

<b>Committee(s):</b> <b>Planning and Transportation Committee – for decision</b>	<b>Date:</b> <b>06- 10- 2020</b>
<b>Subject:</b> <b>Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-27</b>	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> <b>Carolyn Dwyer – Director of the Built Environment</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> <b>Holly Smith - Environmental Resilience Team</b>	

### Summary

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). The City Corporation, as unitary authority for the Square Mile, is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the City.

This strategy identifies the approach the City Corporation is taking to the flood risks that affect the City, the actions that are underway or planned to reduce these risks and the processes by which this strategy will be kept up to date.

The City currently has a LFRMS that runs from 2014-2020. Substantial progress has been made in implementing the LFRMS 2014-2020 but there is still more to do, not least to address the impacts of climate change on flood risk in the City and to improve awareness of the actions that businesses, residents and visitors to the City can take to minimise the risks and consequences of flooding.

The Environmental Resilience Team have reviewed and updated the LFRMS for the period 2021-2027. The LFRMS was approved by the officer lead Flood Risk Steering group in September 2020. The next step is to put the LFRMS out to consultation with risk management authorities in our area and the public as outlined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked for:

- **approval for a 6 week public consultation of the City of London's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021-2027**, in line with the requirement in the Flood and Water Management Act Section 9 (6) which states that: "*A lead local flood authority must consult the following about its local flood risk management strategy— (a) risk management authorities that may be affected by the strategy (including risk management authorities in Wales), and (b) the public*"

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. 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).
2. The City of London's LFRMS contains information on how the City Corporation plan to work together with communities and businesses to manage and mitigate local flood risk in our area (the Square Mile). This strategy identifies the approach the City Corporation is taking to the flood risks that affect the City, the actions that are underway or planned to reduce these risks and the processes by which this strategy will be kept up to date.
3. In September, this Committee was presented with a report for information, outlining the objectives and measures that have formed the basis of the LFRMS. The City's objectives and measures also form part of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plan for the Thames River Basin to which all LLFAs in the Thames basin have contributed. The LFRMS presented in this report outlines how the City will fulfil those objectives and measures between the period 2021-2027.

### **Current Position**

4. The City Corporation currently has a LFRMS that runs from 2014-2020. The second cycle of action under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is now due. This requires a review of the City of London LFRMS.
5. There has been substantial progress in implementing the LFRMS 2014-2020 but there is still more to do, not least to address the impacts of climate change on flood risk in the City and to improve awareness of the actions that businesses, residents and visitors to the City can take to minimise the risks and consequences of flooding.
6. The Environmental Resilience Team have reviewed and updated the LFRMS for the period 2021-2027, which includes how to implement the objectives and measures that form part of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plan for the Thames Basin. These objectives and measures were approved under delegated authority by the director of the Built Environment and presented at the September 2020 P&T Committee for information.
7. The draft LFRMS (Appendix 1) was approved by the officer lead Flood Risk Steering group in September 2020. The next step is to put the LFRMS out to

consultation with risk management authorities in our area and the public as outlined in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

8. The LFRMS is linked directly to the City of London's Climate Action Strategy, as many of the actions will help to implement climate resilience measures from the City of London's Climate Action Strategy.

## **Proposals**

9. Consultation on the LFRMS is required, in line with the Flood and Water Management Act Section 9 (6) which states that: "*A lead local flood authority must consult the following about its local flood risk management strategy— (a) risk management authorities that may be affected by the strategy (including risk management authorities in Wales), and (b) the public.*"
10. The LFRMS document will be emailed directly to risk management authorities of which a list can be found appendix 1.
11. The LFRMS document will be available on the City of London website for the public to view and comment on for a period of 6 weeks.
12. The final LFRMS will be brought back to this Committee for adoption early in 2021.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

13. The LFRMS is a statutory document that all LLFAs must produce under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
14. The LFRMS links to the Corporate Plan outcomes 11 (*We have clean air, land and water and a thriving and sustainable natural environment*) and 12 (*Our spaces are secure, resilient and well-maintained*).
15. The LFRMS links to the DBE business plan aims and objectives. It is also part of *strengthening the resilience of the City to risks from natural and man-made threats*.
16. 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*.
17. Through the Climate Action Strategy, the City Corporation aims to build resilience to flooding.

## **Implications**

18. There are no cost or HR implications associated with this decision.

19. The LFRMS is a statutory document that all LLFAs must produce under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. If this statutory duty is not fulfilled the City Corporation could face legal action and reputational damage.
20. The LFRMS has been subject to an Equalities Assessment (test of relevance – Appendix 3). Recommendations from this have been incorporated into the document.
21. The LFRMS has also been subject to a Strategic Environment Assessment (Appendix 2). Recommendations from this have been incorporated into the document.

## **Conclusion**

22. The Environmental Resilience Team have reviewed and updated the LFRMS for the period 2021-2027, incorporating objectives and measures from the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plan as directed under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
23. This report is asking for committee approval to put the LFRMS out to consultation to risk management authorities and to the public for a period of 6 weeks as required in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) 2021-2027.  
Appendix 2 - Strategic Environment Assessment Non-technical Summary.  
Appendix 3 - Equalities Assessment - test of relevance.

## **Background Papers**

Planning and Transportation Committee 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Agenda item 16.

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