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## Report of the Acting Director of City Development

### Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 5 April 2011

### Subject: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

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#### Electoral Wards Affected: All

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to comment on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), which outlines flood risk that the district faces from local sources.
- 1.2 The Flood Risk Management Act 2010 requires Scrutiny Committees to be set up by Councils to oversee the operation of Flood Risk Authorities in their area.

## 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Flood Regulations 2009 Leeds City Council became a Lead Local Flood Authority which requires us to carry out a PFRA for Leeds – a Preliminary Assessment Report then has to be submitted to the Environment Agency by 22 June 2011 (for publication by 22 December 2011).
- 2.2 The PFRA is to include an assessment of the local flood risk for the area, taking into account surface water flows, ordinary watercourses, past floods, populated areas and economic activity, and anticipated effects of climate change.
- 2.3 There is a requirement to assess the level of “significance” of the flood risk faced, based upon national standards. This level of significance is set at areas where at least 30,000 people are at risk of flooding from local sources.
- 2.4 For areas that meet this national level of significance there is an additional requirement to produce Flood Risk and Hazard Maps within the next 2 years and Flood Risk Management Plans by 2015.
- 2.5 It must be remembered that there is also a District level of significance the Council could set and also an individual level of significance.

2.6 The Flood Risk Management Team will continue to work at minimizing the risks and impact of flooding across the District.

### **3.0 Information**

#### 3.1 PRFA

Many sources of information have been examined to develop as full a picture of flood risk across the District as possible, this has included:

- Historical records of flooding
- Records of watercourses
- Drainage records
- Yorkshire Water sewer maps
- Previous assessments of flood risk
- Records of flooding incidents
- Flood maps produced nationally of surface water flood susceptibility
- Topographical information
- Detail assessments of flood risk for two specific areas
- Receptors Database

These sources of information have been utilised in the preparation of the PRFA for Leeds.

Analysis of the impacts on people, property and environmental was carried out for the areas at risk of local flooding. This allowed the mapping of areas that meet the National Criteria for Significance and the result was an area with 26,821 people at risk of flooding – this is below the Government set National Criteria for Significance of 30,000 people.

Obviously this is of significance to the Council and the residents in the areas at risk but doesn't meet this national standard and will therefore not form part of the national map that Government propose to issue.

The PFRA is a document required by European Regulation and is intend to show areas of flood risk that are significant on a European scale but this document can hopefully be used as a background document in the preparation of the Local Flood Strategy that Leeds is required to produce under the Flood & Water Management Act 2010.

#### 3.2 Scrutiny of Flood Risk Activities

The Flood & Water Management Act 2010 had the effect of modifying the Local Government Act 2000, to require LLFA to set up, under section 21F, Overview and Scrutiny Committees for Flood Risk Management in their area.

This will involve “arrangements to review and scrutinise the exercise by flood management authorities of flood management functions ....., which may affect the local authority's area.”

The Flood Management Authorities in Leeds include:

- The Environment Agency
- Leeds City Council - Flood Risk Management Team
- North Wharfe Internal Drainage Board
- Marston Moor Internal Drainage Board

- Yorkshire Water
- Leeds City Council - Highways & Transportation (with regard to drainage)

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 The Scrutiny Board is asked to:

i) consider and comment on the PFRA.

ii) set up a series of meetings at which Flood Risk is considered.

#### **5.0 Background reports**

PFRA (attached)

Flood Regulations 2009

Flood & Water Management Act 2010