



Managing Flood Risk

Policy WA1: Managing Flood Risk

- A. The Council will manage development in areas at risk of flooding, having regard to the vulnerability of the proposed use and the levels of risk from all sources. This will involve, where necessary, a sequential approach and the application of the exception test.
- B. No development shall take place in Flood Zone 3b (Functional flood plain) except in limited exceptional circumstances, such as for essential infrastructure, which must still be required to pass the Exception Test, or for water compatible uses. Development must neither impede the flow of water within Flood Zone 3b nor reduce the volume available for the storage of floodwater.
- C. Applicants will be required to demonstrate, where necessary by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), that account has been taken of existing and future flood risk from all sources, as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), and having regard to climate change. A site-specific FRA is required where a development proposal is:
 - i. In High Probability (Flood Zone 3)
 - ii. In Medium Probability (Flood Zone 2)
 - iii. On sites of 1ha or above within Low Probability (Flood Zone 1)
 - iv. On sites of 0.5ha, or above with Critical Drainage Areas as identified in the SFRA
 - v. Within Canal Hazard Zones or where flood risk from canals is otherwise considered to be an issue as identified in the SFRA.
- D. Development must incorporate flood mitigation and management measures appropriate to the use and location. Such measures will be required to:
 - i. Improve water efficiency
 - ii. Reduce surface water runoff using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); and



- iii. Designing the measures in accordance with the hierarchy of drainage options.
- E. Development adjacent to waterways will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it would not adversely impact upon the structural integrity of the waterway or its related infrastructure.
- F. Applicants will be required to use alternatives to culverting and re-open existing culverts in the design and delivery of new development.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-S2; and JP-S4.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO3 and S07

- 10.4. Trafford has an extensive network of main rivers, ordinary watercourses, canals and other water bodies. Sustainable water management has an important role in terms of reducing flood risk and ensuring that development does not cause any deterioration in the status of inland waters, as required by the European Union Water Framework Directive.
- 10.5. As part of the preparation of PfE, an updated Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for Greater Manchester was produced (2019). This document provides an overview of flood risk in the sub-region. A further Level 2/Hybrid SFRA for Greater Manchester was completed in 2020. For most sources of flooding, the Level 2/Hybrid SFRA for Greater Manchester, is a useful source of information and replaces earlier assessments.
- 10.6. The Manchester, Salford and Trafford Level 2/Hybrid Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was completed in 2010 / 2011. The Level 2 / Hybrid SFRA for Manchester, Salford and Trafford remains a useful source of information for flooding from some sources, particularly groundwater and canals. It defined Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) as currently understood in Trafford.



- 10.7. Evidence from the most up-to-date SFRA has been used to assist in applying the Sequential and Exception tests to identify locations for development in the Local Plan and will be used to assist in determining planning applications.
- 10.8. The Council's preference is for new development proposals to be located outside of Flood Zones 2 and 3, taking into account latest climate change allowances. Development proposals outside of Flood Zone 1, which require a sequential test will apply an area of search, to be agreed with the Local Planning Authority in advance of undertaking the search.
- 10.9. Flood Zone 3b, described as the functional flood plain, has been mapped as part of the Level 2/Hybrid SFRA for Greater Manchester (2020). Land falling within Flood Zone 3b will be safeguarded from development and forms part of the borough's Green Infrastructure network.
- 10.10. When undertaking site-specific flood risk assessments regard should be had to the latest Environment Agency peak rainfall allowances in the climate change allowances: flood risk assessments. This is important to understand and manage the effects of climate change on surface water flood risk and informing the design of drainage systems for new development.
- 10.11. CDAs are identified from historical flood events and/ or modelled data as having a significant risk from surface water flooding and include drainage catchments for the sewer network. The CDAs in Trafford were identified in the 2011 SFRA.
- 10.12. Working with natural processes should be used, as far as practicable to mitigate flood risk and deliver multi-functional benefits. The SFRA identifies measures which can be used such as tree planting and run-off attenuation features.
- 10.13. Culverting of watercourses has several potential adverse impacts on flood risk and water management, due to the risk of blockage, limited access for maintenance purposes and wider impacts on the environment. The Council will support schemes that facilitate future maintenance works of



the watercourses, enhance their health and contribute towards wider flood alleviation schemes.

- 10.14. In developing its strategic policies for flood risk and water management, the Council has had regard to the Environment Agency's North West River Basin Management Plan and relevant Catchment Flood Management Plans. Recognising the close hydrological and functional links with neighbouring authorities, the Council will also continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, other districts, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and other stakeholders on a range of other water and flood management studies and strategies.
- 10.15. Effective engagement with developers, early in the planning application process, will be a key element in designing safe and sustainable development to ensure that the objectives of this policy are met. Early discussions should take place with the LLFA and where required the Environment Agency and United Utilities.

Consultation Question 10-1

Do you support Policy WA1? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.