

REPORT TO CABINET

Open/Exempt		Would any decisions proposed:			
Any especially affected Wards All	Mandatory/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		YES/NO	
	Discretionary /	Need to be recommendations to Council		YES/ NO	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision		YES/ NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Stuart Dark E-mail: Cllr.stuart.dark@west-norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cabinet		
			Other Members consulted:		
Lead Officer: Dave Robson E-mail: dave.robson@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616302			Other Officers consulted: Geoff Hall, Lorraine Gore, Peter Jermany, Kevin Kent		
Financial Implications YES/ NO	Policy/ Personnel Implications YES/ NO	Statutory Implications YES/ NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/ NO	Environmental Considerations YES/ NO

Date of meeting: 21 September 2021

TITLE: NORFOLK STRATEGIC FLOODING ALLIANCE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

Summary

This report provides an update on the work of the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance and its Strategy and Action Plan.

Recommendation

To endorse the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance Strategy and Action Plan as set out in Appendices A and B.

Reason for Decision

To encourage greater cooperation and coordination across Norfolk in response to flood risk.

1 Background

1.1 The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) was established by Norfolk County Council in February 2021 in response to major surface water flooding events across Norfolk in January 2021. It is intended to help ensure that Norfolk communities and infrastructure are safer and more resilient to the risks of inland and coastal flooding.

1.2 Multi-agency work has fed into the development of the strategy which is intended to set out the goals, vision and objectives for the NSFA and provide a framework for the various flood risk management authorities to work to resolve priority flood sites and improve community resilience.

1.3 The main aims of the strategy are to:

- Update Norfolk's Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Strengthen partnership working amongst the many organisations with responsibilities for flood risk management in Norfolk, and
- Capitalise on the current strong political will to help protect Norfolk better from future flood events

1.4 The terms of reference for the NSFA are set out in the NSFA Overall Strategy (Appendix A). It is planned that the strategy will be ratified at the NSFA Board meeting on 20 September 2021. The Strategy will then be reviewed annually at the July NSFA meeting, where organisations will affirm their commitment to the NSFA and the delivery of collaborative working in accordance with the principles.

1.5 The Alliance includes:

- Norfolk County Council
- District Councils
- The Environment Agency
- Anglian Water
- The Association of Drainage Authorities
- The Water Management Alliance
- Water Resources East
- The Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF)
- The Broads Authority
- Highways England

1.6 By providing a forum for all the organisations who have some responsibility for flooding the Alliance will enable the Council to highlight those areas of concern which affect West Norfolk as well as helping to prioritise investment in flood defence activities.

1.7 Lord Dannatt, the independent Chairman of the NSFA, is keen to get the strategy endorsed as soon as possible in order to facilitate public communications activity ahead of the winter and, since the NSFA now meets only every other month, it was felt that the November NSFA meeting would be too late. The NSFA recognised that individual committee cycles might make ratification challenging for the September meeting but in such cases it would be most helpful if there could be some kind of early endorsement by leaders.

2 Options Considered

2.1 The Alliance is intended to act as a forum for coordinating flood defence across Norfolk. The individual organisations with responsibility for flooding will still deliver their respective areas of work.

3 Policy Implications

3.1 The Borough Council as Coastal Protection Authority has adopted the Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan.

3.2 The Borough Council has an existing jointly agreed Wash East Coastal Management Strategy with the Environment Agency. This covers the higher risk flood area from Hunstanton to Wolferton Creek (Snettisham).

3.3 The Borough Council has existing Local Plan policies and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is in place for development control.

3.4 The Strategy sets out further collaboration in addition to the existing measures in place regarding multi-agency emergency response, recovery and remediation actions. Agreement to this strategy signifies a commitment from members to adopt the principles and objectives in their own programmes, plans and strategies and a commitment to work collaboratively to achieve the NSFA's objectives.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 Norfolk County Council have provided funding for various schemes across the County.

4.2 Staff resources will need to be reviewed and potentially increased depending on the extra workload this area may require.

5 Personnel Implications

5.1 The potential impact on staff resourcing is not known at present. The Strategy may require extra staff resources. We must ensure that the existing work in this area is not impacted.

6 Environmental Considerations

6.1 Flooding remains a very high risk across Norfolk as listed on the NRF Norfolk Prepared website <https://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/risks/flooding/>

6.2 The Strategy has identified four sites in West Norfolk as priorities for investment to reduce flood risk. These are:

- Burnham Market
- North and South Creake
- Gayton
- A1101 Welney Wash causeway

7 Statutory Considerations

7.1 The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance is a non-statutory organisation and does not have any direct legal powers or duties itself.

7.2 Organisations and Agencies will have their own legal duties and powers through various pieces of legislation.

7.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 places a duty on Norfolk County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The Borough Council is a Risk Management Authority (RMA) under the Act and has a duty to co-operate in a LLFA Flood Investigation.

7.4 Under the Civil Contingency Act 2004 the Borough Council is a Tier 1 responder to civil emergencies such as flooding. It discharges this duty through participation in the multi-agency Norfolk Resilience Forum.

7.5 The Borough Council has the Coastal Protection Authority role. The Borough Council has adopted several policies listed in para 3 above.

8 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(Pre screening report template attached)

8.1 A pre-screening report has been completed and no adverse impacts have been identified.

9 Risk Management Implications

9.1 The timescale given to review and assess the impacts of this Strategy has been very short.

9.2 DEFRA have released a new Surface Water Management Update on 29th July 2021 and this will need to be considered further.

10 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted

10.1 None.

11 Background Papers

NSFA Strategy and Action Plan.

Pre-Screening Equality Impact Assessment

Borough Council of
King's Lynn & West Norfolk



Name of policy/service/function	Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Strategy and Action Plan				
Is this a new or existing policy/service/function?	New / Existing (delete as appropriate)				
<p>Brief summary/description of the main aims of the policy/service/function being screened.</p> <p>Please state if this policy/service is rigidly constrained by statutory obligations</p>	<p>The Strategy main aims are to revisit Norfolk's Flood Risk Management Strategy and strengthen partnership working amongst the many organisations with responsibilities for flood risk management in Norfolk.</p>				
Question	Answer				
<p>1. Is there any reason to believe that the policy/service/function could have a specific impact on people from one or more of the following groups according to their different protected characteristic, for example, because they have particular needs, experiences, issues or priorities or in terms of ability to access the service?</p> <p>Please tick the relevant box for each group.</p> <p>NB. Equality neutral means no negative impact on any group.</p>		Positive	Negative	Neutral	Unsure
	Age			x	
	Disability			x	
	Gender			x	
	Gender Re-assignment			x	
	Marriage/civil partnership			x	
	Pregnancy & maternity			x	
	Race			x	
	Religion or belief			x	
	Sexual orientation			x	
	Other (eg low income)			x	

