

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

St George Neighbourhood Partnership Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Report

25th March 2014

Report of: John Roy, Group Manager, Transport Assets

Title: Consultation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Patrick Goodey

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RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to provide some context behind officer representation at the Neighbourhood Partnership (NP) meeting. We are attending all NP meetings across the city in February and March 2014 to launch the public consultation of our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (The Strategy). We therefore request that the Committee ensures the Strategy consultation is widely advertised within their area as we are keen to ensure as many people engage with the consultation as possible.

Summary

This report provides a brief summary of The Strategy, its purpose and why it is required. The significant issues in this report are:

- The Strategy is a statutory requirement for Bristol City Council (BCC)
- Given the geography and nature of Bristol's land use, all areas of the city are at risk from flooding of some kind
- The Strategy will outline how BCC and our partners will work together to manage these risks now and into the future

Policy

Under the Flood and Water Management Act of 2010, the Strategy is a statutory requirement of BCC as the Lead Local Flood Authority. In addition, it aligns with the aspirations of the Green Capital, Core Strategy and the Bristol 20:20 Plan by promoting sustainable development and flood risk management.

Consultation

1. Internal

The Strategy report has been through a period of stakeholder review, which includes internal BCC teams as well as our partner flood Risk Management Authorities (Wessex Water, Environment Agency and the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board)

2. External

External consultation will be with the public. As agreed with our Assistant Mayor, Cllr Mark Bradshaw, this will be launched via the NPs. We will also consult via the Citizen's Panel and BCC online consultation process.

The Strategy consultation will be launched on the consultation area of the BCC website, as well as hard copies provided in local libraries from March.

Context

1. As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), BCC has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for managing local flood risk in its area. This is a new co-ordination role following the national floods of 2007 and has gained even greater importance following recent events in the city centre as well as events at Crew's Hole Road, Conham Vale, amongst others. In addition, we have identified an area of potentially high risk of flooding from surface water in the St George area.
2. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the Strategy to specify:
 - The authorities involved in flood risk management
 - An assessment of local flood risk
 - Our objectives for managing local flood risk
 - Measures proposed to achieve the objectives
 - How and when the measures will be implemented
 - The costs and benefits of the measures and how they are to be paid for
 - How and when the strategy will be reviewed

- How the strategy contributes to wider environmental objectives
3. The strategy is focussed on managing local flood risks, which means the flood risk from surface water, ground water and smaller rivers such as the Conham Vale Stream. The Environment Agency has produced a national strategy that sets out the objectives for managing flood risks from larger “main” rivers and the sea, such as the River Avon.
 4. We will bring a map to the NP meeting showing the relevant flood risks in the St George area. The map will also show the proposed and completed works we have undertaken in your area.
 5. Our approach to the Strategy must be consistent with the Environment Agency’s National Strategy. Our strategy will use the five National Strategy objectives as themes to form our local objectives. The Strategy explains how the objectives will be achieved as it includes an action plan of specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound (SMART) actions that will provide a clear focus for managing flood risk in Bristol now and in the future.
 6. To input to the development of our strategy and scrutinise our objectives, measures, and actions, we have set up a stakeholder group that meets at regular workshops. The group consists of:
 - The Environment Agency;
 - Wessex Water;
 - The Internal Drainage Board;
 - BCC departments e.g. Parks, City Docks, Highways & Traffic, Sustainability and Civil Protection Unit.
 7. The Strategy will be going through a three-month public consultation process from March to June, following which we will update the Strategy report with an aim to approve the report via the Cabinet in the autumn. We welcome any comments or suggestions as to where else we should focus our consultation.

Proposal

Our proposal to the Committee is to advertise the Strategy and introduce the public consultation process; we don’t require a formal decision at this time.

Other Options Considered

The Strategy is a statutory requirement so no alternative options are available. The process of selecting our chosen approach was discussed and agreed through stakeholder engagement and approved by Assistant Mayor Cllr Mark Bradshaw.

Risk Assessment

No specific risk assessment is proposed due to the nature of the report being presented, i.e. a strategy report rather than specific work proposal that is a statutory requirement.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.
- 8b) The Strategy has been through a process of Equalities Impact Assessment. By its very nature, flooding is non-discriminatory in terms of where and who it can affect. The Strategy uses a risk-based approach to focus actions to those areas that our studies indicate are at the highest risk of flooding.

Legal and Resource Implications

The Strategy is a formal and statutory requirement to produce, therefore no legal counsel has been requested at this time.

The resource and financial implications of the Strategy are covered as part of the Flood Team's ongoing workload. Any specific projects proposed by the Strategy will be subject to appropriate cost benefit analyses, which have been included within the Strategy report for relevant projects, at an appropriate level of detail.

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None – The Strategy reports will be available online with the weblinks provided at the Neighbourhood Partnership Meeting