

# Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 Publication Version

## Flood Risk and Coastal Change Background Paper

June 2014



**GOSPORT**  
Borough Council

# **Flood Risk and Coastal Change Background Paper**

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# Flood Risk and Coastal Change Background Paper

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document is a background paper to the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029 it sets out sets out the relevant national and local policy context and includes a summary of evidence and consultation responses related to development and flood risk issues in Gosport that have emerged during the preparation of the new draft local plan. In addition to this background paper, the Borough Council has prepared the Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Technical Report (June 2014) prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership. The Borough Council has used the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) to assist in carrying out the sequential test as required by the National Planning Policy Framework, for those areas identified in the draft Local Plan as Regeneration Areas and other residential allocations identified in higher areas of flood risk. The findings of the SFRA will also inform the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The Flood Risk and Coastal Change Background Paper can be read in conjunction with the Borough Council's SFRA reports.

## 2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

### **National Policy and Legislation**

- 2.1 National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) and National Planning Practice Guidance  
Local plans have an important role to play in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change. In March 2012 the Government published the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- 2.2 Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term including managing flood risk and coastal change. The key policy message is to guide new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding applying the Sequential and Exceptions Tests as appropriate. Where it is not possible to locate new development to areas of lower flood risk, then any possible risks must be carefully managed through the use of suitable adaptation and mitigation.
- 2.3 Local Planning Authorities need to consider flood risk alongside other spatial planning and transportation issues recognising the important contribution that avoidance and management of flood risk brings to the local environment and under the Localism Act 2011, Local Authorities have a duty to co-operate on matters that have a cross boundary impact when planning for their local areas.
- 2.4 The Borough Council is part of the Partnership of Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). The PUSH authorities work together on important strategic issues that have a wider influence than individual administrative boundaries.
- 2.5 In addition to membership of PUSH, the Borough Council's actively engages with neighbouring authorities and relevant agencies with an interest in the coast. This includes, partnership arrangements with the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership, membership of the Solent Forum and through representation on the steering group of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, the Hampshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Steering Group and other working groups as appropriate.

- 2.6 The NPPF is accompanied by National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) providing more detail on the use of the Sequential and Exception Tests and the requirements for how flood risk should be considered throughout the planning process. The NPPG replaces PPS25: Development and Flood Risk Practice Guide and Planning Policy Statement 25 Supplement: Development and Coastal Change Practice Guide.
- 2.7 In addition to addressing the issues associated with managing the location of new development in relation to areas of flood risk, Local Planning Authorities should also seek to reduce the risks from coastal change by either avoiding inappropriate development in vulnerable areas or adding to the impacts of physical changes to the coastline. Where appropriate a Coastal Change Management Area should be identified.

#### The Pitt Review

- 2.8 The floods of the summer of 2007 caused major devastation and hardship for local communities in the UK. One of the key messages from the Pitt Review was that a more co-ordinated approach to flood risk management was needed. Furthermore, the report concluded that it should not be assumed that all future costs would be met from central funds. The final report made 92 recommendations. As a result of the findings of the Pitt Review, a number of recommendations have been taken forward into the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which received Royal Assent on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010. The findings of the full Pitt Review report and the recommendations can be viewed on line at:

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk>

- 2.9 In broad terms the **Flood and Water Management Act 2010** covers a number of key elements including:

- giving the Environment Agency (EA) an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils the lead in managing the risk of all local floods;
- introducing an improved risk based approach to reservoir safety;
- encouraging the uptake of sustainable drainage systems by removing the automatic right to connect to sewers and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments;
- widening the list of uses of water that water companies can control during periods of water shortage, and enable Government to add to and remove uses from the list;
- enabling water and sewerage companies to operate concessionary schemes for community groups on surface water drainage charges;
- reducing 'bad debt' in the water industry by amending the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide a named customer and clarify who is responsible for paying the water bill; and
- making it easier for water and sewerage companies to develop and implement social tariffs where companies consider there is a good cause to do so, and in light of guidance that will be issued by the Secretary of State following a full public consultation.

