

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Cabinet **DATE:** 17th September 2018

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WARD(S): All

PORTFOLIO: Planning & Transport – Councillor Carter
Corporate Finance & Housing – Councillor Nazir

PART I NON-KEY DECISION

RESILIENT NETWORK PLAN UPDATE – DFT INCENTIVE FUND SELF ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek cabinet approval for the attached Resilient Network Plan relating to flooding, as part of our submission to the DfT's Incentive Fund.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the Resilient Network Plan be approved.

3. The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan

3a. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –

Priorities:

- Health: Ensuring that the highway network is resilient to flood risk and to ensure that we have considered factors relating to this. A resilient highway network ensures residents can access the health services they need.
- Economy and Skills – Continue to provide residents with access to essential services by maintaining the resilience of the network and making facilitating journeys to work, home, leisure facilities and schools.
- Regeneration and Environment; A resilient highway network is a prerequisite to safe and efficient bus services to increase the use of sustainable forms of transport.
- Housing: A resilient highway network is essential to keep public transport links to the area running.

- Cross-Cutting themes:

Civic responsibility: By ensuring that residents of Slough feel confident that we are aware of and have considered the effects of potential flooding events.

Improving the image of the town: By publishing the plan on Slough’s website we will be showing that Slough is pro-active in its approach to issues affecting the town and its residents.

3b Five Year Plan Outcomes

By publishing the Resilient Network Plan we will support the following key actions of the Five Year Plan that are also represented in the Transport and Highways Service Plan 2016/17.

- *Slough children will grow up to be happy, healthy and successful because their journeys to schools and other leisure activity centres will be more likely during flooding events.*
- *Slough will be an attractive place where people choose to live, work and stay because a resilient highway network will enhance the perception of the town to make people feel safe, less affected by major events and welcomed as well as feeling that Slough is properly managed.*
- *Our residents will live in good quality homes because a resilient highway network is crucial in ensuring the infrastructure for public utilities is well managed which in turn ensures the supplies to their homes are secured with less interruption.*
- *Slough will attract, retain and grow businesses and investment to provide opportunities for our residents because a resilient highway network is a reflection of a Borough being well run and well managed.*

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The Secretary of State for Transport announced in 2015 that £6b would be made available for local authorities over a 5 year period. In addition to this an incentive fund is available for authorities. A formula allocation is made plus an additional sum depending on the band level the council has reached. Currently Slough Borough Council is band 2 and current year funding (2017/18) is a formula allocation of £727k with a band 2 allocation of £106K. For 2019/20 the band 2 funding would drop to £76k on top of the £727k formula allocation. By approving this plan SBC will be able to reach band 3 status and receive £151k funding.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/ Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
To approve the publication/ acceptance of the Resilient Network Plan as per detail contained in the table below	Increased scrutiny for the Council during flooding events	We receive a weather warning from the Met Office and plan accordingly	8 (Heath & Safety Risk – Marginal impact. Significant probability)	Review how we performed after any flooding events and feedback the results to the Resilient Network Plan

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no legal or Human Rights Act implications relating to the content of this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for the completion of an EIA relating to this report.

5 **Supporting Information**

5.1 Resilient Network Plan

5.2 The Council manages the following key highway assets:

- 324km of roads
- 647km of footways/cycleways
- 56 bridges and structures
- 12300 street lights
- 1850 illuminated signs and bollards
- 130 traffic signals

5.3 The Council has performed well during flooding events in the past. The Resilient Network Plan clarifies what we need to do during such events and will give residents confidence if they know exactly what actions we take during flooding events.

5.4 We have a Gully cleaning regime that ensures Gully's are clear and free of obstruction, which helps mitigate the effects of heavy rainfall. Also, our highway inspectors keep an eye on Gully's during their routine safety inspections and clear them if they notice that they are blocked.

5.5 Slough Borough Council has a very good track record of dealing with heavy rainfall/ flooding. The DfT have said that as part of our submission for the annual Incentive Fund, we need to have the process for mitigation of heavy rainfall/ flooding events documented and ratified by higher management.

6 **Comments of Other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other Committees.

7 **Conclusion**

The Cabinet are requested to approve the Resilient Network Plan and allow us to publish it on the Slough Council website.

8 **Appendices**

- A – Resilient Network Plan
- B – Flood Map