

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL and MIDSUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: Strategy Committee	Report Number: M135
From: Head of Environment	Date of meeting: 17 January 2013

Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To approve the final version of the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy following the public consultation carried out by Suffolk County Council in the summer of 2012.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy contained in Appendix (a) be approved.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no specific financial implications although there will need to be a commitment to support the County Council in implementing the Strategy and this will result in some Member and Officer time input. This is unlikely to be significantly different to the input previously given to this kind of work.

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 This report is most closely linked with the Councils' Corporate / Significant Business Risk Nos. E4 and E5 Emergency Preparedness. Key risks are set out below:

Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation Measures
That an agreed flood risk strategy is not put in place potentially resulting in the Councils not being prepared in case of a flooding event.	1 rare or never	3 bad	The local flood risk strategy has involved input from the district Councils at all stages.

5. Consultations

- 5.1 The consultation draft of the strategy was given approval by the Suffolk Joint Flood Scrutiny Panel at their meeting on 19 April 2012 and by County Council Cabinet in June 2012. The Suffolk district and borough councils, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, also approved the draft strategy during May and June 2012.

- 5.2 Subsequently, a three month public consultation was undertaken from July to September 2012. The resulting changes have been approved by the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership at their meeting in October and incorporated into the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 5.3 There is a requirement to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment in association with the strategy; Suffolk County Council consulted upon this during the same time period as the strategy itself. Natural England has confirmed it is satisfied with this assessment.
- 5.4 Following the public consultation period, and consideration by the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership it was agreed that the Strategy would be formally adopted by the Suffolk County Council and the other flood risk management authorities.

6. Equality Analysis

- 6.1 The Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been through an appropriate equality analysis within the Suffolk County Council process.

7. Shared Service / Partnership Implications

- 7.1 The strategy will be Suffolk wide and involves commitment from the following partners (members of the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership): Suffolk County Council; the Suffolk District and Borough Councils; the Suffolk Internal Drainage Boards; the Environment Agency; Water Companies; and Highway Authorities.

8. Key Information

- 8.1 The aim of the Strategy is to reduce the risk of flooding, the misery and economic damage it causes. Where practical and within the resources available from central government, public authorities, communities and private individuals appropriate action will be co-ordinated by the Suffolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority. The complex nature of funding action to reduce flood risk is explained in Section 6 of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 8.2 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the County Council (as Lead Local Flood Authority) to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. This local strategy must be consistent with the principles in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy produced by the Environment Agency in 2011.
- 8.3 A discussion draft of the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was produced in December 2011 by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership. It was widely discussed with a range of stakeholders and local communities, prior to the production of a consultation draft.
- 8.4 The consultation draft of the strategy was given approval by the Suffolk Joint Flood Scrutiny Panel at their meeting on 19 April 2012 and by County Council Cabinet in June 2012. The district and borough councils also approved the draft strategy during May and June 2012.

- 8.5 Subsequently, a three month public consultation was undertaken from July to September 2012. The resulting changes have been approved by the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership at their meeting in October and incorporated into the Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and (Appendix 1). Appendix 2 summarises the consultation responses and amendments agreed by the Partnership.
- 8.6 It is a requirement to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment in association with the strategy; this was consulted upon during the same time period as the strategy itself. Natural England has confirmed it is satisfied with this assessment.
- 8.7 Following the public consultation period, and consideration by the Suffolk Flood Risk Partnership it was agreed that the Strategy would be formally adopted by the Suffolk County Council and the other flood risk management authorities.
- 8.8 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 defines the content of the strategy which must cover the following:
- a) The flood risk management authorities in the county;
 - b) The flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that maybe exercised by those authorities within the county;
 - c) An assessment of local flood risk;
 - d) The objectives for managing local flood risk;
 - e) The measures proposed to achieve those objectives;
 - f) How and when these measures are expected to be implemented;
 - g) The costs and benefits of measures and how they are to be paid for;
 - h) How and when the strategy will be reviewed; and
 - i) How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.
- 8.9 The Act does not fully specify the scope and detailed content of a local flood risk strategy. For Suffolk, this was proposed by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership and endorsed by Councillor Guy McGregor and Councillor Colin Spence and the relevant portfolio holders from all districts and boroughs at the end of 2011 and fully incorporated into the draft Strategy.
- 8.10 As well as covering the statutory requirements above, the Strategy is associated with an outline Action Plan which outlines the way in which the Strategy will be translated into delivery on the ground. This along with the Strategy itself and related documents can be found at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/floodrisk
- 8.11 With ongoing enactment of the numerous sections contained within Flood and Water Management Act (notably Section 3 - the sustainable drainage provisions) and other changes to legislation and government guidance it is inevitable that the strategy will need to be regularly reviewed and updated and the Action Plan monitored. It is proposed that this will be carried out by the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partnership with substantive changes subject to further political endorsement. The Suffolk Joint Flood Scrutiny Panel will continue to monitor the actions of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management Partners and the Action Plan.

9. Appendices

Title	Location
(a) The Suffolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy final document, public summary and latest version of action plan.	www.suffolk.gov.uk/floodrisk

10. Background Documents

10.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2012:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

10.2 Local Government Association framework to assist the development of the Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management:

http://www.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=a2538b94-d3c1-4cec-81b0-8aefd2996c5e&groupId=10161

10.3 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy:

<http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/other/9780108510366/9780108510366.pdf>

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