(Source: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/policy/fwmb/key-areas.htm>)

- 2.10 Furthermore, this enables local authorities to lead on local flood risk management empowering County and unitary authorities to act as the lead authorities responsible for local flood risk assessment, mapping and planning in relation to ordinary watercourses, surface run-off and groundwater. They will also lead on the production of local surface water management plans and

agree an associated programme for work. Hampshire County Council have prepared a Hampshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and are currently preparing a suite of Surface Water Management Plans and a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy these are explained in more detail further on in this background paper. further information can be found on Hampshire County Council's website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding/hampshireflooding/floodriskstrategy.htm>

#### The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)

2.11 The Act introduces a new system of marine management. This includes:

- developing a marine planning system, which makes provision for a statement of the Government's general policies, and the general policies of each of the devolved administrations, for the marine environment;
- preparing marine plans which will set out in more detail what is to happen in different parts of those areas to which such plans relate;
- provision to change the system for licensing activities in the marine environment;
- designation of conservation zones;
- changing the way marine fisheries are managed at a national and a local level and modifies the way licensing, conservation and fisheries rules are enforced;
- making provision for the designation of an Exclusive Economic Zone for the UK, and for the creation of a Welsh Zone in the sea adjacent to Wales; and
- amending the system for managing migratory and freshwater fish, and enables recreational access to the English and Welsh coast.

2.12 The Act also establishes the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) whose remit will mean they are the UK Government's strategic delivery body in the marine area and accordingly will exercise a number of marine functions. The MMO has to ensure that activity in the marine area is managed, regulated and controlled with the objective of making a contribution to the delivery of sustainable development. This will help to ensure an appropriate balance between environmental, social and economic considerations are achieved.

#### The Flood Risk Regulations 2009

2.13 These came into force on 10 December 2009. They set out the roles and responsibilities of the EA and the 'lead local flood authority' (county councils and unitary authorities). Both bodies have a duty to identify flood risk areas and prepare assessments. Flood risk maps are produced but they are different to flood risk areas in that they show detailed information in relation to flood risk as set out below:

- the number of people living in an area who are likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
- the type of economic activity likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
- any industrial activities in the area that may increase the risk of pollution in the event of flooding;
- any 'relevant protected areas' that may be affected in the event of flooding;
- any areas of water subject to specified measures or protection for the purpose of maintaining the water quality that may be affected in the event of flooding and;
- any other effect on:
  - i. human health;
  - ii. economic activity; or
  - iii. the environment (including cultural heritage).

- 2.14 The first flood hazard map and the first flood risk map for each river basin district must be produced by 22 December 2013 these are reviewed after the first 6 years and then on a 6 yearly basis after that. These reviews are to be co-ordinated alongside reviews of river basin districts plans (led by EA).
- 2.15 Both the EA and the 'lead local authority' have a duty to prepare flood risk management plans. These are plans for the management of a significant flood risk. The plan must include details of:
- objectives for managing the flood risk;
  - proposed measures for achieving these. In considering proposed measures the organisation preparing the plans must have regard to:
    - i. the costs and benefits of different methods of managing flood risk;
    - ii. the information included on the flood risk and flood hazard maps;
    - iii. the river basin management plan for the area;
    - iv. the effect of the floodplains that retain flood water; and
    - v. the environmental objectives of the Water Environment Regulations.
  - the likely effect of a flood and of different methods of managing a flood, on the local area and the environment;
  - a map showing the boundaries of the flood risk area;
  - a summary of the conclusions drawn from the flood hazard maps, and the flood risk maps for the areas,
  - a description of the delivery of measures to be implemented and how they will be monitored, and
  - a statement of consultation.
- 2.16 These plans will be subject to public consultation. The first flood risk management plan for each river basin district will be published before 22 December 2015. Subsequent reviews of these plans must take into account the likely impact of climate change and to assess the effectiveness of delivery of identified implementation measures. Local authorities and other key stakeholders will assist in providing any required information in the preparation of these plans and maps.

