

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Executive – 1 June 2011
Communities & Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Committee
– 21 June 2011

Subject: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

Report of: Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services

Summary

The United Kingdom has suffered serious flood incidents in recent years, which lead to the Pitt Review of how the country responds to flooding, and consequently the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. As a result of this Local Authorities now have new statutory responsibilities for flood risk management. Additionally the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 transpose the European Floods Directive into domestic law.

Manchester City Council has new responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority. As part of its new statutory duties under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, the Council must undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, which is a high level screening exercise to identify areas of significant flood risk within a Lead Local Flood Authority's area, using existing available and readily derivable information.

The Preliminary Assessment Report requires approval from the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority and review by the Environment Agency within a specified timeframe. The Environment Agency has requested that all Preliminary Assessment Reports be submitted to them by the 22nd June 2011.

This report seeks approval of the Preliminary Assessment Report, which, as a background document, is available on request, and the authorisation for it to be submitted to the Environment Agency for review.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

1. Note the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for the City of Manchester, and the wider flood risk management context; and,
 2. Agree that the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment be submitted to the Environment Agency by the 22nd June 2011.
-

Wards Affected:

All

Community Strategy Spine	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
Performance of the economy of the region and sub region	Understanding potential flood risk areas within the City will enable effective management of this risk. This will benefit existing communities and support the sustainable growth of the City.
Reaching full potential in education and employment	
Individual and collective self esteem – mutual respect	
Neighbourhoods of Choice	

Full Details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

Equal Opportunities Policy
Risk Management
Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences for the Revenue Budget

External funding as described in paragraph 3.2 has covered the cost of the preparation of this report. There will be future costs associated with the implementation of the regulations for which external funding is currently unconfirmed.

Financial Consequences for the Capital Budget:

None directly at this time.

Contact Officers:

Name: Vicky Rosin
Position: Strategic Director of Neighbourhood Services
Telephone: 0161 234 4051
Email: v.rosin@manchester.gov.uk

Background documents (available for public inspection):

Manchester City Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment May 2011
Flood Risk Regulations 2009
Flood & Water Management Act 2010

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Over the last few years many damaging floods have occurred in Europe, including severe floods along the Danube and Elbe rivers in summer 2002, which resulted in the EU Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC). The United Kingdom has also suffered serious flood incidents in recent years, particularly in summer 2007, which led to the Pitt Review of how the country responds to flooding.
- 1.2 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 transpose the European Floods Directive into domestic law, and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 responds to the findings of the Pitt Review. These pieces of legislation set out a range of new duties and responsibilities for local authorities in planning for, and delivering local flood risk management. All unitary authorities, including Manchester City Council, are designated as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) and are responsible for local flood risk management. This covers flooding from surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. The Environment Agency is responsible for flooding from the sea, from main rivers, and has a strategic overview of flood risk.
- 1.3 As a Lead Local Flood Authority, the City Council is required to undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) for its area. The PFRA is the first stage of an ongoing six-yearly cycle of work required by the Regulations and is a high level screening exercise to determine whether there is a local flood risk within the LLFA area based on historic and potential future flood risk, and using the most up to date information that is readily available.

2. Greater Manchester Indicative Flood Risk Area

- 2.1 Under the Regulations the Environment Agency is required to identify Indicative Flood Risk Areas within England, where risk meets a specific, nationally established threshold of significance, and where this coincides with clusters of population greater than 30,000 people. It should however be noted that the national significance thresholds are relatively high and that locally significant flood risk in the City of Manchester, which does not specifically form a part of these identified clusters, remains a fundamentally important component of current and future flood risk management planning.
- 2.2 A total of ten of these areas have been identified and one is within Greater Manchester, including much of the City of Manchester. Due to the geographical nature of the Indicative Flood Risk Area identified for Greater Manchester, a strategic PFRA exercise was carried out aligned to the ongoing production of the Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan. This reinforces the cross-boundary nature of flood risk across Greater Manchester but also enables each LLFA to identify its own specific element of the Greater Manchester Flood Risk Area. Of the 86,500 people identified as being at risk from local flooding sources in the Greater Manchester Indicative Flood Risk Area, 19,600 are within the City of Manchester. The areas affected are the City Centre, North, East and much of Central Manchester, and eastern parts

of South Manchester and Wythenshawe. These are shown in the Preliminary Assessment Report (PAR).

- 2.3 Manchester's PFRA has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance issued by the Environment Agency and has reviewed the Greater Manchester Indicative Flood Risk Area using data held by the Environment Agency, United Utilities and from within the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. There are no changes proposed to the Greater Manchester Indicative Flood Risk Area in relation to the City of Manchester; the only proposed amendment to the map is in relation to Wigan, where an area of rural land containing only very small residential pockets and no critical services is proposed for exclusion.

3. **Next Steps**

- 3.1 On the basis of the Flood Risk Area within Greater Manchester, the next stage of the six-yearly Flood Risk Regulations work cycle is triggered for the LLFAs that are affected, including Manchester. This involves assessing the probability and extent of the flood risk and the hazards posed in more detail, with Flood Risk and Flood Hazard Maps to be produced by June 2013 which will inform the Flood Risk Management Plans which are required by June 2015.
- 3.2 The Government has made financial provision for the additional duties imposed on LLFAs through the Flood & Water Management Act 2010, through additional Area Based Grant allocations. Manchester has received £133,800 for 2011/12 and is due to receive £217,400 in 2012/13 and thereafter. The additional duties for which funding is provided include the production of Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, which are distinct from (although clearly related to) the duties imposed through the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. Detailed technical guidance and information about whether financial provision will be made available to support the Flood Risk and Flood Hazard mapping processes is awaited from DEFRA and the Environment Agency. Work on the Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is ongoing, with publication expected later in 2011. The Greater Manchester SWMP will identify, with greater clarity, the extent of properties and critical infrastructure susceptible to risk from surface water flooding and it is anticipated that it will provide significant evidence to support both the Flood Risk and Flood Hazard mapping processes in due course.
- 3.3 Across Greater Manchester, AGMA are currently considering how best to meet the new statutory flood risk management duties, including scope for further collaborative working, capacity building and new dedicated structures. The Executive will be kept informed of progress with flood risk management activities when key milestones are reached and where specific approvals are required.