

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Planning & Transportation	25 th February 2014
Subject: Consultation on the City's Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Public
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For Decision

Summary

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires that the City Corporation, as Lead Local Flood Authority for the City, should develop, maintain, apply, and monitor the application of, a strategy for local flood risk from surface run off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses in the City. The draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) has been prepared taking account of technical flood risk modelling which has been published in the City's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012 (SFRA). It takes a cross departmental and external partnership approach incorporating actions that will be required to reduce the risk of flooding in the City, to respond effectively in the event of flooding and to improve resistance and resilience thereby ensuring speedy recovery after a flood.

Public consultation on the draft LFRMS is required by the Flood and Water Management Act. This report seeks approval of the draft LFRMS for public consultation.

The final version of the City's LFRMS will feed into the Flood Risk Management Plan for London that is due to be prepared by the Environment Agency by December 2015.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the attached draft City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for public consultation for a period of at least 6 weeks.
- Approve delegation of authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to adopt the finalised City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provided that public consultation responses do not necessitate further material changes to the draft document.

Main Report

Background

1. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gave local authorities new responsibilities as lead local flood authorities (LLFA). Part 1 of the Act requires all LLFAs in England to develop, maintain, apply, and monitor the application of, a strategy for local flood risk from surface run off, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, in their area. The strategy must at least set out who the risk management authorities are in the area and their relevant functions, the authority's objectives for managing flood risk, as well as proposed measures to deliver the objectives, and timescales for implementation of the measures; how those measures are to be paid for as well as their costs and benefits; how and when the strategy will be reviewed; and how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives. The LLFA must consult affected risk management authorities and the public about its strategy and provide guidance on the application of the strategy.
2. Under the direction of the officer Flood Risk Steering Group a draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) has been prepared which sets out the City Corporation's approach to reducing the risks associated with flooding. (see Appendix 1).
3. Flooding in the City is influenced by actions beyond the City's boundaries therefore the draft LFRMS includes a commitment to partnership working with other flood risk management authorities including the Environment Agency, Thames Water, the GLA and neighbouring boroughs who are LLFAs for their areas.
4. The draft LFRMS has been prepared with the benefit of extensive flood risk modelling evidence which was reported to the Planning & Transportation Committee in July 2012 and is published on the City Corporation's website through the City of London Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012.
5. The July 2012, Planning & Transportation Committee agreed that officers should investigate options for alleviation of surface water flood risk at Paul's Walk on the Thames Riverside and Farringdon Street/New Bridge Street, as these are the areas of the City which are most vulnerable to surface water flood risk. The draft LFRMS takes account of Initial Assessments of options for flood risk management in these areas which were carried out following the Environment Agency's methodology. These assessments conclude that major engineering projects would be very expensive and difficult to deliver, would not offer cost effective solutions and that resistance and resilience measures are the most cost effective option for reducing the impact of flooding on people and property in these areas.
6. Plans and strategies of this type are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which evaluates the social, economic and environmental impacts of the implementation of the strategy. A draft SEA report has been prepared and concludes that a proactive approach to managing flood risk, as

recommended in the draft LFRMS, will have potential social, economic and environmental benefits for the City and beyond, in the short and long term.

7. The draft LFRMS has been informed by an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on relevant target groups. The report of this EqIA will be available during the public consultation. The SEA report, EqIA report and the flood risk management Initial Assessments are all available in the Members' Reading Room.

Options

8. The City Corporation has a range of statutory duties with regard to flood risk in its roles as Planning Authority, LLFA and as a Category 1 Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. The draft LFRMS incorporates actions to address these various responsibilities including reduction in the likelihood of flooding, improved resistance and resilience to flooding, emergency response and recovery planning in the event of flooding.

