

Report to Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel

Date of meeting: 10th July 2012

Portfolio: Environment

**Subject: Consultation response to Essex County
Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

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Committee Secretary: Adrian Hendry (4246)



Recommendations/Decisions Required:

- (1) To consider the attached draft consultation response to the Essex County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

Report:

Background

- Essex County Council (ECC) was made a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. One of the key roles ECC has as a LLFA is to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The strategy is a high-level document which explains the nature of flood risk, the roles of the different stakeholders involved, including householders and the county-wide actions that will be taken to improve knowledge, awareness and decision-making about flood risk in Essex. It does not identify actions for specific areas.
- The focus of the document is on local flood risk i.e. flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses, for which ECC has the lead strategic role. The document provides some information about coastal and fluvial flooding but this is mainly dealt with by the Environment Agency (EA).
- Using information available from the EA (e.g. map of surface water flooding) and historical flood evidence, the document has attempted to prioritise areas of locally important flood risk. This is to enable efficient use of resources for areas at greater risk of flooding. A three tier ranking system was developed and the map on page 25 shows the prioritised areas of flood risk in Essex. Tier 1 is the highest priority area where more than 1000 people are predicted to be at risk, Tier 2 is the medium priority area where between 1000 and 500 people are predicted to be at risk and Tier 3 is the low priority area where less than 500 people are considered to be at risk.
- The document has identified 18 areas within Essex that have been classified as locally important flood risk areas (all Tier 1 and 2) on page 27. Loughton (Tier 1) and Waltham Abbey (Tier 2) are included in the list of locally important flood risk areas. The document does not indicate what actions will be undertaken for these important areas but it implies that the 18 areas will be prioritised for further investigation in the future. This forms part of our response.
- The map on page 25 also identifies 8 other areas within Epping Forest District that fall within the Tier 3 priority area. The details of these locations can be confirmed in the Panel

meeting. Again, the document does not indicate what actions will be undertaken in a Tier 3 priority area but this is raised in our response to ECC.

6. The document also provides an overview of flood risk management legislation, the responsibilities of all parties in managing flood risk and how funding for flood risk management is sourced. The county-wide strategic actions and the site-specific actions for managing flood risk are sensible and over time, if implemented and supported by all parties, should lead to a positive improvement to flood risk in our district.
7. An executive summary of the strategy can be found at:
[http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_%20Risk_Management_Strategy_\(Executive_Summary\).pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_%20Risk_Management_Strategy_(Executive_Summary).pdf)
8. The full strategy can be found at:
[http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_Risk_Management_Strategy_\(Full_version\).pdf](http://www.essex.gov.uk/Environment%20Planning/Environmental-Issues/local-environment/flooding/Documents/Essex_Flood_Risk_Management_Strategy_(Full_version).pdf)

The proposed response

9. Attached to this report is our proposed formal response to the consultation, based on the questions set out by ECC. The normal procedure for responding to this consultation is by answering the attached questions on ECC's website:
(<http://www.engageessex.org.uk/essex/KMS/elab.aspx?noip=1&CampaignId=157>). The consultation closes on 2nd July 2012 however, ECC has allowed the Council to submit a response after this date but before the end of July, in order for the Safer, Cleaner, Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel to comment.
10. The attached draft response has been written from an officer's viewpoint, who have an overview of flood risk matters across Essex and therefore may need to be revised in order to reflect Members views. This is a public consultation and the document is intended to be a resource for flood risk management professionals and the general public alike and all comments will help to achieve this aim. **(Recommendation 1)**

Reason for decision:

To respond to the ECC consultation to ensure the effective long term management of flood risk across Essex.

Options considered and rejected:

Not to respond to the consultation.

Consultation undertaken:

None by EFDC.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Within existing.

Personnel: Within existing.

Land: May affect land across the district at risk from flooding.

Business Continuity and Corporate Emergency Plan reference:

Flooding is listed as a predominant risk in the Council's Emergency Planning Local Risk Register

Relevant statutory powers:

Land Drainage Act 1991

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

Background papers:

Notes of SCGSSP 10 April 2012

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications:

None

Key Decision reference: (if required)