



**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS**

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval of the joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as an evidence base to inform plan making and decision taking. A copy of the full Joint SFRA is available to view by contacting the Planning Policy Team.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To request that Executive;
- approve the Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment as a Local Plan evidence base.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The purpose of the Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) 2014 is to replace and update the previous version prepared in November 2007 which was also prepared jointly for the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, Blaby District and Oadby & Wigston Borough. The updated report has been prepared to provide appropriate supporting evidence for each Council's Local Plan. The SFRA update will be used to inform decisions on the location of future development and the preparation of sustainable policies for the long-term management of flood risk.

- 3.2 Since the previous SFRA there have been a number of changes to the planning system, regulations and law, such as;

- Localism Act (2011)
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012)
- Planning Practice Guidance (March 2014).
- Flood and Water Management Act (2010)
- Flood Risk Regulations (2009)

- 3.3 The purpose of this SFRA update is to

- provide information on the changes to planning, policy and guidance since the previous SFRA;
- provide a detailed assessment of the flood hazard within the Flood Zones;
- provide information on existing defences and flood risk management measures;
- allow a sequential approach to site allocation to be undertaken within a flood zone; and
- allow development of the policies and practices required to ensure that development in Flood Zones 2 and 3 satisfies the requirements of the Exception Test.

## **SFRA objectives**

### 3.4 The Planning Practice Guidance advocates a tiered approach to risk assessment and identifies the following two levels of SFRA

1. Level One: where flooding is not a major issue and where development pressures are low. The Assessment should be sufficiently detailed to allow application of the Sequential Test

2. Level Two: where land outside Flood Zones 2 and 3 cannot appropriately accommodate all the necessary development creating the need to apply the NPPF's Exception Test. In these circumstances the Assessment should consider the detailed nature of the flood characteristics within a flood zone.

The objectives of this SFRA update are a hybrid of level one and level two.

## **Summary**

- The Joint SFRA update has considered all sources of flooding, including fluvial, pluvial, groundwater, canal, reservoir and sewer flooding, within the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough, Blaby District and Oadby & Wigston Borough.
- An assessment of the flood defences in the joint SFRA area has been undertaken, including defence condition and standard and the residual risk.
- Flood risk has been assessed for all supplied assessment areas.
- Guidance for the requirements for a site specific Flood Risk Assessment for these areas is provided in the report, as well as general guidance on flood risk assessment for any development proposals within the joint SFRA area.
- The updated Flood Map for Surface Water is provided, indicating the likelihood of surface water flooding in the joint SFRA area.
- Surface water flooding is a risk in many of the areas. Advice has been provided regarding suitable SuDS options.
- A broad scale assessment of the cumulative impact of development and cross-boundary issues has been undertaken.
- Green Infrastructure within the joint SFRA area has been assessed and the Water Framework Directive status of the joint SFRA area's watercourses assessed.

### 3.5 There are minimal implications of this evidence on the emerging Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD, the implications are summarised below;

- Delete housing allocation HIN05 for 57 dwellings at land west of Nutts Lane and south of the railway line as this site is covered by Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b. The delivery of this site would not be in accordance with the 'flood risk vulnerability and flood zone compatibility' table contained in the National Planning Policy Guidance and sequentially there are more appropriate sites within the settlement boundary which will be allocated to replace this site.
- Housing Allocation HIN02 for 850 dwellings at land west of Hinckley is to be retained. The development of this site will need to take into consideration a small proportion of the allocation is within Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b. The developable area of this site would therefore be reduced accordingly and the development should therefore consider incorporating green infrastructure on these areas. The presence of these Flood Zones does not preclude the development of this site providing that suitable attenuation measures are incorporated.

3.6 The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will not result in any changes to the related emerging development management policies; DM10 'Development and Design' and DM7 'Preventing Pollution' as a result of the study's conclusions and recommendations.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [SJE]

4.1 The cost of this assessment has been met through Local Plan 2026+ budget. The cost of this assessment has been minimised by jointly commissioning the work with Oadby and Wigston Borough Council and Blaby District Council.

#### 5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [MR]

5.1 Set out in the report

#### 6. CORPORATE PLAN IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This report relates to an evidence base that is required by the NPPF to inform future planning processes in relation to flood risk.

6.2 The preparation of the Local Plan is of relevance to the delivery of the following aims of the Corporate Plan:

- 1 Creating a vibrant place to work and live
- 2 Empowering communities
- 3 Supporting individuals
- 4 Providing value for money and pro-active services

#### 7. CONSULTATION

7.1 The following parties (external to the Project Steering Group) have been consulted during the preparation of this version of the SFRA:

- Environment Agency
- Leicestershire County Council
- Severn Trent Water

Neighbouring authorities including

- Charnwood Borough Council
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
- North Warwickshire Borough
- Rugby Borough\*
- Harborough District
- Leicester City Council
- North West Leicestershire District\*

\* A response was not received from these Authorities.

#### 8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

8.1 It is the Council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

8.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project

have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

- 8.3 The following significant risks associated with this report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

Management of significant (Net Red) Risks		
Risk Description	Mitigating actions	Owner
Failure to publish the Report would result in the Borough Council using a dated evidence base document when producing development plan documents, this could result in the document being found unsound.	Adopt the evidence	Policy and Regeneration Manager

9. KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY – EQUALITY AND RURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The purpose of the SFRA is to enable the authority to make informed decisions about potential flood risk implications of development proposals and options. This could have significant environmental implications if the data is not available when making decisions and planning future development across the borough.

10. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community Safety implications – None arising from this report
- Environmental implications – Contained within the body of the report
- ICT implications – None arising from this report
- Asset Management implications – None arising from this report
- Human Resources implications – None arising from this report
- Planning Implications – Contained within the body of the report
- Voluntary Sector – None arising from this report

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Background papers: Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment 2014

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