

**REPORT TO:** Environment and Urban Renewal Policy  
and Performance Board

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> January 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Policy and Resources

**SUBJECT:** Halton Local Flood Risk Management  
Strategy

**PORTFOLIO:** Transportation

**WARDS:** Boroughwide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** To report progress on the development of Halton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), which is a Statutory Document required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (F&WMA).

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) Members of the Board note and comment upon the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Halton; and**
- (2) the Executive Board be requested to consider, approve and adopt the LFRMS for Halton.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1** Under the Local Flood and Water Management Act, as Lead local Flood Authority (LLFA), Halton must produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The scope and content of the proposed Strategy was first reported to the March 2013 meeting of the Board (minute EUR49 refers) and a progress report was presented in June 2013 (minute EUR13 refers)
- 3.2** The Strategy, included as Appendix 1 to this report, has been prepared in accordance with informal guidance published by the Local Government Association, and using a common template that has been developed and agreed in conjunction with our neighbouring LLFA members of the Cheshire Mid-Mersey Regional Sub Group, to ensure a consistent approach to flood risk management across the sub-regional catchment areas.
- 3.3** The aim of Halton's LFRMS is to provide a coherent plan to demonstrate how Halton will work with partners and others to manage flood risk in a holistic and sustainable way. It brings together information from:
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessments;
  - Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment;

- Surface Water Management Plan; and
- Procedures and policies for managing flood risk in Halton;

set out under five themed objectives, and supported by relevant graphical information, funding and work programmes contained within appendices to the Strategy document.

- 3.4 In accordance with the legislation, a formal consultation on the draft LFRMS was undertaken during November and December 2014. Comments received by the consultation closing date of 22<sup>nd</sup> December have been considered and where appropriate, incorporated into the LFRMS which is now proposed for adoption.
- 3.5 LFRM Strategies have the *potential* to result in significant effects on the environment and, as such, the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the impacts of the strategy must be considered. However, Halton's LFRMS is primarily about ensuring information relating to flood risk is in one place and establishing more general procedures. The LFRMS contains largely established, high level, policy with no specific new commitments. URS Infrastructure and Environment consultants have provided an analysis of the LFRMS and a screening opinion which concludes that "...it is not deemed likely that the Halton LFRMS will lead to significant environmental (or socioeconomic) effects." on the need for a SEA.
- 3.6 The draft LFRMS and screening opinion will be sent to the statutory consultees for SEAs: the Environment Agency, English Heritage and Natural England for their comments. It is not anticipated that any significant changes to the LFRMS should arise from this consultation, however, if textual amendments or additions are deemed to be necessary, it is proposed that the document is amended, subject to the approval of the Operational Director Policy, Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Chair of the E&UR PPB prior to consideration by the Executive Board for approval and adoption.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct policy implications arising from this report, however, once the Local Strategy has been adopted, it can inform specific policies, for example in relation to use of enforcement powers or the provision of flood protection measures etc.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Resource Implications.  
Defra currently provide funding to LLFAs to prepare for their flood risk management duties. For 2015/16 the illustrative settlement funding assessment for Halton is £114,000, of which £13,000 is via direct grant allocation.

- 5.2 Halton has the ability to bid for capital funding from Defra to assist with managing and improving flood risk across the Borough including for schemes and interventions identified within the plan and works programmes appendix. The success of any bid is dependent upon evidence of past flooding, and the potential reduction in risk of flooding. The LFRMS will help to demonstrate Halton's ability to prioritise and manage flood risk and thereby assist in future bids for capital funding.
- 5.3 **Sustainability**  
The sustainability themes of economy, community and the environment are all key factors in developing a successful local strategy for flood risk management and they are considered in the relevant sections of the document which is proposed for approval.
- 5.4 **Legal Implications**  
There are no Legal implications arising from this report. The preparation and adoption of the Local Strategy by LLFAs is a requirement under the F&WMA and its development must take account of a framework of related legislation which is outlined within the LGA Guidance.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

There are no specific implications for children and young people in relation to this report.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

There are no specific implications for employment, learning and skills in relation to this report.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The Local Strategy will help to manage flood risk through the adoption of prevention and protection measures and help mitigate the impacts of flooding when it does occur, which should contribute to the health and well-being of communities that may be affected.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

The Local Strategy will help to manage flood risk through the adoption of prevention and protection measures and help mitigate the impacts of flooding when it does occur, which should contribute to the safety of the community and potential users of affected land areas.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

The Local Strategy will help to manage flood risk through the adoption of prevention and protection measures. The Strategy deals with land use considerations and the environmental aspects of sustainable development contained within the Strategy will help contribute to the creation of attractive, safe places and amenities and enhance Halton's physical and natural environment.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

The Council, as LLFA regularly reports to the Environment Agency on the progress being made to deliver the range of functions and legislative requirements under the F&WMA. Progress on the preparation and adoption of the Local Strategy is one of the areas covered in the report and whilst no date has been set within the legislation for the adoption of a Local Strategy, there is a reputational risk to the Council if this is delayed unduly. Elements of Halton's LFRMS will be referenced in the EA's Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) covering the whole of the North West river basin area and therefore it is essential that the Strategy is approved and adopted in time for the publication of the FRMP.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

There are no equality and diversity issues in relation to this report.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Preliminary framework to assist the development of the Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management. (LGA Feb 2011)	Transportation Municipal Building Widnes	Dave Cunliffe
Draft Halton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.	Transportation Municipal Building Widnes	Dave Cunliffe
SEA screening opinion, Letter and analysis. (URS December 2014)	Transportation Municipal Building Widnes	Dave Cunliffe