



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item:


**[No.]**

**Cabinet**

**On 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011**

Report Title. **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment**

Report of **Anne Lippitt, Director of Urban Environment**

Signed :  25/5/2011

Contact Officer :

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Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Key**

**1. Purpose of the report**

The Council needs to approve a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to be submitted to the Environment Agency by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2011.

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood Water Management Act 2010 have made Haringey Council a Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) and as such Haringey Council has to prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA).

A draft copy of the PFRA report is attached as Appendix A.

**2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)**

- 2.1 The floods in Cumbria and Gloucestershire demonstrated the devastation that can occur to communities with severe flooding events associated with heavy rainfall.

2.2	The focus of this preliminary report is on identifying the risk of groundwater flooding, particularly from heavy rainfall or flash flooding and needs to be submitted to the Environment Agency by 22 June 2011.
2.3	This preliminary flood assessment reminds us that Haringey is at risk of groundwater flooding, particularly around the Moselle Brook and New River corridors as well as areas of Hornsey. The Council needs to ensure that it is aware of this risk and seeks to address this to protect its communities and to safeguard against the possible implications of climate change.
2.4	Close collaboration already exists between Sustainable Transport and Planning services as well as Emergency Planning to ensure that the Council provides a comprehensive response on this important issue.
<b>3</b>	<b>State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:</b>
3.1	Haringey's Core Strategy which will guide the development and growth in the borough over the next 15 years is developed in line with national and regional planning frameworks which require assessment of local flood risk and relevant mitigation measures. The Core Strategy will give spatial interpretation to the Sustainable Community Strategy policies which include an environmentally sustainable future. The Core Strategy policies are based on evidence which includes a strategic flood risk assessment study prepared for the north London region in 2008.
3.2	The Council recently agreed a draft Sustainable Design and Construction Supplementary Planning Guidance which will require developers to consider and put into action measures to adapt to climate change and reduce rain water run-off.
3.3	Emergency Planning also carries out a role in ensuring that the Council is prepared for potential flooding events.
3.4	Adapting to Climate Change, which includes the potential for increased flooding risks is an important element of the Council's Greenest Borough Strategy.
<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	That Cabinet delegate the approval of Haringey's final Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to the Cabinet Member for submission to the Environment Agency
<b>5</b>	<b>Reason for recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	The PFRA is a statutory requirement under the Flood Risk Regulation 2009.

Approval and submission of the PFRA will ensure that Haringey complies with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. The PFRA is currently in draft form awaiting final amendments and thus final approval is needed by the Cabinet Member before it can be submitted to the Environment Agency.

## **6 Other options considered**

- 6.1 The preparation of the PFRA is a legal requirement and there are no alternative actions available.
- 6.2 The Surface Water Management Plan is not required by these regulations until 2015 however it has been completed now as part of the London-wide Drain London project.

## **7 Summary**

- 7.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and the Flood Water Management Act 2010 has made local authorities responsible for the preparation of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The PFRA has now been carried out and subject to Cabinet approval will be submitted to the Environment Agency for review by 22nd June 2011. The PFRA process provides a high level overview of flood risk from all sources within Haringey; it focuses on local sources of flooding such as surface water and groundwater rather than main rivers.
- 7.2 In anticipation of the new role for local authorities the Drain London project was initiated in 2010 by the Greater London Authority with partners including the Environment Agency, Thames Water and London Boroughs. Two of the principal outputs of this project are a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) for every London Borough.
- 7.3 The methodology for preparing the PFRA is consistent with the Environment Agency's Final PFRA Guidance, published December 2010. Both the Planning Service and Emergency Planning have been involved in the development and production of the PFRA. The key objectives of the PFRA include the following:
- Collect information on past (historic) and future (potential) floods;
  - Review the Indicative Flood Risk Areas;
  - Provide a summary of the systems used for data sharing and storing and the provision for quality assurance, security and data licensing arrangements;
  - Describe arrangements for partnership and collaboration for ongoing collection, assessment and storage of flood risk data and information;
  - Identify relevant partner organisations involved in future assessment

- of flood risk; and summarise means for future and ongoing stakeholder engagement;
    - Provide a useful reference point for all local flood risk management and inform future local strategies.
- 7.4 The main areas identified for surface water flood risk are shown on maps within the PFRA. The risks are measured by looking at the impact of a 1:200 chance of a rainfall event occurring in any given year. There seems to be no discernable change to the risk of surface water flooding when the effects of climate change are taken into account.
- 7.4 The next steps for the authority, following the submission of the PFRA are to:
- Finalise a Surface Water Management Plan
  - Prepare a Hazard Map for 2013
  - Prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan for 2015
- 7.5 The Council is also meant to identify mitigating actions that it can take to address flood risk. The additional responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) are:
- for local flooding including ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.
  - to establish and maintain a register of flood risk management assets; they will also be able to designate structures or features that impact on flood risk.
- 7.6 House builders and developers will be required to incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) into new developments, where these systems serve more than one property they are to be adopted and maintained by local authorities. The Planning Service would lead on the inclusion of these in relevant planning applications.
- 7.7 A new risk-based regime to improve reservoir safety has been introduced. The size threshold for a statutory reservoir is to be lowered significantly thereby increasing greatly the number of reservoirs, although this is unlikely to have an impact in Haringey.
- 7.8 Risk management authorities, such as the Environment Agency, local authorities and water companies, must co-operate with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood risk management functions. Haringey is part of a sub-regional group of authorities looking at flood risk across north-east London. Haringey's Multi-Agency Flood Plan was approved at the haringey Emergency Planning Partnership (HEPP) board in 2010. This document sets out how the emergency services, the Council and other partners will respond in the event of serious flooding.

<b>8.</b>	<b>Chief Financial Officer Comments</b>
8.1	The new responsibilities from the Flood Management Act and the development and implementation of flood mitigation measures will require additional engineering, and possibly planning, resources and skills which are not currently available in house. The services are currently looking at options for the best way to secure resources and expertise and the options include developing in-house skills, commissioning or shared service arrangements.
8.2	The Environment Agency requires planning authorities to undertake detailed flood risk assessments in relation to each area spatial action plan which will identify development and infrastructure proposals for parts of Haringey. The cost implications of these requirements are being developed.
8.3	Additional funding of £131,000 has been received by the Council for work in this area, but has currently not been allocated to the services pending a business case for assessing the additional resources needed and this will depend on the commissioning method. Developing this capacity will enable the Council to effectively bid for funds which are being established for flood mitigation which would help support additional staff costs in the future.
<b>9</b>	<b>Head of Legal Services Comments</b>
9.1	The Council is under a statutory obligation to prepare the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment to the Environment Agency under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which establish a national framework for dealing with flood risk pursuant to EU directive
<b>10</b>	<b>Equalities &amp; Community Cohesion Comments</b>
10.1	The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment will help to ensure that Haringey's residents are not unnecessarily exposed to local sources of flood risk that could otherwise be mitigated.
<b>11</b>	<b>Statutory Notification process and feedback</b>
	N/A
<b>12</b>	<b>Use of appendices /Tables and photographs</b>
Appendix A: Draft Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment	



## **Appendix I**

Awaiting submission of final draft report from Capita Symonds (appointed by Drain London.)