

Name of meeting: Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee

Date: 7 March 2023

Title of report: Flood Risk Management – Annual Review

Purpose of report: To consider annual progress against the action plan of the Kirklees Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (the Strategy).

<p>Key Decision – A key decision is an executive decision to be made by Cabinet which is likely to result in Council spending or saving £250k or more per annum, or to have a significant positive or negative effect on communities living or working in an area compromising two or more electoral wards. Decisions having a particularly significant effect on a single ward may also be treated as if they were key decisions.</p>	<p>Yes/ no or Not Applicable N/A</p> <p>If yes give the reason why</p>
<p>Key Decision - Is it in the <u>Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)</u>?</p>	<p>Key Decision – No Private Report/Private Appendix – No</p>
<p>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</p>	<p>Not Applicable If no give the reason why not</p>
<p>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</p> <p>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</p>	<p>David Shepherd</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Cabinet member portfolio</p>	<p>Cllr Graham Turner</p>

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: No consultation undertaken

Public or private: Public
as GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Summary

- £1m (upto) DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Grant Support has successfully completed in 2022.
- £1.3 million EA Kirklees Culvert Programme completed in March 2022 under budget around £100K. The Environment Agency supported the Council to continue the work in improving other high flood risk culvert. This is planned to complete by March 2023.
- £550K Debris Screen Study has surveyed 40 higher risk debris screens in 2022/23. They have been assessed against the new CIRIA 786 guidance issued. In 23/24 complete the business case to release allocated Grant in Aid funding for construction start in 24/25.
- Community Flood Groups – communities have been approached and five volunteers have come forward in four community areas to help towards establishing flood groups.
- Local Resilience Fund bid secured £3K to purchase bespoke sandbags to be trialled in our two most flooded areas. A new sandbag leaflet has been produced (see Appendix A).
- WYFLIP – Kirklees will be leading on a Mental Health project under the Community & Voluntary Sector theme. Project Scoping document has been drafted and finalised. A future Local Levy bid is being considered for 24/25 but seeking other funding pots.
- WYFLIP – Kirklees has an ongoing site trial looking at new technology to provide a local flood warning system (see Appendix B – Case Study).
- Government has announced the introduction of SuDS Approval Body

2. Information required to take a decision

The current local strategy was refreshed in 2019 to provide an up-to-date evidence base to support the measures identified in the Action Plan. The details of progress against the action plan are outlined in a “**Progress and Implementation Plan**” included in Appendix C, which summarises the work carried out in support of the Action Plan.

The progress being made align with the themes within the government’s current National Strategy, these include:

- Emphasis on nature based solutions
- A greater focus on creating resilient communities
- Adaptive pathways – being agile to new climate hazards
- A build-back better approach
- Extend the support to local communities
- Align incident response and recovery strategy

New Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 (Local Strategy)

The Council’s new Local Strategy is programmed to be launched in 2023.

A consultant was appointed in April 2022 to help us develop the strategy and the work started around May 2022. A considerable amount of time was spent in data collection and reviewing existing reports/studies. Early engagement workshops began over the 2022 summer period with relevant services in Kirklees and key partners to help shape the strategy. The partners involved did include Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Highways who are legally designated as Risk Management Authorities within Kirklees district.

The new Strategic Objectives of the Local Strategy are:

<i>Evidence</i>	Using data, research and science to better understand flood risk.
<i>Communities</i>	Working closely with communities and businesses to better prepare.
<i>Adapt</i>	Be adaptive in our approach in responding to climate change.
<i>Sustainable</i>	Support our economic growth and environment net gain.

Partnership Innovation Working with partners to foster a catchment-based approach.
Identify new technologies and opportunities to mitigate flood risk.

These objectives will support four themes identified in the new Local Strategy:

Place Making best use of land and development choices to manage flooding.
Protect Flood defences that improve the standard of protection in our communities.
Respond Preparing and responding to flood incidents.
Recover Getting back to normal and build back better.

The final drafts of the new strategy, action plan and Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Habitat Regulation Assessments are complete. At the time of writing this report the documents are being reviewed and then Kirklees Graphics team will add the finishing touches.

Future indicative key dates for the new strategy adoption are:

Public consultation	May 2023 (8 weeks)
Portfolio Briefing	Aug 2023
Overview & Scrutiny Committee	September 2023
Cabinet Meeting	October 2023

Whilst the new Local Strategy remains in development; the existing measures and actions will continue until the new strategy is formally adopted. It is felt that these measures remain adequate, and actions align with the themes in the new National Strategy.

SuDS Approval Body (SAB)

On 10 January 2023 the government published the Sustainable drainage systems review and have accepted the recommendation to make sustainable drainage systems mandatory for new developments in England and will progress with the implementation phase. This will reduce the risk of surface water flooding, pollution and help alleviate the pressures on our traditional drainage and sewerage systems.