### **South Hampshire**

- 2.17 Under the Localism Act 2011 local authorities have a duty to cooperate with one another on issues that have cross boundary significance. Consideration of flood risk and development is a key example of this process and the local authorities and other key local agencies including the Environment Agency have been working together to take and in November 2006 the PUSH commissioned Atkins to undertake a SFRA for the PUSH sub region. The SFRA final report and mapping layers are available to view at: [www.gosport.gov.uk/sfra](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/sfra).
- 2.18 Further to this work, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in March 2010 between PUSH, the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England (NE) and the Government Office for the South East representing the Department for Communities and Local Government.
- 2.19 The purpose of the MoU is to deliver the South Hampshire sub-regional strategy including improving the quality of the environment for people and wildlife. The MoU formed part of the South Hampshire Multi Area Agreement (MAA) which was published in June 2008. The MoU established how the signed parties would work together to deliver these key objectives through establishing:

- A set of principles governing joint working, including the opportunities for a flexible approach, which includes compromises, in the interests of overall environmental benefit;
  - Common environmental outcomes and targets based on sound evidence; and
  - Agreeing an action plan to deliver the outcomes of the MoU.
- 2.20 In April 2010, the Environment Agency established the 'Solent Flood Risk 2026' project team bringing together a number of key development disciplines in order to deliver the level of development required within the sub-region in a way that contributes towards reducing flood risk. This includes the preparation of 'Working Together to Regenerate Gosport and Reduce Flood Risk' statement which sets out how the Borough Council and its partners will work together with the Environment Agency to manage development and regeneration in the future while the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy is being prepared.
- 2.21 In addition to Working Together to Regenerate Gosport and Reduce Flood Risk' document as an interim measure prior to the adoption of draft policy LP46: Flood risk and coastal erosion in the draft Local Plan. Further partnership working between the Environment Agency and the Borough Council has resulted in the preparation of: Guidance for New Development in Flood Risk Areas (More Vulnerable Development). This document sets out detailed guidance for developers about what needs to be included in site specific Flood Risk Assessments and provides both local councils and developers with specific guidance on the issues that need to be considered when developing in flood risk areas. Although this document was prepared at the time PPS25 was in force, the Borough Council considers that the principles remain valid in the context of the NPPF. This document can be viewed on the Borough Council's planning page at: <http://www.gosport.gov.uk/sections/your-council/council-services/planning-section/pre-application-advice/> and should be used to assist in meeting the policy requirements of the NPPF.

### **Local Policy**

#### North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (NSSMP)

- 2.22 The North Solent SMP (which covers the coastline from Selsey Bill to Hurst Spit) was adopted in December 2010. It sets out the management of the North Solent coastline over the next 100 years. This document has been prepared on behalf of the Coastal Local Authorities and the Environment Agency, and with the support of other local and regional organisations with various responsibilities and powers for managing the coast. It replaces a number of SMPs covering this stretch of coastline including the East Solent SMP which was adopted in 1997.
- 2.23 The SMP provides broad scale assessment of the coastal flooding and erosion risks and advice to operating authorities and private landowners on the management of their defences. It is a non-statutory policy document for coastal flood and erosion risk management planning.
- 2.24 The coastline is sub divided into Policy Units, based on natural sediment movements rather than administrative boundaries.
- 2.25 The plan, therefore, considers objectives, policy setting and management requirements for 3 main time periods these are set out below:

- From present day (taken nationally as being 2005) 0 – 20 years (short term) (Epoch 1);
- Medium-term 20 – 50 years (medium-term) (Epoch 2); and
- Long-term 50 – 100 years (long-term) (Epoch 3).

2.26 The Borough's coastline is divided into several policy management units. In summary the management policies adopted in the NSSMP are set out in the following table:

Policy unit reference	Start of unit	End of unit	Epoch 1 0-20 years	Epoch 2 20-50 years	Epoch 3 50-100 years
5A24	Fleetlands (MOD Boundary)	Quay Lane (MOD boundary)	HTL	HTL	HTL
5A25	Quay Lane (MOD boundary)	Portsmouth Harbour entrance (west)	HTL	HTL	HTL
5B01	Portsmouth Harbour entrance (west)	Gilkicker Point	HTL	HTL	HTL
5B02	Gilkicker Point	Meon Road, Titchfield Haven	HTL	HTL	HTL

**Key**

HTL – Hold The Line.<sup>1</sup>

2.27 There are a number of key positive outcomes of this approach. Implementation of HTL policies will reduce the risk of coastal flooding to the main urban centres of South Hampshire and protect key infrastructure assets.

