

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Neighbourhoods and Community Services Scrutiny Panel

DATE: 24th October 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Brocklebank
Principal Engineer- Drainage

(For all enquiries) (01753) 87 5625

WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR COMMENT AND CONSIDERATION**

PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT (PFRA)

1 Purpose of Report

To inform the committee of the main elements within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which Slough Borough Council is required to complete as part of its changing responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority arising from the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 and Flood Risk Regulations 2009.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

The Committee is requested to note the report.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

- **Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion**
- **Being Safe, Feeling Safe**
- **A Cleaner, Greener place to live, Work and Play**
- **Prosperity for All**

4 Other Implications

(a) Financial

The Council received a grant from the Department for Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to undertake the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which cost £10,000.

(b) Risk Management

There are no risks.

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (the Regulations) and the Floods and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act) empower Slough Borough Council with several responsibilities one of which is the production of a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). The PFRA report has been prepared on behalf of Slough Borough Council as part of the process, which allows the Council to fulfil their Lead Local Flood Authority role under the Regulations. The aim of the PFRA is to identify areas at significant risk of flooding from local sources, which would require further assessment and management through the production of flood risk and flood hazard maps and flood risk management plans.
- 5.2 The PFRA report focuses on the first two stages of the Regulations and determines the requirement of undertaking the last two stages for Slough. The first two stages were to identify the sources of flooding and to assess the future surface water risk. The report identifies local sources of flooding which include surface water (runoff and sewers), ordinary watercourses, groundwater and non-main river canal by using various forms of data. Data was collected from the established partners such as the Environment Agency and Thames Water, and other stakeholders and assessed for its quality. The historical flooding records were assessed and a major portion of the flooding incidences were found to be concentrated around the Chalvey ditches catchment.
- 5.3 The future surface water risk was identified by a first generation of maps, Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF), produced by the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency also provided the Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW), that can also be used to assess future flood risk. The AStSWF maps were considered to be the ones most applicable to Slough. The number of properties at risk of surface water flooding was estimated based on the AStSWF maps. Slough was identified to have with a total of 8,758 residential properties at risk of surface water flooding. The areas found to be above the flood risk threshold were formed into clusters. The clusters are used to compare the flood risk across the country and Slough was ranked as 20th in the country of areas that had clusters above the flood risk threshold. In order to identify the most at risk areas the Environment Agency identified ten Flood Risk Areas in England. This ranking meant that Slough is not identified nationally as a Flood Risk Area.
- 5.4 Since Slough was not identified as a Flood Risk Area, Slough Borough Council does not need to go through the third stage of the regulations to produce Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps. Slough is required to prepare a Flood Risk Management Strategy under the Act which can then be used to inform the Flood Risk Management Plans, which is stage 4 of the regulations.

6 **Conclusion**

To inform the committee of the main elements within the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which Slough Borough Council is required to complete as part of its changing responsibilities as a Lead Local Flood Authority arising from the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010 and European Union legislation.

7 **Appendices Attached**

The Preliminary flood Risk Assessment Report can be requested from Steve Brocklebank at Slough Borough Council 01753 87 5625 or steve.brocklebank@slough.gov.uk

8 **Background Papers**

The Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report.
The Flood Risk Regulations 2009.
The Floods and Water Management Act 2010.