



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

to
AUDIT
13 JUNE 2019

**UPDATED ACTION PLAN OF FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS ACROSS THE
DISTRICT**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with a six-monthly update on the action plan of flood mitigation projects as agreed on 6 December 2018. The updates are highlighted in red on the action plan at **APPENDIX 1** and will assist this Committee when reviewing the current risk score for 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. RECOMMENDATION

- (i) That Members consider the updates to the action plan provided in **APPENDIX 1** and review the current risk score as a result of the amended plan and progress to date.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 At the Audit Committee on 6 December 2018 a report was presented that provided Members with an amended action plan. This clearly detailed the various flood management projects being undertaken across the District, in conjunction with partners, and clarified the purpose of the group and the goals it aims to achieve.
- 3.2 Members acknowledged that the amended content of the action plan addressed all their previous concerns around highlighting priorities regarding flood risk; clear outcomes; completion dates and engagement with all partners, both private and public. However, it was agreed that the risk score remain at 16.
- 3.3 It was recognised that, maintenance aside, it was imperative to focus on the key risks, projects and improvement of flood defences.
- 3.4 Members agreed that the Committee receive the updated Action Plan, on a six-month basis, as it was a very useful way of monitoring corporate risk 6. “Failure to have a

clear shared plan regarding strategic ownership of coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding mitigation and long-term maintenance responsibilities.

- 3.5 In light of the regular engagement with partners, the action plan provided at **APPENDIX 1** 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. CONCLUSIONS

- 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.
- 4.2 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 updated plan attached as **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 STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 Without a clear shared plan for dealing with flood risk management there will be a negative impact on the delivery of sound and tested environmentally friendly initiatives and working with partnerships to develop and maintain coastal defences.
- 5.2 The updated 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