

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny
(Regeneration and Environmental Services)

Date of Meeting: 20 January 2015

Subject: Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Annual Report

Report of: Alan Lunt – Director of Built Environment

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? No
Is it included in the Forward Plan? No
Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires that arrangements be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions. This annual report satisfies that requirement.

Recommendation(s)

That Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services);

1. Review the report
2. That any comments from this committee be referred to the Cabinet Member (Communities and Environment) for consideration.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that requires Lead Local Flood Risk Authorities to report on progress on an annual basis to their Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as all costs associated with flood and coastal erosion risk management and staffing are contained within existing budgets. The scope of future activity will be influenced by both the level of available external funding and also by the capacity of the Council to harness this funding. Initial indications, based on indicative allocations from DEFRA over the next six financial years, would suggest that there is no guarantee that planned schemes can be fully funded. It must therefore be assumed at this stage that future schemes remain, to some extent, aspirational.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal: None	
Human Resources None	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

None at the moment

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy (FD 3261/14) has been consulted and would comment that there are no costs arising from this report but any future costs associated with flood and coastal erosion risk management through the forward plan will need to be contained within the existing budgets for these services. It is also noted (based on current plans and strategies) the Council have submitted a number of schemes for grant aid (details in appendix D)

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments. (LD 2553/14)

Are there any other options available for consideration?

The Council could choose not to undertake its duties as set out in the Flood Risk Management Act 2010. This would reduce the Councils ability to manage flood risk in the Borough and may result in sanctions from Government for failing to delivery statutory functions.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meeting

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Background Papers:

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Forward Plan 2011-12

Report to Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration) 20th September 2011

<http://sb1msgov1:9070/documents/s34250/FD%20-%20955%20Way%20Forward%20Report%202011%202.pdf>

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

Report to Cabinet 14th April 2011

<http://sb1msgov1:9070/documents/s16013/11%20FD%20714%20-%20Flood%20Risk%20Management%20Coastal%20Protection%20final.pdf>

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Annual Report

Report to Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration) 18th September 2012

<http://sb1msgov1:9070/documents/s41324/0912%20OSRE%20-%20FCERM%20annual%20report%202012.pdf>

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Annual Report

Report to Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration) 17th September 2013

<http://sb1msgov1:9070/documents/s48431/Flood%20and%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20-%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (subsequently referred to as the Act) has placed a number of new duties on the Council as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority; these have been previously presented to the committee. One of these is the requirement to make arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's progress and it was agreed that this would be achieved through the provision of an annual report.
- 1.2 This report sets out progress that has been made in the last year, highlights key issues and sets out priorities for the coming years.

2.0 Progress

- 2.1 Activities within Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) can be broadly split into the following outcomes:
- Understanding Risk to our communities – Work that seeks to improve our understanding of flood and coastal erosion risk
 - Avoiding increase of risk to our communities – controlling actions that may increase the risk or impact of flooding or coastal erosion
 - Reducing risk to our communities – maintenance and improvement of our infrastructure
 - Reducing consequences to our communities – Preparing for flood or coastal erosion events and working with our communities to increase their resilience

These outcomes have been used in the draft Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and supporting documents – Service Plan and Investment Plan. These are attached to this report (appendices A, B and C) and discussed in more detail later but since they contain the detail of the outcomes for this service area and the activities that are required to deliver these that will not be duplicated in this report.

Outcome	Activity	Actions to October 2014
Understanding risk to our communities	Identify and review flood and coastal erosion risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring of coastal change and storm events• Updated modelling for Surface Water Flood Risk

Outcome	Activity	Actions to October 2014
	Develop plans that set out and prioritise our actions based on our understanding of risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed a Local Strategy that satisfies the Council's requirement to develop a Local Flood Risk Strategy and a Flood Risk Management Plan • Started to discuss options for Crosby Coastal Protection with key partners
	Inform the development of plans where flood and coastal erosion risk is a factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported the development of the Local Plan • Participated in discussions on the management of water levels in the Alt Crossens catchment where the Environment Agency is reviewing the operation of a number of pumping stations
	Inspect and record our assets and where necessary 3rd party assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers have refreshed their training on inspection of coastal defence and fluvial assets • Undertaken asset inspections on the coast • Undertaken cctv inspection of a number of piped watercourses
Avoiding increase of risk to our communities	Work via the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are still waiting for the Government to decide on how it would like surface water drainage schemes for new developments to be managed • We have commented on 96 planning applications • We are reviewing procedures for

