

Committee(s): Planning and Transportation Committee – for information	Date: September 2020
Subject: Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-27– Measures	Public
Report of: Carolyn Dwyer – Director of the Built Environment	For Information
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Summary

The City Corporation, as unitary authority for the Square Mile is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the City. The City of London’s statutory Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)¹ 2014- 2020 is aligned with the Environment Agency’s Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP)² for the Thames River Basin. Both documents are due for review by 2021. Each EU member country must produce FRMPs for each river basin district, as set out in the EU Floods Directive 2007³. This duty remains having left the EU. There are 11 river basin districts in England and Wales.

The Environment Agency (EA) is coordinating all the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs – all London Boroughs and the City are separate LLFAs) to create a new FRMP. As part of this we have had to choose a minimum of 5 set objectives from a list provided by the EA. Within these objectives, the City has to develop at least 1 *measure* under each objective. The Environmental Resilience Team have developed these measures and have gained the approval under delegated authority of the Director of the Build Environment to submit these objectives and measures to the EA for inclusion in their FRMP. These measures will then be incorporated into the LFRMS which will be presented to the Planning and Transportation Committee for approval in early 2021.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note this report for information.

Main Report

Background

1. Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, there is a statutory requirement for the EA to prepare a FRMP for a designated area of flood risk. For London this is the area at risk of flooding within the Thames River Basin district. A FRMP contains objectives and actions to reduce or mitigate flood risk. The City

¹ See section 9: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-management-plans-frmps-responsibilities>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32007L0060>

reports annually to the Environment Agency (EA) on our contribution to the implementation of the FRMP. The current FRMP ends at the end of this year.

2. The EA is coordinating all the Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs – all London Boroughs and the City are separate LLFAs) to feed into a new FRMP for 2021-2027. The EA sent a list of objectives, each LLFA must pick at least 5 objectives and then develop at least 1 measure under each objective.
3. The City Corporation, as unitary authority for the Square Mile is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for the City. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 assigns various responsibilities to Lead Local Flood Authorities including the requirement to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area – the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).
4. The City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) holds information on how the LLFA plans to work together with communities and businesses to manage and mitigate flood risk in our area (the Square Mile). The LFRMS sets out **how** the City is going to achieve the EA FRMP objectives and measures.

Current Position

5. As part of this process of developing the new FRMP, the Environmental Resilience Team has selected 6 objectives from a prescribed list provided by the EA, which were discussed and agreed in the March 2020, by the officers Flood Risk Steering Group. Within these objectives, the City must develop at least 1 *measure* under each objective.
6. Measures can be thought of as actions that will be taken to mitigate flood risk. The measures must be S.M.A.R.T (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound). The measures chosen evolved from the previous FRMP; if they were complete, we evolved the measure to be more ambitious. If the measure was only part complete, we brought it forward. A few were dropped as they were not applicable anymore or were continuing tasks that had no end date (e.g. attending partnership meetings quarterly), therefore could not be made SMART. The EA are shifting their focus from flood *prevention* to flood *resilience*, so many measures reflect this.
7. There are 12 measures in total, under 6 prescribed objectives. The objectives and measures are presented in Appendix 1 Flood Risk Objectives and Measures [Appendix 1 - FRMP Objectives and SMART Measures](#). The measures were accepted by the Flood Risk Steering Group in June 2020 and approved under delegated authority by the Director for the Built Environment in July 2020.

Proposals

8. The Environmental Resilience Team have developed 12 measures in appendix 1 and have gained the approval of the Director of the Built

Environment to submit to the EA. These measures will then develop into the LFRMS which will be presented to the Planning and Transportation Committee for approval early in 2021.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The FRMP and LFRMS are statutory documents that all LLFAs must produce under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
10. The FRMP and LFRMS links to the DBE business plan aims and objectives 5. It is also part of *strengthening the resilience of the City to risks from natural and man-made threats*.
11. Through our Responsible Business Strategy, the City Corporation is committed to *Reduce the risk and impact of flooding on the Square Mile by implementing the City of London Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*

Implications

12. There is no cost, legal or HR implications associated with this decision.
13. If we do not contribute to the EA's FRMP, then the City would have a statutory duty to produce a FRMP for our area.

Conclusion

14. The Environmental Resilience Team have proposed 12 measures that have been approved by the Director of the Built Environment.
15. These measures will form part of the Flood Risk Management Plan that all Lead Local Flood Authorities must produce for the Environment Agency as a statutory duty under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - FRMP Objectives and SMART Measures.

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