The new approach to drainage will ensure sustainable drainage systems are designed to reduce the impact of rainfall on new developments by using features such as soakaways, grassed areas, and wetlands. This reduces the overall amount of water that ends up in the sewers and storm overflow discharges.

Government will now consider how Schedule 3 will be implemented, subject to final decisions on scope, threshold and process, while also being mindful of the cumulative impact of new regulatory burdens on the development sector. This will include a public consultation later this year, which will collect views on the impact assessment, national standards and statutory instruments.

Schedule 3 provides a framework for the approval and adoption of drainage systems, an approving body (e.g. a Unitary Council or County Council), and national standards on the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of SuDS. Also, it makes the right to connect surface water runoff to public sewers conditional upon the drainage system being approved before any construction work can start.

Implementation of the new approach is expected during 2024.

Issue raised at the last Committee

Officers have a list of 145 priority gullies in known areas of frequent flooding in our flood risk operational plans. Officers will endeavour to inspect high risk gullies if triggered by a severe Met Office weather warning and the Council's ability to empty gullies is subject to resources and time to respond. It must be noted that the Met Office weather warnings can be issued with little notice and during out-of-hours.

A concern around flood risk post development due to the changes made to a drainage system in the area. The Flood Risk Management team have Officers that inspect sites during construction and post construction to ensure any temporary and permanent drainage systems installed comply with the Council's consented drawings. These are prioritised on the basis of risk.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

We will continue to work with communities with the aim to improve our response to severe weather events and support to resident preparedness. Many of the actions in the current strategy and the new Local Strategy support the idea of developing community resilience. This can involve information exchange with residents and businesses and encouragement of self-help to enable householders and business to understand and manage the flood risk they face.

3.2 Working with Partners

The Council will continue to work proactively with other Risk Management Authorities, including the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water, to share information and good practice with neighbouring authorities, develop joint initiatives and provide clarity on the responsibilities for the management of flood risk.

Our partnership networks include Aire River Trust, National Trust, Woodlands Trust and with the Peak District National Park Authority to work collaboratively for our communities. These conversations are developed through our regular partnership meetings.

3.3 Place Based Working

The work we do continues to recognise the diversity of the district and the actions identified in the strategy pay regard to the needs of each community. The new Local Strategy will aim to prioritise the areas at higher levels of flood risk but recognise areas of social deprivation.

A key focus of our approach is working with local Councillors to understand the issues that exist in our communities. Going forward we are looking to establish Flood Community Groups in our highest risk areas whereby regular communication lines can be maintained.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

We will deliver a local with a catchment approach to managing the impacts of climate change in relation to flooding. Flood mitigation improvement schemes, funded by national flood grant, include allowances for increased rainfall from the impact of future climate change.

Our approach will make further emphasis on the need for natural flood management techniques that can store and slow water running off land in response to a rainfall to help reduce flood levels downstream. This can include ponds, tree planting and use of leaky dams which have wider sustainability benefits such as biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

The development of the new SAB is being established in England to ensure SuDS type drainages systems are prioritised and a body is established to adopt and maintain them. This approach is now seen nationally as a key step towards tackling climate change impacts around flooding.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

No impact

3.6 Financial Implications for the people living or working in Kirklees

No impact.

3.7 Other (eg. Integrated Impact Assessment/Legal/Financial or Human Resources) No impact.

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Initial screening complete with no Stage 2 IIA required.

4 Consultation

The Flood Risk Management service will continue to consult with Members and our local communities and our partners when developing flood mitigation projects.

The new Local Strategy will be consulted with Parish Councillors, residents and business owners operating in the district. The documents have been developed into an accessible format and a survey has been developed for residents to share their thoughts. The survey responses will be analysed to help shape the new Local Strategy going forward.

5 Engagement

The Flood Risk Management will continue to engage our local communities when developing flood mitigation projects.

Workshops in 2022 with key partners like the Environment Agency, Yorkshire and Kirklees services such as Planning Authority and Highways (including Landscapes and Emergency Planning) have helped to shape the new draft Local Strategy ready for public consultation,

In developing our new Local Strategy, we intend to invite our high-risk flood communities to a workshop during the consultation period. This will hopefully encourage a two-way conversation about the approach we should be taking.

6 Next steps and timelines

To continue to progress the measures in the action plan and to consider the views expressed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

To continue with the adoption of Kirklees new Local Strategy in accordance with the timeline given above.

7 Officer recommendations and reasons

To continue to work under the current strategic actions until the new Local Strategy has been formally adopted.

8 Cabinet Portfolio Holder's recommendations

Not Applicable.

9 Contact officer

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10 Background Papers and History of Decisions

None.

11 Service Director responsible

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