

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	30 December 2022
Title:	Catchment Management Plan Consultation - Update on outcomes and next steps
Report From:	Susanna Hope Senior Flood and Water Management Project Officer

Contact name:

Tel: 0370 779 8679

Email: Susanna.hope@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment approves minor amendments to the draft Hampshire Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs) as required by the outcome of the public consultation and adopts the Hampshire FWCMPs in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1 The draft FWCMPs were approved for public consultation by the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at the Decision Day on 12 May 2022. The purpose of the consultation was to allow for input on the FWCMP contents from a wider audience before consideration of final adoption. It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make minor amendments to the draft Hampshire FWCMPs as required by the outcome of the public consultation, and to adopt the Hampshire FWCMPs subject to there being no unresolvable representations, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.
- 2.2 As there were deemed to be no unresolvable representations, it is being recommended that the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment approves minor amendments and adopts the Hampshire FWCMPs.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 The option to not to adopt was considered and rejected because the consultation demonstrated a high level of support for the FWCMPs and the changes needed to the plans were considered minor and resolvable.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.

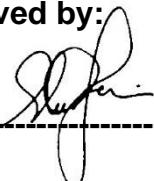
5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

As per the delegation, the intention to approve was shared with Executive Members in advance, no objection was received.

Approved by:



Director of Economy, Transport and Environment
Stuart Jarvis

Date:

30 December 2022

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to set out the outcomes of the public consultation on the draft Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs) and, in accordance with the relevant Decision, recommend approval of the plans to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment.

Recommendation

2. That the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment approves minor amendments to the draft Hampshire Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs) as required by the outcome of the public consultation and adopts the Hampshire FWCMPs in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

Executive Summary

3. The Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs), identify areas that are at risk of flooding, and seek to understand how and why the catchment floods, so that communities and flood risk management partners can co-ordinate flood risk reduction activities. They provide the basis for developing short, medium, and long-term approaches to managing flood risk. The plans sit below the overarching Flood and Water Management Strategy and help meet the County Council's requirements as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
4. The draft FWCMPs were approved for public consultation by the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at the Decision Day on 12 May 2022. It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make minor amendments to the draft

Hampshire FWCMPs as required by the outcome of the public consultation, and to adopt the Hampshire FWCMPs subject to there being no unresolvable representations, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

5. A 6-week public consultation was run in June and resulted in a total of 79 responders making comments on the draft plans. Response to the plans was largely positive with a significant majority of respondents agreeing with each of the proposed policies and the methodology used to identify flood risk Priority Areas. As a result of the consultation only minor amendments are needed to the plans and none of the issues raised were considered unresolvable. Given this it is recommended that minor amendment to the plans is approved and FWCMPs are adopted.

Contextual Information

6. The Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs), identify areas that are at risk of flooding, and seek to understand how and why the catchment floods, so that communities and flood risk management partners can co-ordinate flood risk reduction activities. They provide the basis for developing short, medium, and long-term approaches to managing flood risk. The plans sit below the overarching Flood and Water Management Strategy and help meet the County Council's requirements as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
7. The draft FWCMPs were approved for public consultation by the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment at the Decision Day on 12 May 2022. The purpose of the consultation was to allow for input on the FWCMP contents from a wider audience before consideration of final adoption. It was agreed that authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make minor amendments to the draft Hampshire FWCMPs as required by the outcome of the public consultation, and to adopt the Hampshire FWCMPs subject to there being no unresolvable representations, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.
8. The consultation ran from 9 June to 21 July 2022 and was held online. A total of 79 responses were received. Of these, 69 were via the consultation Response Form and 12 submitted by letter or email. 310 comments were received in all.
9. 54 responses were from individuals, 15 of whom indicated that they had been personally affected by flooding in Hampshire. 3 responses were from democratically elected representatives and 22 from groups, organisations, or businesses.

