

## **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**4 February 2015**

### **The Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

#### **Report of the Director of Planning and Transport**

#### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider and comment on the Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Feedback from the Committee will be incorporated into a final version of the Strategy, which will be presented to the Executive Board and Full Council.

#### **2. Action required**

The Committee is asked to review the Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (both the full and public summary documents) and provide feedback on the documents to ensure that they reflect the needs of the community.

#### **3. Introduction**

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 clarified and amended the roles and responsibilities of organisations involved in flood risk management and introduced a significant new role for Nottingham City Council as 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). The new responsibilities introduced include:

- Responsibility for managing flood risk from 'local' sources, which includes surface water, minor ('ordinary') watercourses and groundwater,
- Developing, maintaining, applying and monitoring a strategy for local flood risk management (a 'local flood risk management strategy'),
- Investigating flood incidents to identify the organisation with relevant flood risk management functions,
- Developing and maintaining a register of flood risk management assets and features,
- Acting as the Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body (SAB) for new developments<sup>1</sup>.

This paper relates to the statutory duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor the Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (hereafter referred to as 'the Strategy').

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<sup>1</sup> This legislation has been superseded by Government's recent announcement to strengthen the National Planning Policy Framework and make Lead Local Flood Authorities a statutory consultee to the planning process

#### 4. Development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The overarching aim of the Strategy is to reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and businesses in Nottingham. There are a number of organisations that have interests involving or affecting flood risk in the City, as many of the flooding issues experienced are complex and involve assets that are managed by different organisations and individuals. The Strategy has therefore been developed in consultation with these key organisations, reflecting the complicated nature of flood risk management in an urban environment.

A stakeholder workshop was held in May 2014 and brought together over 20 staff representing relevant internal teams<sup>2</sup> and external organisations<sup>3</sup>. The workshop involved gathering opinions on the objectives for flood risk management, identifying and confirming opportunities for reducing flood risk to citizens and potential funding streams. The information and feedback gathered at the workshop was used to shape the Strategy.

Technical analysis of flood risk information was undertaken to identify the areas of the City that are at greatest risk from 'local' flood sources, which includes minor watercourses, surface water and groundwater. The numerous documents that consider different aspects of national and local flood risk were also reviewed, including Strategic Flood Risk Assessments, the Surface Water Management Plan and the Environment Agency's National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. Based on the technical analysis and literature review, an Action Plan was developed to identify measures that the City Council plans to deliver, subject to funding, to reduce the risk of flooding to the communities at greatest risk. Measures listed in the Action Plan include structural measures, such as constructing flood storage areas and flood defences, as well as non-structural measures, such as watercourse and road gully maintenance, community engagement and supporting development management activities.

During the course of developing the Strategy, central Government developed their six year Medium Term Plan for investment in flood risk management. As part of this process, the City Council submitted several bids to Defra, all of which were accepted and indicative funding has been allocated across the six year programme. This allocation of funding has been reflected in the Strategy Action Plan, but it is subject to change over the six year programme.

It is important to note that the delivery of the Action Plan is subject to receiving adequate funding for flood risk management. The Government funding that has been secured for physical flood risk management measures is on a partnership funding basis and so delivery of these schemes is dependent on attracting funding from other sources. Delivery of smaller scale schemes in the Action Plan will require approximately £70,000 of partnership funding per year to release central Government funds that have been allocated. There are also two larger scale schemes that will release land for housing development (the Day Brook at Old Basford and the River Leen at Bobbers Mill), which will require partnership funding of approximately £1million per scheme to release central Government funding. Partnership funding sources may include Council capital funds, Area Capital, new developments (s106 contributions and New Homes Bonus) and Local Enterprise Partnership funding as well as funding from relevant partners such as Nottingham City Homes and Severn Trent Water.

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<sup>2</sup> **Teams represented:** Planning Policy, Development Management, Regeneration, Highway Services, Parks & Open Spaces, Neighbourhood Development, Energy Services, Transport Strategy, Drainage

<sup>3</sup> **External organisations represented:** Nottinghamshire County Council, Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, Groundwork Greater Nottingham, English Heritage, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust

Under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, the Strategy required a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This work was undertaken in parallel to ensure that the SEA informed the Strategy and vice versa. The purpose of the SEA was to ensure that the impacts of the Strategy would not have an adverse environmental impact and, where possible, take opportunities to achieve environmental enhancement.

The draft Strategy and SEA were circulated to relevant internal teams and external organisations to seek feedback and ensure that they reflected the outcome of the workshop and provided a balanced and realistic plan for managing flood risk in Nottingham. Comments from teams and organisations were incorporated into a final draft.

## **5. Public and Statutory Consultations**

Three documents have been produced as part of this Strategy and are included as appendices to this report, where necessary:

- Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Appendix A)
- Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Public Summary for Consultation (Appendix B)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environment Report (available upon request)

In order to ensure that the Strategy meets the needs of our communities and to meet legislative requirements, the above documents were made available for public and statutory consultation for eight weeks between 1 December 2014 and 30 January 2015. The following media were used during the consultation period:

- Article in the December 2014 issue of the Nottingham Arrow,
- Press releases and use of social media,
- Leaflets, copies of the Public Summary for Consultation and questionnaires available at all libraries and leisure centres,
- Direct written communications and leafleting of all domestic and commercial properties that have experienced flooding,
- Circulation of leaflets by Neighbourhood Development Officers,
- Written communications with community groups on the Parks & Open Spaces distribution list,
- Communications with Risk Management Authorities and other key organisations involved in flood risk management in Nottingham.

At the time of writing, the public consultation is still underway. A summary of the public consultation responses and resulting actions will be presented at the Committee meeting.

Under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, there are a number of statutory consultees for the SEA Environmental Report, including the Environment Agency, Natural England and English Heritage. These statutory consultees have been contacted and a summary of responses and resulting actions will be presented at the Committee meeting.

## **6. Next Steps**

The outcome of the public consultation, statutory consultation and Overview and Scrutiny comments will be incorporated into a final version of the Nottingham Local Flood Risk

Management Strategy. The Strategy will then be taken to the Executive Board and Full Council to become adopted by the City Council.

## **7. Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing confidential or exempt information**

- Section 9, Flood and Water Management Act 2010: 'Local flood risk management strategies: England'
- URS (2014) Nottingham City Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Strategic Environmental Assessment: Environmental Report
- Local Government Association (2014) Framework to assist the development of the Local Strategic for Flood Risk Management

## **8. Published documents referred to in compiling this report**

None

## **9. Wards affected**

City-wide

## **10. Contact colleague**

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**Appendix A: Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (full document)**

**Appendix B: Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Public Summary  
for Consultation**