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**LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member – Councillor Chris McEwan,  
Economy and Regeneration Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Ian Williams, Director of Economic Growth**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval of the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy attached to this report.

**Summary**

2. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires that every Lead Local Flood Authority (of which Darlington Borough Council is one) develops and maintains a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
3. The draft strategy for Darlington Borough Council sets out how the Council is meeting its legal requirements, outlines the history of flooding in the borough, and details how the Council is working, with partners, to achieve its objectives for managing local flood risk.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be adopted.

**Reasons**

5. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons :-
  - (a) To meet the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010
  - (b) To ensure that local flood risk is managed to reduce flood risk to residents and businesses.

**Ian Williams**  
**Director of Economic Growth**

## Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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S17 Crime and Disorder	The contents of the report have no impact on crime and disorder.
Health and Well Being	Reducing flooding and flooding risk has a positive impact on health and wellbeing.
Carbon Impact	There are no implications on carbon impact.
Diversity	There are no implications.
Wards Affected	All wards will potentially benefit.
Groups Affected	All groups will benefit from reduced flooding and reduced flood risk.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend a change to the Council's budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The Local Flood Risk Strategy, by managing flood risk, supports health and wellbeing and the local economy.
Efficiency	There are no implications on efficiency.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the Council (as a Lead Local Flood Authority) to undertake a number of duties, one of which is to develop and maintain a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
7. The draft Darlington Borough Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is attached as **Appendix 1**. The strategy refers only to local sources of flooding including from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater. Flooding from main rivers is addressed by the Environment Agency in the National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England.
8. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy sets out how flood risk is being managed within the Borough. The vision is:  
  
*To work with our partners in the Borough of Darlington to reduce the risk of flooding to residents and businesses and ensure that flood risk is managed in the most effective and sustainable way.*
9. This is supported by five objectives:
  - (a) To reduce flood risk to communities severely affected by recent flooding
  - (b) To reduce the incidence of surface water flooding
  - (c) To ensure flood risk is managed in new development
  - (d) To keep our highways safe and passable

(e) To deliver wider benefits.

10. A number of actions are assigned to each of these objectives. Generally these are not new actions but work the Council and its partners are already engaged in. The strategy document pulls these several actions together within a single document.

### **Financial Implications**

11. As stated in the previous paragraph, most of the actions detailed in the strategy are already taking place and as such are funded. However, as and when flood mitigation measures are identified additional funding may be required. The strategy includes a section on external funding opportunities of which there are several, including Local Levy funding and Flood Defence Grant in Aid.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The production of this strategy is a statutory requirement.

### **Consultation**

13. The draft strategy has been published on the Council's website with comments invited. It has also been sent to all neighbouring local authorities, the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water.

### **Outcome of Consultation**

14. The only response was from Northumbrian Water, which proposed several changes to terminology and to clarify roles. These proposals have been incorporated into the document.