

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Environmental Committee
Cabinet Member – Technical Services Committee

DATE: 20th October 2010
3 November 2010

SUBJECT: **SEFTON SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN PROPOSALS**

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore, Environmental and Technical Services Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Graham Lymbery - Project Leader, Coastal Defence
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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** N/A

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members of the current work being undertaken in regard to the Surface Water Management Plan for Sefton. The report identifies the strategic objectives, processes and parties involved in the preparation of the Plan

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To allow for development of the plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that the:

Cabinet Member – Technical Services agrees to the development and implementation of a communications plan for the surface water management proposals, and the

Cabinet Member – Environmental notes the report.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of the 'call in' period for the minutes of the meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:****Financial:**

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Issues identified in the report**Risk Assessment:****Asset Management:** N/A**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities	✓		
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

None

Introduction

1. This report has been prepared to inform Members of the proposals for the undertaking of a study for the preparation of the Surface Water Management Plan for Sefton, and to broadly outline the proposals for the stakeholder engagement.
2. A key action from the Pitt Review was the implementation by all Local Authorities of Surface Water Management Plans.
3. Sefton Council bid for £100,000 funding through the Surface Water Early Action Grant scheme for the development of a Surface Water Management Plan.
4. In March 2010 the grant allocation notification was received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) confirming £100,000 of funding for Sefton Council to undertake a study and to develop a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for the Borough. Sefton Council is also contributing £20,000 to the costs of the study.
5. The preparation of the SWMP is to be undertaken in accordance with technical guidance provided by DEFRA. This identifies four key stages of the preparation of the plan including Preparation, Risk Assessment, Option Selection and Implementation and Review.

Background

6. The SWMP study is undertaken in consultation with key local partners who are responsible for surface water management and drainage in their area. The Plan is developed based on a detailed analysis of flood risk data held by the Key Partners and other appropriate sources. Through close liaison with the Key Partners throughout the study process, the purpose of the SWMP is to establish a long-term Action Plan for the Borough. The Key Partners are Sefton Council, The Environment Agency and United Utilities.
7. A SWMP is a Plan which outlines the preferred surface water management strategy for a given area to address surface water flooding. In this context, surface water flooding includes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and run-off from land, small watercourses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall. This plan is prepared following a detailed assessment of flood risk data to assess current and potential future areas of flooding within the Borough. The assessment also identifies solution options and their respective costs for dealing with the various flood risks. This is subsequently developed into the Action Plan, or strategy, for dealing with flood risks.
8. The SWMP will provide appropriate guidance for future investments and developments, drainage maintenance strategies, land-use planning and emergency planning issues.

9. Sefton Council has appointed Capita Symonds as the agent responsible for undertaking the study and the preparation of the Plan. A Steering Group has been established comprising the Key Partners to manage and guide the decisions to be made during the study process.
10. The SWMP Steering Group comprises officers from Sefton Council, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and Capita Symonds. It is intended that this Steering Group will meet on a monthly basis to consider the ongoing study work being undertaken and to input information and viewpoints as required. Existing drainage data held by all of the Key Partners has been gathered and incorporated into the work undertaken to date.
11. The strategic objectives for the SWMP, as agreed by the Steering Group, are attached at Annex A.

Communications Plan

12. A draft Communications / Engagement Plan is being prepared and includes a list of potential 'stakeholders' who may have an interest in flooding problems and flood risk areas in the Borough. Such stakeholders may also have an interest in the potential solution to the problems identified during the assessment process. The stakeholders to be consulted include Area Committee and Parish Council members, Government bodies, statutory bodies and undertakers, relevant local interest groups and associations, riparian owners, developers etc. Following agreement by Cabinet Member of this report, the external stakeholders will initially be notified by letter of the outline proposals and objectives for the SWMP study, and directed to the Sefton website where more details will be available. Due to time constraints it may not be possible to bring the detailed Communications / Engagement Plan to the Cabinet Member – Technical Services for approval prior to implementation. Details of the engagement plan will however be shared as soon as it is available.
13. It is proposed to report to the Area Committees as soon as practicable following agreement of this report by the Cabinet Member – Technical Services.
14. Information regarding the undertaking of the study will be provided on the Sefton Council website. The opportunity will be given to stakeholders to liaise with officers undertaking the study regarding any concerns that they may have, or provide information to assist in the compilation of the study data and preparation of the Plan.
15. It is proposed that the Surface Water Management Plan, once completed and approved by Cabinet Member – Technical Services will be made available on the Council's website.

Programme for the SWMP

16. A programme for the undertaking of the study and development of the Plan has been prepared. In accordance with the requirements of DEFRA, it is

intended to complete the SWMP work, up to and including the preparation of the Action Plan, by April 2011. The work undertaken to date includes the establishing of the Key Partners, objective setting, establishing governance arrangements, data gathering and mapping, and the technical analysis required for the Strategic Risk Assessment. This Assessment has identified the sites which are to be further assessed in the next stage.

17. The results of the Strategic Assessment work to date have been summarised in a preliminary report, and the areas for further consideration have been identified on a plan. These areas will then be prioritised to identify those which warrant detailed assessment and may ultimately be included in the Action Plan.
18. It is intended that the SWMP programme will be regularly updated to reflect the progress made which will be largely influenced by the number of sites which require a detailed level of assessment.

Action Plan

19. The output of the study is to produce detailed evidence of the procedures and the technical basis of the work undertaken in carrying out the study, and to produce an Action Plan. This Action Plan will identify :
 - a) the preferred options for dealing with flood risk issues,
 - b) the actions required by each partner, and possibly stakeholders,
 - c) who will be the appropriate contributory funding parties for the actions, and
 - d) The timetable for implementation of the Plan.
20. The Action Plan will also serve to inform officers of the Planning Department, and provide guidance on Emergency Planning arrangements.
21. A draft Action Plan will be reported to Members in the New Year for approval prior to being finalised and published.

