

Report to: Essex Flood Partnership Board	Report Number: AGENDA ITEM 3 (EFPB/08/19)
Date of report: 19/06/2019	County Divisions affected by the decision: All
Title of report: National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England: Essex County Council Response	
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Strategy for England Consultation is currently live.
- 1.2 This consultation is important for Essex County Council (ECC) and other Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) to respond to because it sets out the future vision for us all to tackle Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management up to 2100.
- 1.3 The draft document is 64 pages in total. It has 3 Ambitions, all relating to climate change resilience, growth, adaptation and innovation. Under these ambitions are 15 Strategic Objectives and 36 Measures proposed to deliver them.
- 1.4 20 of the 36 Measures propose continued or new activity by collective 'Flood Risk Management Authorities' (all key members of the Essex Flood Board are defined as one of these) and 3 measures are specifically for Lead Local Flood Authorities (All County and Unitary Authorities, Essex, Southend and Thurrock).
- 1.5 The consultation is running for 8 weeks from 9 May to 4 July 2019. For further information and to respond, please use this link: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/fcrm/national-strategy-public>

2. Purpose of report

- 2.1. Although the deadlines do not allow us to submit a collaborative response. We would like to encourage all Essex Flood Board members to respond to this consultation in their own right as Flood Risk Management Authorities.

- 2.2. We are unable to invite Flood Board discussion on the attached Essex County Council response, but we wish to share it with all Flood Board Members for information and interest.

3. Response Summary

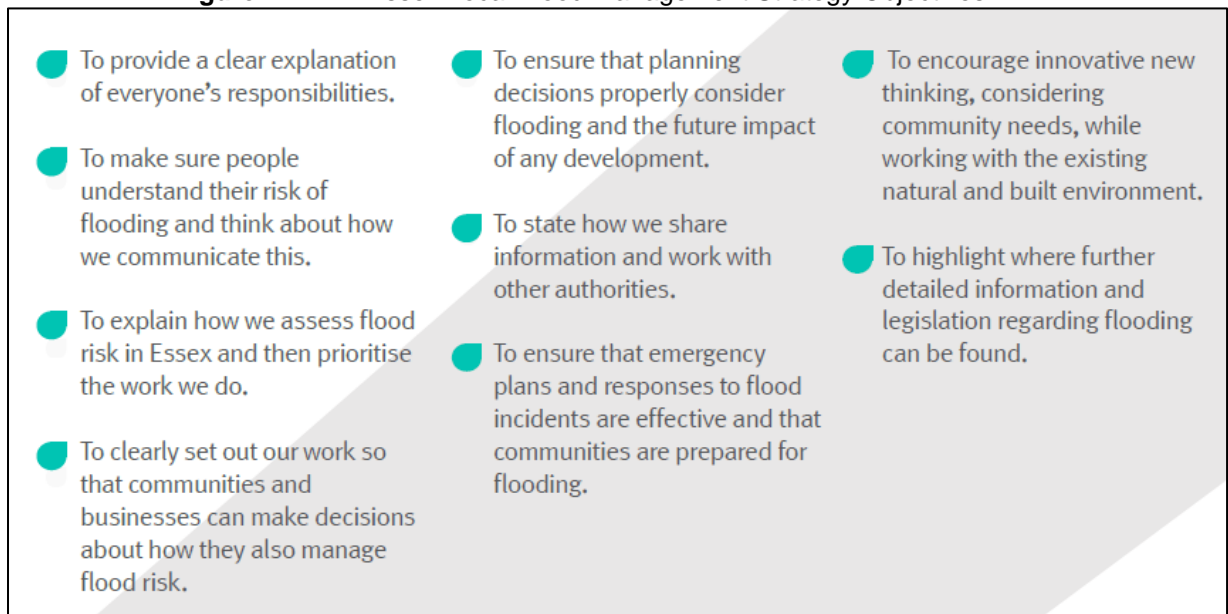
- 3.1. Appendix A provides the full response from Essex County Council. This may still be subject to minor change due to the deadline being 4th July 2019.
- 3.2. In short, we feel the Strategic Objectives are very much what our services are striving for already and felt 'complete agreement' with all 15 is a representative response.
- 3.3. We believe we are already taking a lead in many of the proposed measures, demonstrated by the award-winning Natural Flood Management scheme in Harlow, climate change adaptation SPONGE 2020 project, Property Level Resilience (PLR) scheme success and expert SUDS planning advice services.
- 3.4. Since 2010 ECC has also prioritised our detailed Surface Water Management Plan delivery (10 studies in total) to enable our partners and public to be better informed and 'ready for' surface water flooding in Essex.
- 3.5. This said we are looking forward to further progressing the new strategy ambitions. There are several 'cross-cutting' workstreams emerging within the Place and Public Health function at Essex County Council which will embrace opportunities for water resources, sustainable growth, public health and climate change adaptation. Linking to the themes of the FCERM Strategy Ambitions 1 and 2.
- 3.6. Within our Waste and Environment service we also know that individual behavior is key to tackling many environmental challenges. Our corporate strategy calls for us to 'Enable local communities to identify their own local issues and tackle them, by using their own assets'. We are working with internal and external partners on these messages and piloting schemes that focus on community buy-in, relating to the FCERM Strategy Ambition 3.
- 3.7. We feel that elements of the strategy could be even more ambitious and descriptive. But we have proposed caution around some of the financial or resource implications, since priorities can be competitive within local government. Where local flexibility remains, we will be striving to keep on as leaders in testing and delivering the proposed measures.
- 3.8. In addition to providing the attached response, Essex County Council also took part in the Consultation Workshop Session in London on 03 June 2019 and

feedback discussions at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Annual Engagement Event (Essex) on the 12 June 2019.

4. Impact on the Essex Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 4.1. Essex published its first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy in 2012 and has since recently refreshed the document in 2018. During this period and since becoming a Lead Local Flood Authority we have maintained the same 9 core objectives:

Figure 1 Essex Local Flood Management Strategy Objectives



- 4.2. Following the publication of the Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (expected 2020) we may choose to review these objectives.
- 4.3. Measure 1.2.5 of the National FCERM Strategy currently proposes that by 2026 lead local flood authorities will update their local flood risk strategies to incorporate adaptive approaches to planning for flood and coastal resilience.
- 4.4. Our 2018 refresh of the Essex Local Flood Management Strategy provided a 'living' document that could be easily maintained and adapted to reflect current approaches. Residents of Essex will likely remain the target audience for this document.