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**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**To: The Chair and Members of the Community and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Report Title: Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2023 - 2029**

<b>Relevant Cabinet Member(s)</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>	<b>Key Decision?</b>
Councillor Mark Houlbrook - Portfolio Holder for Sustainability and Waste	All	Yes

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. Under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA, 2010), a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Following an internal audit in 2022 to review the LLFA meeting their legal regulations of the FWMA, it was recommended that our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) from 2014 was updated. The Local Authority have an internal target of publishing an updated strategy by October 2023. Therefore, as the LLFA, the flood risk team have produced an updated LFRMS for 2023 – 2029. The LFRMS will be presented to cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> October to seek approval of the strategy. The LFRMS is attached for the Panel's consideration.
2. In accordance with Section 9FH of the Local Government Act 2000 Overview and Scrutiny is entitled to review and scrutinise Risk Management Authorities in relation to their flood management work to allow for greater accountability and transparency. Therefore, it is good practice to provide the Scrutiny Panel the opportunity to comment on the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy prior to approval.

### **EXEMPT REPORT**

3. This report is not exempt.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4. That the Panel consider the outcomes of the review and consultation and comment on the LFRMS as set out in Appendix A prior to its approval.

## **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?**

5. There will be an increase in flood resilience for the residents, by increasing resident's awareness of flood risk, the installation of blue-green infrastructure, contribution to local, regional, and national working groups to increase understanding and partnership working to deliver flood risk management schemes across Doncaster.

## **BACKGROUND**

6. The Local Authority has produced a strategy that incorporates the national Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) 2020 Strategy for England, which aims to create a nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change, up to 2100. Our five strategic aims are to:
  1. Continually improve our understanding of flood risk in Doncaster
  2. Promote flood risk management schemes to better protect communities, homes, businesses, and land in Doncaster
  3. Work in partnership with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs)
  4. Encourage flood resilience measures in local planning policy  
Improve local knowledge and awareness
7. The notable differences between the existing LFRMS, which was approved in 2014, and the proposed revised strategy is the receipt of new flooding information and emerging legislation. The Local Authority area was subject to significant internal property flooding in 2019, which presented the Local Authority with new information in terms of new flood risk areas. This revised strategy has allowed the Local Authority to present the recovery programme and set out the progress to date. Following the emerging legislation of Schedule 3 of the FWMA, the Local Authority in their capacity as a Lead Local Flood Authority, will be legally designated as a Sustainable Drainage Systems Approval Body. This enactment will bring additional statutory duties to the Local Authority which is captured and raises awareness through the new strategy.
8. The panel may wish to:
  - consider and comment on the draft LRMFS.
  - consider the effectiveness of the approach to consultation and provide any insight for future strategies.
  - review and consider the objectives and comment on whether there are suitable actions in place to measure their success.

## OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9. Option 1: Enact the new strategy in line with Section 9 of the FWMA (2010) (Recommended option).



Option 2: Continue to implement the existing strategy.







## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

10. The previous LFRMS (2014) was produced prior to the 2019 flood event and the current National FCERM Strategy. An updated strategy that incorporates the impacts of the 2019 flood event and reflection on the current aims of the National FCERM Strategy is required. Additionally, Schedule 3 of the FWMA (2010) will be enacted in April 2024. This will result in the formation of the SuDS Approval Body (SAB), which the LLFA will manage. The LFRMS aims to link the requirements of the SAB. This strategy will also support the National Flood Risk Assessment 2 (NaFRA2). Therefore, it is recommended that the strategy is enacted.

## IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

11. The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all the Council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account and reviewing issues outside the remit of the Council that have an impact on the residents of Doncaster.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider – Negative overall	Neutral or No implications
 <b>Tackling Climate Change</b>	✓			
Comments: The LFRMS links to the national FCERM strategy of creating a nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change, up to 2100. Installing blue-green infrastructure (which includes SuDS), working in partnership with other RMAs and increasing flood risk awareness in the community are ways in which the Local Authority are implementing measures to counteract climate change.				
 <b>Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work</b>				✓
Comments:				

 <b>Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs</b>	✓			
Comments: The LFRMS links to the national FCERM strategy of creating a nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change, up to 2100. Installing blue-green infrastructure (which includes SuDS) will hopefully encourage investment and development in green areas.				
 <b>Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all</b>	✓			
Comments: The impacts of flooding can have significant, long-term health implications for individuals. Increasing the flood resilience for residents in Doncaster will work towards reducing these impacts.				
 <b>Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs</b>	✓			
Comments: The LFRMS links to the national FCERM strategy of creating a nation ready for, and resilient to flooding and coastal change, up to 2100. Installing blue-green infrastructure (which includes SuDS), working in partnership with other RMAs and increasing flood risk awareness in the community are ways in which the Local Authority are implementing measures to counteract climate change.				
 <b>Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough</b>				✓
Comments:				
 <b>Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future</b>				✓
Comments:				
 <b>Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities</b>				✓

Comments:				
<b>Fair &amp; Inclusive</b>	✓			
Comments: The strategy is aimed at all localities.				

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SRF | Date: 21.09.23]**

12. Section 9FH of Part 1A Chapter 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 includes arrangements for overview and scrutiny bodies to review and scrutinise the exercise by risk management authorities of flood or coastal erosion risk management functions which may affect the local authority's area. This includes the requirement of a risk management authority to provide Overview and Scrutiny with information on request, respond to reports and have regard to any reports and recommendations of an overview and scrutiny committee made in the course of these arrangements.
13. Furthermore, as set out within the body of the report in accordance with Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA, 2010), a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) must develop, maintain, apply, and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: AB Date: 19/09/23]**

14. There are no direct financial implications leading from this report. Any projects required to deliver flood alleviation works or SAB management, will be subject to further separate approval reports which will include the details of any available funding that can be applied to deliver the scheme.

**HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: SH Date: 19/09/23]**

15. There are no specific HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS [Officer Initials: PW Date: 19/09/23]**

16. There are no technology implications in relation to this report.

**RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS**

17. If the LFRMS is not endorsed, then the Local Authority are unlikely to fully discharge our statutory duties as defined in Section 9 of the FWMA 2010.

## **CONSULTATION**

18. The Local Authority presented the LFRMS to partner organisations, who are hydraulically linked with our catchment area, to allow for early screening and commentary. This was intended to improve the quality of the report prior to public consultation. This was undertaken between 17<sup>th</sup> May until 6<sup>th</sup> June.
19. Public consultation was undertaken between 14<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> August. This was conducted in support of the communications team and sent to 90,000 registered email address and the Local Authority received approximately 20 responses. All of the responses received a reply.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

20. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy v1.4 (2014)

## **GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

FCERM – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

LFRMS – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

LLFA – Lead Local Flood Authority

NaFRA2 – National Flood Risk Assessment 2

SAB - SuDS Approval Body

SuDS – Sustainable Drainage Systems

RMAs – Risk Management Authorities

## **REPORT AUTHOR & CONTRIBUTORS**

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