
REPORT TO:	Finance & Management Committee	AGENDA ITEM: 14
DATE OF MEETING:	29 th April 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	Deputy Chief Executive	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Gill Hague	DOC:
SUBJECT:	Draft River Trent Fluvial Strategy	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	Aston, Etwall, Linton, Melbourne, Seales, Stenson, Willington & Findern	TERMS OF REFERENCE:FM

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 The Environment Agency be informed that the Council:

welcomes the change to a strategic approach as this is preferred to the previous reactive approach of designing schemes after an area has flooded;

is disappointed that as a consequence of the structured approach adopted the recommended options do not initially include any measures for locations within South Derbyshire; and

seeks a commitment to the continuation of the programme of small schemes for localised flooding problems in addition to the larger strategic projects.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To inform members of a draft River Trent Fluvial Strategy and seek approval of a response to be sent to the Environment Agency by 1st June 2004. (A copy of the Executive Summary with tables of preferred options is attached as Appendix 1 and a full copy of the document available in the Member's Room)

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Consultants on behalf of the Environment Agency have produced a draft strategy for the fluvial River Trent that identifies preferred approaches to the sustainable management of flood risk over the next 50 years. Similar studies are being undertaken for other rivers such as the Dove and Derwent that will follow later this year and may result in schemes within South Derbyshire.

- 3.2 The study acknowledges flooding problems created by the River Trent within South Derbyshire but although it considers options for several sites only two locations within the District are included in the table of preferred flood management options. However, they are not included in the list of options recommended for immediate consideration.
- 3.3 Those options considered for settlements within South Derbyshire are set out in Appendix 2. It can be seen that most of the options considered would have a potential unacceptable impact on aspects of archaeological, biodiversity, historic or community importance.
- 3.4 The construction of local flood defences to protect property at Willington, Barrow on Trent and Swarkestone appear to be environmentally acceptable. However, only those options where the priority score (PS) is greater than 12 progress onto the list of preferred options. Swarkestone with a priority score of 12.4 just makes it onto that list but it is not included in the list of those options recommended for immediate consideration for the financial year 2004/5 because it falls below the cut off threshold of 20. (The study directs immediate focus to the top ten risk areas that are not protected to a 100 year standard). Shardlow has a score of 18.7 but is currently defended to a 1 in a 100 year standard and replacement will not be necessary until the design life has expired.
- 3.5 Options not appraised in detail but which the consultants consider to be best practice include sustainable urban drainage systems and development control measure to restrict inappropriate development both of which are catered for by policies in the emerging South Derbyshire Local Plan.
- 3.6 The production of new 1 in 100 year floodplain maps has formed part of the study. The maps though remain indicative. The study states that for development control purposes development within or on the periphery of the 1 in a 100 year floodplain, more local models should be constructed. Map no 14 shows part of the Willington Power Station site as lying within the 100 floodplain. Further detailed work in relation to that site is ongoing and will be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment to accompany a planning application that would follow a positive outcome from the local plan public inquiry Inspector's report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The schemes identified in the Strategy are funded 100% by the Treasury. (The cost of implementing small localised flooding schemes is met by a local levy.)

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Nothing in the strategy conflicts with policies and proposals in the South Derbyshire Local Plan.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 The study rules out some options due to their impact on the communities of other settlements not currently subjected to flooding.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Initially it is proposals that will protect the urban areas that have generally been included as preferred options as they will benefit the largest number of properties. However, schemes within South Derbyshire have at least now been identified and as those schemes currently at the top are implemented schemes to protect locations within South Derbyshire will move up the list.

8.0 Background Papers

- 8.1 River Trent Fluvial Strategy undertaken by Black & Veatch for The Environment Agency.

