Purpose of the report

This report outlines the rationale, objectives and process to develop the final draft of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (Local Strategy) prepared by Kingston Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Recommendations of the Portfolio Holder for Resident Participation

To RESOLVE that -

the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy at Annex 1, the Action Plan at Annex 2 and the Summary Report at Annex 3 be approved for publication in order to comply with national legislation.

Key points

A. Pursuant to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for an area in England must develop, maintain, apply, monitor and publish a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. Local flood risk means flood risk from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The Local Strategy has to be consistent with the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management which was approved by Parliament in July 2011.

B. An initial consultation exercise was undertaken between December 2013 and February 2014. The outcomes were used to shape the development of the first draft of the Local Strategy and flood risk management priorities. A second consultation took place between 24 April and 9 June 2015 and following the comments received a final draft was prepared for approval.

C. The aim of the Local Strategy is to work in partnership with local communities, and organisations responsible for managing flooding, in order to better understand and reduce local flood risk in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames (RBK).

D. The key objectives are to:
1. Educate, encourage and empower local stakeholders to take action on reducing flood risk.
2. Apply an intelligence-led risk based approach to the management of flood risk in RBK.
3. Establish and maintain collaborative partnerships with key organisations, including Thames Water, neighbouring boroughs and the Environment Agency.
4. Use planning powers to encourage sustainable solutions for the management of local flood risk which take into account of the likely effects of climate change.

E. RBK is at greatest risk of flooding from surface water, sewers, main rivers and groundwater sources. It is anticipated that this risk will increase in the future influenced by climate change and increasing pressures on development and housing need.

F. The Local Strategy sets out how Kingston Council will deliver the objectives of the Local Strategy over the next six years. A number of measures and actions have been identified to achieve this, and these are set out in the Action Plan that accompanies the Local Strategy (Annex 2).

G. The Local Strategy has to contribute to the achievement of wider environmental objectives by meeting the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the EU ‘Habitat Directive’ 1992, and the ‘Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations’ 2010.

H. The Local Strategy will be updated periodically to ensure that its content and emphasis remains relevant.

Proposals

1. Following the severe floods in the summer 2007 and the publishing of the FWMA, local authorities received new powers to manage local flood risk in a more co-ordinated way. As a LLFA, Kingston Council is responsible for managing the ‘local’ flood risk from surface water, groundwater and small rivers, streams and ditches. A duty under the FWMA is to develop, maintain, apply, monitor and publish a Local Strategy that:

   ● Provides an overview of flood risk management work being undertaken and planned throughout the borough;
   ● Explains how partners are working together to reduce flood risk; and,
- Clearly sets out which organisations are responsible for different types of flooding in the borough to ensure a common understanding of roles, responsibilities and priorities within the Borough.

2. The Local Strategy:
   - Comprises an assessment of the local flood risk;
   - Sets out objectives for managing local flooding; and,
   - Lists the costs and benefits of measures proposed to meet these objectives, and how the measures will be paid for.

3. Historically RBK has mainly been affected by flooding from surface water, rivers, groundwater and sewers. Over recent years, severe surface water flooding has been experienced across the area causing damage to property and disruption to businesses and services. The most significant recent flooding event occurred January 2014 when sustained heavy rainfall caused flooding from surface water, rivers and sewers to properties across the borough.

4. As part of the assessment of flood risk, the Local Strategy draws on technical information and historic records of flooding presented in the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The Local Strategy also draws from wider environmental plans covering the Thames catchment including the Thames River Basin District Management Plan and Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan to ensure a coordinated approach to flood risk management across South West London.

Options

5. Approve the Local Strategy (Annex 1), the action plan (Annex 2) and the summary report (Annex 3);

6. Propose amendments to the Local Strategy;

Consultation results

7. A draft Local Strategy was put out for public consultation on the Council’s website in April 2015, offering the opportunity for residents, businesses, members and flood risk management stakeholders to provide feedback. The consultation ended on 9 June 2015 and 20 comments were received. All the objectives and actions of the Local Strategy were ranked by respondents as been either satisfactory or excellent. Following this consultation the Local Strategy was updated as appropriate, but no significant changes were required.

Resource implications
8. The Local Strategy is intended to secure the most feasible flood risk management solutions for each identified locality, on a risk-based analysis of cost-benefit.

9. Funding is an important part of the Local Strategy. Potential sources of funding to reduce the flood risk are as follows: Flood Defence Grant in Aid (DEFRA), Local Levy (DEFRA), LLFA/RBK revenue and private funding.

10. In order to achieve the Action Plan over a 6-year programme, additional staff resourcing may be required to ensure the actions from the Local Strategy are put in place.

Legal implications

11. Kingston Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority has a duty, under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, to develop, maintain, apply, monitor and publish a strategy for local flood risk management in its area.

Risk Assessment

12. The draft Local Strategy has assessed the risk of flooding from all sources and the impact of climate change. It has evaluated the risk using probability of flooding occurring in any given year as indicated in flood risk maps. The action plan (Annex 2) are the actions required to mitigate flood risk in the critical drainage areas.

Equality Impact Assessment

13. The Local Strategy complies with the Equality Act 2010 and RBK Corporate Equalities Strategy. The Local Strategy has been developed in order to reduce flood risk across the Borough to protect all individuals.

Network implications

14. The Local Strategy will help all stakeholders understand and manage flood risk within the borough. The Local Strategy is a high level document which sets out the Council’s approach to limiting the impacts of local flooding across the borough as well as with neighbouring boroughs. It also promotes greater partnership working arrangements between those organisations with a responsibility for managing local flood risk.

15. Funding is targeted at locations with the greater flood risk issues and other priority factors such as the nature of the location.

Environmental Implications
16. The Local Strategy will complement work that is currently underway to comply with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). This Directive seeks to improve the management, protection and enhancement of the water environment.

**Timescale**

17. Although the FWMA sets no specific deadline for producing local flood risk management strategies, the then Government’s expectation was that they would be completed and published in a ‘reasonable period of time’ from the commencement of the legislation, which was in October 2010.

18. RBK advised DEFRA in March 2015 that we would consult, publish and adopt the final version of the Local Strategy ‘as soon as possible in 2015’.

19. The next step is to publish the summary of the Local Strategy on the Council website as required under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

**Background Papers** - held by the author of the report  William Ward - Lead Officer (Highway Assets) 020 8547 5910

- The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (HMSO)
- The 2009 Flood Risk Regulation (HMSO)