

## DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

12 September 2019

Report of the Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

### ANNUAL REPORT OF PROGRESS OF DERBYSHIRE'S LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

(1) **Purpose of Report** To update the Cabinet Member on the progress made in delivering Derbyshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) in 2018-19.

(2) **Information and Analysis** Derbyshire's LFRMS was approved by Cabinet on 28 July 2015 (Minute No. 271/15 refers).

In approving the report, Cabinet requested that the Strategy be subject to:

- an annual report on progress; and
- a full review every five years.

This report sets out the progress made on the delivery of the Strategy. The full annual review is set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

Notable highlights, in terms of delivery since the approval of the LFRMS, include:

- Completion of 682 planning responses relating to flood risk (27% increase from previous year).
- Completion of 49 land drainage consents.
- Continued support, to encourage developers to take up SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems) for new development.
- Ongoing development of a local guidance/standard for SuDS.
- Utilising natural flood risk management techniques to reduce flood risk.
- Ongoing partnership working with other risk management authorities to identify and implement flood risk schemes.
- Continue to seek and maximise external funding for flood mitigation schemes.

(3) **Financial Considerations** Funding has been secured from the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Grant in Aid (FCERM GiA) and Local Levy Grant in support of numerous schemes and projects that seek to help reduce risk to the residents and businesses of Derbyshire.

Since the LFRMS was adopted in 2015, the Flood Risk Management Team has secured around £650,000 of external funding to reduce the risk of flooding to 80+ properties in Derbyshire.

The Flood Risk Management Team has identified 11 new flood risk mitigation schemes to be included in the Environment Agency's medium term plan (2021 onwards), subject to confirmation at the next comprehensive spending review. These new bids will follow the same partnership funding approach as previously delivered schemes, where the Flood Risk Management Team will seek to maximise Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy funding, but may also require other sources of funding to enable schemes to be fully realised, e.g. County Council, District and Borough Councils, Businesses, Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), etc.

All future acceptance of grant funding and designation of County Council match funding will be subject to the appropriate level of Member approval.

(4) **Legal Considerations** The County Council has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a LFRMS in its area. A summary of the LFRMS must also be published.

(5) **Equality and Diversity Considerations** An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken in support of the LFRMS. The main concerns related to Public Health and the impacts of recurrent flooding on mental health and the effects of flooding on the elderly, infirm, pregnant and disabled, who may not be so able to adapt to/or be capable of making themselves resilient to the effects of flooding or deal with flooding should it enter or confine them to their property. The Strategy takes on board these two issues and seeks to address them through strong emphasis on preparation and development of personal resilience. The work of the Flood Risk Management Team over the past year, as detailed in the annual report, has helped towards addressing these issues.

(6) **Environmental Considerations** The County Council has produced a Strategic Environmental Assessment alongside the Strategy. The annual report summarises some of the continuing work that the County Council is undertaking which demonstrates contribution to the achievement of wider environmental objectives as set out in the Strategy.

(7) **Social Value Considerations** The principal aim of the Strategy is to reduce the level of flood risk to the residents of Derbyshire. It will achieve this by working collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders, progressing schemes to support and promote projects in more deprived communities, promoting personal resilience through the use of the Council's Guidance Notes and by more conscientious land and asset management through engagement with landowners and the use of Guidance Notes. All of these actions produce an intangible social value to health and well-being simply by reducing fear of flooding, of loss of property and of the long term misery caused by the invasion of the home or business.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, human resources, health, property and transport considerations.

(8) **Key Decision** No.

(9) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(10) **Background Papers** Held on file within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department.

(11) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That the Cabinet Member notes and welcomes the progress made on delivering Derbyshire's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in 2018-19.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Executive Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**

**Derbyshire’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Annual Report to Cabinet Member - 2018 – 2019**

**Summary Update:**

Derbyshire’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) was approved by Cabinet on 28 July 2015. Cabinet requested that the strategy was subject to:

- An annual report on progress
- A full review every five years

There were six objectives detailed within the LFRMS and a brief summary of progress for 2018/2019 is detailed below:

Objective	Description	Summary of Progress
1	To further develop an understanding of the flood risk to Derbyshire and the impacts of climate change working collaboratively with all other Risk Management Authorities and relevant groups/bodies to ensure a coordinated response to flood risk management for Derbyshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop close working relationships with all partner organisations (e.g. Water Companies, Environment Agency, Charities, etc). This also includes working collaboratively with our internal partners (e.g. Highways, Countryside, etc).</li> <li>- Build internal capacity through training courses and learning from internal/external colleagues.</li> <li>- Obtain data from a wide range of sources, including encouraging historical information from the public and continuing with data capture initiatives.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• We are enhancing our data through the development of new processes, constant public engagement, partnership working, etc.</li> <li>• An enhanced Flood Response/Adverse Weather Policy has been developed in conjunction with Highways. This will form part of the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, which is being developed at present.</li> <li>• Funding has been secured to undertake the Slowing the Flow Project in Derbyshire, and also for a Natural Flood Risk Management (NFM) Officer to develop NFM schemes in North East Derbyshire.</li> </ul>
2	To continue to work with all relevant bodies to ensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have completed 682 planning related responses between April 2018 and March 2019 as part of our role as statutory consultee to major planning applications.</li> </ul>

