

Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

September 2014



TRAFFORD
COUNCIL

Summary

Background and Purpose

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 lays new duties and responsibilities on the Council as a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). These include the duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management within its area. Local flood risk is that which arises from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (those which are not main rivers). The Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has now been approved and published by the Council.

Preparation of the Strategy has been accompanied by Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) together with a Habitats Regulations Assessment (screening). The Environmental Report concludes that the Strategy is generally likely to make a positive contribution towards achieving the objectives identified in the SEA Scoping Report, whilst the Habitats Regulations Assessment (screening) report concludes that it is not likely to have detrimental effects on habitats of acknowledged importance.

The Strategy:

- Identifies the flood risk management authorities in the Borough and the functions that may be exercised by those bodies;
- Provides an assessment of local flood risk;
- Identifies the objectives for managing local flood risk, the measures proposed to achieve those objectives, the costs and benefits of those measures and how they are expected to be implemented;
- Outlines how the Strategy contributes towards the achievement of wider environmental objectives;
- Outlines how and when the Strategy will be reviewed.

Risk Management Authorities and their Functions

The Strategy identifies the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the Council as Local Highway Authority (LHA), the Environment Agency, United Utilities and the Highways Agency as being risk management authorities within the Borough. The functions of each of these is summarised.

Assessment of local flood risk

The Strategy uses information from various sources, including the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Environment Agency catchment and river basin management plans, the Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan, Greater Manchester Multi-Agency Flood Plan, and incident data, to provide an assessment of local flood risk. This is risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (including the Manchester Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal).

Key risks identified within the Strategy include a considerable number of small to medium-sized areas at risk of surface water flooding, extensive areas of potential groundwater flooding or rebound (increased levels following the cessation of water abstraction for industrial and other purposes) together with areas of shallow groundwater, and flood risk associated with the Manchester Ship Canal and Bridgewater Canal. A key area of uncertainty is with smaller ordinary watercourses, where no comprehensive risk assessment work has ever been undertaken.

Objectives for managing local flood risk and contribution to wider environmental objectives

The Strategy identifies a range of economic, social and environmental objectives for managing local flood risk in Trafford and highlights how the Strategy will contribute towards achieving wider environmental objectives.

Measures proposed to manage local flood risk

The Strategy proposes a number of measures to manage local flood risk. Broadly, these involve:-

- Enhancing our understanding of flood risk from ordinary watercourses, including the Bridgewater Canal
- Improving awareness of flood risk amongst local communities, and improving their resilience to flooding
- Implementation of 'soft' flood management measures, such as green infrastructure improvements
- Development of closer links between local flood risk management and the planning process
- Better recording and investigation of flooding incidents
- Better management of the Council's own assets.

Implementation, funding, monitoring and review

The Strategy commits the Council to partnership working with others in order to deliver its plans for local flood risk management and to monitoring and reviewing the Strategy where necessary.

We are here to help. Contact us at:

Strategic Planning,
Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road,
Stretford, M32 0TH.
Tel: 0161 912 3149
Email: strategic.planning@trafford.gov.uk