

## BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

<b>FROM:</b> Head of Contract and Asset Management	<b>REPORT NUMBER:</b> <b>L32</b>
<b>TO:</b> OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY (COMMUNITY SERVICES) COMMITTEE	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b> 21 June 2011

### FLOOD RISK REGULATIONS (2009) - PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENTS

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This paper sets out the requirements for supporting Suffolk County Council in meeting their obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report prepared by Suffolk County Council be noted, and the Council now supports the future development of its Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.

The Committee is able to resolve this matter.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 Suffolk County Council, as the lead authority, is receiving funding from Central Government for preparing their Local Flood Risk Management Strategies, but local authorities are expected to fund their own costs in data gathering and the local planning process.
- 3.2 At present the labour resource is being provided by existing staff. However there may be a requirement for additional IT resources to support future planning application requirements. The estimated costs (if required), which would need to be met by the Natural and Built Environment Division, are:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Set up</b>	<b>Annual Cost</b>
Hardware	£500	£150
Software	£3,000	£200
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,500</b>	<b>£350</b>

#### **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

There are no risks arising from this report.

#### **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT**

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this review.

#### **6. SHARED SERVICE/PARTNERSHIP IMPLICATIONS**

There are no issues directly arising from this report. Mid Suffolk District Council will however be required to provide a similar service to the County Council.

#### **7. KEY INFORMATION**

7.1 The Flood Risk Regulations came into force in December 2009 with the aim of implementing the requirements of the European Floods Directive in England and Wales. The aim of the Directive is to provide a consistent approach to managing flood risk across Europe.

7.2 These Regulations require County Councils to prepare Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments for the whole country. These assessments will inform the preparation of future Local Flood Risk Management Strategies (as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010), which now become the responsibility of County or Unitary authorities. Previous responsibility was split between the Environment Agency and District/Borough Councils.

7.3 Officers have provided Suffolk County Council with all relevant flood risk data to enable them to prepare their Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report. This Report has been reviewed by officers and found to acceptable.

7.4 In future Suffolk local authorities will have to provide the County Council with relevant data on flooding and flood assets, but will also need to record any new events in a consistent way across the county, and maintain a Register of structures or features, so that this additional data can be collated and provided.

7.5 There is also a future requirement for local planning authorities to submit planning applications, where there are any surface water implications, to the County Council for assessment against the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and the Local Flood Risk Management Strategies.

7.6 There is also an expectancy that local planning authorities will seek to ensure the Implementation of the sustainable drainage schemes in new developments.

#### **8. APPENDICES**

None

#### **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Suffolk County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report – copies available in the Members Room.

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