

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

**Report to:** Executive  
**Date:** 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Executive Member for Highways and Environment

### Report Title

**TRAFFORD LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) SCOPING REPORT**

### Summary

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council is required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. As the Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects, a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the document will be required. As part of this process an SEA Scoping Report has been produced, jointly between Manchester City Council, Salford City Council and Trafford Council and approval of this is now sought for consultation purposes.

### Recommendation

That Executive approve for consultation purposes the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy SEA Scoping Report, as set out in Appendix 1.

### Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Rob Haslam (Strategic Planning Manager).  
Extension: 4788

Background Papers: None.

### *Implications:*

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The LFRMS will contribute towards the delivery of the following corporate priorities: 'Low Council Tax and Value for Money', 'Economic Growth and Development' and 'Reshaping Trafford Council'.
Financial	None directly from this report. Financial provision to undertake the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has already been identified in the ETO and EGP budgets.
Legal Implications	Production of the SEA Scoping Report is a requirement of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

Equality/Diversity Implications	Equality issues will be considered as part of the preparation of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
Sustainability Implications	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a key tool to assist in assessing the sustainability implications of new plans and programmes. Production of the SEA Scoping Report will ensure that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has full regard to sustainability considerations.
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	Preparation of the SEA Scoping Report is being undertaken in co-operation with Manchester City Council and Salford City Council. Sources of flood risk in the Borough <i>may</i> have implications for Council-owned/occupied land, but this will emerge from the work.
Risk Management Implications	The production of the SEA Scoping Report is being undertaken through the Flood and Water Management Officer Steering Group which is managing risk. Consideration of wider risks to the Council and local communities will be central to the production of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
Public Health Implications	None arising directly from this report. However, management of flooding and the threats that this presents to public health will be a key element of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
Health and Safety Implications	None arising directly from this report.

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Flood and Water Management Act 2010 lay new duties and responsibilities on the Council as a 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). These include a requirement to produce a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), flood hazard, risk maps and flood risk management plans and a Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management and Asset Register. The Act's provisions also include a range of powers relating to works, designation of structures/features and consenting, together with the establishment of Sustainable Drainage Systems Approving Bodies (SABs) within each LLFA.
- 1.2 The Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be a robust representation of local issues, set within the wider Greater Manchester context, and will be a key vehicle for delivery of improved flood risk management. The Strategy will set out key risks within the area, arising from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses (including canals), together with objectives and proposals for addressing them. It will support the securing of partnership funding opportunities, and delivery of a strategic Greater Manchester investment programme.
- 1.3 Whilst there is no specific timescale set out by Government for having an approved Local Strategy in place there are clear benefits to the Council in developing a strategy. A Draft or approved Local Strategy will be required for the authority to access funding to deliver flood improvement schemes in the borough, such as the Environment Agency Grant in Aid proposals. As a broad guide, Greater Manchester

districts are aiming to have consultation draft documents ready by Summer 2013 with final approved documents by the end of Autumn 2013.

- 1.4 Under The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the Council is required to consider whether or not preparation of the Local Strategy is likely to have significant environmental effects and, if this is the case, to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the document. Trafford Council has now determined, in consultation with the bodies specified in the Regulations (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England) that SEA will be required.
- 1.5 In addition to sharing boundaries and broader policy objectives with Manchester City Council and Salford City Council, Trafford is also hydrologically linked to its neighbours through a network of rivers, canals, sewers and drains. Previous work on flood risk has acknowledged this and been commissioned on a joint basis. As part of the SEA of their respective Local Strategies it is considered best practice if Manchester, Salford and Trafford work jointly in producing a 'Scoping Report' - setting out how the relevant environmental issues will be addressed across the three authorities. The Scoping Report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.6 In accordance with The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, consultation on the Scoping Report must be undertaken for a 5-week period with the statutory consultees (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England). It is also proposed, in the interests of effective local flood risk management, that other risk management authorities and navigation authorities within Manchester, Salford and Trafford are consulted as part of this engagement.
- 1.7 Following finalisation of the SEA Scoping Report, preparation of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategies will be progressed and an Environmental Report produced outlining how significant environmental effects arising from the Strategies will be addressed.

### **Other Options**

It has been determined that Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is required, therefore production of an SEA Scoping Report and consultation with relevant bodies is a requirement of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The option of not producing a Scoping Report and undertaking consultation would mean that the Council is not complying with legislative requirements, and that the likely significant environmental effects of the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy have not been assessed.

### **Consultation**

The Scoping Report will be issued for consultation with the three statutory consultees (English Heritage, the Environment Agency and Natural England), together with risk management authorities and navigation authorities in Manchester, Salford and Trafford. Feedback from this consultation will assist in the finalisation of the Scoping Report and subsequent stages of the SEA process.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

That Executive agree the Trafford Local Flood Risk Management Strategy: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) scoping report, to ensure that the relevant Regulations are satisfied.

**Key Decision** Yes

**If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given?** Yes

Finance Officer Clearance .....PC.....

Legal Officer Clearance .....JL.....

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE** (*electronic*).....



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To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.