

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 4 November 2021

### Report of the Head of Service - Highways

#### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Protecting our environment;

### Joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2027 (Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

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#### Brief Summary

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 designates Lancashire County Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority responsible for managing flood risk from 'local' sources; surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act requires Lead Local Flood Authorities to:

*'develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.'*

The previous Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was produced in partnership with Blackpool Council and approved by the county council in April 2014. Now that the Environment Agency has published the new National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, Lead Local Flood Authorities must update their Local Strategies to ensure they remain compliant with the requirements under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act.

Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council have compiled a joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2027 which has been subject to consultation with flood risk management authorities, wider partners and with members of the public (a full consultation report is presented in Appendix 'B').

Approval is now sought for the final draft of the joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 as set out at Appendix 'A'.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.

## Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 – 2027 to fulfil the county council's duty under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

## Detail

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council are designated as Lead Local Flood Authorities. The Flood and Water Management Act places several duties and gives powers to Lead Local Flood Authorities who are the responsible flood risk management authority for managing flood risk from 'local sources' which are surface water, groundwater and from ordinary watercourses.

Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act places a duty on Lead Local Flood Authorities to:

*'a lead local flood authority for an area in England must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area (a 'local flood risk management strategy')*

The current Lancashire and Blackpool Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2014 - 2017 for Lancashire was jointly produced with Blackpool Council and approved in April 2014.

## Why produce a new Local Flood Risk Management Strategy?

Local flood risk management strategies are required to be consistent with the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy which is produced by the Environment Agency under Section 7 of the Flood and Water Management Act. The Environment Agency published the new National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England on 25 September 2020 and therefore Lead Local Flood Authorities are required to review their local flood risk management strategies to ensure they remain consistent with the new national strategy and therefore compliant with Section 9.

Additionally, the Flood and Water Management Act goes on to state that each strategy must cover the following:

• The risk management authorities in the authority's area	Section 2.6
• The flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities	Sections 2.6, 2.7, 2.8
• The objectives for managing local flood risk	Sections 5 and 6
• The measures proposed to achieve those objectives	Section 6

• How and when the measures are expected to be implemented	Section 6
• The costs and benefits of those measures and how they are expected to be paid for	Sections 2.10 and 4
• The assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy	Sections 3
• How and when the strategy is to be reviewed	Section 6
• How the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives	Sections 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.9, 5 and 6

The right-hand column highlights which section of the Strategy contains the evidence that we have met the above criteria.

### **Benefits of a Joint Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

The joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Strategy 2021 - 2027 has been developed in partnership by the three Lead Local Flood Authorities within the County of Lancashire; Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn-with-Darwen Council.

The strategy has been produced in this way to reflect established Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management sub-regional governance arrangements of the Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership. This partnership includes representatives from all flood risk management authorities and wider partners (e.g. Rivers Trusts) across Lancashire and aims to facilitate effective partnership working on flood risk matters of local importance. The Partnership is chaired by a representative of the Lead Local Flood Authority, currently County Councillor Stephen Clarke, with all three Lead Local Flood Authorities working closely together to ensure a broadly consistent and joined up approach with other flood risk management authorities to addressing local risks and challenges, as well as making the most of opportunities for partnership working.

A joint Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Lancashire enables the Partnership to provide an environment in which delivery of the Strategy can be regularly monitored and recorded. It will create an opportunity to consider alignment of approach with other Lead Local Flood Authorities within the county of Lancashire doing things once rather than three times, bringing potential for resource efficiency. Where issues/barriers occur working in partnership with other organisations may help to unlock these. As well as effective partnership working, this approach should encourage a catchment-based approach to managing local flood risks consistency across our County as advised by the principles laid out in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy. The timescale on the Strategy (2021 to 2027) reflects the six-year flood risk cycle as well as the timescale of the new [National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Investment Programme](#).

## Vision, themes and objectives

The Lancashire Local Flood Risk Strategy 2021 - 2027 presents our vision under which sits 6 themes and 53 objectives.

**Vision:** *By 2027, Lancashire will be a more flood resilient place that is better prepared for and more adaptive to risks, challenges and opportunities supporting a sustainable future for the people of Lancashire.*

**Theme 1:** *Delivering effective flood risk management locally*

**Theme 2:** *Understanding our local risks and challenges*

**Theme 3:** *Supporting sustainable flood resilient development*

**Theme 4:** *Improving engagement with our flood family*

**Theme 5:** *Maximising investment opportunities to better protect our businesses and communities*

**Theme 6:** *Contributing towards a climate resilient Lancashire*

The Strategy is divided into the following sections:

