

# **Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

## **Strategic Environmental Assessment Addendum Report**

**September 2014**



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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Under the provisions of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 ('the Act'), unitary authorities and county councils have been given new responsibilities in relation to the management of flood risk in their area. In particular, the Act established Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) with the requirement to produce, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) for local flood risk in their area. Local flood risk is that which arises from surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (those which are not main rivers).
- 1.2 Trafford Council, as a LLFA, produced a draft LFRMS. This 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.
- 1.3 In order to ensure that new plans and strategies take into account environmental considerations, the European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment", requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of certain plans and strategies to be undertaken. The outcome of this assessment is required to be documented in an Environmental Report and made available for consultation alongside the draft plan or strategy. This requirement for certain plans and strategies to be subject to SEA is transposed into United Kingdom law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations').
- 1.4 This requirement to undertake a SEA applies to a range of plans and strategies prepared by public bodies, including the Trafford LFRMS which meets the relevant criteria in that it has the potential to have significant effects on the environment and is "prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and is required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions" (Article 2(b)).
- 1.5 The draft version of the LFRMS, together with its accompanying Environmental Report, was published for consultation between 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The SEA Regulations stipulate that a plan or programme for which an Environmental Report is required shall not be adopted before the opinions expressed during the consultation period have been taken into account.

- 1.6 The consultation on the draft LFRMS generated responses from 11 organisations. A number of modifications have been made to the strategy to reflect the responses received and subsequent discussions which took place with key stakeholders.
- 1.7 This report considers the implications of these modifications to the LFRMS in relation to the SEA of the strategy. Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations includes a requirement to determine whether a plan, programme or **modification** is likely to have significant environmental effects and states that where it is concluded that a plan, programme or **modification** is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), a statement should be prepared to set out the reasons for this conclusion. This report therefore considers whether any of the modifications to the LFRMS are likely to have significant environmental effects. It should be read alongside the full Environmental Report that accompanies the LFRMS.

## **2. Assessment of Modifications**

- 2.1 The following table lists all of the modifications that have been made to the LFRMS. It also provides an assessment of whether any of these modifications have the potential to have a significant effect on the environment and, as a result, warrant further SEA.

Modification	Implications for the Strategic Environmental Assessment
Cover updated to remove references to 'Draft' and new date inserted.	Amending the front cover of the LFRMS to reflect the fact that this is an updated, and final, version of the strategy would not alter the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Glossary added and contents page updated.	The insertion of a glossary to assist the reader and updating the contents page to reflect other changes made to the LFRMS would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Foreword revised to remove references to consultation and insert details of new Executive Member.	The modification updates the Foreword to reflect the fact that this is an updated, and final, version of the strategy and also because the Council has a new Executive Member for the Environment and Operations. Neither of these changes are significant and would not alter the impact of the LFRMS on the environment. As such, the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 3.6 amended to refer to 'significant' effect on flood risk and 'record' rather than 'records'.	The modification clarifies the wording used but does not alter the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 3.24 and 3.25 amended to clarify the purpose of the DG5 Register and United Utilities' investment activities.	The modification provides additional clarification but does not alter the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.15 deleted.	The modification results in the deletion of a paragraph that provided contextual information. It does not alter the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.28 amended to clarify wording.	The modification clarifies the wording used but does not alter the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such,

	the modification would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.30 updated to reflect new Planning Practice Guidance and Environment Agency standing advice.	The modification provides additional contextual information to reflect the publication of the Planning Practice Guidance and Environment Agency standing advice. The information incorporated into the strategy does not materially affect the intent of the LFRMS or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, it is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.41 and Figure 7 updated to refer to the most up to date Environment Agency flood mapping.	The modification provides updated contextual information for the LFRMS but it does not materially affect the intent of the Strategy or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraphs 4.43 and 4.44 deleted.	The modification results in the deletion of two paragraphs that relate to the inclusion of the Manchester Ship Canal sluices on a register of assets that have a significant impact on flood risk and the Council's power of designation. The deletion of these paragraphs would not significantly alter the impact that the projects contained within the LFRMS would have on the environment. As such, it is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.45 relocated to section on 'Designation Powers'.	The modification would restructure the LFRMS by relocating a paragraph from one section of the report to another. Therefore, the modification would not alter the intent of the plan and would not have any significant environmental impacts which would warrant further SEA.
Paragraph 4.46 relocated to section on 'Designation Powers'.	The modification would restructure the LFRMS by relocating a paragraph from one section of the report to another. Therefore, the modification would not alter the intent of the plan and would not have any significant

	environmental impacts which would warrant further SEA.
First three sentences of paragraph 4.47 amended to avoid duplication with paragraph 4.36 as it relates to the Manchester Ship Canal water level control protocol. Final sentence of paragraph 4.47 deleted.	The modification amends part of paragraph 4.47 to eliminate duplication with other sections of the LFRMS and deletes a sentence which relates to managing sluices at the Manchester Ship Canal. The modification would not alter the intent of the strategy. Similarly, it would not significantly alter the impact that the projects contained within the LFRMS would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraph 4.48 deleted.	The modification results in the deletion of a paragraph that relates to the designation of sluices on the Manchester Ship Canal. The deletion of this paragraph would not significantly alter the impact that the projects contained within the LFRMS would have on the environment. As such, it is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Figure 8 amended to make the Canal Hazard Zones clearer.	The modification enhances a figure that was included in the draft LFRMS to ensure it is clearer. It does not change what is displayed in this figure and would not alter the impact that the strategy would have on the environment. Consequently, it would not have any significant effects on the environment and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Paragraphs 4.54 and 4.55 amended to provide further details of the HR Wallingford study of the Bridgewater Canal.	The modification provides additional contextual information for the LFRMS but it would not materially affect the intent of the Strategy or the impact it would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Figure 9 amended to refer to 'Manchester Ship Canal' and 'Main	The modification amends a figure which was included in the draft LFRMS

Rivers’.	but it does not alter the intent of the strategy or the impact it would have on the environment. Consequently, the modification would not have any significant effects on the environment and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Indicative costs for the ‘Risk assessment of Trafford’s other ordinary watercourses’ project in Appendix 1 updated.	The modification updates the estimated costs of a particular project included within the LFRMS to provide a more accurate reflection of the likely costs of this project. The modification itself does not change the project itself or the impact that implementing it would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Timescale for the ‘Warning and informing local communities’ project in Appendix 1 updated.	The modification updates the estimated timescale of a particular project included within the LFRMS. The modification does not significantly alter when this project is likely to be implemented and it would not change the project itself or the impact that implementing this project would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.
Timescale for the ‘Embedding relevant local flood risk management measures in the Trafford Local Plan’ project in Appendix 1 updated.	The modification updates the estimated timescale of a particular project included within the LFRMS. The modification does not significantly alter when this project is likely to be implemented and it would not change the project itself or the impact that implementing this project would have on the environment. As such, the modification is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts and would not have a material impact on the SEA.



### **3. Conclusions**

- 3.1 The draft Trafford LFRMS was published for consultation between 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014. The consultation on the draft LFRMS generated responses from 11 organisations and a number of modifications have been made to the strategy to reflect the responses received and subsequent discussions which took place with key stakeholders.
  
- 3.2 As noted in the table in Section 2 of this report, it is considered that none of these modifications significantly alter the intent of the strategy or the impact that implementing the LFRMS would have on the environment. Crucially, it is noted that none of the modifications significantly alter the projects contained within the LFRMS. Accordingly, it is concluded that the modifications to the strategy are unlikely to have a significant impact on the performance of the LFRMS in the SEA process and do not therefore merit further appraisal.