

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Clare Nolan- Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments
Date of Meeting	16 June 2021

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide the Tourism, Economy and Communities Scrutiny Committee an update on the Flood Risk Management actions in respect of the following three actions:-
- 1.2
- The implementation of the Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy (Local Strategy)
 - The progress of bids submitted in relation to flood risk
 - The implementation of Local Flood Forums

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To scrutinise the delivery of the Council's Statutory Duties in relation to the implementation of the Lancashire Flood Risk management Strategy (Local Strategy), the progress of bids and works carried out by successful funding and the implementation of local flood forums.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report and provide confirmation that the Council is delivering its statutory duties and associated work in respect of flood risk management.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Council has statutory duties as set out in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny (England) Regulations 2011.

5.2 Following the completion of a Flood Risk Management Scrutiny Review in 2013, the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee has received a report on an annual basis, relating to progress on flood risk management. The latest annual report was provided in January 2021 and the purpose of this report is to provide an update on the items listed in 1.1 above for further scrutiny

6.0 The Implementation of the Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy (Local strategy)

6.1 At the January 2021 Tourism, Economy and Communities ‘ Flood Risk Scrutiny Review Panel meeting it was reported that Blackpool Council are the lead Local Flood Authority responsible for reviewing, revising, consulting and publishing the Lancashire Flood Risk Strategy (Local strategy) on behalf of Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council and Lancashire County Council.

6.2 A copy of the draft Local strategy that has now been subject to public consultation is in Appendix 7(a) of this report.

6.3 The consultation on the Draft revised Local Strategy ended on the 19 March 2021, there were 142 responses received from the consultation.

6.3.1 All of the responses have been summarised and there are five top messages arising from the consultation, the five top messages are listed in 6.3.1. – 6.3.6.

6.3.2 Planning, development and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) concerns, in particular:

- educational need
- challenge perception
- Local Planning Authorities being seen to be doing more to ensure Sustainable Drainage implementation and flood risk management issues are addressed in the planning process and this needs to be more visible

6.3.3 Lack of clarity that the Strategy doesn’t include 'coast' and why this is the case

- 6.3.4 The need for greater clarity of roles and responsibilities of Risk Management Authorities and other organisations e.g. Canal and Rivers Trust etc. and greater ownership of the flood risk by those responsible
- 6.3.5 Agriculture and flood risk needs to feature more prominently – linking with Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS), Natural Flood Management, water/climate resilient farming etc.
- 6.3.6 Clarity around timeline of Strategy – why to 2027 and not to 2100 like National FCERM Strategy
- 6.4 The draft Local Strategy is now being edited taking into consideration the comments and concerns raised in the consultation exercise.
- 6.5 The Local strategy will also contain a business plan to enable the actions to be monitored by the Lancashire Strategic Partners and will be reported at the annual Scrutiny Committee Meeting.
- 6.6 The amended document will be complete by the 18 June 2021.
- 6.7 Further external consultation will not be required; however, the draft will be discussed by the Lancashire Strategic Partnership on the 23 June 2021.
- 6.8 It is proposed to Publish the Local strategy in Autumn 2021

7.0 The Progress of Bids Submitted For Flood Risk

- 7.1 Members will recall that following the flood event in November 2017 and the subsequent section 19 report published in 2018, the council successfully achieved funding in 2019 of £110,000 (£55,000 from the Environment Agency and £55,000 from United Utilities). The funding provision is to carry out a study including further investigations in the Anchorsholme and Bispham Areas to provide a better understanding of the hydraulic modelling and watercourse or main drainage issues that attributed to the flood event in 2017.
- 7.2 It is anticipated that the study will identify areas that require adaptation to prevent future flood risk to properties.
- 7.3 To date, work was carried out in 2019 to identify and, where possible, measure the flows of the watercourses and drainage, mapping watercourses and main drains and agree the scope of the work to appoint and enable consultants to complete modelling.
- 7.4 The work completed in 2019 enabled tenders to be sought and the appointment of

consultants to carry out the study. Due to restrictions in 2020 the planned work was delayed however work on this study has commenced and the final report is expected in November 2021.

7.5 Blackpool Council have also been allocated a further £100,000 by the Environment Agency for further studies to manage flood risk in 2022/2023

8.0 Implementation of Flood Forums

Due to the pandemic in 2020 it was not possible to continue with the creation of flood forums, however as Lockdown is now easing, the Council will commence engagement with those interested in the formation of forums. The Council will also engage with the Flood Forum set up by the regional flood and Coastal Committee to assist in the sharing of information, which will be accessible and transparent.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

9.0 List of Appendices:

9.1 Appendix 7(a) –Draft Lancashire Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local strategy)

10.0 Financial considerations:

10.1 The Environment Agency and United Utilities have provided funding for studies, as detailed at 7.0 of the report.

11.0 Legal considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Risk management considerations:

12.1 Failure to implement the statutory duties could lead to unquantified and unmanaged flood risk to Blackpool.

13.0 Equalities considerations:

13.1 Flooding has the potential to impact on vulnerable residents to a greater extent and will need to be managed accordingly.

14.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

14.1 Details of sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations are contained with Appendix 7(a) to the report.

15.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

15.1 Blackpool Council is part of the Lancashire Flood Risk Partnership and chairs the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership which review flood risk in the wider area.

16.0 Background papers:

16.1 None.