

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	13 th March 2018
Subject:	Flood and Coastal Erosion Management Strategy review - Scope document		
Report of:	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Locality Services Commissioned Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This scoping document has been compiled for information to elected members and for input from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure a comprehensive review is undertaken.

Recommendation(s):

(1) The committee provides comments and views to inform the development of the strategy

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure the strategy is aligned with council priorities and needs of the community.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not updating the strategy would mean we would fail to deliver our duties under the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 to manage local flood risk in Sefton, putting the Council at risk.

We could extend the existing strategy but this would fail to take into account a number of significant developments over the last few years and limit progressing flood and coastal erosion risk management.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Costs will be contained within existing revenue budgets

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Staff time required to undertake this process
Legal Implications: To deliver our duties under the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010.
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The work FCERM does is about informing and educating our communities about flood risk and ensuring they understand their role in managing flood risk.
Commission, broker and provide core services: To deliver our duties under the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010.
Place – leadership and influencer: We actively work in partnership with communities and other risk management organisations and authorities to ensure we can deliver our outcomes that tie into the 2030 vision.
Drivers of change and reform: by having a FCERM strategy in place and performance management systems in place we can ensure we are doing the right thing in the right way.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The work we do to manage risk, understand risk, avoid increasing risk, reduce risk and reduce the consequences of flood risk both coastal and inland, directly supports Sefton's economy.
Greater income for social investment: not applicable
Cleaner Greener: the assets we manage on the coast and inland as part of the Green Sefton service enable people to come and enjoy Sefton's natural beauty and supports people's health and wellbeing.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5056/18.) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4340/18....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

Contact Officer:	Paul Wisse
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2959
Email Address:	paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

The following are available on the internet, via the Council's webpage;

Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2015-2018
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/813740/FCERMS-Strategy-v14-FINAL.PDF>

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Service Plan
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/813737/FCERMS-Service-Plan-v14-FINAL.PDF>

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Investment Plan
<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/813734/FCERM-Investment-plan-v151-FINAL.pdf>

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton Local Flood Risk Strategy scope

Sefton have a requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce a Local Flood Risk Strategy. The Act requires each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in England and Wales to set out how it will manage flooding and coastal erosion in its area. Sefton Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority and this Strategy will satisfy this statutory need. It also satisfies the requirements under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 for a Flood Risk Management Plan. Sefton Strategy was first produced in 2015 and after 3 years it would be updated. Therefore 2018 is the year the strategy needs to be updated and this report sets out the scope of this update, reviewing what has changed since 2015 and is seeking views and input from members on our proposals.

2. Strategic developments since 2015 to be considered in the new strategy

2.1 Liverpool City Region

Climate change and flooding has not been agreed on their programme but there may be opportunities to engage in other areas such as the key route network. We will continue to develop and create working relationships with Merseyside's Local Flood Risk coordinator taking an active role.

2.2 Sefton2030

Sefton have worked alongside a number of partners and communities across the borough to help vision what Sefton2030 would be like. From this visioning exercise Sefton Council have developed a core purpose which the council will follow in delivering Sefton2030. The FCERM team supports this core purpose directly in the outcomes and vision that are currently stated in the FCERM strategy. When updating the strategy we will review these outcomes and vision to ensure the wording reflects the Councils core purpose to more directly link to the Sefton2030 and the Councils core purpose.

2.3 UK Climate Predictions update 2018 (UKCP18)

Sefton have been working to the most recent government climate change predictions produced in 2009 called UKCP09. These predictions are due to be updated in March 2018 and the FCERM team will undertake a review to help inform and refine our understanding of the impacts of these changes on flood and coastal erosion risk.

2.4 Defra's 25 year plan

The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have produced a 25 year plan which has a number of outcomes. We will review these outcomes and actions when writing our updated strategy to ensure our priorities are aligned. There outcomes are:

- A smooth and orderly exit from the EU
- A cleaner, healthier environment, benefiting people and the economy
- A world leading food and farming industry
- A rural economy that works for everyone, contributing to national productivity, prosperity and wellbeing
- A nation better protected against floods, animal and plant diseases and other hazards, with strong response and recovery capabilities

2.5 The Sefton Coast Plan

Since our first strategy was written The Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership has produced the Sefton Coast Plan. The plan is a requirement of the Local Plan adoption to ensure that the increased development and associated pressures, such as, increasing tourism and impacts to nature conservation do not negatively impact upon the value of the coast environmentally, socially or economically. The Coast Plan also considers opportunities to conserve and enhance the coastal environment, increase the amenity value of the coast and also develop the coastal economy in a sustainable way. We will therefore need to take into consideration this plan and specific actions such as the development of an adaptation study which the FCERM team have agreed to deliver to the Partnership. These will therefore need to be considered in the review of the FCERM strategy.

