation and Highways Jamie.Cooke@Barnet.gov.uk 0208 359 2275 |

Summary

This report seeks the Committee's approval for the draft Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) objectives that have been put forward to the Environment Agency as part of Flood Risk Management Plans Cycle Two, 2021. Due to the strict deadlines involved with this process, and in light of the current situation with the Covid-19 pandemic, these objectives have been submitted as draft, subject to the Committee approval.

In November 2018 the Environment Committee approved the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). This strategy outlines the national and local objectives and measures for managing flood risk within Barnet, and includes a number of objectives that as part of this current process will be reviewed. The proposed new objectives have been selected from the Environment Agency's set of objectives and are based on a review of the existing objectives of the London Borough of Barnet's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and the local understanding of existing flood risk in Barnet. The objectives have also been chosen based on the anticipated value they will add to the future of flood risk management in Barnet, this builds our resilience to the increased impacts of climate change.

Officer's Recommendations

1. That the Environment Committee approves the selected objectives for the Flood Risk Management Plans Cycle Two, 2021 enabling the Interim Executive Director for Environment to proceed with the drafting of measures corresponding to each of the chosen objectives.
2. That the Environment Committee delegates authority to the Interim Executive Director for Environment to approve the measures corresponding to the objectives defined in this report in consultation with the Environment Committee Chairman.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 place duties on local authorities. This legislation designates the London Borough of Barnet as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as such the authority has a statutory responsibility for leading the co-ordination of local flood risk management within the borough.
- 1.2 The legislation sets out a statutory process for flood risk planning. It requires the Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authorities to:
 - Assess risk from flooding for human health, the economy, and environment.
 - Predict where risk is significant, and identify these areas as Flood Risk Areas (FRAs)
 - Prepare maps that show the flood hazard and flood risk in the FRAs.
 - Prepare **Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs)** that set **Objectives** and **Measures** to mitigate the risk in FRAs.
- 1.3 As a Lead Local Flood Authority and being identified as a surface water FRA, FRMP is a statutory requirement for London Borough of Barnet.
- 1.4 In November 2018 the Environment Committee approved the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). This strategy outlines the national and local objectives and measures for managing flood risk within Barnet. These objectives need to be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate to mitigate the risk in FRAs.
- 1.5 This report seeks approval for the recommended Flood Risk Management Plan Objectives that have been put forward to the Environment Agency as part of Flood Risk Management Plans Cycle Two, 2021. These objectives have been selected from the list of objectives provided by the Environment Agency; and are locally relevant and envisaged to be achievable in the Borough.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 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. The impacts of climate change were evident in the record-breaking rainfall events during winter 2019-2020. Hence, there is a need to strengthen our resistance and resilience to these increased climate change impacts.

- 2.2 FRMPs are produced on a six-year cycle. We are approaching Cycle 2 of the FRMP, 2021. The FRMPs are structured as a set of objectives and SMART measures, which will be available on Flood Plan Explorer – a new live GIS platform; making measures more visible and accessible to interested parties.
- 2.3 The objectives of the FRMP Cycle Two, 2021 have been developed by the Environment Agency's national team to ensure consistency and assist in delivering the goals of the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and the 25 Year Environment Plan.
- 2.4 As a Lead Local Flood Authority and being identified as a surface water FRA of the Thames River Basin District in the FRMP Cycle Two, 2021, it is a statutory requirement on LBB to select set of objectives from the list of objectives provided by the Environment Agency.
- 2.5 Selection of the objectives is considered step one of the process and drafting measures corresponding to each chosen objective is step two. This paper is seeking approval for selected objectives as part of step one.
- 2.6 The objectives were selected taking into consideration the following:
 - Review of the objectives in the existing strategy.
 - Their relationship to the understanding of existing flood risk in Barnet.
 - Their relationship to the current ongoing works and proposed flood risk management works for the year 2020-21 and beyond.
 - Increased noted impacts of climate change with record breaking extreme rainfall events in 2019-20.
 - The authority's confidence in being able to achieve them within the required timeframe and the value they will add once achieved.

PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

- 2.7 This section lists the set of objectives that have been selected for approval on behalf of the Council. The whole set of objectives provided by the Environment Agency, from which the chosen objectives were selected is included in Appendix A.
- 2.8 The national objectives are grouped in three main policy areas:

- I. Climate resilient places;
- II. Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate;
- III. A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation.

- 2.9 These three policy areas further have five categories (a-e). Each category has a list of objectives. There is a requirement on the Council to select a minimum of one objective for each category, hence a minimum of five objectives out of a total of sixteen. This is illustrated in Figure 1 below at the end of this section.
- 2.10 Please note that these objectives require LBB to record a date in the beginning of each objective in order to make them measurable by when they are envisaged to be achieved. These dates will be set in the step two of the process when the measures are being drafted.
- 2.11 The selected six objectives for LBB are listed below. LBB has selected one objective each for categories a, b, c and e except category d for which two objectives have been selected.
- 2.12 Please refer to **Appendix A** which details the full set of objectives provided by the Environment Agency. Due to the strict deadline involved with this process, the selected objectives have been submitted to the Environment Agency as draft, subject to the Committee's approval.

I. Climate resilient places:

a. Flood risk regulations - reducing the likelihood of flooding

By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with those communities that may be significantly affected by flooding and / or coastal change in the future and will have [identified and / or be progressing] the most appropriate flood risk management options.

b. Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for human health

By [date], risk management authorities will have developed [and/or] delivered a programme of flood risk management capital schemes [and/or] maintenance to reduce risk of flooding and coastal change and its adverse consequences for human health and wellbeing.

c. Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for the environment including cultural heritage

By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with Catchment and Coastal Partnerships, landowners and managers and communities to make use of natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal change and contributed to achieving wider environmental benefits.

II. Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate

d. Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for economic activity

- By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with infrastructure owners, businesses and the community to identify priority infrastructure that needs to be made resilient to current and future risk of flooding and coastal change and will have [discussed in partnership how this will be achieved and / or worked together to increase resilience].
- By [date], and in line with national planning policy, new development in areas at risk will take into account the risk of flooding and coastal change now and in the future.