	<p>appropriate and sustainable development in Derbyshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our local guidance for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is being further developed with increased liaison with Local Planning Authorities. This is to ensure the document carries weight in the planning and development arena.</li> <li>• We continue to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop our relationship with developers and planners through regular engagement with a future view to help inform local spatial planning policy.</li> <li>- Campaign for additional resource from National Government through networking with other organisations, etc.</li> <li>- Encourage the use of SuDS in new development and continue to provide guidance to developers who engage with the team.</li> <li>- Support and guide the public with regards to our role as statutory consultee to the planning process including sharing our Guidance Notes.</li> <li>- Promote sustainable development and flood mitigation schemes which build in the consequences of climate change appropriately and incorporate SuDS techniques.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>3</p>	<p>To aim to reduce the level of flood risk to the residents of Derbyshire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We continue to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work collaboratively with all stakeholders for flood risk management.</li> <li>- Continue to progress and deliver Flood Risk Mitigation Schemes to reduce the flood risk to properties.</li> <li>- Seek National Flood Risk Management funding with several new projects receiving funding this financial year. This includes maximising funding sources by working with internal and external stakeholders.</li> <li>- Support and promote projects in more deprived communities including a number of projects currently identified to receive National funding.</li> <li>- Promote personal resilience through the use of our Guidance Notes, developing the Flood Wardens Schemes and promotion of community ownership of local issues.</li> <li>- Promote conscientious land and asset management through</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>engagement with landowners and the use of our Guidance Notes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review and consent works on ordinary watercourses. In the past year we have granted consent for 49 applications.</li> </ul>
4	To continue to prioritise limited resources effectively to support communities most at risk in Derbyshire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An enhanced Flood Response/Adverse Weather Policy has been developed in conjunction with Highways. This will form part of the Highways Infrastructure Asset Management Plan, which is being developed at present.</li> <li>• We continue to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Respond to flooding enquiries using a prioritised approach, which reduces the need for unnecessary site visits and promotes the use of the Guidance Notes.</li> <li>- Gift floodsax to affected residents/businesses as a first step support mechanism. We also provide floodsax to emergency planning for additional coverage of the County.</li> <li>- Work with our Emergency Planning colleagues to promote the take up of empty sandbags.</li> <li>- Provide responses to planners utilising historic local flood information including providing bespoke responses on smaller applications lying in high flood risk areas.</li> <li>- Prioritise our limited resources to Flood Risk Mitigation Schemes where available, whilst looking to attract any other sources of partnership funding.</li> <li>- Work with other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to develop their projects, and assist in their securing of funding to progress projects in at risk areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
5	To continue to help and support the local communities of Derbyshire to manage their own risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work existing flood warden groups, and also seek to develop new ones (e.g. New Flood Warden Group in Bonsall).</li> </ul> <p>The update with regards to this objective are covered within the responses to objectives 1,2,3 and 4 above.</p>
6	To continue to help protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.	<p>We continue to work with other stakeholders to look for ways to maximise benefits for the environment in any flood risk management works in Derbyshire through regular networking, bids for national funding, engagement with the public, etc.</p>

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**Review of Short Term Actions:**

Previous annual reports have detailed a review of the short term actions (1-2 years) in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. However, given that we are continuing to deliver on all 6 Objectives (as detailed above) and the fact that we are encompassing both the short (1-2 years) and medium (2-5 years) term actions this year, coupled with the fact that next year 2019-20, will be the Full 5 year comprehensive review, it is deemed prudent to delay any further reviews until the comprehensive review next year.

**Future Prioritisation; The next 12 months**

Below is a brief summary of the actions the Flood Risk Management Team will be undertaking over the next 12 months, all of which will assist in delivering the 6 Objectives as detailed above.

It is also worth noting that the following documents, which are currently part of the LFRMS documentation on the Derbyshire County Council's website will be requested to be removed, as they were only deemed to be relevant at the inception of the Strategy.

Guidance Notes – Chesterfield Integrated Model

Guidance Notes – Pinxton

LFRMS Cons Responses Questionnaire

LFRMS Cons Responses stake workshop V3