2.6 Coastal Adaptation Strategy

As stated previously the FCERM team will be writing a Coastal adaptation strategy to help partners consider the threats and opportunities of climate change and coastal change on valued features along the Coast at present, whilst also anticipating future impacts and opportunities, to enable adaptive management of these features now and into the future. Development of the plan will be led by Sefton Council as agreed by the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Board because Sefton is the Coast Protection Authority and lead partner identified in the Shoreline Management Plan to develop a Coastal Adaptation and Sand Dune Management Strategy. The Strategy will then be agreed and adopted by the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership.

2.7 Policies

Since 2015 the FCERM team have written and had adopted a number of policies. These are policies on consenting works on ordinary watercourses, diverting ordinary watercourses, and investigating flood events. They help set clear expectations for anyone undertaking works on watercourses and also helps communities understand how we investigate flood events and the prioritisation of our investigations.

3. Funding

3.1 Budgetary changes and Green Sefton

As part of the Public Sector Reform work the FCERM team is being merged into a new service area called Green Sefton. This will result in Parks and Green spaces, Coast and Countryside and FCERM coming together to better deliver our services whilst saving £895k for the Council. As part of this Merger it has been proposed that the FCERM team will lose one full time post. Since austerity measures hit local government the FCERM team's budget has reduced by 60%. The team now heavily relies on external funding to deliver its outcomes that fund the majority of the team. Only 2 full time equivalent posts are revenue funded. The new Green Sefton service structure is still being finalised with a hope to be up and running with people in posts come April 1st.

3.2 Merseyside Partnership Quick Win Funding

The Merseyside Flood Risk Partnership is allocated £50k a year from Local Levy to spend on flood risk projects across the Merseyside region. These projects should be able to be delivered in a short space of time and would otherwise struggle to receive funding from main flood risk funding streams, such as grant in aid. Sefton will continue to identify small scale projects on an annual basis for consideration by the partnership.

So far Sefton has been awarded £30k from The Merseyside Partnership to undertake works in Ainsdale and Birkdale; where the drainage is struggling to discharge across the beach due to their location on an accreting shoreline, and to develop a sustainable drainage community project.

Previously funding has been provided to Wirral to undertake flood investigations following significant flooding.

3.3 Cell 11 Regional Monitoring Programme (Cerms) Funding and Shoreline Management Officer Local Levy funding

Sefton are currently the lead partner in delivering the North West Coastal Monitoring programme. This is part of a national programme of regional monitoring to ensure coastal changes are being monitored to help understand changes in risk and also help to inform decision making. Since 2015 Sefton have entered into a new round of funding for 5 years from 2016 to 2021. Sefton's allocation of this funding is agreed on an annual basis and it currently funds 3 posts for the Cell Eleven Regional Monitoring programme and 1 post to support the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan.

3.4 United Utilities spend programme

United Utilities have an agreed programme of spending from 2015 to 2020. They are currently developing their programme for the next period from 2021 to 2026. There may be opportunities to influence the programme and work closer with our partners.

4. Changes in our Understanding of risk

4.1 Shoreline Management Plan review

In 2016 Sefton secured funding to appoint a regional Shoreline Management Officer to co-ordinate a review of Shoreline Management Plan policy and support partners across the North West in delivering their actions as set out in the SMP. Through our increased understanding of risk since the SMP was agreed 10 years ago Sefton have identified that the SMP policy for Crosby to Formby may no longer be appropriate due to the increased erosion rates and risk occurring between Blundellsands and the Alt Training Bank. Sefton are now working with the Environment Agency and United Utilities to deliver a scheme to reduce the risk of flooding and failure of assets in the area.

4.2 Coastal erosion predictions

Since 2015 there have been a number of large storm events causing fairly significant coastal erosion in places, particularly just North of Hall Road, Blundellsands, where in one storm over 10m of coast was lost. Work is also currently underway in reviewing the coastal erosion predictions first calculated in 2007. We now have a further 10 years of data and the method originally used in the calculations has been refined. This review will be undertaken prior to the publication of this strategy to ensure we have the most up to date information.

