

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Environment and Transport
Date:	24 July 2012
Title:	Surface Water Management Plans
Reference:	4042
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Pete Errington

Tel: 01962 846766

Email: pete.errington@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek the Executive Member's approval to delegate authority to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to review and approve (in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport) the suite of Surface Water Management Plans to be produced over the next three years.

1.2. This paper seeks to:

- (i) briefly explain the background to Surface Water Management Plans (SWaMPs) and the work the County Council is doing to produce a suite of them covering the whole county over the next three years; and
- (ii) seek to agree a process for reviewing and approving the individual SWaMPs prior to their being adopted as County Council policy for the management of surface water flood risk in each district.

2. Contextual information

2.1 A report entitled "Flood & Water Management Act – Implementation Update" was brought to the Executive Member at the one-to-one meeting with DMT on 16 January 2012 (Item 9). That set out all the activities the Council was engaged in to deliver the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) (F&WMA) in its new role as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

2.2 Section 3.8 of that report referred to work officers were engaged in to prepare a number of SWaMPs. A SWaMP outlines the preferred surface water management strategy in a given location or area taking into account the risks

posed by surface water flooding, including agreement about who will do what to better manage those risks.

- 2.3 The SWaMPs were initially required by DEFRA as part of the Government's response to the EU Flood Risk Regulations, and funding was provided to deliver four SWaMPs for:
 - (i) Rushmoor;
 - (ii) Eastleigh;
 - (iii) Basingstoke; and
 - (iv) Central Hampshire Chalk Catchment (groundwater).
- 2.4 An over-arching background SWaMP document has been produced, which sets the context for each individual SWaMP to avoid the need for a lot of repeated information in each individual report. Work has progressed such that the background document and the Eastleigh and Rushmoor SWaMPs are ready for approval and release into the public domain. Basingstoke will be complete by the time of this meeting, and consultants will have been commissioned to produce the Central Hampshire groundwater SWaMP.
- 2.5 Specialist consultancy advice is required to produce the Central Hampshire SWaMP due to the complexities of understanding and modelling groundwater flooding. Work on all of the other SWaMPs is being done in-house and is being funded by the DEFRA 'Early Outcomes' grant, which is ring-fenced for this work. Once this initial funding is exhausted, the work will be funded by the DEFRA grant given to LLFAs to implement the requirements of the F&WMA.
- 2.6 The SWaMPs will not only be important documents in their own right but will also be a vital part of the detailed evidence base underpinning the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, which the County Council is also required to prepare (section 3.2 of the 16 January report refers).
- 2.7 Once the initial batch of DEFRA-funded SWaMPs are complete, officers will commence work on a rolling programme of SWaMP preparation which will see complete coverage of the County by district by early 2015.
- 2.8 An officer SWaMP steering group has been established, comprising appropriate representatives from the district councils, water companies and the environment agency. Preparing them in this way improves the quality of the information feeding into the individual SWaMPs, allowing them to be based on local knowledge and expertise, which increases the robustness and credibility of the documents.
- 2.9 The SWaMPS will be published on the County Council's new flooding webpages www.hants.gov.uk/flooding. Given that a number are being produced it was felt that the most efficient way to seek approval before

publication would be by securing delegated authority to the Director of Environment, Transport and Economy.

- 2.10 An annual update in January each year could be brought to the Executive Member. As well as providing an update on the progress of SWaMP preparation it could outline progress with other work areas related to the F&WMA. In that respect it would be similar to the paper presented on 16 January.

3. Finance

- 3.1 The four completed SWaMPs have been funded by DEFRA 'early outcomes' funding which is ring-fenced for this work. The remainder will be funded from the residue of that funding supplemented by the Defra grant received by all Lead Local Flood Authorities to deliver the functions and duties under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to review and approve (in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport) the suite of Surface Water Management Plans to be produced over the next three years.
- 4.2. That an annual update report be presented to the Executive Member for Environment and Transport each January updating on progress with implementation of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

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

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>		<u>Date</u>
Flood & Water Management Act		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>
Flood & Water Management Act – Implementation Update	Item 9 on Agenda for EMET/DMT 1:1 Meeting on 16 January 2012

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 [EQIA](#)
- 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:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

No impact.

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

The SWaMPs are based on evidence of flooding both in terms of past flooding events and predictions of the probability of future flooding. Those future predictions take into account the impacts of climate change; in particular sea level rise as rising sea levels and coastal flooding can seriously impact on the ability of surface water to drain away from the land and so potentially increase both the area affected by, and the impacts of, flooding. One of the main purpose of SWaMPs, therefore, is to ensure that risk management authorities are better placed to understand and respond to issues related to climate change.