

Report title: Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024

Cabinet date	20th February 2024
Cabinet Member	Cllr Graham Turner
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	Yes
Purpose of Report To present the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024	
Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cabinet adopt the new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 Reasons for Recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will ensure Council's has a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that meets the legal requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The new local strategy will be consistent with the national strategy which will increase our opportunities to secure funding into the district. The new strategy would better align with the nature of the flood risk and support needed by our communities. 	
Resource Implication: No implications.	
Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> & name	David Shepherd 10.02.24
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Isabel Brittain 07/02/2024
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft 11.01.24

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: Yes on Member's Bulletin.

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Yes

1. Executive Summary

The Council's new Local Flood Risk and Management Strategy 2024 (Local Strategy) is programmed to be launched in 2024 to replace our existing 2012 strategy (revised in 2019). The report is seeking Cabinet to note the new Local Strategy (see Appendix 1).

An Executive Summary is also attached for Members' information (Appendix 2).

2. Information required to take a decision

As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), Kirklees Council is required to develop and implement a Local Strategy under Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It is required to be consistent with the Environment Agency's revised National Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy (National Strategy).

The risk of flooding in England is predicted to increase due to factors such as climate change and growth in our demographic. A new strategy is seeking to adapt our approach in line with current science and thinking to give our communities the best chance.

To improve our opportunities and securing inward investment, we need to ensure alignment and best fit with the Environment Agency's National Strategy to manage flood risk.

There is a stronger need now to enhance the work we do with our partners in a more collaborative way. We need to be focussed on encouraging more effective risk management by enabling people, communities, businesses and the private sector to work together to balance the needs of our places, environment and economy. By working together, we can increase local resilience.

The new Local Strategy need to have strengthened focus on:

- creating resilient communities with build-back better approach.
- Increasing emphasis on nature based solutions.
- being adaptive in responding to new climate hazards.
- Working together with our communities around awareness and shared responsibilities.
- Our commitment in responding to severe weather events.

New Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 (Local Strategy)

The Council's new Local Strategy is programmed to be launched in 2024.

In 2022/23 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. These partners included the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and Highways who are legally designated as Risk Management Authorities within Kirklees district.

These discussions have led to a set of new Strategic Objectives within the strategy as:

Evidence	Using data, research and science to better understand flood risk.
Communities	Working closely with communities and businesses to better prepare.
Adapt	Be adaptive in our approach in responding to climate change.
Sustainable	Support our economic growth and environment net gain.
Partnership	Working with partners to foster a catchment-based approach.
Innovation	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.
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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 support a build back better approach.

A mixture of themes will extend across conventional flood alleviation methods integrated with community resilience at the heart. The strategy recognises the need to have a balance and a collaborative integration of these in Kirklees.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Working with People

The new Local Strategy has now embedded communities in ensuring they remain part of our core strategic approach. The strategy sets a clear vision to ensure community resilience remains an integral part of managing flood risk in our district.

This new Local Strategy will be supported by our Inclusive Communities Framework in the belief that communities can support solutions to problems, hopefully leading to a stronger and meaningful Community Flood Groups with identified roles such as Flood Wardens.

We will continue to work with communities with the aim to provide a collective response to severe weather events and support to resident preparedness. 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. Work dedicated around this has been identified in the development of the Action Plan (Appendix F of the Strategy (which is attached at Appendix 1)).

3.2 Working with Partners

The new Local Strategy firms up the need to work with partners by setting a new Partnership strategic objective. The partnership approach will support local solutions but also look at flood risk mitigation outside our district boundary using a catchment-based approach.

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.

We will continue our important partnership arrangements with Aire River Trust, National Trust, Woodlands Trust and with the Peak District National Park Authority and many others to work collaboratively for our communities. Image 1 below highlights most of the partners we are currently working with. The strategy recognises the importance of sharing the resources, skills and knowledge around flooding within and also outside the district. This includes working with local charity groups providing mental health support to flood victims and local universities in providing the research/data to support the decisions we make.

The strategy seeks to enhance our partner relationships and look extend our partner network. Work dedicated around this has been identified in the Action Plan.

OUR PARTNERS for OUR COMMUNITIES



Image 1: Our Partners

3.3 Place Based Working

The work we do continues to recognise the diversity of the district and the pledges made 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. It recognises the importance of understanding the capacity of people and places to respond to flooding.

A key focus of our approach is working with local Ward and Parish Councillors to understand the issues that exist in our communities. Going forward we will look to enhance the work around Flood Community Groups in our highest risk areas whereby regular communication lines can be maintained. Ensuring communities are best informed so they are best prepared.

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

The new Local Strategy notes that flooding in England is predicted to increase due to Climate Change. It recognises the unpredictability that surrounds this and therefore the need to remain innovative and adaptive in trying new ways.

A key strategic objective in the new Local Strategy is evidence to ensure we remain abreast with current climate science and research to inform decision making. It identifies the Kirklees Climate Change Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and the importance of climate resilience to help prepare for climate hazards.

We will deliver a county wide catchment approach to managing the impacts of climate change in relation to flooding. Development and mitigation improvement schemes will include uplift allowances for increased rainfall from the impact of future climate change.

Our approach will place further emphasis on the need for natural flood management techniques that can store and slow water running off land in response to rain 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.

3.5 Improving outcomes for children

The main two outcome areas for children in the Council Plan are “Best Start in Life” and “Aspire and Achieve.” Reports should highlight any impact they are likely to have in these areas. It is also

the case that other outcome areas in the Council Plan will/can impact on children and young people's outcomes such as better employment opportunities and environmental improvements.

Report authors therefore should approach Improving Children's Outcomes from a broad and holistic perspective about the potential impact that their report will have for the lives and outcomes for children and young people in Kirklees.