Outcome	Activity	Actions to October 2014
		<p>providing advice on planning applications</p>
	<p>Administer powers in relation to consenting for ordinary watercourses, coast protection act and bylaws</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst this area of work needs to be developed it cannot be at present due to limited resources. Limited consents have been requested during this period
	<p>Advising 3rd parties of their maintenance responsibilities and where necessary intervene</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advised at a number of locations on riparian issues
Reducing risk to our communities	<p>Develop and implement a prioritised maintenance programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be reviewing our prioritised work programme next year • Key maintenance works this year have been to Derby Road where manholes were failing and the Coast Road in Southport which flooded in 2012/13
	<p>Develop a programme of improvement works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works were identified and submitted for grant aid and the indicative settlement is set out in appendix D
	<p>Undertake reactive maintenance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactive maintenance has been undertaken including repairs as a result of winter storms on the coast

Outcome	Activity	Actions to October 2014
Reducing consequences to our communities	Work in partnership with our communities to increase their resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Flood Ready' web site has been developed with support from partners and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to support our communities understanding of what they can do – it can be viewed at www.floodready.co.uk • A leaflet has been jointly developed with partners so that we have a shared approach to the advice provided to our communities – copies will be available at the meeting for reference or can be viewed on the Sefton Council website • A joint project with Public Health colleagues has been commissioned to look at the health impacts of flooding and consider what our priorities should be in reducing these impacts • Funding has been secured to review flood risk in Formby and Maghull and engage with the communities. This work will be undertaken in partnership with United Utilities and the Environment Agency

Outcome	Activity	Actions to October 2014
	Develop and implement plans for Council actions in the event of flooding occurring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The emergency plan has been reviewed and updated • As a result of reviewing procedures a High Tide response group has been established to better plan and co-ordinate any responses required

7.1 Flood Insurance

Last year we reported that:

The Government have consulted on a new approach to flood insurance which would see additional costs on premiums and excesses capped. This approach would see those at flood risk paying some of the cost of the risk but still having access to insurance with the balance of the cost spread across all home insurance premiums. This would not apply to homes built after 2009 that are at significant risk of flooding.

They have now undertaken further consultation (closed September 2014) on detailed elements of the scheme. The only additional aspect to draw to Members attention is that *'Flood Re will provide transitional support to households at flood risk over a 25 year period as part of a gradual transition towards more risk-reflective prices; this will provide time for choices to be made and risk management action to be taken.'* (quote taken from the consultation). A short summary of the scheme is included in appendix E.

7.2 Future funding

Where previously indicative grant allocations were set on an annual basis DEFRA have promoted the setting of a six year indicative allocation to promote better forward planning. However, the overall funding available still falls far short of demand and as such the settlement for Merseyside is disappointing. This indicative settlement is included in appendix D

7.3 Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC)

Sefton is represented at RFCC by two representatives from the Merseyside Strategic Flood and Coastal Risk Management Partnership. There are two key issues to report back from RFCC:

Local Levy – at a recent meeting of RFCC (24th October 2014) the level of the Local Levy was considered and it was decided to increase it by 2%.

The Merseyside Partnership has been leading on the development of Strategic level reporting to RFCC with a view to a new approach being adopted by April 2015.

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Review the report

8.2 That any comments from this committee be referred to the Cabinet Member (Communities and Environment) for consideration.

Please follow the links below to access the following appendices:-

Appendix A – Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s57260/OSRES20.1.2015%20-%20Appendix%20A%20-%20Flood%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20Strategy%202014-2017.pdf>

Appendix B – Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Service Plan

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s57261/OSRES20.1.2015%20-%20Appendix%20B%20-%20Flood%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20Service%20Delivery%20Plan.pdf>

Appendix C – Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Plan

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s57262/OSRES20.1.2015%20-%20Appendix%20C%20-%20Flood%20Coastal%20Erosion%20Risk%20Management%20Investment%20Plan.pdf>

Appendix D - Grant-in-Aid Indicative 6 year Settlement

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s57265/OSRES20.1.2015%20-%20Appendix%20D%20-%20Indicative%20Grant%20in%20Aid%20six%20Year%20Programme.pdf>

Appendix E – Summary of Flood Re

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s57266/OSRES20.1.2015%20-%20Appendix%20E%20-%20A%20Short%20Guide%20to%20Flood%20Re.pdf>