2.28 A series of Action Plan recommendations form part of the NSSMP including the preparation of a coastal defence strategy for Gosport's coastline. This is the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy which is due for completion in December 2013.

The South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan (SEHCMP)

2.29 The EA produced the South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan (SEHCMP) which covers the Gosport area. The EA is the main operating authority for Government funded fluvial flood management schemes. The SEHCMP are reviewed on an approximate five year rolling programme and need to take account of how catchments are likely to change,

<sup>1</sup> Maintain or upgrade standard of protection provided by defences. This policy should cover those situations where work or operations are carried out in front of the existing defences (such as beach recharge, rebuilding the toe of a structure, building offshore breakwaters, etc.) to improve or maintain the standard of protection provided by the existing defence line. This policy also involves operations to the back of existing defences (such as building secondary floodwalls) where they form an essential part of maintaining the current coastal defence system. (DEFRA's policy option definition. Source: NSSMP, 2010).



over the next 50 to 100 years, particularly in terms of climate, development, land use and land management. This will help bring about a range of benefits to the communities and environment within the catchment, while contributing towards sustainable development. The catchments are subdivided into policy units. These are areas where a particular policy and certain actions will apply. Each policy unit is assigned one of six flood risk management policies which cover the range of options available. These include:

- **Policy 1:** Areas of little or no flood risk where we will continue to monitor and advise;
- **Policy 2:** Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we can generally reduce existing flood risk management actions;
- **Policy 3:** Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we are generally managing existing flood risk effectively;
- **Policy 4:** Areas of low, moderate or high flood risk where we are already managing the flood risk effectively but where we may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change;
- **Policy 5:** Areas of moderate to high flood risk where we can generally take further action to reduce flood risk; and
- **Policy 6:** Areas of low to moderate flood risk where we will take action with others to store water or manage run-off in locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits.'

(Source: South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan, December 2009) <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/127387.aspx>

2.30 Gosport falls within sub area 1: Portsmouth and Langstone Harbours this area is covered by Policy 5. The main policy messages arising from Policy 5 are as follows:

- increased storminess resulting from climate change will put increased pressure on the urban drainage network;
- working with partners to promote greater resilience to flooding through flood proofing;
- emergency planning and flood warning; and
- new developments will need to manage drainage so that there is no net increase in flood risk.

2.31 Proposed actions to implement the SEHCMP's preferred approach is:

- encourage local planning authorities to apply PPS 25, avoiding inappropriate development in the areas at risk of flooding, and influence local development frameworks (this would now be addressed through the NPPF);
- seek funding partnerships in connection with new or redevelopment;
- undertake System Asset Management Plans (SAMPs) to review maintenance regimes, to assess future investment needs and to reduce the current level of risk;
- develop a collaborative Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) to address current and future pressures on the drainage network; and
- develop an emergency response plan to mitigate flood risk in Portsmouth and Gosport, linking in with existing civil contingencies.

(Source: South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan, December 2009).

#### South East River Basin Management Plan

2.32 Under the provisions of the Water Framework Directive, the Environment Agency prepared the South East River Basin Management Plan. The Plan identifies key issues and actions for the River Basin District. (The River Basin District covers an extensive area from Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to Kent). The plan period is until 2015 and the Environment Agency currently

are embarking on a review of this plan with a revised plan being published in 2015. Further details of this plan can be found at: <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/124978.aspx>

PUSH Integrated Water Management Strategy (IWMS)(2009)

- 2.33 The objectives of the IWMS are to:
- guide and inform the level and location of development to be accommodated in South Hampshire in accordance with the SE Plan;
  - identify a preferred high level strategy for water management for the period to 2026, including the general location and timing of infrastructure requirements, the agencies responsible and the means of funding the necessary work; and
  - identify the further work necessary to implement the preferred strategy and to monitor its effectiveness over the plan period.

