



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

**to
AUDIT
6 DECEMBER 2018**

ACTION PLAN OF FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an amended action plan as agreed at this Committee on the 26 July 2018. The amendments aim to clearly detail the various flood management projects being undertaken across the District, in conjunction with partners, and to clarify the purpose of the **group** and the goals it aims to achieve. The revised action plan will assist this Committee when reviewing the current risk score for the corporate risk **“Failure to have a clear shared plan regarding strategic ownership of coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding mitigation and long term maintenance responsibilities”**.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members note the amendments to the action plan provided in **APPENDIX 1** and review the current risk score as a result of the amendments.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 On 26 July 2018 a report was presented to this Committee outlining the flood projects and maintenance work proposed by partners for 2018/19. The projects were presented on an action plan detailing partner agency responsible for the project, project name, details of the scheme, status, and general comments.
- 3.2 Members raised a number of concerns and suggested recommendations to improve the content of the plan including:
- Highlighting the district priorities regarding the flooding risk
 - Lack of clear outcomes
 - Proposed dates for completion of projects
 - Lack of engagement with private partners
- 3.3 In light of this the action plan has been updated and amended and also now includes some narrative outlining the Council’s role as a facilitator and how projects are prioritised for inclusion on the plan.

- 3.4 The current risk score for the corporate risk “Failure to have a clear shared plan regarding strategic ownership of coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding mitigation and long term maintenance responsibilities” is at a maximum of 16 (Impact 4 – Major; Likelihood 4 – Almost Certain)
- 3.5 As outlined to Members previously, the Council can lobby partner agencies, but it is not the Council’s role to lead or take on areas that are not the responsibility of the Council such as repairing sea defences. The Council alongside other Partners is a Risk Management Authority as designated by the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).
- 3.6 The Council’s sole duty under the FWMA is to cooperate and share information with other Risk Management Authorities. However, the Council has actively taken a key role in working in partnership with the strategic partners to ensure that the projects that deliver schemes to protect and mitigate against various flood risks across the District are implemented.
- 3.7 The plan attached as **APPENDIX 1** to the report outlines the projects currently proposed for the District by the Environment Agency and Essex County Council. It should be noted that these may be subject to review because of changes to circumstances within the partner organisations or barriers caused by external influences such as landowners failing to engage.
- 3.8 As advised previously the Council has established a framework to monitor this plan which involves:
- a. At operational level, half yearly meetings with the relevant partners to review progress on the individual projects and to update the plan.
 - b. The updated plan will be reported to the Coastal and Flood Group which comprises of Council Members, Senior Officers and representatives from the partner agencies.
- 3.9 This framework will provide effective monitoring of the projects, but also ensure that the Council’s influence with lobbying partners will continue to ensure Maldon District remains a priority.
- 3.10 In light of the regular engagement with partners, the action plan provided and the monitoring that will be undertaken, Members are asked to consider whether the current maximum risk score is appropriate given the risk refers to failing to have a shared plan (which now exists) and that the impact is major (which as outlined in the risk management policy suggests corporate objectives will not be met, major loss of life, reputational damage that will be remembered for years and government intervention in running the service).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The FWMA fails to provide adequate control of national funding by District Authorities and therefore reliance on allocation of funding is through criteria and targets set by external partners, in particular, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Environment Agency (EA). The Council has little control over how these

funding allocations are distributed but rely heavily on lobbying and raising the profile of the district through various other means.

These include sharing information of flooding incidents with LLFA/EA, facilitating meetings, identifying hotspots and ensuring a robust planning system maximises contributions through development where appropriate. The plan attached in **APPENDIX 1** is a mechanism of control for the Council to a) understand how the funding is addressing flood risk in the district and b) to allow the Council to have a clear voice in the partnership arena.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 Without a clear shared plan for dealing with flood risk management, this will have a negative impact on the corporate goals of ‘Protecting and Shaping the District’ and ‘Strengthening Communities to be Safe, Active and Healthy’.
- 5.2 The plan will assist in identifying areas of flood risk within the district and ensure maximum opportunities are sought through partnership working to protect residents against flooding.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – Management of risk is fundamental to the sound operation of the Council. Failure to manage risk could have a significant impact on the Council’s ability to correctly define its policies and strategies or deliver against its objectives.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (Financial)** – Partners will seek contributions towards flood alleviation schemes, as national funding allocations are unlocked easier with higher contributions. However, as the Council has zero budget for flood risk management work, other contributions such as the use of Council owned open space to install schemes can be an area of negotiation. An example of this is the ‘Wagtail Drive’ scheme in Drapers Farm.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (Human)** – Monitoring the detail within the plan will ensure that the impact on residents of flooding continues to be maintained at the highest priority.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – The plan will provide a positive impact in protecting the environment for the future.

Background Papers: None

Enquiries to: Shirley Hall 01621 875817