

Cabinet

25 January 2017



Title	Surrey Flood Risk Management Strategy		
Purpose of the report	To make a Key Decision		
Report Author	Sandy Muirhead		
Cabinet Member	Councillor Tony Mitchell	Confidential	No
Corporate Priority	Clean and Safe Environment		
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet is recommended to approve the Draft Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2032.</p> <p>The Group Head for Commissioning and Transformation be authorised to approve, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder minor modifications to the draft strategy in light of amendments required to be made by Surrey County Council arising from its public consultation.</p>		
Reason for Recommendation	To enable Surrey County Council to fulfil its Statutory Duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Surrey		

1. Key issues

- 1.1 In 2013 the Cabinet approved the Surrey Flood Risk Management Strategy 2013 to 2016. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places various statutory duties on the lead flood authority (Surrey County Council) including producing a strategy which addresses how flood risk will be dealt with within their area.
- 1.2 The current strategy is overseen by the Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board (Board) where all Flood Risk Management Authorities Districts, Boroughs and County) are able to be represented at senior officer level. The Board is supported by a Working Group of technical officers from partners who engage in detailed discussions on projects, issues and flood events with a view to developing actions to deliver projects and mitigate flooding.
- 1.3 This report contains an update of the strategy and seeks the approval of the Cabinet to enable Surrey County Council (SCC) to fulfil its Statutory Duty, as Lead Local Flood Authority, to produce a local flood risk management strategy. The update attached at Appendix 1 has been agreed by the Board.
- 1.4 The updated strategy sets out how the responsible authorities in Surrey are seeking to manage the impact of flooding, from rivers, ground and surface water. In recognition of the long term nature of measures needed to address flood risk, the strategy is proposed for a fifteen year period. During this time

rolling action plans will be developed to address those long term needs in Surrey and specifically for Spelthorne mitigation of flooding from the River Thames via the River Thames scheme.

1.5 The Strategy consists of four main elements:

- **Vision:** this is the main goal that will be achieved over the lifetime of the Strategy
- **Purpose:** this summarises who will be involved in achieving the Vision and How it will be done
- **Principles:** these provide context for the Vision, and are important concepts that are considered as part of all the objectives
- **Objectives:** these are the specific activities that will be undertaken to achieve the Vision.

1.6 The significant change in approach is set out in the principles underlying the updated draft strategy. Under this draft strategy a long term vision is being pursued with a catchment based approach where all elements that relate to the risk of flooding in a river catchment are consider, assessed and flood risk managed. This is considered to be beneficial to the long term interests of residents, businesses and wildlife throughout Surrey.

1.7 Under each objective there is a description of the action plan activities that will be pursued to achieve the stated objective. The action plans will be regularly updated and worked on by the Working Group, and responsible authorities. They will be overseen and performance managed by the Board. This approach is considered to be most effective in enabling responsible authorities to respond more effectively to changing circumstances.

1.8 Officers of Spelthorne have been involved in the preparation of the strategy both at technical and policy levels. The strategy creates a positive framework within which to manage and address flood risk across the County.

1.9 For the purpose of public consultation by SCC, the County Council will undertake public consultation prior to the formal adoption by it of the strategy. Accordingly authority is sought for the Group Head Commissioning and Transformation in consultation with the Portfolio Holder approve minor modifications to the draft strategy in light of amendments required to be made by Surrey County Council in light of its public consultation

2. Options analysis and proposal

2.1 Not to support the strategy would be counterproductive in taking forward measures to mitigate flooding the Borough

2.2 Therefore it is recommended we support the draft strategy and it being issued for public consultation.

3. Financial implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the adoption of the strategy. Operational implications can be met within existing resources. However individual projects and actions pursued in delivering the strategy will give rise to financial implications. These will each be considered on their respective merit and depending on their nature require Cabinet approval.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 The draft strategy will contribute positively, in policy terms, to managing the risk of flooding. Individual projects, associated with the strategy, will need to be risk assessed to address any specific issues that may arise during implementation or subsequent operation.
- 4.2 Failure by responsible authorities and riparian owners to discharge their maintenance responsibilities, as outlined in the strategy, will undermine the effectiveness of the strategy.
- 4.3 The draft strategy will contribute positively, in policy terms, towards all aspects of local sustainability but individual projects will need to be assessed on their own merit. There are no equality issues in this report.

5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 SCC will undertake public consultation on the draft strategy in early 2017 with a view to the final document being available by May 2017.

Background papers: There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2017-2032