

---

**To:** Public Services, Energy and Environment Scrutiny Board (4)

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Subject:** Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update

---

## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Board on the work of the Flood Risk Management Group (FRMG) following the last update on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014.
- 1.2 To update the Scrutiny Board on SuDS Approval Body (SAB) and the extended role of the Lead Local Flood Authority as Statutory Consultee.
- 1.3 To update Scrutiny Board on the progress of the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFMRS).

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Board note the work undertaken by the Flood Risk Management Group (FRMG) and make any comments or recommendations on the activities of the group.
- 2.2 The Scrutiny Board note that the approval of sustainable drainage systems will now lie within the Planning approval process as is similar to all other building projects. To also note the extended role of the Lead Local Flood Authority as Statutory Consultee on planning applications as an outcome from the DEFRA SuDS consultation.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Board note the progress of the Surface Water Management Plan and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Following public consultation these documents will be approved by Cabinet Member prior to publication on the Coventry City Council website.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Board are invited to make any comments or recommendations on the proposed approach to the appropriate Cabinet Member.

## **3 Information/Background**

- 3.1 The Flood Risk Management Group continues to meet quarterly, discussing a wide range of objectives. It is an invaluable forum for sharing flooding information with all the stakeholders. It now includes Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water Ltd, Canal and Rivers Trust, Warwickshire County Council, Solihull MBC, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Coventry University. The report outlines a number of items considered by the FRMG.

3.2 As part of the Council's responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council has to produce a plan for reducing the impact of surface water flooding. The Surface Water Management Plan examines the knowledge of risk throughout the city and identifies options to improve this knowledge to enable schemes to be identified. This document supports the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

#### **4 Flood Risk Management Group**

4.1 Outlined below are the headline items from the Flood Risk Management Group meeting on the 17 February 2015.

4.2 The City Council recently lost the Flood Risk Strategy Officer as Matt who has moved to other employment. In view of the importance of this strategic role and the interaction with additional resources for the increased Statutory Consultee role discussed later in the report, the Council aims to recruit to for this post and as an interim measure, and will draw upon the Council's Professional Services Contract to supplement resources.

4.3 The group were updated on the progress of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) and the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) which is discussed later in the report.

4.4 The group were advised that a body entitled the Sherbourne Partnership had been successful in obtaining Heritage Lottery Funding to progress the feasibility of a scheme to develop Charterhouse Fields including improving the condition of the River Sherbourne and enhance the amenity of this site. The opportunity for collaborative working with the Council and the Waste Management Company at the Bar Road waste disposal site was identified to downscale the Bar Road flood protection measures by combining the two projects.

4.5 The group were advised about the Public Consultation on SuDS / SAB, the required changes to the Planning process and the extended role of the Lead local Flood Authority as Statutory Consultee all of which will be discussed later.

4.6 The group were advised about the DEFRA consultation on changes to the Land Drainage Consenting process relating to Main River that is managed by the Environment Agency. This affects the approval of structures formed in and at the river bank.

4.7 The group were advised that the existing Strategic Flood Risk Assessment requires an update and will be project managed by Planning Policy with the input of the Flood Risk Management Team. Additionally, the Planning Policy Team will commission a Water Cycle Study which will be a material consideration for planning decisions.

4.8 The group were advised that the monthly co-ordination meetings with Severn Trent Water Ltd (STW), set up last year, are proving to be successful in assigning responsibility to STW and managing down the misdirected service requests relating to Public Sewer and water supply leak issues.

4.9 The group were advised that the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee funded programme of works (as discussed at the SB4 meeting 8th May 2014) has now been accelerated and therefore the property level protection schemes (PLP) at Rowleys Green Lane and Butt Lane will be brought forward to 2016/17 and 2018/19 respectively. The funding for the Hydraulic Study at Board Lane / Banner Lane has been received and consultants commissioned.

- 4.10 The group were informed that Land Drainage Act intervention was needed at President Kennedy School due to the flooding of Elphin Close and was moved forward by negotiation rather than enforcement.
- 4.11 The group were advised that the Flood Risk Management Team have commissioned the following pieces of work under the Professional Services Contract :
- **SuDS Design Manual** – A manual to inform developers of the design standards for SuDS within Coventry. This will include technical standards and maintenance options.
  - **Bowness Close** – A new screen is being designed to replace a poorly designed vertical screen which has a high risk of blockage.
  - **Leaf Lane** – A new screen is being designed to replace the damaged and poorly designed screen currently in place at the entrance to the culverts under Leaf Lane and the A444
- 4.12 The group were advised of the progress on the Capital Drainage Programme 2014/15 and that the £340,000 budget has been expended to profile and the CCTV Drainage Surveys budget of £50,000 has been expended to profile.
- 4.13 The group were advised that the Flood Risk Management Team have supported Streetscene and Greenspace by preparing design solutions for flooding at Coundon Hall Park affecting Brownhill Green Road and also Coombe Abbey within the parking areas.
- 4.14 The group were advised about the EDRF funding bid to develop a section of the River Sherbourne behind The Burges in the city centre. The project called “The River Quarter” includes the de-culverting of the river.

## **5 SuDS Approval Body (SAB) and LLFA Statutory Consultee Role**

- 5.1 Below is an update on the latest position on the SAB and advise the Board on the new status of the LLFA as Statutory Consultee
- 5.2 In December 2014 DEFRA announced that the SAB role would be rolled up into the Planning approval process as is similar to all other building projects. This announcement accompanied a further DEFRA consultation on the LLFA requirements when granted the Statutory Consultee role for planning applications that was lobbied for in the SAB consultation The Flood Risk Management Team responded to a DEFRA consultation in December 2014 and the main theme of the response was to increase resources to deliver this new statutory role.

## **6 Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)**

- 6.1 Following the legislative and SAB / LLFA role updates, the SWMP will be issued to the Councils' fellow Risk Management Authorities at the end of March. Following feedback from Severn Trent Water Ltd and the Environment Agency the plan in the final form will be sent out for Public Consultation in May 2015. Following consultation, Cabinet Member approval will be sought prior to implementation. The SWMP is a living document with a wide base of supporting documents will evolve over time and will be subject to periodic reviews. Reviews will be conducted every 3 years to align with the effects of climate change, legislation updates and the outcomes of risk assessments and investigations. The SWMP identifies actions that will support the work of the Flood Risk Management and Drainage Team in their role.

6.2 Following Cabinet Member approval, the Flood Risk Management and Drainage Team will complete the suite of documents, strategies and policies that underpin the on-going reduction in flood risk throughout the City. The target timeline for these documents to be completed is 12 months.

## **7 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)**

7.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was issued to the Councils' fellow Risk Management Authorities. Feedback from Severn Trent Water Ltd and the Environment Agency has been received and the plan in the final form will be sent out for Public Consultation in March 2015. Following consultation, Cabinet Member approval will be sought prior to implementation.

7.2 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is the strategic document which defines how the Lead Local Flood Authority role will be implemented by Coventry City Council. It sign posts other documents to highlight which responsibilities are being undertaken by which process.

### **Neal Thomas – Flood Risk Manager**

Place Directorate

024 7683 4307