Outcome of the consultation

10. **Priority Area identification** - Overall, 71% of respondents agreed with the method the County Council had chosen to identify and prioritise the 66 Priority Areas at most risk of flooding across Hampshire. 29 respondents thought that there were other criteria that could be included in the prioritisation methodology for future iterations of the Flood and Water Catchment Plans. This included factors such as Local Plan future development plans, road gradients, unclassified roads, wildlife designated sites, depth and duration of flooding, lost ditches, and impact on travel. The response to these issues can be found in our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document.
11. **Policy Overview** - A significant majority of respondents agreed with each of the proposed policies, with the level of overall agreement ranging from 79% to 97%. Over half of respondents 'strongly agreed' with all policies (see Appendix One).
12. In a number of cases respondents felt the policies did not go far enough and that items to be encouraged should be mandated. In several cases, they asked that the policies should be applied across all of Hampshire and not just in Priority Areas. In a few cases the practicality of applying the policy has been questioned (e.g. 50% reduction in runoff). Some concerns have been raised by the Local Planning Authorities about whether they are expected to resource the extra standards proposed.
13. Overall, 53% of comments did not require any changes as either these are supportive comments or are already addressed by our existing processes and procedures. The response to the remaining comments, including those above, is set out below. None of the representations received are considered to be unresolvable.

Response to representations

14. All comments have been addressed within our [Frequently Ask Questions](#) document. However, we have highlighted some key responses below.
15. **Strengthening policies** – The legislation is not in place to enable the County Council to make the proposed policies mandatory. However, we will continue to work closely with LPAs to ensure that opportunities to adopt the policies into Local Plans, to guide developers and to enable enforcement of the provisions, are taken.
16. **Promote policies across Hampshire** – It is currently proposed that these policies are applied only to Priority Areas. FWCMP were developed to ensure that limited resources were targeted where they would be most effective.
17. **Application of policies** – All policies relate to areas already within the Lead Local Flood Authority's remit and involve an adjustment to what we ask for

and do in relation to planning responses, Ordinary Watercourses Consents and Section 19 flood investigations.

18. **Resource requirements** – There will be a need to support the LPAs to implement some of the policies. A streamlined template will be produced for Section 19 Flood Investigation reports to make this process more resource efficient. Planning related policies will involve the applicant submitting additional information and so should have minimal resource implications.
19. **Comments resulting in planned amendments to the CMPs** – In most cases the changes identified as a result of the consultation involved correcting typos, adding caveats and further text to clarify the meaning of policies and where these will apply. The labelling of some of the maps will also be improved to clarify the extent of the area covered by the Priority Areas. All the changes are minor and do not materially affect the policies, nature or extent of the areas identified as Priority Areas.
20. **Comments to be addressed with the planned supporting CMP policy guidance documents** - Each policy will be supported with a policy guidance document that will set out in detail how we expect the policy to be applied. These will be developed via working groups consisting of key stakeholders.
21. **Comments to be addressed within the proposed CMP Action Plans** – Each Priority Area will be supported with an Action Plan for that area setting out the flooding issues and suggested actions to help manage flooding in that area. These will be developed in conjunction with local stakeholders.
22. **Comments to be addressed in other ways**- Some of the comments received will be addressed through adjustment to existing procedures e.g., putting further information on our Asset Register.
23. A list of [Frequently Ask Questions](#) has been prepared to address all the comments received.
24. As the representation by the Risk Management Authorities require more technical and detailed responses they are being responded to separately. [Catchment-Management-Plan-Frequently Asked Questions - RMAs 13-12-22.pdf](#)

Equalities Impact Assessment

25. The FWCMPs were submitted for public consultation beginning in June 2022 for a period of 6 weeks on the County Council's 'Have Your Say' consultation website.
26. Following completion of an Equalities Impact Assessment, it is considered that the proposal will have a neutral impact on groups with protected characteristics as the Catchment Plans are designed to protect and support every resident in prioritised areas regardless of protected characteristics.

Climate Change Impact Assessments

27. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

Climate Change Adaptation

28. Climate Change adaptation is integral to the County Council's Local Flood and Water Management Strategy and the Flood and Water Catchment Management Plans (FWCMPs). The Plans are designed specifically to improve water management, including enhancing resilience to both drought and flooding. The Plans will significantly improve Hampshire's adaptation to climate change by bringing forward policies which will reduce flood risk and improve communities' resilience to and recovery from flood and drought events

Carbon Mitigation

29. The carbon mitigation tool is not applicable as the decision does not relate to a project involving physical infrastructure. However, the policies set out in the Plans will assist with driving new standards and approaches that will help to reduce carbon, and increase opportunities for sequestration, by promoting greener, nature-based solutions working at a catchment scale.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u> Catchment Plans-2022-05-12-ELMETE Decision Day (hants.gov.uk) Decision - Local Flood and Water Management Strategy About the Council Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk)	<u>Date</u> 12/05/2022 12/11/2019
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

Appendix 1- Shows the level of support for each of the FWCMPs policies received during the public consultation.