Proposals

9. The draft LFRMS sets out the City's approach to flood risk defining the following objectives for managing flood risk in the City:
 - To provide up to date information regarding the level of flood risk within the City taking account of emerging climate change impacts,
 - To reduce the vulnerability and cost to City businesses, residents and visitors of flood risk,
 - To respond effectively in the event of flooding providing emergency assistance to those in need,
 - To assist in recovery enabling the City residents and businesses to resume normal activities promptly,
 - To engage with other flood risk management authorities taking action to reduce flood risk through partnership working within and beyond the City's boundaries.
10. The draft LFRMS identifies actions that the City will take to achieve these objectives indicating who is responsible for each action, the resources required and proposals for funding.
11. The draft LFRMS will be published for public consultation for a period of at least 6 weeks to ensure that other risk management authorities, statutory bodies, City businesses and the general public can contribute to its development. The SEA report and EqIA will be published alongside the draft LFRMS for consultation.
12. After consideration of the consultation responses the City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be finalised. It is recommended that authority for approval be delegated to the Chairman or Deputy Chairman of this Committee, unless consultation responses necessitate material changes to the draft which would then be brought back to Committee for consideration.

13. The implementation of the LFRMS will continue to be managed through the officer Flood Risk Steering Group as agreed by Members in June 2011.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The preparation of the draft LFRMS will assist in fulfilling the City Corporation's statutory duties as Lead Local Flood Authority, Planning Authority, and as a Category One Responder under the Civil Contingencies Act.
15. The proposals in this report will contribute to the City Together Strategy objectives of a World Class City which protects promotes and enhances our environment and which is safer and stronger.

Other Implications

16. **Financial Implications** – Funding and resources to implement this strategy will come from a number of different sources.
 - Existing City Corporation revenue and capital budgets.
 - Grant funding may be available from sources such as the Drain London fund which is managed by the GLA and the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid, which is administered by the Environment Agency on behalf of Defra.
 - Thames Water, which is responsible for the upgrading of sewerage infrastructure to prevent sewer flooding and to take account of future climate predictions.
 - Utility companies and property owners, who have site specific responsibility for flood risk alleviation, resistance and resilience of their premises.
 - City developers, who have responsibility to ensure that flood risk is addressed in building design and associated landscaping.

Resourcing considerations will include direct project funding, staff resources, expert consultancy requirements and training needs.

17. **Legal Implications** – The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009 impose statutory duties on the City Corporation as Lead Local Flood Authority for the City of London. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and Planning Acts also require the City Corporation to implement specific flood risk related activities. This draft LFRMS brings together in a single document the actions related to flood risk which will assist in fulfilling these statutory duties.

18. **Property Implications** - the draft LFRMS confirms that the City is at low risk of river and groundwater flooding but identifies limited areas of the City that are at some risk of surface water flooding. Should flooding occur in these areas, this could have significant implications for property owners and infrastructure providers with consequential impacts elsewhere in the City. Therefore it is important to ensure that this information is publicised so that property owners, occupants and infrastructure providers can implement resistance and resilience measures. Actions identified in the draft LFRMS will

provide reassurance that the City is resilient to intense rainfall events that have resulted in severe floods in other parts of the UK and Europe in recent years.

Conclusion

19. The draft City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides details of the City's approach to reducing flood risk in the City and ensuring timely recovery in the event of flooding.

20. Public consultation will assist in the final development of the LFRMS ensuring that it takes account of the views of a wide range of other interested parties.

Appendices

Appendix 1: draft City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Background Papers

1. City of London Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012 prepared by Halcrow for the City of London Corporation.
2. Initial Assessments and accompanying modelling technical note prepared by Halcrow for the City of London Corporation 30th Oct 2012.
3. Planning & Transportation Committee Report 3rd July 2012 – City of London Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2012.
4. Planning & Transportation Committee Report 2nd June 2011 – Flood Risk – New Duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
5. Strategic Environmental Assessment report for the City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy - Jan 2014
6. Equalities Impact Assessment on the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014-2020 – Feb 2014

Janet Laban

Senior Planning Officer

T: 020 7332 1148

E: janet.laban@cityoflondon.gov.uk