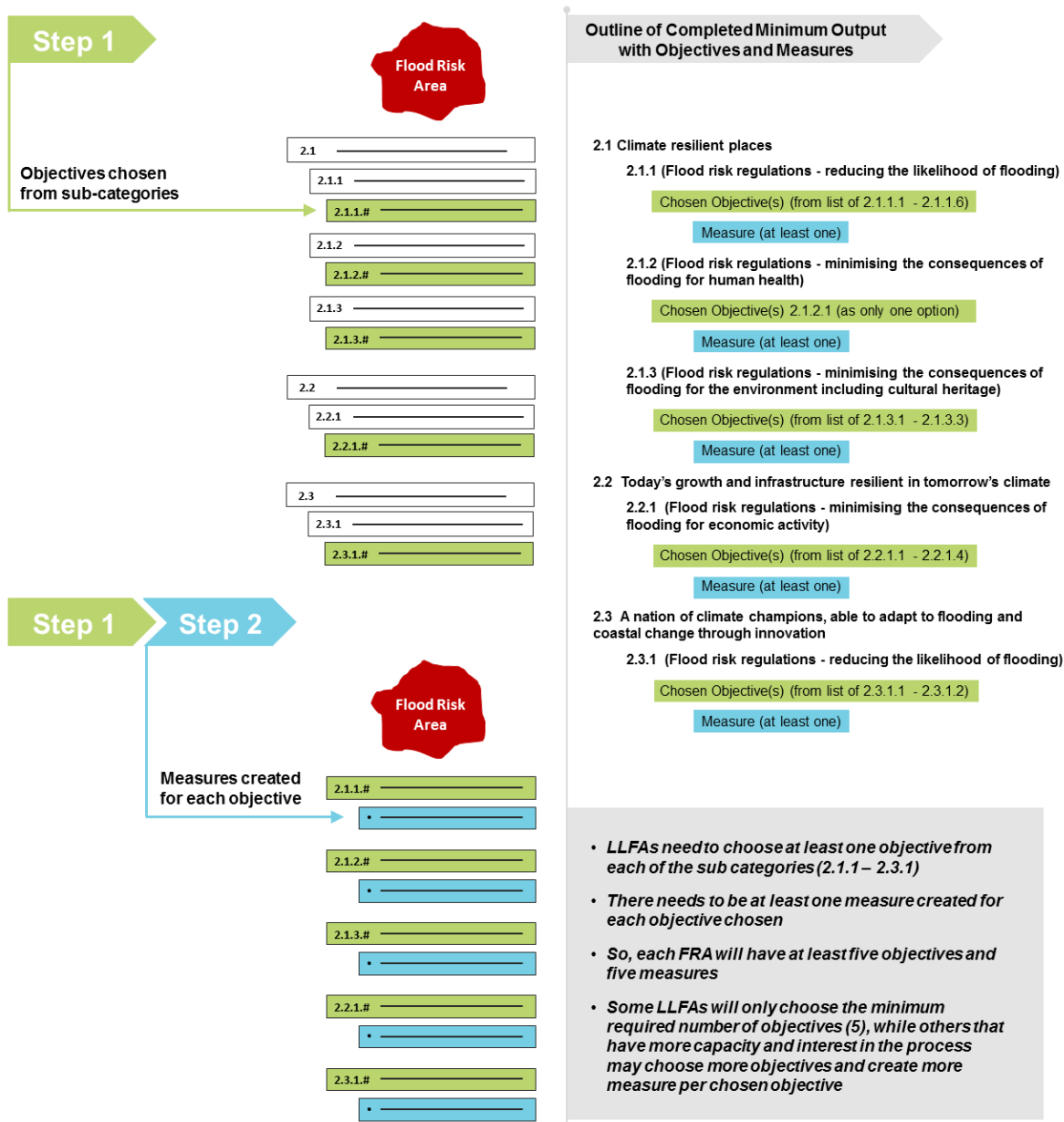
III. A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation

e. Flood risk regulations - reducing the likelihood of flooding

By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities across the [river basin district/flood risk area] to: raise awareness of the level of flood risk that they face; help them understand the role of emergency responders and ensure they know what to do in an emergency to help themselves.

Figure 1: Representation of Minimum required output by LLFAs as part of FRMP Cycle Two, 2021:

Simplified Conceptual Representation of Minimum Required Output (Objectives and Measures)



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 update the objectives and the measures of the Flood Risk Management Plan (on a six-year cycle).

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Once the Committee approves the recommended objectives, officers will draft the measures corresponding to each chosen objective as part of the step two for the FRMP Cycle Two, 2021. These will be finalised and submitted for approval to the Interim Executive Director, Environment, who will approve them

under delegated powers in consultation with the Chairman of the Environment Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan –Barnet 2024, states in its strategic objectives that it will work with partners to achieve a pleasant, well maintained borough that we protect and invest in.

5.1.2 In particular, the Barnet Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the associated flood risk management projects aim 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 No impact on resources is anticipated at this stage, as a result of implication of this decision.

5.2.2 Officers need the Committee to note that there could be potential budget implications of the chosen objectives and measures. Once the measures corresponding to each of the chosen objective have been drafted, these implications can be quantified and submitted for approval to the Interim Executive Director, Environment, who can approve them under delegated powers in consultation with the Chair of the Committee.

5.2.3 There are no staffing ICT or property implications.

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 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 place duties on local authorities. This legislation designates the London Borough of Barnet as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as such the authority has a statutory responsibility for leading the co-ordination 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.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution Article 7 –Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships (Responsibility for Functions, 7.5) gives the Environment

Committee responsibility for all borough-wide or cross-constituency matters related to the street scene.

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:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010.
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 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 chosen FRMP objectives will drive the LBB Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which aims to reduce the risk of flooding to the community and infrastructure. These chosen objectives will further strengthen LBB's strategy to build resistance and resilience to future flood risks and its impact on the community.