- 2.34 As assessment of the spatial distribution of housing in the sub-regional strategy (at the time of the study), concluded that the housing requirement for Eastleigh, Test Valley, Winchester, Fareham and East Hampshire can all be accommodated in Flood Zone 1 (no risk) as are the proposed areas for the SDAs. However, of the 80,000 houses required within the PUSH region (as set out in the South East Plan (2009)), approximately 11,000 are allocated within Flood Zones 2 and 3. This equates to approximately 15% of the total allocation. The local authorities which are affected are primarily Southampton (36% of properties identified in flood zone 2 and 3) and Portsmouth (37% in flood zones 2 and 3). Gosport and the New Forest each have one allocation within flood zones 2 and 3. Further details on the Strategy can be found at: [www.push.gov.uk/water\\_management\\_summary.docx](http://www.push.gov.uk/water_management_summary.docx)

Hampshire Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Report (June 2011)

- 2.35 Under the powers of the Flood and Water Management Act, Lead Local Flood Authorities, will prepare a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which provides a strategic overview of flood risk from a variety and combination of flood sources. This assessment feeds into the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which will identify additional areas where surface water management plans or other work may be required.
- 2.36 Hampshire County Council is in the process of preparing a number of Surface Water Management Plans in the County where the potential for flooding caused through surface water has been identified as a particular issue. There is currently no Surface Water Management Plan being prepared for the Gosport area. However, once the initial SWMPs are complete, a wider programme will be undertaken to ensure complete countywide coverage at district level by 2015.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy July 2013

- 2.37 This document focuses on localised flooding matters on a Hampshire-wide basis and looks at all forms of flooding. Accompanying the draft Strategy is an Action Plan which HCC is currently developing a study (known as a Groundwater Surface Water Management Plan - GWSWMP) to assess Groundwater Flood Risk and potential mitigation measures across Hampshire. The outputs from the study will help to inform future investigations required to enhance our understanding of groundwater flood risk. The outputs of the GWSWMP will be used in the annual reviews of the LFRMS Action Plan and the planned reviews of the LFRMS.

- 2.38 This Strategy helps influence the location, design and layout of new developments. The measures identified in the LFRMS Action Plan should be considered when local planning authorities prepare infrastructure assessments and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule. Further details about the strategies and plans being produced by Hampshire County Council can be found at: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding/hampshireflooding.htm>

#### Gosport Corporate Plan

- 2.39 The most applicable 'Strategic Priorities' outlined in the Corporate Plan include:
- Responding to the challenges of climate change.

### **3.0 EVIDENCE**

- 3.1 A total of 380 hectares of land is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3 representing 14.0% of the Borough's land area. In terms of residential, business and community units in Gosport, approximately 650 of these are within Flood Zone 2, representing 1.7% of the total units within the Borough, including just over 1,220 units in Flood Zone 3, accounting for 3.2% of the total units in the Borough. Recent storm events over the winter have demonstrated the importance of how important it is that the risk to development from flooding is minimised through the protection of the natural floodplain and the tidal regions.
- 3.2 Evidence which underpins draft policy LP45: Flood risk and coastal erosion in the draft Local Plan comes from the 'PUSH Strategic Flood Risk Assessment' (SFRA) which was prepared by Atkins on behalf of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH). The Borough Council is a partner authority in PUSH. The SFRA final report and mapping layers are available on the Council's website.
- 3.3 The SFRA has been used by the Borough Council to inform the selection of draft allocations this information is set out in the supplementary report – 'Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment'. This assessment sets out in more detail the level of potential for flood issues affecting the allocations in the draft Local Plan and sets out the Council's approach to meeting the requirements of the NPPF using the PUSH Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. This work has been supplemented by the Borough Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Technical Report (June 2014) which has been prepared in consultation with the Environment Agency and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership.
- 3.4 The Borough Council's SFRA report identifies a number of potential flood risk issues for key sites where further investigations through site-specific Flood Risk Assessments will be required.

