



Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Explanatory Note

October 2013

1. This Explanatory Note sets out the current standing of the City Council's Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, a brief summary of its content and how we propose to update the document over the next twelve months.
2. The SFRA1 itself comprises two parts; a written report and a series of maps indicating the three flood zones. It examines the main rivers and watercourses in the City and identifies the significant flood zones (Flood zone 2: medium probability of flooding, 3a: high probability of flooding and 3b: functional floodplain). In addition it provides an assessment of the impact of climate change, existing flood risk measures and their standard of protection. Finally, the assessment provides a basis for applying the Sequential Test and Exception Test as part of the planning process. The importance of an up-to-date SFRA 1 is still recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework which sees it as a tool to refine our existing knowledge of flooding and to determine the variations in flood risk from all sources of flooding.
3. In 2010 Derby City Council's Land Drainage Team completed a Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA 1) which was prepared in-line with national guidance. As part of the overall process the final report was submitted to the Environment Agency for assessment and they indicated that they were satisfied with the assessment's findings.
4. At the outset we recognised that this was a living document which would be regularly updated as new information is issued. In fact, the original assessment highlighted a number of limitations primarily due to certain assumptions relating to catchment characteristics, the capacity of watercourses and ground levels used to predict the movement and spread of floodwater.
5. Shortly after the Environment Agency approved the original SFRA 1 new, more detailed data was released relating to the River Derwent and other watercourses which meant that our understanding of the flood zones and the predicted movement of flood water during an event could be refined. In addition, the City Council's Land Drainage Team undertook a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and developed a Surface Water Management Plan both of which provided new data which could be incorporated into the SFRA 1. In fact, the Surface

Water Management Plan provided more accurate information about flooding from the City's sewerage system; an issue which was highlighted but not considered in detail in the original SFRA 1.

6. As a result, the Council is reviewing of the original SFRA 1 immediately to produce an Interim SFRA 1. This will ensure that the most up-to-date information is provided to help inform planning decisions and assist in the development of the Core Strategy.
7. It was considered that the written statement would not be amended as, although it still refers to the now revoked PPS25, the general content still reflects current guidance and good practice. Therefore, the refresh itself would concentrate of the maps themselves as the new information would help us to refine the flood zones and hence, improve our understanding of flooding in the City itself.
8. The initial SFRA 1 and the current interim document provide a good detailed assessment of flood risk in the City. However, within the next 12 months we are proposing to undertake a comprehensive update to take account of:
 - The replacement of PPS25: Development and Flood Risk by the National Planning Policy Framework
 - The Environment Agency's changes to their Flood Warning System
 - The adoption of the Our City Our River Masterplan
 - The condition of flood defences along the River Derwent
 - The Environment Agency reviewing flood zones following modelling of the, Markeaton Brook, Mackworth Brook, Chaddesden Brook, and Cotton Brooks which is currently being undertaken
 - Surface water modelling undertaken by Derby City Council
9. The Derby City Council's flood zones 3b, 3a and 2 have been amended to reflect changes to the Environment Agency Flood Zones that have resulted from the production of a new river model for the river Derwent known as the Derwent Confluence Model. Zone 3a has been amended to include climate change.
10. The revised plans also include a new flood zone entitled Potential Overland Flow Routes. This zone is extracted from surface water flood zones produced as part of The Derbyshire Surface Water mapping project that was undertaken in partnership with the Environment Agency and Derbyshire County Council. The zones are generally located in the base of shallow valleys that are associated with either open ordinary watercourses or where old watercourses have been

culverted or replaced by the public sewer network. It is believed that these areas are at an elevated risk of surface water flooding.

11. Development should be located where possible away from this zone. Any development that is proposed that encroaches on this zone is likely to increase surface water flood risk to third parties. The development should therefore be accompanied by a site specific flood risk assessment that pays particular attention to surface water flood risk, and indicating how any potential exceedance flows will be managed through the site.