

MANCHESTER SALFORD TRAFFORD STRATEGIC FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Joint statement by

**Manchester City Council
Salford City Council
Trafford Council
Environment Agency**

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment presents an independent analysis of the risk posed by flooding from all sources in the study area. It includes an assessment of flood risk from rivers, canals, surface water, sewers, groundwater and other water bodies in a range of scenarios, and including cumulative impacts. One of the primary purposes of the SFRA is to provide evidence to inform future sustainable development within Manchester, Salford and Trafford, particularly in the Local Authorities' Core Strategies.

The study builds on previous flood risk assessment work but it is the first time that all the data has been brought together in one place. It is also the first time that modelled flood risk from the Manchester Ship Canal has been published, giving us our first understanding of flood risk from this watercourse.

It should be noted that the flood zone map for the Manchester Ship Canal produced by the Environment Agency is currently subject to a legal challenge by Peel Holdings (the owning company of the Manchester Ship Canal). The Environment Agency has been advised that this challenge is ill founded and is defending the approach which it has adopted to modelling flood risk from the Ship Canal. Dependant on the outcome of a potential judicial review this summer, revisions may be made to the flood zone maps.

The study has been completed using the best available data at the time. As further information becomes available, the three Councils will consider the need for the SFRA to be updated as necessary. The study recognises that we need to work together to develop a more complete understanding of flood risk and how it is currently managed. This applies to all sources of risk, including cumulative risk from linked sources, and the study makes a number of recommendations for further work.

However, we must adopt a precautionary approach to how we deal with the issues raised, given the serious potential consequences. There are a number of sites and areas where future development is planned which are shown to be at risk of flooding to varying extents. We now need to consider very carefully whether and how this planned development could be taken forward without exposing new or existing residents and businesses to unacceptable risks. We also need to ensure that we are doing all we can to protect existing communities and businesses.

The study has benefitted greatly from a strong collaborative approach between the main partners and we are now committed to continuing to work

together and with other stakeholders across Greater Manchester, to take this work forward.

Please note that the SFRA was substantively completed in March 2010, and was placed in the public domain shortly afterwards. Since this time a number of cartographical and minor textual amendments have been made to improve legibility and consistency, and the updated maps and reports are now available. The actual modelled flood risk shown has not been materially altered.

May 2011