5.7 Corporate Parenting

5.7.1 This section of the report does not apply to this report.

5.8 Consultation and Engagement

5.8.1 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.

5.8.2 For an agreement of the objectives and measures, officers will consult with internal and external stakeholders and partner organisations as part of FRMP delivery.

5.9 Insight

5.9.1 This section of the report does not apply to this report.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Environment Committee paper 15 November 2018 approving the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b31356/Local%20Flood%20Management%20Strategy%2028th-Nov-2018%2018.30%20Environment%20Committee.pdf?T=9>
- 6.2 London Borough of Barnet's 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>
- 6.3 London Borough of Barnet's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)
<http://admin.barnet.gov.uk/planning-conservation-and-building-control-old/planning-policies/local-plan-old/ldf-evidence-and-2>
- 6.4 Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public/>)

APPENDIX A

The whole set of objectives provided by the Environment Agency are listed below, with the recommended objectives for the Council highlighted within the rectangles.

2.1 Climate resilient places

2.1.1 (Flood risk regulations - reducing the likelihood of flooding)

2.1.1.1 By [date], risk management authorities will have developed a long-term strategic vision and delivery plan for managing future flood risk from all sources in the [river basin district/flood risk area].

2.1.1.2 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked together to [develop and / or implement] adaptive approaches to future flooding to enhance the resilience of the [river basin district/flood risk area].

2.1.1.3 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with those communities that may be significantly affected by flooding and / or coastal change in the future and will have [identified and / or be progressing] the most appropriate flood risk management options.

2.1.1.4 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities, landowners and businesses to determine the level of maintenance of flood risk assets needed to manage flood risk, and they will have taken a risk based approach to decide how or if they will be maintained in the future.

2.1.1.5 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities, landowners and businesses to understand wider maintenance activities needed to manage the risk of flooding and coastal change and who will contribute to make that happen.

2.1.1.6 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities and landowners to identify and carry out schemes which work with natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal change.

2.1.2 (Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for human health)

2.1.2.1 By [date], risk management authorities will have developed [and/or] delivered a programme of flood risk management capital schemes [and/or] maintenance to reduce risk of flooding and coastal change and its adverse consequences for human health and wellbeing.

2.1.3 (Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for the environment including cultural heritage)

2.1.3.1 By [date], actions by risk management authorities to address current and future risk of flooding and coastal change will have helped achieve the environmental objectives set out in the river basin district's river basin management plan.

2.1.3.2 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with Catchment and Coastal Partnerships, landowners and managers and communities to make use of natural processes to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal change and contributed to achieving wider environmental benefits.

2.1.3.3 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with Natural England and other partners to ensure that the delivery of flooding and coastal

change risk management programmes have contributed to the local nature recovery plans so that new and restored habitats contribute to reducing flood and coastal risk.

2.2 Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate

2.2.1 (Flood risk regulations - minimising the consequences of flooding for economic activity)

2.2.1.1 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with infrastructure owners, businesses and the community to identify priority infrastructure that needs to be made resilient to current and future risk of flooding and coastal change and will have [discussed in partnership how this will be achieved and / or worked together to increase resilience].

2.2.1.2 By [date], risk management authorities will have provided evidence and advice to infrastructure providers and supported them to take account of future flooding and coastal change in their infrastructure investment.

2.2.1.3 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities and businesses to understand and implement a plan for how flood and coastal erosion risk management activities can contribute towards sustainable growth and prosperity in a climate resilient way (and vice versa).

2.2.1.4 By [date], and in line with national planning policy, new development in areas at risk will take into account the risk of flooding and coastal change now and in the future.

2.3 A nation of climate champions, able to adapt to flooding and coastal change through innovation

2.3.1 (Flood risk regulations - reducing the likelihood of flooding)

2.3.1.1 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities across the [river basin district/flood risk area] to: raise awareness of the level of flood risk that they face; help them understand the role of emergency responders and ensure they know what to do in an emergency to help themselves.

2.3.1.2 By [date], risk management authorities will have worked with communities across the [river basin district/flood risk area] to encourage them to take action to enhance their own resilience to current and future long-term risk.