

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL – 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT BY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT, AUGUST 2016

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

The purpose of this report is:

- To present to Members the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, August 2016.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DISTRICT PLANNING EXECUTIVE PANEL:</u> That Council, via the Executive, be advised that:	
(A)	the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, August 2016, be supported as part of the evidence base to inform and support the East Herts District Plan; and
(B)	the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree an updated version of the document following completion of the climate change mapping.

1.0 Background

1.1 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared in 2008 in order to inform the early stages of the plan making process. Since that time, a number of significant changes have taken place which has resulted in the SFRA becoming out of date. These changes include:

- The introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
- Updated Environment Agency river modelling; and

- Updated Environment Agency data on surface water flooding.
- 1.2 This report presents an updated SFRA that reflects updated data and guidance.
- 2.0 Report
- 2.1 The SFRA, August 2016, which can be found within **Essential Reference Paper B**, performs a number of functions. Most importantly, it identifies the areas across the District that are at risk of flooding from different sources, including river, surface water, groundwater, sewer and reservoir flooding. Of particular importance for Plan making, and the planning application process, is the identification of the functional floodplain (Flood Zone 3b).
- 2.2 In addition, the SFRA assesses the flood risk associated with the proposed allocations identified within the District Plan. The 2008 SFRA, along with more up to date information from the Environment Agency, have been utilised throughout the plan making process in order to ensure that proposed allocations are acceptable in flooding terms. However, the updated SFRA assesses these sites in more detail, and will therefore help inform the planning application process in due course.
- 2.3 National planning guidance also requires that local planning authorities consider the potential impact of climate change on flood risk. The Government has recently updated the methodology for undertaking this assessment. It should be noted that work on this element of the SFRA, which will form Appendix C to the main document, is currently ongoing and is expected to be completed by the end of September 2016. As such, it is recommended that the Head of Planning and Building Control, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree an updated version of the document in due course.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Cllr Linda Haysey – Leader of the Council
[*linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk*](mailto:linda.haysey@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Kevin Steptoe – Head of Planning and Building
Control
01992 531407
[*kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk*](mailto:kevin.steptoe@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Chris Butcher – Principal Planning Officer
[*chris.butcher@eastherts.gov.uk*](mailto:chris.butcher@eastherts.gov.uk)