



Report to Leader (Transport portfolio)

Decision Date:	5 March 2021
Reference number:	TR03.21
Title:	Flood Risk Management Plan Measures (FRMP)
Relevant councillor(s):	Nick Naylor
Author and/or contact officer:	Jed Ramsay Lead Flood Programme Management Officer Jed.Ramsay@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	All
Recommendations:	To approve the submission and publication of the Flood Risk Management Plan Measures.
Reason for decision:	

1. Background

- 1.1 Buckinghamshire Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. This places the responsibility on Buckinghamshire Council to lead in managing local flood risks from surface water, groundwater and ordinary (smaller) watercourses. It also requires us to meet the requirements of the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy as developed and led by the Environment Agency.
- 1.2 To fulfil these duties Buckinghamshire Council has a Strategic Flood Risk Management team who work to meet the duties and responsibilities of a Lead Local Flood Authority. The team have been working in partnership with the Environment Agency since 2015 to develop the Flood Risk Management Plan. The Plan is a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).
- 1.3 The first phase of the Flood Risk Management Plan covered 2015 to 2021. These are now being renewed and Buckinghamshire Council have been asked to submit measures that address flood risk to include with the new Plan covering 2021 to 2027.

2. Flood Risk Management Plan - Measures

2.1 During the previous Flood Risk Management Plan iteration, key areas were identified in Buckinghamshire. The three flood risk areas are Chesham, Marlow and the Wye catchment upstream of and through High Wycombe and down to Bourne End. These three areas are still regarded as the priority areas in Buckinghamshire given the level of flood risk in each of those, and the impacts of recent flood events.

2.2 Complete the following actions:

- a) Develop and implement Marlow (Newt Ditch) Flood Alleviation Scheme
- b) Produce a Surface Water Management Plan for the Wye catchment
- c) Implement Property Flood Resilience Measures in Chesham
- d) Undertake Upstream storage measures appraisal for High Wycombe
- e) Develop Bucks Flood Plan
- f) Contribute to the Ox-Cam pathfinder project (which is looking at increasing take up for individual property flood resilience measures)
- g) Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Bucks

2.3 Each of these measures is underway and been through its own approval internal approval process (either via the Highways Board or through the Flood Risk Programme Board).

3. Other options considered

3.1 Each of the proposed measures has been through an options appraisal process as part of the development work of each measure.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 The financial implications of the measures are as follows:

- a) Marlow Flood Alleviation Scheme - £1.9 million (expected 90% to be from the Environment Agency Grant in Aid)
- b) Surface Water Management Plan for the Wye catchment - £165k (over 50% funded by the Environment Agency)
- c) Property Flood Resilience Measures in Chesham - £2.9 million of which £925k from the Environment Agency (including culvert replacement)

- d) Upstream storage measures appraisal for High Wycombe - £65k (over 50% funded by the Environment Agency)
- e) Bucks Flood Plan - £0k currently - being prepared by Civil Contingency Unit.
- f) Contribute to the Ox-Cam pathfinder project (which is looking at increasing take up for individual property flood resilience measures) - 2 days per month of SFM staff time committed to the project
- g) Develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Bucks – TBC (being undertaken as part of the DEFRA pilot by BC)

4.2 All the above projects have approved budgets in place as part of the Flood Risk capital programme.

4.3 The legal implication is that we are meeting our obligations under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 The actions described in the Flood Risk Management Plan support the key priority of 'Improving our Environment'. Specifically, the actions will address the target that aims to 'reduce risks from flooding and ensure communities are flood resilient'.

5.2 The further corporate implications are:

- a) Property – no property or assets will be affected
- b) HR – no impact
- c) Climate change – the plan will be linked to in the Climate Change Strategy
- d) Sustainability – the actions are supported in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- e) Equality – the Plan does not require an equality impact assessment
- f) Data – any data collected for each measure will be subject to GDPR / policy etc
- g) Value for money – each measure has been (or will be) assessed via an internal business case which includes a value for money assessment.

6. Consultation and communication

6.1 Public consultation and publication of the plan will be managed by the Environment Agency on our behalf.

7. Next steps and review

- 7.1 The Flood Risk Management Plan will be submitted to the Environment Agency for publication and consultation.

8. Background papers

- 8.1 Detailed information on Flood Risk Management Plans:

[Flood risk management plans \(FRMPs\): how to prepare them - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

- 8.2 Flood Management Plan 2015-2021 (Thames Basin)

[Thames river basin district flood risk management plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 9.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.