

Audit Committee

16th March 2020



Report of: *Stephen Peacock*

Title: Review of a Specific Corporate Risk - Flood Risk Management

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Patrick Goodey, Flood Risk and Data Manager

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Recommendation

The Committee to note the update on the management of flood risks in the city, and provide comment/steer on our proposed approach

Summary

This report provides an update to inform a 'deep dive' on risk item BCCC1, Flood Risk Management. Managing the risk of flooding to the city is completed on an operational (reactive) and strategic (proactive) level. The information in this paper will be supplemented by an officer presentation at the Committee meeting.



Policy

1. This update relates to BCC statutory policy documents the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and the Flood Plan. Management of flood risks are also actions in the 2050 Environment Vision of the One City Plan

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Not applicable
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

The BCCC1: Flooding text from the Corporate Risk Register is as follows: *There could be a risk of damage to properties and infrastructure as well as risk to public safety from flooding which may be caused by a tidal surge, heavy rainfall and river and groundwater flood events.*

Key potential causes are:

- Tidal surge, heavy rainfall, river and groundwater flood events.
- Impact of climate change.
- Lack of effective flood defences and preparedness for major incidents.

Strategic management (proactive)

- Covered by the statutory Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (published in 2014, due for update in 2020);
- Led by the Flood Risk and Data management team;
- Informed by a number of flood risk studies that identify the risk of flooding to the city from all sources, including an allowance for climate change (resulting flood maps available via <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/bfrm/>);
- We utilise the above studies to identify a number of high risk areas and inform wider policies and procedures;
- Promote and complete schemes to reduce the risk of flooding, for example Cumberland Road flood wall, ASEA Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defences project, River Avon Flood Risk Management Strategy and others;
- Promote green and blue infrastructure that deliver climate resilience and wider benefits through regeneration (Bedminster Green, Frome gateway), new BCC housing sites and transport schemes;
- Statutory consultee role on planning applications to reduce flood risk through sustainable drainage;
- Establish development management policies to reduce flood risk through completion of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment;

- Close partnership working with other ‘Risk Management Authorities’ such as the Environment Agency and Wessex Water;
- Complete Flood Risk Assessments for projects and BCC properties such as City Hall, 100 Temple Street etc.;
- Undertaking flood investigations; and
- Community engagement

Operational (reactive), which is covered by the statutory Flood Plan, summarised as follows:

- Led by operational teams, namely the Civil Protection Unit and Highways Maintenance;
- Utilises the output of Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to target our response to high risk areas, for example pre-emptive clearing of road gullies in areas identified as being at high risk of surface water flooding;
- Confirms our Warning and Informing strategy, as well as our recovery activities in the event of a major flood event;
- Multi-agency response managed through the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum;
- Four-tier operational response mechanism – Green, Yellow, Amber, Red – consistent with Met Office and Environment Agency warning systems that are used to trigger certain proactive and reactive response activities such as setting up evacuation centres;
- Specific operational procedures are included to reflect the nature of Bristol’s flood risk, primarily changing the trigger threshold in autumn months due to potential debris blockages of assets and infrastructure.

Proposal

4. This report is intended to provide a summary of how we are managing the relevant risks on the Corporate Risk Register. Officers will embellish on this summary via a presentation at the meeting, and invite comment and steer on our approach.

Other Options Considered

5. Not applicable but we would welcome the Commission’s views on other activities we could include in our plans

Risk Assessment

6. Bristol is at risk of flooding during either extreme rainfall (and associated high river flows) or high tidal flood events. Without the activities summarised in this report, the city would not be mitigating these risk, nor reducing them through relevant projects or schemes.

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) Not applicable to this update. However, all of our relevant projects and strategies (such as the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy) undertake an EQiA scoping assessment.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

Not applicable to this update

(Legal advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)

Financial

(a) Revenue

Not applicable to this update

(b) Capital

Not applicable to this update

(Financial advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)

Land

Not applicable to this update

Personnel

Not applicable to this update

(Personnel advice provided by <Insert name and job title>)

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – full document [available online via <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33379/Local+flood+risk+management+strategy/0ef84c1b-05a3-4a71-a6da-62fe1a14f3d4/>]

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – summary document [available online via <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s17775/c%20Appendix%20A2%20-%20Local%20Flood%20Risk%20Management%20Strategy%20-%20Summary.pdf/>]

Bristol Flood Plan – full document [available via The Source http://intranet.bcc.lan/ccm/cms-service/stream/asset/?asset_id=18196031]