

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 24 September 2014
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Environment and Operations

Report Title

TRAFFORD LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Summary

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council is required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. A draft Strategy, together with supporting documentation, was published for consultation between the 17th February and 31st March 2014.

A final Strategy, together with supporting documentation, has now been produced taking into account responses received to the consultation draft and subsequent discussions with key stakeholders.

The Strategy and supporting documents are now presented to the Executive for final approval.

Recommendation

That Executive:

1. Approves the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as set out in Appendix 1.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Rob Haslam (Head of Planning Services)
Extension: 4788

Background Papers:

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening report (Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010).

Implications:

Relationship to Policy	The Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
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Framework/Corporate Priorities	will contribute towards the delivery of the following corporate priorities: 'Low Council Tax and Value for Money', 'Economic Growth and Development' and 'Reshaping Trafford Council'.
Financial	Whilst the majority of measures proposed in the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy can be delivered within existing resources, the proposed study of the Borough's ordinary watercourses will require additional expenditure. Precise costs of this study are not yet known, though initial estimates suggest this will be in the region of £20,000 which will be met from funding for Flood & Water Management issues provided to the Council from DEFRA. Financial provision to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has already been identified in the Environment, Transport & Operations and Economic Growth & Prosperity budgets.
Legal Implications	Production of a LFRM Strategy is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment screening are required under separate legislation.
Equality/Diversity Implications	Equality and diversity issues have been considered as part of the preparation of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and an Equality Impact Assessment has been produced.
Sustainability Implications	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a key tool to assist in assessing the sustainability implications of new plans and programmes. Production of the Environmental Report demonstrates how the development of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has had full regard to sustainability considerations.
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	Preparation of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been undertaken within existing Council resources. Support for the SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment processes has been provided by Urban Vision and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit respectively. Delivery of the proposed Strategy measures may have implications for Council-owned/occupied land, in particular the proposed audit of surface water management on the Council's estate.
Risk Management Implications	The production of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been guided by the Council's Flood and Water Management Officer Steering Group which has considered risks involved in the process. Consideration of local flood risk to communities within the Borough is central to the

	Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
Public Health Implications	None arising directly from this report. However, management of flooding and the threats that this presents to public health is an important element of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Specific consideration of health impacts is provided in the Environmental Report.
Health and Safety Implications	None arising directly from this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 lays new duties and responsibilities on the Council as a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). These include the duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management within its area. Local flood risk is that which arises from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (those which are not main rivers).
- 1.2 The Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is intended to be a robust representation of local issues, set within the wider Greater Manchester context, and will be a key vehicle for delivering improved flood risk management. It will support the securing of partnership funding opportunities and delivery of a strategic Greater Manchester investment programme. An approved Local Strategy will be required for the Council to access funding to deliver flood improvement schemes in the Borough, such as via Environment Agency Grant in Aid.
- 1.3 The Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy:
- Identifies the flood risk management authorities in the Borough and the functions that may be exercised by those bodies;
 - Provides an assessment of local flood risk;
 - Identifies the objectives for managing local flood risk, the measures proposed to achieve those objectives, the costs and benefits of those measures and how they are expected to be implemented;
 - Outlines how the Strategy contributes towards the achievement of wider environmental objectives;
 - Outlines how and when the Strategy will be reviewed.
- 1.4 The Strategy identifies the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Council as Local Highway Authority (LHA), the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the Highways Agency as being risk management authorities within the Borough.
- 1.5 Whilst the overall risk of flooding in the Borough is comparatively low, key risks identified within the Strategy include a considerable number of small to medium-sized areas at risk of surface water flooding, extensive areas of potential groundwater flooding or rebound (increased levels following the cessation of water abstraction for industrial and other purposes) together with areas of shallow groundwater, and flood risk associated with the Manchester Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal. A key area of uncertainty is with smaller ordinary watercourses, which range from culverted channels within built-up areas to drainage ditches in areas of open land, where no comprehensive risk assessment work has ever been undertaken.

