

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

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| Decision Maker: | Executive Member for Environment and Transport |
| Date: | 11 July 2017 |
| Title: | Hampshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment - Review |
| Report From: | Director of Economy, Transport and Environment |

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to set out the background and outcomes from the review of Hampshire's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and seek Executive Member approval for the updated assessment.
- 1.2. The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require all Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) such as Hampshire County Council to prepare and adopt a PFRA. The PFRA provides a high level summary of significant local flood risk i.e. flooding from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and any interaction these sources have with main rivers and the sea. All LLFA PFRAs were adopted in 2011. Importantly, the Regulations set in motion a six yearly assessment, mapping and planning cycle that begins this year with the review of all PFRAs.
- 1.3. A key feature of the first round of PFRAs was the identification of areas at significant flood risk (in a national context), known as Flood Risk Areas (FRA's), for which a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) would have then subsequently needed to have been produced. The Environment Agency, working with relevant LLFAs, published the first set of FRMPs in March 2016. However, based on the criteria at the time, Hampshire did not have any such areas. For this review cycle new criteria have been established. As a result an Indicative Flood Risk Area is now proposed across the Hampshire/Surrey border along the River Blackwater around Farnborough and Hawley in Hampshire, and Camberley, Frimley and Mytchett in Surrey. The County Council accepts the principle of a FRA in this locality. However, as further work is undertaken it may prove necessary to seek to refine the FRA boundary. Work to progress the FRA will involve working in partnership with the Environment Agency and Surrey County Council.
- 1.4. Every LLFA is required to review both its PFRA and its identification of FRAs. The review utilises a standard self-assessment form and addendum

template (both attached) to avoid the need to produce an entirely new PFRA and thereby reduce the burden on LLFAs.

2. Contextual Information

2.1. The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 implement the EU floods directive in England and Wales. They provide a framework for managing flood risk, comprising:

- Preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA);
- Identification of areas of potential significant risk, referred to as flood risk areas (FRAs);
- Mapping of flood hazards and risk; and
- Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for any FRA, setting out measures and actions to reduce the risk.

The Regulations state that each of the above four elements must be reviewed, and updated where necessary, at least every 6 years.

2.2. In 2011 each LLFA completed a PFRA and where applicable identified FRAs for significant local flood risk primarily surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (any watercourse including ditches and streams that are not identified as Main Rivers on the Defra register). The PFRA provides a high-level summary of significant flood risk, based on available information, describing both the probability and consequences of past and future flooding. Since 2011, LLFAs have developed Local Flood Risk Management Strategies (LFRMS). Hampshire adopted its LFRMS in July 2013. The PFRA helped inform and provide the evidence to establish the risk assessment for the Hampshire LFRMS. The PFRA review is intended to ensure that those assessments remain up to date and fit for purpose.

2.3. For the review LLFAs are required to fill out a self assessment form and addendum template (attached) to enable a consistent and efficient response and avoid the need to produce a new PFRA. The self assessment prompts LLFAs to:

- Demonstrate flood risk data collection and management systems are in place;
- Summarise the main changes in understanding flood risk compared to 2011;
- Update the statements of flood risk from the original report to reflect current understanding;
- Update annexes to our original PFRA to record past floods since 2011 and new information on potential future floods;

- Confirm the FRAs; and
- Complete an addendum template to update the PFRA.

