

Severn Estuary

Flood Risk Management Strategy (Gloucestershire)

December 2011

The aim of the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy (SEFRMS) is to identify the most effective and sustainable way to manage flood risk in the estuary over the next century. The Strategy covers the northern coastline from Lavernock Point near Cardiff to Gloucester, and back down the southern coastline to Hinkley Point in Somerset.

The consultation on the draft SEFRMS earlier this year prompted a number of concerns from individuals and organisations in Gloucestershire. Many of these related to the proposals for managed realignment of defences either in the short or longer term. There was also concern about the flood risk to infrastructure. Respondents requested a more open and transparent consultation.

We recognise the need for greater community involvement in discussing options and making decisions. We want to develop the Strategy by working closely with communities. We are aiming to reach general agreement on the Strategy before we republish it. This will be after April 2012, to allow time for these discussions to take place.

In the coming months we will help communities describe and assess their preferred short and longer term options for managing flood risk within legislative and technical constraints. We will also advise on what could be funded using public money.

The longer term strategy options to manage flood risk are likely to be linked to actual levels of sea level rise rather than specific dates based on current predictions. These options would only be needed once a certain rise in sea level has

occurred and makes the short term option unsustainable for the community.

Dan Matthews and Simon Cullen have been appointed as strategy engagement officers. They will work mainly with the communities in Gloucestershire where managed realignment of defences has been proposed. Dan and Simon intend to make contact with all parishes bordering the Severn Estuary prior to Christmas. This will allow them to introduce themselves and discuss plans for public workshops to be held early in the new year. Please feel free to contact them with any queries.

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Project sponsor for the Severn Estuary Flood Risk Management Strategy

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