4.3 Climate change predictions

UKCP18 is due out in March 2018 and will be considered in the review of risk in this strategy.

4.4 Surface Water Management Plan realisation of modelled data

Since 2015 we have experienced a number of significant rainfall events. These have helped us calibrate the modelled data from our Surface Water Management Plan that was produced in 2013. The places that generally experienced flooding were expected as identified in the modelling except Preston New Road where the area flooded was greater than the modelled extent in the SWMP.

5 Developments in the way we work

5.1 Sustainable flood risk management

Since 2015 we have had a significant mind shift in the way we work. We have come to recognise that a different approach to managing Sefton's Flood Risk was needed. One of Sefton's biggest risks of flooding is from surface water; however it is incredibly difficult to secure funding to alleviate this as the cost benefits rarely stack up. The biggest change we can actually make to this risk is to reduce the amount of water getting into the system in the first place. However this requires our communities to change their behaviours at a household/business and community level. We are now beginning to focus more on changing behaviours by communicating and educating our communities about flood risk from surface water and how we can all play a part in reducing this risk by conserving, harvesting and storing water within a property reducing the amount entering the system especially during peak rainfall events. This strategy will aim to reflect this way of working and clearly communicate the benefits to the community in everyone playing their part in reducing flood risk.

5.2 Communication

As well as improved engagement with our communities we will be looking at a number of ways to better engage with elected members and partners. For example, having more of a social media presence and creating more interactive materials to aid our communication.

5.3 Data management and sharing

We will continue to improve our collection, analysis and sharing of information and data with partners to ensure we have the most up to date understanding of flood risk. We will

also continue to work closely with neighbouring authorities to manage flood risk across Merseyside to best practice.

5.4 Performance management

The Strategy we produced in 2015 began to focus our service area and was our first attempt to build our service in a more outcome focussed, planned service rather than a reactive service. We recognised there was a need to plan out activities and also monitor how we were performing on the delivery of our service. Therefore we developed a service plan and investment plan that supported our strategy. Since 2015 we have been refining how we better plan our resources and monitor our performance in a more meaningful way. We now produce departmental quarterly reports to demonstrate if we are on target to deliver service outcomes within budget and on time. This is something we will be building upon going forward and be communicated more clearly in the review of our strategy 2019 to 2022.

6 Projects to be delivered during the strategy period

A major coastal defence and surface water management scheme is likely to be delivered on the coast at Crosby during the summer of 2020 and 2021, subject to funding and approval to improve the sea defence approx. 1km north and south of Hall Road along with works to the Alt training bank.

Works will be undertaken on the Pool and the Nile watercourses to reduce flood risk associated with historic piped watercourses subject to funding/approval.

7 Constraints

Budget cuts to the council are having an impact, meaning our priorities are changing and we are seeking alternative ways of delivering the service.

Designations particularly on the coast can influence what we can and can't do and when actions can be delivered. Timelines to delivery can often be affected with these constraints and the lead in time to planning to do work on the coast can often be over a number of years.

8 Way forward

The FCERM team will be undertaking a review of its strategy and the outcomes and actions set out in the 2015 to 2018 strategy. A review of our understanding of coastal erosion and flooding both coastal and inland will be undertaken with the most up to date

information available. Risk and priorities will be reviewed and communicated more clearly. Expectations of what the service will deliver or can no longer deliver will also be clearly stated. A more focussed performance management framework will be in place to support the delivery of our service and hold us to account on the actions we have said we intend to deliver.

When the scope of the report has been agreed and the final strategy has been produced, with input from and subsequent approval by elected members, we will continue to report progress on delivering the new FCERM Strategy 2019 -2022 to the Overview and Scrutiny – Regeneration and Skills Committee on an annual basis.

9 Timescales 2018

Feb to March - Seek input from elected members through briefings and reports to Cabinet Members and Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Feb to April – Review understanding of risk, coastal erosion predictions, Surface Water Management Plan and modelling of coastal processes

April to June – Review outcomes of current strategy and consultation with other risk management authorities to inform draft strategy

June to July – Update service plan and investment plan with a stronger focus on performance management

July – Report to/attend Consultation and Engagement Panel

August to September – Consultation period; internal with partners and elected members

September to October – Public consultation

October to November – Finalise Strategy, Investment Plan and Service Plan

November – Report back to Consultation and Engagement Panel and subsequently produce report to seek approval

December – Take to Cabinet and Council for approval and adoption

January 2019 – Publish final document