

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	7 December 2017
Subject:	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review		
Report of:	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Cabinet Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Locality Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary: Sefton Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority has to review its Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) on a 6 year cycle as a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations, 2009. The draft review was submitted to the Environment Agency by the 22nd June 2017 deadline and the final review is due by the 22nd December 2017. The draft review found that there was little change to the PFRA. However there have been improvements in our understanding in future flood information and on some local catchments. The review needs to be approved by Cabinet before the final review can be submitted. The report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny – Regeneration and Skills on 7th November 2017 who commended the report to Cabinet for approval.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Cabinet approve the review of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment prior to submission to the Environment Agency

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The assessment has been completed following guidance documents provided by Defra and the Environment Agency and reflects our best available knowledge.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not undertaking the review would mean that Sefton Council would fail to undertake a duty in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, with the likelihood that the Environment Agency would undertake the review without any local input and could impose actions upon Sefton Council.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs Costs of the review are met within existing budgets

(B) Capital Costs Capital grant will be sought from Government to cover any costs arising from schemes resulting from this review.

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): No additional resource implications at this stage. Any future schemes resulting from this review will require appropriate levels of resources in funding. This will be through seeking of capital grants.</p>
<p>Legal Implications: Production of these policies ensures that the Council complies with the duties set out in the Flood Risk Regulations, 2009</p>
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.</p>

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Working with the communities at risk we can engage and support them to enable them to become more resilient.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4869/17.....) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4153/17....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

The Environment Agency have been consulted and have provided comments that have been incorporated into the review.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website following the link below:

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13843>

PFRA Self-assessment report, 2017
September 2012 Flood Investigation Report
PFRA Assessment Report, Sefton Council, May 2011

Sefton Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, 2015
<http://smbc-modgov-01/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=41245&Opt=0>

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR 2009) require each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to complete a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and identify Flood Risk Areas (FRA) for local flood risk, primarily surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. This was completed in 2011.
- 1.2 PFRA is a high level screening exercise to determine if there is a significant flood risk in an area, and identify areas affected by the risk as flood risk areas.
- 1.3 LLFAs' do not need to consider the risks from main rivers or the sea, but should consider interactions between these other sources and local risks.
- 1.4 The FRR 2009 require a review of the PFRA on a 6 year cycle. This review is coordinated by the Environment Agency. They have provided a template for the review.
- 1.5 LLFAs must therefore submit their draft reviews to the Environment Agency by 22nd June 2017. The Environment Agency will undertake an internal review and request any changes. Sefton Council's draft review was submitted to the Environment Agency in April 2017.
- 1.6 The Environment Agency must report to the European Union by the 22nd December 2017.

2 Review Assessment

- 2.1 The Environment Agency provided a self assessment template to be completed by each LLFA, Sefton Council's completed template is provided in the background papers.
- 2.2 The September 2012 significant flood event report, investigated as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, are included in in the background papers.
- 2.3 Overall there has been little change to the 2011 PFRA (included in in the background papers) following the review with much of the understanding remaining unchanged or with minor amendments. There have, however, been improvements or confirmation of understanding particularly in respect of our future flood information. The following pieces of work have contributed to our understanding:
 - Sefton Council PFRA desktop study 2013 to improved understanding of initial PFRA assessment and flood risks.
 - Modelling of catchments in Formby, Maghull and Seaforth/Litherland.
 - Groundwater monitoring locations across Sefton.

- Sefton Council Local Plan. The plan identified flood risks on development sites.

2.4 Comments have been received from the Environment Agency and they have been incorporated into the review.

3 Future developments

3.1 The PFRA review will feed into the update of Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2015-2018, which is currently underway.

3.2 The PFRA review will feed into the review of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plans that operate at a catchment wide scale.

3.3 Sefton Council will continue to seek funding to improve the situation for residents and communities at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.

3.4 Sefton Council will continue to review and update its understanding of flood risk.