

**REPORT FOR: CABINET**

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**Date of Meeting:** 9 February 2012

**Subject:** Surface Water Management Plan  
(SWMP)

**Key Decision:** Yes

[This adds to existing policy for Flood Risk Management]

**Responsible Officer:** Brendon Hills, Corporate Director  
Community and Environment

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Phillip O'Dell, Portfolio  
Holder for Environment and  
Community Safety

**Exempt:** No

**Decision subject to  
Call-in:** Yes

**Enclosures:** SWMP (Vol 1 &2)  
[Vol 1 has been circulated to all Members of  
Cabinet and the Leader/Deputy Leader of the  
Conservative Group only but has been published  
with the agenda, with copies being placed in the  
Members' Library and each of the two Group  
Offices  
Vol 2 has been placed in the Members' Library  
and the two Group Offices only.  
Copies are available on request from the Clerk]

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the Surface Water Management Plan for Harrow to meet the requirements of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 and comply with its duties as Lead Local Flood Authority to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management consistent with National strategies.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to:  
Approve this Surface Water Management Plan.

### **Reason:**

To comply with the requirements of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 and the National Flood Risk Management Strategy.

## Section 2 – Report

### **Introductory paragraph**

This living document establishes ***4 stages of activity required by EU Floods Directive within a 6 year flood management cycle*** and provides a long term action plan to manage surface water flooding that will influence future capital investment, infrastructure maintenance, public engagement, land use planning, emergency planning and future development. It will provide adaptation to climate change and help to build in flood resistance and resilience to mitigate the flood risk to business continuity and economic development in Harrow whilst forming the next steps to developing a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013) and Flood Risk Management Plan (2015). In the long term the plan will help Harrow residents who have properties that are at risk of flooding.

### **Options considered**

The SWMP is the next step in developing Local Flood Risk Management (LFRM) Strategies that will form part of the National Strategy to comply with the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 therefore no other options were considered.

### **Current situation**

The Council's Engineering Drainage Section asset manages 65 flood defence structures including reservoirs, lakes and ponds, 82kms of watercourse and a

number of flood storage areas. Other managed assets include 19,500 road drainage gullies, highway drain and kerb drainage systems.

Based on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment there are approximately 40,051 properties on the Flood Map for Surface Water at risk of flooding to a depth of 0.3 metres in a 1 in 200 year rainfall event.

Work with the Council's Planners and Emergency Planners has been completed to deliver the Level 1 & 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Emergency Flood Plan which includes fluvial flood modelling so that development can be steered away from areas of greater flood risk.

## Why a change is needed

To meet the Statutory Requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and National FRM Strategies that has been transposed into UK Law from the EU Floods Directive.

## Implications of the Recommendation

### **Considerations**

**Resources, costs** This work is currently being managed and led by the Council's Engineering Drainage Section with assistance from Greater London Authority, the Drain London project and officers in Place Shaping. Work is underway with the support of London Councils and the Environment Agency to form a West London Strategic Flood Group. A 3 year funding plan is in place from Defra, with funds (£124k) for 2011/12, (£175k) for 2012/13 and 175k for 2014/15

**Staffing/workforce** No additional staffing resource required

**Equalities impact** No foreseeable equality impact.

**Legal comments** The SWMP is next steps for Harrow to meet its statutory duties under the new surface water and flooding legislation

**Community safety** The Council will have in place a LFRM Strategy (2013) and LFRM Plan (2015) to deal with all sources of flooding that will build in flood resistance, resilience and an emergency flood plan for the Boroughs residents. This will also provide adaptation to climate change and changing weather patterns to mitigate the risk to business continuity and economic development in Harrow.

## Financial Implications

- There are no immediate increased costs to the existing Drainage Revenue Budget allocated for flood protection and drainage repairs.
- Each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has been given an Area based grant from DEFRA of £124.7k for 2011/12 and £175k for 2012/13 and a commitment for funding until 2015 to provide additional resourcing to assist in fulfilling the requirements of the Flood & Water Management Act. This funding is ring fenced for flooding and water management related measures.

