

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	4 June 2019
Title:	Hampshire County Council Response to Government Consultation on the Draft Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport notes the content and potential impacts of the Government's consultation on the Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy and endorses the key principles to form a basis for the County Council's detailed response, as set out in paragraphs 13-24 of the supporting report.
- 1.2 That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the next steps for submission set out in the supporting report.
- 1.3 That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment to make all necessary arrangements to approve and submit the detailed response to Government in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Climate change predictions indicate that the UK will experience wetter winters and drier summers, with an increased likelihood of more intense rainfall leading to flooding. Additionally, we will experience continuing sea level rise and increased storminess that will have profound impacts for our coastline. The scale of potential future flooding and coastal change is significant. In November 2018 the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs called for 'a new philosophy for managing all sources of flooding and coastal change'. The Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy sets out how this will be achieved.
- 2.2. The Environment Agency has a statutory duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy. This is a requirement of Section 7 of the [Flood and Water Management Act \(FWMA\) 2010](#). The FWMA also lists what the strategy must cover, and states that it requires public consultation, and that the Secretary of State must approve it. The first national flood and coastal erosion risk management

(FCERM) strategy was published in 2011. In its 25year Environment Plan, the Government committed the Environment Agency to revising the FCERM strategy in 2019.

2.3. The Environment Agency is now consulting on the Draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England which will replace the existing strategy.

2.4. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council is responsible for managing and planning for flooding and coastal change and must ensure that it's local FCERM strategies are consistent with the final national strategy. In addition, all risk management authority plans and strategies, even if they are not FCERM focussed, must be undertaken in a manner which is consistent with the national strategy. This consultation represents an important opportunity for the County Council to influence the long-term strategic direction of flood and coastal erosion risk management not only as a lead local flood authority, but also as the Highway Authority, an infrastructure provider, provider of a range of services, and as a landowner.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1 None.

4. Conflicts of interest:

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

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: 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:

I thank the Select Committee for its support on this matter, and I acknowledge its recommendation to enforce the importance of government making adequate funding for ongoing work and research, as well as their support for greater integration of flood risk with water resource management issues.

Approved by:

Date:

4 June 2019

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**