

Flood Management – An Overview

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8th December
Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Key Drivers – Flood Management

- Government's "*Making Space for Water*" and "*Future Water*" strategies
- Summer floods 2007 & Pitt Review response
- EU Floods Directive
- Flood and Water Management Bill
- Climate Change - Adaptation



Types of Flooding

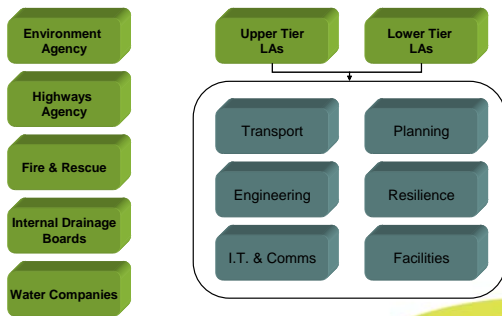
- **River** - occurs when a river cannot cope with the water draining into it from the surrounding land
- **Ordinary watercourse** – flooding from all watercourses that do not form part of a main river
- **Surface water** - when heavy rainfall overwhelms drainage capacity of the local area
- **Groundwater** - when water levels in the ground rise above surface levels
- **Sewer** - occurs when sewers are overwhelmed by heavy rainfall or when they become blocked
- **Coastal** - flooding that results from a combination of high tides and stormy conditions



River and Coastal Flooding – Properties at Significant Risk



Key Flood Management Stakeholders



Flood Management Issues

- Current flood legislation is outdated with its roots in the 1930s and 1940s
- Responsibilities for different aspects of flood management in the UK are poorly defined often leading to lack of ownership and accountability
- No organisation currently has any clear responsibility for flooding from surface run-off or groundwater sources



Flood and Water Management Bill

- New government legislation to address key issues
- Currently being considered in Parliament – 1st & 2nd readings conducted in late November
- Clarification of roles and responsibilities
- Transfer of strategic **local** flood management responsibilities to upper tier and unitary authorities
- Broadening out traditional measures of defence, drainage and protection to a 'portfolio' of flood management measures:
 - Risk maps and risk management
 - Awareness campaigns
 - Community defences and adaptation

Continued & Revised Responsibilities

- Buckinghamshire County Council
- Strategic overview & co-ordination of local flood management - Ordinary Watercourse, Surface Water, Groundwater
 - Develop and own a Flood Management Strategy
 - Develop Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs)
 - Lead on Sustainable Drainages Systems (SUDS)
 - Continue to hold responsibilities for emergency planning
- District Councils
- Continue to hold responsibilities for emergency planning
 - Continue to use powers under the Land Drainage Act to resolve local flooding issues.
- Environment Agency
- Continued responsibility for flooding from main rivers
 - Support local authorities and provide guidance and tools

Surface Water Management Plans (SWMP)

- 3.8m properties in England at risk surface water flooding
- A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is:
 - "a framework through which key local partners ...work together to understand the causes of surface water flooding and agree the most cost effective way of managing surface water flood risk"***
- Key elements of a SWMP:
 - Evidence base
 - Strategy
 - Deliverable action plan
- 77 settlements in England appraised as most susceptible to surface water flooding provided with grants to develop SWMPs

Top 10 "At Risk" Settlements SWF in Bucks

England Rank	Settlement	Properties at Risk
50*	High Wycombe	5,800
67*	Chesham	4,400
166	Aylesbury	2,000
176	Marlow	1,900
292	Amersham	1,100
390	Wendover	810
436	Chalfont St.Peter & Gerrards Cross	710
470	Princess Risborough	640
485	Bourne End & Flackwell Heath	610
575	Hazlemere & Tylers Green	480

*SWMP grant secured

SWMP Development Grants – Southeast

County or Unitary Authority	Settlements covered	Number of prop's at risk	EK
Hertfordshire	St Albans, Watford	10,900	£200
Buckinghamshire	High Wycombe and Chesham	10,200	£200
Luton Unitary	Luton	9,500	£175
Reading Unitary	Reading	8,100	£150
Slough	Slough	7,000	£125
Hampshire County	Basingstoke & Farnborough	7,200	£125
Swindon Unitary	Swindon	4,800	£100
Surrey County	Woking and Byfleet	4,600	£100
London	Via the Drain London consortium	440,900	£3,200
TOTAL		503,200	£4,375

Flood Management Funding



Challenges

- **Governance** - Need to develop local flood management governance structure with defined responsibilities
- **Data collection & analysis** – Risk maps, drainage asset register, (including highways and private landowners), action planning
- **Funding** - Total cost of implementing the Bill for English local authorities (RIA) = £72m per year – “Spend to Save” savings of £84-£172m – Figures questioned by LGA
- **Staff resource** – Estimated 3-8 full time equivalents required per year to implement requirements of the Bill - no current post within County Council and limited posts within Districts
- **In-house Flood Expertise** – Lack of sufficient expertise within County and Districts
- **Timescales** - SWMPs to be developed by Mar 2011

Questions