- 1.6 The Strategy identifies a range of economic, social and environmental objectives for managing local flood risk in Trafford and proposes a number of measures. Broadly, these measures involve:-
- Enhancing our understanding of flood risk from ordinary watercourses, including the Bridgewater Canal
 - Improving awareness of flood risk amongst local communities, and improving their resilience to flooding
 - Implementation of 'soft' flood management measures, such as green infrastructure improvements
 - Development of closer links between local flood risk management and the planning process
 - Better recording and investigation of flooding incidents
 - Better management of the Council's own assets
- 1.7 The Strategy identifies how it will contribute to wider environmental objectives and also establishes a mechanism for monitoring and review.
- 1.8 Preparation of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been accompanied by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which is required under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, together with a screening for Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. In the case of SEA the final Environmental Report, produced by Urban Vision, concludes that the Strategy is generally likely to make a positive contribution towards achieving the objectives identified in the SEA Scoping Report, whilst the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the draft Strategy, produced by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, concludes that it is not likely to have detrimental effects on habitats of acknowledged importance. The Ecology Unit has confirmed that the Habitats Regulations Assessment requires no further amendment in the light of the final Strategy and that its original conclusions remain the same.
- 1.9 The production of the Strategy, and supporting documentation, has had full regard to observations made as part of the various consultation and engagement processes. Key changes made since publication of the draft Strategy comprise amendments to the Manchester, Salford and Trafford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment section of the document to address concerns about an apparent focusing on the Manchester Ship Canal as a significant source of flood risk; to the section on the Manchester Ship Canal in order to respond to a perceived singling-out of the sluices for inclusion on the Council's Asset Register and possible future designation; and editing of the section on the Bridgewater Canal to reflect the latest discussions with Peel on the independent technical appraisal of the HR Wallingford study. Other minor changes have also been made to the Strategy to revise the Foreword and contents page, clarify the section on United Utilities responsibilities, update references to the latest Environment Agency mapping and guidance, improve the clarity of the text and other maps in a number of places and the inclusion of a glossary.

Other Options

- Production of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The option of not producing a Strategy would

mean that the Council is not complying with its legal obligations as a Lead Local Flood Authority.

- As a document falling within the terms of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the Strategy is required to be subject to assessment. The option of not undertaking such assessments would mean that the potential effects of the Strategy have not been considered properly and the Council would be non-compliant with the relevant legislation.

Consultation

- Initial discussions on the scope and content of the Strategy were undertaken between the Council and neighbouring local authorities, particularly Manchester and Salford with whom joint work was undertaken on the SEA Scoping Report.
- Trafford Council's Executive approved the SEA Scoping Report on the 29 April 2013 for consultation purposes and this consultation was undertaken with English Heritage, the Environment Agency, Natural England, risk management authorities and navigation authorities in the Councils' areas between the 04 June and the 09 July 2013. The final SEA Scoping Report was approved by the Corporate Director for Economic Growth and Environmental Infrastructure on the 21 October 2013.
- On the 27 January 2014, the Executive Member for Highways and Environment approved the Draft Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, Environmental Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report for the purpose of public consultation. Consultation on these documents, together with a summary of the draft Strategy and a non-technical summary of the Environmental Report, was undertaken between the 17 February and the 31 March 2014. The consultation process included documentation being made available at all Trafford libraries and on the Council's website, targeted communications aimed at key stakeholders and meetings with consultees.

8 written responses were received during the consultation period, from the Canal and River Trust, the Coal Authority, English Heritage, Manchester Airports Group, the National Trust, Natural England, Peel and Salford City Council. In addition, a meeting was held with Sale Civic Society. 3 written responses were received after the consultation period from the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency and United Utilities. Whilst the overwhelming majority of respondents were supportive of the Draft Strategy, had no specific comments or offered suggestions for only minor improvements, substantive concerns were raised by Peel in relation to the Manchester Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal. A meeting to discuss these concerns, and how they might be addressed, was held on the 01 July 2014. The strategy has been updated, as far as is considered appropriate, as a result of this meeting.

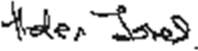
Reason for Recommendation

- To secure Executive approval of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to meet statutory requirements.

Key Decision Yes

If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance ... PC
Legal Officer Clearance ... MJ.....



CORPORATE DIRECTOR’S SIGNATURE (*electronic*)...

To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.