In instances where there is expected to be no impact on a particular priority, please state that 'there will be no impact'.

3.6 Financial Implications

The Local Strategy development has been financed from within Flood Management Revenue budgets for 2022/23 & 23/24. Local Authorities are obliged to produce such a document under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The new Local Strategy identifies some of the funding streams that are available to help deliver the measures in its action plan. This includes the Council's capital flood programme. The Capital Plan being taken to Budget Council on 6th March 2024 includes an annual investment of £200k borrowing for Flood Management and Land Drainage.

3.7 Legal Implications

Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 ("the Act") requires the Council as the lead local flood authority to maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for flood risk management in its area ("LFRMS"). Under section 9(5) of the Act, the LFRMS must be consistent with the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy under section 7.

Prior to adopting the LFRMS, the Council is required to carry out statutory consultation with the public and risk management authorities that may be affected by the strategy under section 9(6) of the Act; and in turn publish a summary of its LFRMS under s.9(7) of the Act. The Council may issue guidance under s.9(8) about the application of the LFRMS, The Council must have regard to any guidance about flood risk management strategies issued by the Secretary of State s.9(9) of the Act.

There are a set of well-established common law rules which set out the requirements of a lawful public consultation which are known as the Gunning principles. The principles can be summarised as follows:

- Consultation should occur when proposals are at a formative stage.
- Consultations should give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit intelligent consideration.
- Consultations should allow adequate time for consideration and response; and
- The product of consultation should conscientiously be taken into account by the decision maker.

3.8 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)

Initial screening complete with no Stage 2 IIA required.

4 Consultation

The consultation of the new Local Strategy included Parish Councillors, residents and business owners operating in the district.

The public consultation started on the 24th of July till 18th September 2023 (8 weeks). The consultation was listed on our Involve platform and on our dedicated Flood Risk Management

webpage. The consultation was supported by an online survey which used Live Chat to provide any support to members of the public (e.g. sending out a hard copy if requested).

Known flood areas were approached directly on email or via letter to inform them of the public consultation and how to get it involved. A dedicated workshop was arranged with known flood communities to speak directly to Officers involved in the drafting of the new Local Strategy.

The consultation was promoted through our usual channels i.e. a press release, Council Bulletin, Next Door and also on our social media platforms. An Engagement and Consultation Feedback Report has been prepared (see Appendix 3). Table below summarises the comments into general headline focus areas.

Platform	Invitees	Headline focus areas to consider
Internal engagement workshop	Planning, Highways, Emergency Planning, Landscapes, Climate Change Team, Planning Policy, Communities, Public Health, Wellness, Environment Health, Mental Health, Biodiversity Teams.	The strategy should shape the development on planning policy, nature-based solutions, sustainable drainage systems, community resilience and engagement with flood communities, mental health and technological advancements.
External engagement workshop x 2 (Partner event)	Environment Agency, National Trust, River Trust, Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, Fire & Rescue Service, Canal & River Trust, Local Charities, Peak District National Park, Woodland Trust, Police, NHS.	Communities and engagement, modelling data, planning policy and land use; nature-based solutions, engagement with communities and volunteers.
Public engagement workshop	8 attendees from frequent flooded communities	Landowner engagement in managing flood risk and through maintenance of assets. Enforcement. Maintain communication with flood communities.
Public Consultation	24 respondents completed the online questionnaire.	Preventative maintenance and improvement of drainage assets. Development. Better coordination between Risk Management Authorities. Practical solutions needed. Community engagement and champions. Tree planting. Long term recovery plans. Sustainable designs.

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

5 Engagement

Workshops around the four themes of Place, Protect, Response and Recover were held in 2022 with partners like the Environment Agency, Yorkshire, National Trust, River Trusts and local charities.

Separate workshops were undertaken with Kirklees services such as Planning Authority, Highways and Emergency Planning who have helped to shape the new Local Strategy.

The Flood Risk Management will continue to engage our local communities when developing flood mitigation projects/initiatives in delivery of the new Local Strategy.

The new Local Strategy has been taken to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee 5th December 2023. It was recommended that reference within the strategy to the work and engagement undertaken with and alongside other local authorities in respect of surface water should be strengthened. Partnership work is a strategic objective within the strategy and promotes its importance of enhancing partnership working. Officers will ensure it continues its partnership work with Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water but look extend this partnership in areas where we seek to progress new initiatives like mental health support.

Other comments noted were around in ensuring we measure progress, the importance of sustainable drainage (including green roofs, water butts etc.), development of the Local Plan, surface flooding being a concern where only one or two properties are flooded and ensuring best practice is followed. These will be considered and taken forward as part of the measures within the Action Plan.

6 Options

6.1 Options Considered

Not applicable.

6.2 Reasons for recommended Option

The Council's new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 presented would replace the current strategy to ensure the Council has a strategy that meets the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

This new Local Strategy will be consistent with the National Strategy which will support our funding applications in securing investment into the district. It will also better align with the nature of the flood risk within the district and the support for communities.

7 Next steps and timelines

The new Local Strategy will set the strategic direction and will be used to inform our decision making and support our future funding applications.

Following adoption at Cabinet, Officer's will promote the new strategy using our existing Partnership meetings to update our partners of the Council's new Local Strategy. The existing partnerships in place include our regular meetings with the Environment Agency/Yorkshire Water, the Our Future Landscapes Meetings, Calder Catchment Partnership Meetings and the West Yorkshire Local Authority Meetings.

Officer's will progress the new Action Plan starting in April 2024. Officers will provide an annual update (at the end of the financial year) at the March Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee as it currently does.

8 Contact officer

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9 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee – 5th December 2023

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Full Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Appendix 2 – Summary Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Appendix 3 – Engagement and Consultation Report

11 Service Director responsible

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