

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	23 July 2013
Title:	Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
Reference:	5004
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek approval to formally adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 1.2 This is required as part of the County Council's new statutory role as Lead Local Flood Authority, set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
- 1.3 This Strategy objectively assesses the risk of local flooding at ward level across Hampshire, and proposes actions to address those risks. When approved, the Strategy will be the key bidding document for partnership and DEFRA Flood grant in aid funding for the implementation of flood risk mitigation schemes.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Flood & Water Management Act 2010 creates a new statutory role for County and Unitary authorities as Lead Local Flood Authority. One of the duties encompassed in that role is the duty to "develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area."
- 2.2 All Lead Local Flood Authorities must engage with relevant interested parties and partners and consult with local communities before finalising their Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The County Council has led this process, involving Members, businesses, District, Borough and Parish Councils, water companies, and relevant Government and other agencies, since April 2011.

3. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

3.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and all its associated and supporting documents can be found at the link below. The executive summary is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding/floodriskstrategy/revised.htm>

4. Aims and Objectives of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

4.1 The aim of the Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is

‘to reduce and manage flood risk in a way that will benefit people, property and the environment’.

4.2 There are eight objectives which support this aim, and these are listed below.

- (i) Improve our knowledge and understanding of local flood risk in Hampshire.
- (ii) Develop a Strategy, Policy and an Action Plan to manage these risks, providing balanced social and environmental benefits for the identified investment need.
- (iii) Work in partnership with other flood risk management authorities to deliver the Strategy and Action Plan.
- (iv) Maintain, and improve where necessary, local flood risk management infrastructure and systems to reduce risk.
- (v) Ensure that local planning authorities take full account of flood risk when allocating land and considering permitting development (by avoiding development in inappropriate locations and minimising flood risk wherever possible).
- (vi) Engage with local communities to increase public awareness and reporting of flooding and promote appropriate individual and community level planning and action.
- (vii) Improve and support community level flood response and recovery.
- (viii) Identify all available national, regional and local funding mechanisms to deliver flood risk management interventions.

5. Ranking of flood risk

5.1 A key part of the Strategy is to produce a relative ranking of flood risk across the strategy area. The approach taken in this Strategy is to assign a financial cost to historical and predicted flood events at ward level across the County.

- 5.2 For each of the 20 highest ranking wards at significant risk of local flooding, an action plan has been produced. This sets out information about the nature and location of flood risk in that ward, what might be done to address it, who might action or lead it, and when it might be done.
- 5.3 Examples of action plans from the two top ranking wards (Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon and Fareham East) are attached at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 5.4 The five wards in Hampshire with the greatest combined risk of flooding are shown in the table below. The table lists the name of the ward and the district in which it lies in brackets. The third column contains the relative cost assessment. The final column shows the EA risk assessment. The EA assessments were done on a different geographical basis using a different methodology and assumptions, hence the reference to “communities” rather than wards.

Overall Risk rank	Ward	Economic cost of flooding (£k)	Communities at risk of fluvial and coastal flooding
1	Droxford, Soberton and Hambledon (Winchester)	194	Hambledon
2	Fareham East (Fareham)	153	Wallington South Fareham
3	Penton Bellinger (Test Valley)	148	Thrupton Appleshaw
4	St Mary's (Test Valley)	144	Andover
5	Popley East (Basingstoke and Deane)	141	

6. Funding and next steps

- 6.1 A major determinant of whether or not these measures will be delivered is the availability of funding. Having been through a process of objectively assessing flood risk across the County, and completing an action plan for the 20 highest ranking wards, will enable the County Council to bid for external funding to address flood risk in these priority areas. In particular the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be the key bidding document for partnership and DEFRA flood grant-in-aid funding, sought through the Regional Flood & Coastal Committees and from the Environment Agency through its Medium Term Plan for the implementation of flood risk mitigation schemes
- 6.2 The County Council convenes the Hampshire Strategic Flood and Water Management Group which includes representatives from all the relevant flood risk organisations. This group will take this forward and manage the delivery of this strategy.

- 6.3 Key funding decisions and new issues which arise will be reported to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment as required.
- 6.4 It is proposed that an annual report summarising progress against the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is prepared.

7. Scrutiny

- 7.1 The Strategy was considered by the County Council's Environment & Transportation Select Committee at its meeting on 11 June 2013. The recommendation of the Select Committee was that the Committee commends the Strategy to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment for formal adoption by the County Council.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Hampshire be formally adopted.
- 8.2 That an annual progress report be made to the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes/ no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes/ no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes/ no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Flood & Water Management Act http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents	2010

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1 The proposals in this report have been developed with due regard to the requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Council's equality objectives. An assessment of the impacts in this service area can be found at the Customer and Equality Impact Assessment for ETE Objective 2.2 "Delivering the Infrastructure that Hampshire Needs". <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/equality/equality-impact-assessments/cx-pu-eqimpact-envi.htm>

1.2 It is considered that the issues covered by this report will not have impacts requiring further specific actions by the Council above those already established in its existing policies and working procedures.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1 None.

3. Climate Change:

3.3. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not Applicable.

3.4. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

It is a requirement of the Flood & Water Management Act that Lead Local Flood Authorities prepare Local Flood Risk Management Strategies taking into account the potential impacts on flooding of climate change and sea level rise. This is factored into the Environment Agency modelling on which an important part of the risk assessment is based.