

# ITEM 12 – APPENDIX G

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 5 NOVEMBER 2013

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### Title:

#### **SURREY LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

**[Portfolio Holder: Councillor Stefan Reynolds]**

**[Wards Affected: All]**

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### Summary and purpose:

Surrey County Council has a duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. While it is primarily for the County Council to implement, other partners (including District Councils) have a role to play in effective and coordinated flood risk management. The Surrey Chief Executives have requested that other partners support the ambitions of the Strategy and the benefits of multi agency joint working.

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### How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Effective flood management is important to meeting residents' needs and protecting the environment.

### Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial obligations arising from the Strategy lies with the County Council.

### Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

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### Introduction

1. Surrey County Council (SCC) has a statutory duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and has been designated a lead local flood authority and, consequently, has a number of specific new responsibilities that relate primarily to 'local flood risk', namely from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (smaller rivers, streams and ditches). Flood risk from all other rivers (known as main rivers) remain the responsibility of the Environment Agency.
2. The purpose of the strategy is to:
  - Explain how partners are working together to reduce flood risk

- Provide an overview of the ongoing flood risk management work underway across Surrey
  - Outline which organisations are responsible for different types of flooding to ensure a common understanding of roles, responsibilities and priorities within the County
3. Surrey is a County with a high risk of flooding. It has experienced major flood incidents, including several in the last 10 years. Evidence indicates that in future the damage caused by flood incidents could increase, due to the impact of climate change and further pressure for development in areas at risk of flooding.
4. The SLFRMS is on the [SCC website](#). Due to the length of the document, only the ambitions to 2017, as contained in the forward to the SLFRMS, are set out below, in no particular order of priority:
- i) Drainage strategy - To develop a long term drainage asset management strategy, which covers highways and ordinary watercourse maintenance. As a result it would target high risk and high need areas in a joined-up way.
  - ii) Infrastructure - The relevant Local Authorities would work together with the Environment Agency to ensure the development and implementation of flood risk management strategies including the Lower Thames and Wey. This would bring tangible reductions in flood risk to some Surrey communities.
  - iii) Sustainable drainage - To develop an approach to sustainable drainage systems that was fully integrated with the planning system. Large development sites would be exemplars. The aim was also to see more retrofitting of sustainable drainage systems in high risk areas.
  - iv) Resilience - To promote flood resilience and resistance measures to 'at risk' households and businesses in Surrey. This would include the continued development and sharing of 'self-help' opportunities.
  - v) Insurance - To urge the Government to work with the insurance industry to guarantee the availability and affordability of flood insurance.
  - vi) Funding - To be ambitious in the approach to securing national flood risk management funding, and in exploring additional funding sources. To assist, where possible, in supporting the funding of property-level protection schemes in high risk areas.
  - vii) Communications - To continue to explain the work underway to reduce flood risk, how this was prioritised and what role residents and businesses could play.

viii) Technology - To continue to promote and use innovative technologies, to better understand the nature of flood risk, and identify potential flood risk mitigation measures.

### **Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board**

5. The Strategy will be owned by a local flood risk partnership. This brings together all the relevant organisations that have a part to play in managing flood risk. The Surrey Flood Risk Partnership Board will enable the County Council (as the lead local flood authority) and its partners to take forward their new roles for local flood risk management as set out in the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
6. The main objective of the Partnership Board is to provide strategic leadership on flood risk management in Surrey. In doing so, it will promote the principles of partnership and efficiency, through delivery of a multi-agency work programme. It will provide a forum for all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) (including the Environment Agency, water companies, the highways authority and Internal Drainage Boards) to co-operate and share plans, resources and information on all types of flood risk. It will also allow an alignment of priorities and investment.
7. The core membership consists of senior representatives from the following RMAs and organisations:
  - Surrey County Council
  - Surrey districts and boroughs
  - Environment Agency
  - Thames Water
  - Surrey Fire & Rescue
8. The wider membership includes the Highways Agency, Network Rail, Surrey Police, Southern Water, the Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Transport & Environment, UK Power Networks, the Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board, the National Trust, Basingstoke Canal Authority, the Ministry of Defence and the remaining districts and boroughs.

### **The role of District Councils**

9. As Local Planning Authorities, Districts and Boroughs are required to take account of national planning policy guidance on flood risk, amongst other considerations, in both their development control and forward planning work. They also have a number of other powers and statutory obligations on flood risk management, such as powers to designate structures and features that affect flood risk. Accommodating new development without exacerbating flood risk for existing and future residents represents a significant challenge for District Councils. While this is referred to in passing in the Strategy the need for collaborative working by the relevant agencies in planning for new housing and business growth needs further emphasis.

## **Conclusion**

10. SCC as Lead Local Flood Authority has a statutory duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Strategy. Endorsement of the Strategy by the Executive will support the County Council in delivering the Strategy and formalise a partnership approach to reducing flood risk to residents and businesses.
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## **Recommendation**

That the Executive:

1. Endorses the ambitions of the draft Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; and
  2. Requests Surrey County Council to recognise the flood risk associated with new development and the need for a multi agency approach to addressing it when taking the Strategy forward.
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## **Background Papers**

Surrey Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

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