

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE

**STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT REVIEW 2011 FOR NORTH
LINCOLNSHIRE AND NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL AREAS**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Review 2011 and the use of this evidence in decision making on Development Plans and planning applications in North Lincolnshire.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRA) are prepared as a requirement repeated in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as evidence towards helping local planning authorities make decisions on development proposals in flood risk areas. The requirement to produce one was established in PPG25, which introduced the Sequential Test as a means of demonstrating there are no reasonably available sites with a lower risk of flooding suitable for the type of development proposed. This approach was extended in PPS25, which also introduced the Exception Test for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver acceptable sites but where continued development is necessary for wider reasons.
- 2.2 SFRA's provides strategic flood risk evidence to help guide the location of land allocations in statutory development plans and site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) in relation to planning applications. The SFRA also provides evidence towards informing other important documents such as the sustainability appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Directive) of local development documents and provides the basis from which to apply the Sequential Test and Exception Test. SFRA's have material weight as evidence in the consideration of development plan policies, allocations and planning applications. Their purpose is to provide evidence towards policies within development planning documents and planning applications where relevant.
- 2.3 The SFRA Review 2011 has been prepared jointly by North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council in consultation with the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards where appropriate. It replaces the 2006 SFRA that was also jointly prepared. North Lincolnshire Council has played a lead role in producing this document. It supplement's the policies in the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD- adopted June 2011) and the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (NLLP- adopted May 2003) that relate to flood risk and development (Core Strategy Policy CS19: Flood Risk and saved NLLP Policy DS16: Flood Risk).
- 2.4 Whilst the EA publish flood zone maps covering England and Wales which are updated on a regular basis and show NPPF Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3, they

only show conditions that occur at present and do not include any allowance for climate change. SFRA's refine the EA Flood Zones by including the consequences of the affect of taking 125 years of climate change into account (from a base year of 1990 to 2115). SFRA Flood Zones (not to be confused with EA Flood Zones) therefore are calculated on national recommended contingency allowances for net sea level rise (1.2 metres over the 125 year period) and recommended national precautionary sensitivity ranges for peak rainfall intensities, peak river flows, offshore wind speeds and wave heights. The Technical Guidance to the NPPF gives more detail on taking climate change into account within SFRA's.

2.5 The SFRA Review 2011 has been drawn up in accordance with the PPS25 and now NPPF recommendations. It includes a Level 1 Assessment (to produce maps showing the extent of the SFRA Flood Zones 1 to 3, taking into account the effects of climate change) covering the whole of the study area and provisional Level 2 Assessments for places where both councils are promoting future development growth which could require the Exception Test to be applied. Level 2 Assessments are more detailed assessments undertaken for areas within SFRA Flood Zone 2/3a that are protected by defences providing an acceptable standard of protection and where there is likely to be significant pressure for development. 'Providing an acceptable standard of protection' has been taken as being high enough to prevent overtopping by still water levels having a 1 in 100 or less (<1%) annual probability of occurring in a river or a 1 in 200 or less (<0.5%) annual probability of occurring in the estuary and tidal river each year. The aim of the Level 2 Assessment is to determine how, if the defences fail during an extreme event (one which would flood all of SFRA Flood Zone 2/3a if there were no defences), the level of hazard to people will vary across the area they protect.

2.6 The SFRA 2011 Review has been assisted by the following factors:-

- The Environment Agency (EA) now has lidar (light detection and ranging) data covering the whole of the tidal and fluvial floodplain within the study area and has provided a copy of this information for the Review. Airborne lidar measures the height of the ground surface and other features in large areas of landscape with a resolution and accuracy of the land surface at metre and sub-metre resolution. This has allowed the topography of the area to be mapped more accurately, improving the knowledge and quality of the assessment and allowing the tidal flood zones to be defined in more detail.
- Following the extensive flooding due to very heavy rainfall in June and July 2007, both councils collected a considerable amount of data about the areas that flooded, the drainage network and the drainage problems that caused the flooding to occur. This information and the experience gained while collecting it have been used to provide a more detailed assessment of the risk of flooding following heavy rainfall.
- The EA through ongoing work on the Isle of Axholme Flood Risk Management Strategy has now a greater understanding of the flood risk for that area and the potential impact of the Rivers Torne and Idle on the catchment.
- The EA has also completed flood map improvement studies for several rivers and smaller watercourses in the study area together with breach

studies for the River Ancholme and River Freshney in North East Lincolnshire and a comprehensive study of overtopping and breach hazard from the estuary defences seaward of Whitton

- 2.7 The SFRA 2011 review is factual information on the risk of flooding should estuary/river defences fail. It is important in making decisions on land use policies that the most up to date information is used. The 2011 data is an improvement on that which was currently relied on from the 2006 documents.
- 2.8 Using the new data will not change the procedures for determining the appropriate places for development to take place. The sequential and exception tests required by the NPPF will still have to be applied.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 There are no options proposed as it is necessary to use the most up to date and accurate information in decision making.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 There are no options analysed.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

No additional financial resources will be required to deliver the policy outlined in this report. Through agreement with North East Lincolnshire Council the direct cost of the SFRA 2011 Review has been met by North East Lincolnshire Council whilst this council has contributed by officer time and the direct production of the document and the detailed GIS work.

5.2 Staffing

There are no additional staffing implications arising from this report.

5.3 Property

There are no property implications arising from this report although all land within North Lincolnshire including the council's property will be subject to the Revised 2011 SFRA data.

5.4 IT

There are no IT implications arising from this report.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Environmental

The council has a duty to bring forward local development plans that deliver sustainable development wherever possible, that take into account flood risk.

Adoption of this document will enable the council to make decisions effecting the environment based on the most robust data.

6.2 **Diversity**

There are no diversity issues

7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 No consultation has taken place.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the completion of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Review 2011 and its use as evidence towards decision making on Development Plans and planning applications in North Lincolnshire be noted.

HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report

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STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT 2006