

Growth and Regeneration Scrutiny Commission

11/03/2021



Report of: Executive Director - Growth & Regeneration
Title: Bristol Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Ward: Citywide
Officer Presenting Report: Patrick Goodey
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Recommendation

This report is for information. It is our annual update to G&R Scrutiny on progress with our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Officers are seeking Scrutiny's advice and feedback on our progress to date and next steps.

The significant issues in the report are:

The Bristol (citywide) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a statutory document. It was first adopted in 2014 and was formally updated in 2017. We present an update on our Strategy every year to Scrutiny to seek their views and steer on our approach.



1. Context

The Bristol Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (the Strategy) sets out how the Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Bristol, will manage flood risks to the city now and into the future with key partners such as the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and the Lower Severn Internal Drainage Board. The Strategy was first adopted in 2014 and was formally updated in 2017. Therefore our update this year is seeking the views of Scrutiny on our progress to date and how we can continue to engage with our communities on flood risk and resilience.

The Strategy is an Action plan to ensure delivery. The Actions help to meet five higher level Objectives, which are as follows:

1. Understand the risk of flooding to the city through flood risk assessment studies and data management
2. Manage the likelihood of flooding through flood defence schemes and maintaining our watercourses
3. Encourage communities to take action to reduce their risk of flooding
4. Encourage sustainable development through reviewing planning applications to ensure development achieves reduction in flood risks, where appropriate
5. Improve flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery by working proactively with our colleagues to improve processes in advance of a flood event

The Strategy has a particular focus on working with nature and encouraging green infrastructure to manage flood risks by slowing the flow of water. The Mayor has given a clear steer that he supports the use of green infrastructure and other methods that achieve multiple benefits, such as traffic calming and improved public realm. Officers will raise this in their presentation to Scrutiny and seek views as to how we can further encourage the implementation of such measures to help meet the challenges of the climate and ecological emergencies.

The Strategy includes Actions that relate to large scale projects – the Avonmouth Severnside Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defences project, the Bristol Avon Flood Strategy and Bedminster Green River Restoration. With the exception of the Bristol Avon Strategy (which was presented to Scrutiny before the consultation phase of the project), Officers will provide an update on ongoing projects.

A key statutory duty of the Lead Local Flood Authority is to be a statutory consultee to major planning applications for surface water drainage as well as advising on wider flood risk issues, including flood evacuation. Officers will provide an update on how we approach this duty and use it to ensure developments reduce flood risk through sustainable drainage techniques. We will also provide commentary on key regeneration sites in the city centre, such as Temple Quarter, and how we have been supporting the Local Planning Authority to review whether these sites meet policy. Officers will also provide an update on the recently produced Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), which has been produced in-house to support the emerging Local Plan. The SFRA introduces more detailed flood mapping across the city as well as change in the way we require sustainable drainage to be included within proposed development. We will request feedback from the Commission on the SFRA.

At last years' Scrutiny update, Officers presented our plans for renewing the Strategy in line with the Environment Agency's National Flood Risk Management Strategy. The National Strategy has subsequently (summer2020) been finalised, however, the BCC refresh of our Strategy was delayed due to the impacts of COVID-19. We propose to commence the Strategy refresh in 2021/22, restrictions

depending.

The full Strategy can be found via:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/documents/20182/33379/Local+flood+risk+management+strategy/0ef84c1b-05a3-4a71-a6da-62fe1a14f3d4>

With a summary version available as Appendix A of this report

2. Policy

Bristol City Council has a statutory duty (under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010) to develop and maintain the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Making the city more resilient to flooding is identified as specific actions in the One City Plan and helps us meet the requirements of the Corporate Strategy, such as the Build City Resilience Principle

3. Appendix A – Bristol Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Summary

See attached