

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE UPDATED LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR DEVON

Cabinet Member(s): Councillor Luke Taylor
Responsible Officers: Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration and Simon Newcombe, Group Manager for Public Health and Regulatory Services

Reason for Report: To inform members of the publication of the updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon for consultation and the opportunity to submit comments on behalf of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That Members advise of any comments that they would wish Officers to include in the consultation response to be submitted on behalf of this Council.

Financial Implications: None as a direct result of this report, but the contents of the draft document will need to be considered and responded to.

Budget and Policy Framework: None as a direct result of this report.

Legal Implications: Under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Devon County Council (DCC), as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The first Local Strategy was published in 2014 and is required to be reviewed after 6 years. This consultation document sets out in draft the updated strategy for the period 2021-2027.

Lower tier Councils have responsibility for managing flood risk arising from coastal erosion, have discretionary powers to carry out works on ordinary watercourses, manage and maintain flood defence assets under their control and as Local Planning Authority have a role to manage flood risk from all sources through appropriate planning policy and guiding development.

Risk Assessment: No direct risks to the Council have been identified from this report.

Equality Impact Assessment: None identified

Relationship to Corporate Plan: Flood risk management relates to the corporate priority of the environment

Impact upon Climate Change: The intention is to make Devon more resilient to flooding and ready to adapt to climate change by promoting sustainable flood risk management and using natural solutions where possible. In response to the climate and ecological emergency, flood risk infrastructure will play its part in achieving a

net-zero carbon Devon and protecting and enhancing the natural environment with natural flood risk management solutions will be considered before hard engineering.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon has been produced by Devon County Council and partner authorities (**Appendix 1**). It outlines how the risk of flooding to property and infrastructure will be managed and reduced over the next six years, from 2021-2027. The strategy also looks at how plans for flood alleviation schemes can be developed and how communities can increase their resilience against flooding and the impact of climate change.
- 1.2 Through partnership working and community engagement, investment is prioritised to target high risk communities. Natural and sustainable flood management measures will be promoted, where appropriate, in all flood investigations and improvement projects, to reduce the scale, or need, of hard engineering solutions.
- 1.3 Part 2 of the strategy prioritises areas and communities to be considered for investment in flood alleviation works. Although priorities are subject to change, it currently includes the Mid Devon towns of Tiverton (identified as a high priority) and Crediton (identified as a medium priority) together with Exeter, Kingsbridge, Dawlish, Teignmouth, Exmouth, Newton Abbot, Seaton, Kingsteignton, Totnes, Bideford, Ilfracombe, Budleigh Salterton, Sidmouth and Okehampton.
- 1.4 Devon's latest strategy has been produced in line with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. It also links in with the Flood Risk Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans for the region delivered by The Environment Agency and will help bring together funding for the investment programme over the next six years.
- 1.5 The draft document also details the responsibilities of the risk management authorities in Devon and how they must work in partnership to coordinate local flood risk management.

2.0 THE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 Devon County Council is consulting on the draft updated strategy from 21st August 2020 until the consultation closes on 15th October 2020. This consultation is particularly relevant to planning, drainage and emergency planning.
- 2.2 The views of Members of the PDG are sought so that their comments can be incorporated into the consultation response to be submitted on behalf of this Council. To aid Member's consideration, the following questions have been posed within the Country Council's consultation questionnaire:

a) *Are you satisfied with the structure of the Strategy? If not, what improvements would you suggest?*

- b) *What aspects of the Strategy are you most interested in or concerned with and do you feel that this has been well addressed? If not, what improvements or changes would you suggest?*
- c) *Are the different roles and responsibilities of the Lead Local Flood Authority, Risk Management Authorities and land owners clearly defined and explained? If not, what do you think needs further clarification?*
- d) *Are there any additional stakeholders that you think should be included in the Strategy?*
- e) *Do you feel that the Strategy links in with other appropriate plans, strategies and reports? If not, what do you believe is missing?*
- f) *Do the principles throughout the document fulfil the vision and objectives? If not, what do you believe is missing?*
- g) *Part 2 lists some communities we have classed as a priority. However, we are aware of many other locations that are also at risk. Does this section adequately explain how we prioritise the at risk communities and the opportunities for flood risk interventions to other locations across Devon?*
- h) *We also welcome your general comments on the document or specific sections (please identify section headings or page numbers if appropriate)*

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Circulation of the Report: Cabinet Member for Planning and Regeneration

List of Background Papers: Updated draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Devon **Appendix 1** and <https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/Planning/FloodRisk/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FPlanning%2FFloodRisk%2FStrategy%20Documents%2FStrategy%20Review%2FDCC%20Local%20FRM%20Strategy%202020%5FConsultation%20Draft%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FPlanning%2FFloodRisk%2FStrategy%20Documents%2FStrategy%20Review&p=true&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9kZXZvbmNjLnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpiOi9zL1B1YmxpY0RvY3MvUGxhbm5pbmcvRVp3MWI6am5NMnBBbk9lYmJTekxQem9CLTZNRm1td1MyR1NwWG4tTXpnTjhsUT9ydGltZT1JazhPVWtCSjJFZw>

Consultation material

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/devon-local-flood-risk-management-strategy/>