

**Report to:** Lead Member for Transport & Environment

**Date of meeting:** 16 March 2020

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

**Title:** Review of the East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy's Delivery Plan

**Purpose:** To note progress on the Delivery Plan for 2017/18 and endorse a new Delivery Plan for the period up until the end of March 2023.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (1) Note the progress made on delivering the actions set out in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Delivery Plan 2017/18 (Appendix 1); and**
  - (2) Endorse the proposed draft Delivery Plan for the period up until the end of March 2023 (Appendix 2).**
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## **1 Background Information**

1.1 This report provides an update on progress in managing local flood risk in East Sussex. It proposes an updated Delivery Plan to support the adopted East Sussex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). This refreshed Delivery Plan aligns with the service objectives of the Flood Risk Management Team, other County Council services and our external partners such as the Environment Agency and District/Borough Councils (reflecting our strategic coordinating role).

1.2 At the 19 June 2017 meeting of Lead Member for Transport and Environment the LFRMS Delivery Plan 2017/18 was agreed and Appendix 1 reports on the progress made on the actions set out in this Plan up until the end of 2019.

1.3 As many of the actions set out in the Delivery Plan often have a long delivery timeframe, it is considered sensible that rather than covering a 12 month period, the Delivery Plan should cover a much longer period in order for reporting on progress to be meaningful. It is primarily for this reason why progress on the Delivery Plan for 2017/18 has not been reported until now and why the proposed new Delivery Plan has a three year time horizon.

## **2 Supporting Information**

2.1 The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) designated the County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and as a Risk Management Authority (RMA) in its Highway Authority role. The focus of the LLFA role is on localised flooding (i.e. surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourse flooding). The Act imposed a number of duties upon the County Council amongst which the development, adoption and implementation of a LFRMS is one. A copy of the LFRMS and its supporting documentation can be found on the East Sussex County Council (ESCC) website.

2.2 The current Strategy was developed in partnership with key stakeholders and subject to extensive consultation and builds upon its 2013 predecessor. It sets the framework for the County Council's LLFA role and its RMA partners. The Delivery Plan outlines strategic actions undertaken by the RMAs in East Sussex and other key partners, to address local flooding issues. However, it should be noted that the delivery plan is not an exhaustive list of activities, but it seeks to identify those critical strategic actions under which related activity takes place.

2.3 Appendix 1 indicates that a number of actions have been completed and good progress is being made on long term and ongoing actions. The actions completed are projects which have a specified end date, whilst the remainder of the actions and their objectives are primarily of a strategic and 'ongoing' nature, such as supporting ESCC Member representation on the Southern Regional Flood and Coastal Committee; performing our statutory planning consultee role and establishing local partnerships.

2.4 Since the 2017/18 Delivery Plan was prepared significant progress has been made by the newly created Pevensey & Cuckmere Water Level Management Board (PCWLMB) in developing the resources and infrastructure necessary to deliver its role. Key to this is the partnership the Board and ESCC have entered into to deliver a comprehensive approach to advising local planning authorities on planning applications and local plan policy within the operational and catchment area of the Board. This partnership is advantageous to our respective services as one organisation complements the other's statutory powers. Consequently, the PCWLMB is a strategically significant partner in the management of local flood risk in East Sussex.

2.5 The reporting of progress with the Surface Water Management Plans in the county has been redrafted within the proposed new Delivery Plan to reflect the status of the Plans as providing the evidence base for bids for further work e.g. the Brooklyn Road property level resilience project in Seaford or the Southern Wealden/Eastbourne surface water modelling project.

2.6 Although the LLFA has made considerable progress over this reporting period, limited resources and the need to prioritise our statutory planning consultee role have an inevitable impact on what else we can realistically achieve. All the actions identified in the next Delivery Plan are subject to the availability of resources both within ESCC and its partner organisations. In this regard, it has been assumed that the current level of resource, which includes funding opportunities, remains as it is for the coming three years and we will continue to develop more efficient and innovative ways of working as our role develops.

2.7 Lead Member is requested to endorse the draft Delivery Plan for the period 2020/21-2022/23 at Appendix 2. Many of the actions listed are ongoing actions carried forward. With the exception of the leadership of local partnerships to oversee the delivery of Surface Water Management Plans all actions relate to existing service objectives or commitments of those organisations identified with a role to play.

### **3. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendation**

3.1 The adopted LFRMS commits the County Council to regular reviews of the Delivery Plan. In accordance with this commitment, Lead Member is asked to note progress on the Delivery Plan 2017/18 and endorse the proposed Delivery Plan for the period up until the end of March 2023.

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#### **LOCAL MEMBERS**

ALL

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None