

## **SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

<u>Report of the:</u>	Head of Place Development
<u>Contact:</u>	Mark Berry
Urgent Decision?(yes/no)	No
If yes, reason urgent decision required:	N/A
<u>Annexes/Appendices</u> (attached):	Annexe 1 - Draft Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
<u>Other available papers</u> (not attached):	Report to Strategy and Resources Committee dated 12 November 2013

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

**The Surrey Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 to 2016 was adopted by Surrey County Council four years ago, in consultation with Districts and Boroughs.**

**This report sets out an update of that strategy and seeks approval to enable Surrey County Council (SCC) to fulfil its statutory duty, as lead local flood authority which includes the need to produce a local flood risk management strategy.**

**This updated strategy sets out how the responsible flood management authorities in Surrey are seeking to manage the impact of flooding, from rivers, ground and surface water. In recognition of the long term nature of measure to address flood risk the strategy is proposed for a fifteen year period during which rolling action plans will be developed to address the long terms needs of the area.**

**When approved by Boroughs and Districts, for the purpose of public consultation by SCC, the County Council will undertake public consultation prior to the formal adoption by it of the strategy.**

**Borough officers have been engaged in the preparation of the strategy both at technical and policy levels. The strategy creates a positive framework within which to manage and address flood risk across the county and is consistent with the policy objectives of the borough council.**

**There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the strategy. Operational implications can be met within existing resources. Individual projects and actions pursued in furtherance of the strategy may give rise to financial implications; each of these will require environment committee approval and be considered upon their respective merit.**

**The Environment Committee is recommended to approve the draft strategy.**

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION (S)</u></b>	<i>Notes</i>
<p>(1) <b>the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2032 be approved; and</b></p> <p>(2) <b>the Head of Place Development be authorised to approve, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee, minor modifications to the draft strategy in light of amendments required to be made by Surrey County Council arising from its public consultation.</b></p>	

## **1 Implications for the Council's Key Priorities, Service Plans and Sustainable Community Strategy**

- 1.1 Flood Risk Management at Epsom and Ewell sits under the Local Plan at a strategic planning level and under the Emergency Plan regime as an operational response.
- 1.2 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has a role as a Flood Risk Management Authority (RMA) and works in partnership with Surrey County Council and other (RMAs) in discharging its responsibilities.
- 1.3 Flooding issues are not as prominent in Epsom and Ewell as in other Surrey districts where major flood events have occurred. Nonetheless, the proposed strategy will help to define the way in which such issues are addressed and assist in the preparation of bids for funding for flood alleviation works to protect areas such as Ewell Village.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The current strategy is overseen by the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board (Board) where all Flood Risk Management Authorities (including Epsom and Ewell Borough Council) are able to be represented at senior officer level. The Head of Place Development is our representative. The Board is supported by a Working Group at which technical officers from partners engage in detailed discussions on projects, issues and flood events.
- 2.2 This report contains an update of the strategy and seeks the approval of the Environment Committee to enable Surrey County Council (SCC) to fulfil its Statutory Duty, as Lead Local Flood Authority, to produce a local flood risk management strategy. The update attached at Appendix 1 has been agreed by the Board.

### 3 Proposals

- 3.1 The updated strategy sets out how the responsible authorities in Surrey are seeking to manage the impact of flooding, from rivers, ground and surface water. In recognition of the long term nature of measure to address flood risk the strategy is proposed for a fifteen year period during which rolling action plans will be developed to address the long terms needs of the area.
- 3.2 The Strategy consists of four main elements:
- Vision: this is the main goal that will be achieved over the lifetime of the Strategy
  - Purpose: this summarises who will be involved in achieving the Vision and how it will be done
  - Principles: these provide context for the Vision, and are important concepts that are considered as part of all of the objectives
  - Objectives: these are the specific activities will be undertaken to achieve the Vision
- 3.3 The significant change in approach is set out in the principles underlying the updated draft strategy. Under this draft strategy a long term vision is being pursued with a catchment based approach where all elements that relate to the risk of flooding in a river catchment are considered, assessed and flood risk managed. This is considered to be beneficial to the long term interests of residents, businesses and wildlife throughout Surrey.
- 3.4 Under each objective there is a description of the action plan activities that will be pursued to achieve the stated objective. These action plans will be regularly updated and worked on through the Working Group, and responsible authorities, and be overseen and performance managed by the Board. This approach is considered to be most effective in enabling responsible authorities to respond more effectively to changing circumstances.
- 3.5 The strategy creates a positive framework within which to manage and address flood risk across the County and is consistent with the policy objectives of the Borough Council.
- 3.6 When approved by Boroughs and Districts, for the purpose of public consultation by SCC, the County Council will undertake public consultation prior to the formal adoption by it of the strategy. Accordingly authority is sought for the Head of Place Development, in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee, to approve minor modifications to the draft strategy in light of amendments required to be made by Surrey County Council in light of its public consultation.

#### **4 Financial and Manpower Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the strategy. Operational implications can be met within existing resources. However individual projects and actions pursued in furtherance of the strategy will give rise to financial implications: each of these will require specific committee approval and be considered upon their respective merit.
- 4.2 **Chief Finance Officer's comments:** *I agree that there are no direct financial implications from this report and that it does not commit the Council to specific initiatives. Any proposals that may be proposed in the future would have to be brought forward on an individual basis for consideration together with any proposed funding.*

#### **5 Legal Implications (including implications for matters relating to equality)**

- 5.1 There are no equality issues raised by this report.
- 5.2 This document enables Surrey County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority) to fulfil its Statutory Duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Surrey.
- 5.3 The Borough Council has obligations as a Flood Risk Management Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and this Strategy will assist it in the fulfilment of those duties which include:
- A duty to exercise their flood risk management functions in a manner consistent with local and national strategies, and to have regard to those strategies in their other functions
  - A duty, in certain circumstances, to comply with the Lead Local Flood Authority's requests and recommendations.
- 5.4 **Monitoring Officer's comments:** *The Council's obligations are summarised in this report. Further consideration will be required to the various detailed legal provisions if/when action is required under the strategy.*

#### **6 Sustainability Policy and Community Safety Implications**

- 6.1 The draft strategy will contribute positively, in policy terms, towards all aspects of local sustainability. Individual projects, in furtherance of the strategy, will need to be risk assessed to address any specific issues that may arise during implementation or subsequent operation.

## **7 Partnerships**

7.1 Epsom and Ewell Borough Council has a role as a Flood Risk Management Authority (RMA) and works in partnership with Surrey County Council and other (RMAs). The duties of flood risk management cannot be undertaken in isolation and the Borough will need to work with its neighbouring authorities, the County Council and the Environment Agency as well as other relevant bodies.

## **8 Risk Assessment**

8.1 The draft strategy will contribute positively, in policy terms, to managing the risk of flooding. Individual projects, in furtherance of the strategy, will need to be risk assessed to address any specific issues that may arise during implementation or subsequent operation.

8.2 Failure by responsible authorities and riparian owners to discharge their maintenance responsibilities, as outlined in the strategy, will undermine the effectiveness of the strategy.

## **9 Conclusion and Recommendations**

9.1 The Environment Committee is recommended to approve the draft strategy.

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: All**