

Prosperous Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Thursday 27 April 2023

Flood Risk Management Update

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. Considers and makes any further recommended changes to the Strategy based on the consultation to date
- b. Supports the publication of live flood schemes on the County Councils' Flood Risk Management website subject to appropriate environmental reports to be undertaken

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of Cabinet Member/Director/Partner/Other

Report

Background

The Committee were previously consulted on the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in 2022. This was revised to take on board committee member comments and was submitted to Cabinet for approval in March 2023. Cabinet have moved to approve that:

- a. the Local draft Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- b. the accompanying documents: Habitats Regulations Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- c. the Director for Economy, Infrastructure and Skills [and Cabinet Member for environment, infrastructure and climate change] will sign-off any necessary changes and publish final versions of a) and b) assuming no significant changes necessary.
- d. the strategy is revised again when implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 makes Staffordshire County Council a SuDS Approval Body

At the time of consulting Cabinet several consultations were also underway on the revised Strategy. A presentation is appended to this document which includes the results of the public consultation. In addition to this, risk management authorities and wider organisations having an interest in flood risk management were consulted with minor recommendations suggested. Also, the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England were consulted on the accompanying environmental Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessments. The Environment Agency have raised concerns over compliance of the Strategic Environment Assessment and officers will be discussing this report with them in May.

It is therefore recommended that the Committee:

1. Considers and makes any further recommended changes to the Strategy based on the consultation to date

Particularly, that the Strategy is updated to take better account of:

- understanding priorities for duties and powers
- better dissemination of information and engagement with professional partners & communities
- takes account of the risks pollution has on flood risk to the extent that a Lead Local Flood Authority can
- considers talking to Planners/EA about impermeable areas & floodplain
- reemphasises the coordination between flood risk management and highways functions within the County Council
- sufficient reference to the Historic Environment
- any recommendations the Environment Agency have concerning the Strategic Environmental Assessment
- any further recommendations the Committee suggests

This shall be undertaken prior to any decision to publish by the Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change. It was further recommended in the detail submitted to Cabinet for Approval that a list of live schemes should be published on the flood risk management website of the County Council and updated regularly. Further environmental assessments will be required to be able to do this. It is therefore recommended that the Committee:

2. Supports the publication of live flood schemes on the County Councils' Flood Risk Management website subject to appropriate environmental reports to be undertaken

In particular, that the general form of the proposed layout as appended is acceptable and/or that the Committee suggests any changes that may be

necessary. It is recommended that this be updated three times a year once published on the website.

Link to Strategic Plan

The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as submitted to Cabinet for approval is appended to this document and links to the Strategic Plan.

Link to Other Overview and Scrutiny Activity

This is an update to the previous Overview and Scrutiny committee held in July 2022 relating to Flood Risk Management.

Community Impact

A Community Impact Assessment was undertaken on the current Strategy and is linked here.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and accompanying documents as approved by Cabinet in March 2023.

Appendix 2 – Presentation (public consultation summary from slides 9 to 21)

Appendix 3 – Suggested completed and live schemes format for publication on the website

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