- There may be a requirement for contributions from Harrow Capital for flood alleviation schemes contained in the SWMP Action Plan in addition to external funding from DEFRA, s. 106, Environment Agency & GLA. During 2011/12 we have been successful in getting £12.5k Flood Defence in Grant Aid from the EA and a Project Award of £20k from the GLA. Further contributions will be dependent on how Harrow implements the SWMP Action Plan, and will be subject of business cases to be evaluated through the process for the Capital Programme.
- None of the SWMP Action Plan options are compulsory, however; the preferred approach of partnering with other Government Agencies, local communities and the Private Sector (ie TWUL) for such projects opens up opportunities for external funding.
- There are no implications on current staffing levels. Work is required to complete the Asset Register, engage with specialists to complete the LFRM Strategy (2013) and LFRM Plan (2015) but this can be contained within current staffing levels.
- Works will be commissioned through the new Highways Contract or within the GLA Transport for London Framework Contract.

## **Performance Issues**

The SWMP includes the Action Plan for the Council to implement its Flood & Water Management Act 2010 duties and is in line with Harrow's policy for assessing and managing flood risk in the category.

Former National Indicator 189 Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management were used to monitor performance, prior to the present legislation and the withdrawal of the National Indicator Set. Harrow used to score 100% on this indicator. In future, Lead Local Flood Authorities will be monitored by the EA on how they deliver their local Flood Risk Management Strategies and Plans required under the Act.

The SWMP is the next step for the Council to fulfil its statutory requirements in this area. Failure to progress this plan could expose the Council not only to local and national criticism but to a loss of funding for flood risk management works and a possible liability under related insurance claims.

## **Environmental Impact**

The SWMP is the next stage of flood risk management activity under the Floods & Water Management Act 2010 that will provide an Action Plan that includes planning policy changes and hard/soft engineering infrastructure adaptation that will mitigate the effects of surface water flooding and climate change.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 aims to improve flood risk management and the way we manage our water resources. Flood Risk Management Plans fall under the scope of the Strategic Environmental

Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC implemented in the UK by the Environmental Assessment Plans and Regulations 2004.

This builds on earlier government reports, EA Foresight Future Flooding 2004; Defra Making Space for Water and EU Water Framework Directive that deals with water supply, pollution from waste water, river basin management including ecological and environmental protection.

Many of the soft engineering techniques used for flood resistance and resilience are now based on adapting existing river corridors to provide space for water at peak times and include opportunities to improve these areas for amenity use, improved biodiversity, habitat, wildlife and water quality.

## **Risk Management Implications**

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

The scheme is not included on the Directorate risk register and there is no separate risk register in place for the SWMP.

## **Equalities implications**

A high level equalities assessment indicates that the SWMP has no foreseeable equality impact as it will benefit all residents in Harrow. Any equality implications as a result of the Action Plan identified in the SWMP will be considered on the merits of each individual project at the inception and scoping stage that is prepared in due course.

## **Corporate Priorities**

Please identify which corporate priority the report incorporates and how:

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.  
This SWMP will enable the Council to deliver a Flood Risk Strategy & Plan to protect the Community from flooding and mitigate the effects of climate change
- United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.  
Community Flood Action Plans and Property Level Flood Protection measures will bring a partnership approach between communities and the Council to deal with flood risk
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.
- Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.  
This SWMP will provide actions to reduce the risk to business continuity and economic development in Harrow

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 09/01/2012		
Name: Matthew Adams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 19/01/2012		

### **Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance**

Name: Martin Randall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date: 10/01/2012		

### **Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance**

Name: John Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director (Environmental Services)
Date: 16/01/2012		

### **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Michael Bradshaw, Senior Engineer Drainage, 020 8424 1586

**Background Papers:** SWMP

[http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/9563/harrow\\_preliminary\\_flood\\_risk\\_assessment](http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/9563/harrow_preliminary_flood_risk_assessment)

**Call-In Waived by the  
Chairman of Overview  
and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**NOT APPLICABLE**

*[Call-in applies]*