3. Indicative Flood Risk Area in Hampshire

- 3.1. A key purpose of the PFRA is to identify any nationally significant Flood Risk Areas (FRAs). In 2011 the threshold for significance used to determine such areas was around population clusters where the number of people at flood risk from a 1 in 200 year event would exceed 30,000 and/or where the number of critical services (including schools, hospitals, nursing homes, power stations) would exceed 150. However, based on this criteria Hampshire did not have any FRAs identified within its administrative area, and accordingly, was not required to produce a FRMP. Nevertheless this has not precluded the investigation of flood events or areas in Hampshire known to be at high risk of flooding that were not identified through the PFRA process
- 3.2. In 2010 thresholds for FRAs for local sources of risk were set very high which resulted in only 10 FRAs being identified across England (as outlined above none were in Hampshire). This was to constrain the number of LLFAs involved in the first cycle. These FRAs were then subject to further investigation through mapping of flood hazards and risk, and development of risk management actions that are now being implemented through FRMPs for 2016 to 2021.
- 3.3. FRAs in the first cycle focussed on areas with the highest levels of risk. For the second cycle the focus has been widened. Defra has provided ministerial guidance on significant risk for identification of FRAs. The approach uses a similar clustering methodology to that used in 2010, and is supplemented with information based on the 'communities at risk' approach developed by the Environment Agency, which in turn is based on Office for National Statistics built-up area (BUA) and built-up area sub-divisions (BUASD). This has resulted in more indicative FRAs for the second cycle than in the first and includes for the first time in an Indicative FRA in Hampshire. The Indicative FRA is located across the Hampshire/Surrey border along the River Blackwater around Farnborough and Hawley in Hampshire and Camberley, Frimley and Mytchett in Surrey (refer to Map 1).
- 3.4. Officers have reviewed the Indicative FRA boundary and compared this with the information held for this area. This included:
 - Topographical and natural catchment boundary areas;
 - Flooding reports;
 - Surface Water Management Plan for Rushmoor Borough Council; and
 - existing infrastructure boundaries.
- 3.5. On the basis of this review the County Council accepts the principle of a FRA in this locality. A draft Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for

Rushmoor was published in 2012. This assessed flood risk on a ward basis. However, in December 2014 Cabinet approved a shift in approach to assessing flood risk on a catchment basis. This seeks to provide a more joined up and integrated approach to flood risk management by all authorities, agencies and communities. The Loddon catchment (the River Blackwater is a tributary of the Loddon) is likely to be a high priority as the authority develops its future programme of catchment plans and therefore, will enable the catchment plan to inform the development of the FRMP. Progressing the FRMP will require working in partnership with both the EA and Surrey County Council. As further work is undertaken it may prove necessary to seek to refine the FRA boundary in order to have regard to the natural watershed and better reflect the hydrology of the area.

4. Other issues - Past and Potential Future Flood Events

- 4.1. As part of the review process the County Council has also to provide information on past flood events i.e. any flood events that have occurred since publication of its PFRA in 2011 that have added to or changed its understanding of flood risk in the county (refer to Annex 1). The information contained in the annexe is based on the Section 19 (Flood and Water Management Act 2010) Investigations undertaken by the County Council which are undertaken in response to 'significant' flooding events i.e. Buckskin Basingstoke, Romsey, Wickham and Fleet. All Section 19 reports are published on the County Council's website.
- 4.2. Finally, the authority has to provide any new information on potential future flood risk gathered since 2011 (refer to Annex 2). The information contained in the annexe is based on an assessment of flood risk across the county using the Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map published in 2013.

5. Future Direction

- 5.1. A consequence of this review cycle is that the County Council will now have to undertake mapping of flood hazards and risk and prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan for the Farnborough/Hawley FRA. However, at this moment the approach to the second cycle FRMPs is not yet decided. It is understood that this is likely to differ from the first cycle as a consequence of ambitions for more integrated catchment management, and the desire for better alignment with local strategies.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1. That the review of Hampshire's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment be approved for submission to the Environment Agency to meet the County Council's legal obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

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|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Hampshire safer and more secure for all: | No |
| Maximising well-being: | Yes |
| Enhancing our quality of place: | Yes |

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

Flood Risk Regulations 2009

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made>

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment - Executive Member Report 7 June 2011

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/councilmeetings/advsearchmeetings/meetingsitemdocuments.htm?sta=&pref=Y&item_ID=2923&tab=2&co=&confidential=

Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011

<http://documents.hants.gov.uk/flood-water-management/watercourses/PFRARportsavedJan2016.pdf>

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

This paper sets out the outcomes of the review of Hampshire's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. It is considered that the review will have no impact on groups with protected characteristics as the review is based on the risk of flooding in a geographical location(s) and is not based on groups or individuals.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The Review of Hampshire's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment will have no impact on crime and Disorder.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? No impact.
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The frequency of flood events and their severity is predicted to increase with the effects of climate change. The review of the Preliminary flood Risk Assessment will help inform the review of our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and in turn support communities to become more resilient to flooding events.