Section	Content
<b>1. Introduction</b>	Provides background information on some key flooding terms, introduces the key piece of legislation (the Flood and Water Management Act) and addresses the reasons behind producing the strategy. This section gives an overview of the strategy and what we want to achieve
<b>2. Context</b>	This section identifies the risk management authorities in Lancashire and what their role and responsibilities are. Introduces the legislative and regulation framework in which flood risk management authorities for Lancashire operate and explains how we work in partnership, including in relation to what funding is available for flood alleviation studies and schemes.
<b>3. Local Flood Risks and Challenges</b>	This section puts flooding into a Lancashire context by highlighting some recent notable events and addressing the types of flooding which affect the various areas of Lancashire. It also addresses some local issues challenges which relate to flood risk management in Lancashire, such as water quality and the long-term sustainability of pumped catchments.
<b>4. Opportunities</b>	Identifies opportunities to better manage the risks and challenges set out in Section 3 and through our duties and powers as Lead Local Flood Authorities.
<b>5. Our Vision</b>	Sets out our vision: <i>'By 2027, Lancashire will be a more flood resilient place that is better prepared for and more adaptive to risks, challenges and opportunities supporting a sustainable future for the people of Lancashire.'</i>  Identifies 6 themes which this Strategy will focus the delivery of

	its 53 objectives against over the next six years.
<b>6. Business Plan</b>	<p>Draws the Strategy together into a comprehensive 'Business Plan' which sets out 53 SMART objectives. It details when objectives are expected to be delivered, who will lead on the delivery of each objective and what the output and/or outcome is expected to be.</p> <p>Explains how progress on the delivery of the Strategy will be monitored in detail over the next three years, a commitment for the Strategy to undergo a mid-term light touch refresh with a view towards a full renewal of the Strategy in 2027.</p>

### **Monitoring the delivery of the Strategy**

Lead Local Flood Authorities and other 'action owners' set out in the Business Plan will report progress to the Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership where delivery will be closely monitored on a quarterly basis in a way that is transparent and cooperative with our partners.

This will be achieved through a progress report provided to the Strategic Partnership Group of the Lancashire Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership on a quarterly basis; this is significant as it is chaired by councillors from the Lead Local Flood Authorities. The report will monitor progress of objectives against timescales and expected outputs and outcomes.

It is also proposed that the Lead Local Flood Authorities will publish a joint annual monitoring report of the Business Plan, reflecting progress in delivering actions from our Strategy.

There was significant public support for both above proposals.

### **Consultations**

The consultation draft of the joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Strategy was subject to a five-week public consultation which ran from 12 February to 19 March 2021. The consultation provided an opportunity for other flood risk management authorities, wider partner organisations (such as Rivers Trusts) and the public the opportunity to make comments on every section of the draft Strategy. The consultation was hosted on Lancashire County Council's 'Have Your Say' website and signposted consultees to a survey held on Survey Monkey.

175 responses were received, and a full detailed report of the feedback can be found in Appendix 'B'. The consultation draft Strategy has been amended to take account of this feedback in this final draft Strategy.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

The joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2027 is a public document which outlines the County Council's responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority and explains how we intend to work in partnership with other flood risk management authorities to manage local flood risks. It also commits us to delivering a variety of objectives which have resource implications as highlighted in the 'Financial' section below.

## **Risk management**

### **Cohesion/Equality Analysis**

As part of the development of the strategy an Equality Impact Analysis has been completed. A Non-Technical Summary document will be produced once the Strategy has received approval to support the findings of the Equality Impact Analysis.

## **Legal**

The production of the new joint Lancashire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2021 - 2027 is a requirement under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The strategy must specify - (a) the risk management authorities in the authority's area, (b) the flood and coastal erosion risk management functions that may be exercised by those authorities in relation to the area, (c) the objectives for managing local flood risk (including any objectives included in the authority's flood risk management plan prepared in accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009), (d) the measures proposed to achieve those objectives, (e) how and when the measures are expected to be implemented, (f) the costs and benefits of those measures, and how they are to be paid for, (g) the assessment of local flood risk for the purpose of the strategy, (h) how and when the strategy is to be reviewed, and (i) how the strategy contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives.

And the strategy must be consistent with the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy for England.

The Strategy proposed specifies all of these.

The Strategy is supported by a Strategic Environment Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment which are in the process of being finalised by Blackpool Council; both of these documents screen out any likely significant effects and recommend that any such effects are managed on a project/scheme level.

## **Financial**

The Strategy commits the county council to delivering a variety of objectives, the majority of which have staff and/or revenue resource implications. Any additional costs will be contained within the existing annual revenue budget for flood risk management. The costs of studies will be funded by relevant revenue grant bids and schemes delivered will be funded through capital grant bids and match-funding from capital monies of the county council and partners.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Equality Impact Analysis	September 2021	Laura Makeating (01772) 539369
Habitat Regulations Assessment	September 2021	Laura Makeating (01772) 539369
Strategic Environmental Assessment	September 2021	Laura Makeating (01772) 539369
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		