

23. Water and Flood Management

WF1 – Flood risk and water management

- WF1.1** The Council will manage development in areas at risk of flooding within the Borough, having regard to the vulnerability of the proposed use and the levels of risk from all sources in the specific location. This will involve, where necessary, a sequential approach to determining the suitability of land for development and the application of the exception test as set out in national policy and guidance.
- WF1.2** Developers will be required to demonstrate, where necessary by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) at the planning application stage, that account has been taken of existing and future flood risk from all sources, as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), and having regard to climate change.
- WF1.3** Development should incorporate flood mitigation and management measures appropriate to the use and location. This should ensure that the development is safe throughout its lifetime, and include measures for sustainable water management in order to reduce flood risk, avoid adverse impacts on water quality and, where possible, enhance green infrastructure. These measures will be required to improve water efficiency and reduce surface water runoff through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), appropriate to the different parts of the Borough as identified in the SFRA, and taking into account the hierarchy of drainage options as set out in national guidance.
- WF1.4** Developers should, where practical and appropriate, use alternatives to culverting and seek to re-open existing culverts in the design of new development.

Justification

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Greater Manchester was published in 2008 and identified broad flood risk arising from all sources within the sub-region.

In 2009 Manchester, Salford and Trafford Councils commissioned a Level 2/Hybrid Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). This study provided a detailed assessment of flood risk arising from rivers, including revised maps for flood zones, canals, sewers, surface water and groundwater.

The Manchester, Salford and Trafford Level 2/Hybrid SFRA comprised a Level 1 Report (2010), User Guide (2010), Level 2 Report (2011), comprehensive mapping and a mapping index (2011). Key elements included detailed outputs on flood risk arising from the Manchester Ship Canal, the Bridgewater Canal, the River Mersey at Carrington and within Sinderland Brook catchment. A number of Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) were also identified due to known surface water and sewer flooding issues. The User Guide provided technical advice on reducing runoff within CDAs and advised that Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) will be required for developments within these areas on sites of 0.5 Hectares or above.

A separate Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan was produced in 2012/2013. This plan was a study of surface water flood risk and provided evidence to support local authorities in Greater Manchester to prioritise and take action to manage that risk.



As part of the preparation of the GMSF 2020, an updated Level 1 SFRA for Greater Manchester has been produced (2019). This document supersedes the 2008 study, providing an updated overview of flood risk in the sub-region and identifying a number of areas for further work. An updated Level 2/Hybrid SFRA for Greater Manchester has been commissioned and when complete this will supersede the Manchester, Salford and Trafford Level 2/Hybrid SFRA.

Evidence from the most up-to-date SFRA has been used to assist in applying the Sequential and Exception tests to identify locations for development in the Local Plan and will be used to assist in determining planning applications. The SFRA will also be of benefit in informing the Council's role as a Lead Local Flood Authority with responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and related Regulations, including future updates of its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2014).

The Borough has an extensive network of main rivers, ordinary watercourses, canals and other water bodies. Sustainable water management has an important role in terms of reducing flood risk and ensuring that development does not cause any deterioration in the status of inland waters, as required by the European Union Water Framework Directive.

In developing its strategic policies for flood risk and water management, the Council has had regard to the Environment Agency's North West River Basin Management Plan and relevant Catchment Flood Management Plans. Recognising the close hydrological and functional links with neighbouring authorities, the Council will also continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, other districts, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and other stakeholders on a range of other water and flood management studies and strategies.

Culverting of watercourses has a number of potential adverse impacts on flood risk and water management, due to the risk of blockage, limited access for maintenance purposes and wider impacts on the environment. Developers should, where practical and appropriate, use alternatives and seek to re-open existing culverts when formulating development proposals.

Effective engagement with developers, early in the planning application process, will be a key element in designing safe and sustainable development to ensure that the objectives of this policy are met.

WF2 – Safeguarding areas for flood management

WF2.1 The Council will safeguard the following areas for flood management, as identified on the Policies Map:-

- a) **Sale Water Park Flood Storage Area**
- b) **Timperley Flood Storage Area**

WF2.2 Within, and adjacent to, these areas sustainable development will be supported where the following criteria are satisfied:

- a) **It will not have an adverse impact on the functioning of these areas for flood management;**
- b) **It will not itself be at an unacceptable risk from flooding and;**
- c) **It will provide adequate access for maintenance purposes.**

Justification

There are currently two flood management areas within Trafford, located at Sale Water Park and the Salisbury Road Playing Fields in Timperley. Both areas are used for the purpose of flood storage and are operated by the Environment Agency. The boundaries of these areas are shown on the Policies Map.

Development within or adjacent to areas used for flood management can have a negative impact on their proper functioning, for example by buildings and other hard surfaces reducing the ability of flood waters to be stored naturally in times of flood and increasing runoff downstream or in adjacent areas. Development within or adjacent to flood management areas can itself be at unacceptable risk from flooding, such as through inadequate access and lack of provision for emergency evacuation.

Development also needs to allow for adequate access to flood management areas for the purpose of maintenance, such as the proper operation of sluices and other infrastructure.

Q22. Do you agree with the draft Water and Flood Management policies WF1 and WF2? If not, please explain why (providing supporting evidence where appropriate).