## 4.0 CONSULTATION

### **Main Consultations to date including:**

- Consultation at each plan-making stage:
  - Gosport Borough Local Plan 2011-2029: Consultation Draft (Dec 2012- Feb 2013);
  - Core Strategy : Preferred Options (GBC December 2009);
  - Core Strategy: Issues and Option (GBC December 2006);
  - The Community Strategy and Local Development Framework: Make Your Mark December 2006 events (held in December 2006 Gosport Partnership); and
- On-going meetings with key stakeholders including the Environment Agency and Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership

4.1 There have been a number of consultation stages on the preparation of the Borough Council's planning strategy. This section of the background paper identifies those stages to date and summaries the issues arising from each stage.

4.2 The Borough Council's Issues and Options document identified flood risk as an important issue for the Local Development Framework (LDF) to address. Issues raised through consultation can broadly be summarised as follows:

- Building in flood zones should be prevented;
- The local authority needs to carry out a flood risk assessment;
- All new development should be flood resilient and resistant;
- All LDDs should set out requirements for site-specific Flood Risk Assessments;
- The Core Strategy should be consistent with PPS25;
- Development must incorporate suitable arrangements for surface water drainage to minimise the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- Improve coastal defences, minimise risks to new developments;
- Sea level rise and the consequential risk of a net loss of internationally and nationally designated site intertidal habitats and the species they support is a key issue for the Borough Council;
- Development must be restricted in areas at risk from flooding (in accordance with the sequential test of the PPS25); and
- The principle of SUDS is supported; however the developer should ensure that arrangements exist for the long term maintenance. The design of SUDS must be appropriate for the location and a range of factors need to be considered.

4.3 The responses from this round of consultation were fed into the preferred options stage of the Core Strategy which was prepared for consultation purposes in September 2009. Issues raised at this stage can be broadly summarised below:

- New build should not be allowed in places of known flood risk; and
- Core Strategy needs to be supported by evidence of the physical flood risk management infrastructure required to enable the delivery of the development proposed to be safe across its lifetime and if so, how and when it will be delivered.

4.4 Consultation on the draft Local Plan in December 2012 raised a number of matters that the Publication Version of the Local Plan addresses. The most

significant piece of work to be undertaken on the policy as a result of consultation on the draft plan relates to the preparation of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Technical Report. This report provides greater detail on the options for flood risk management measures for the key sites at Gosport Waterfront, Haslar Peninsula and Priddy's Hard Heritage Area.

- 4.5 Other changes relate principally to the reordering of the policy to give greater emphasis to the importance of the sequential approach in site selection and application of the sequential test and the important role of flood evacuation plans and procedures.

## **5.0 KEY ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE LOCAL PLAN**

- 5.1 Flood events are becoming more frequent in the UK and therefore managing flood risk is an increasingly important issue in planning for development and assessing planning applications. Effective management of this risk can be achieved through locational choices, and where necessary appropriate mitigation measures put in place to protect the development. Therefore the Borough Council recognises that full consideration of flood risk and coastal change are an integral part of delivering a sustainable pattern of development for Gosport over the draft Local Plan period (2011-2029) and dialogue with key stakeholders including the Environment Agency and the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership regarding this process is on-going.
- 5.2 The Borough Council is committed to working with its partners in maintaining and improving flood risk management infrastructure. The adopted North Solent Shoreline Management Plan, the Environment Agency's South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan and the preparation of the 'River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood and Erosion Risk Management Strategy' by the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership will help inform decisions on appropriate future local flood risk management measures and to ensure that development avoids areas at risk from adverse coastal change. Draft Local Plan policy LP46: Flood Risk and coastal erosion represents a detailed process for ensuring that flood risk is addressed at all stages of the planning system. In addition, the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the draft Local Plan identified issues relating to the potential loss of habitat for internationally important sites and coastal squeeze the findings and recommendations of the HRA have been taken into account in the preparation of draft policies.
- 5.3 Draft policy LP46 takes account of the matters raised in the HRA. The draft Local Plan recognises there are large areas of the Borough which contain important habitats (including sites of national and international importance. It is important that these areas of nature conservation interest are protected and therefore, applications for flood risk management infrastructure will need to be considered against national policies and the local nature conservation policies in this plan (LP42-LP45). The draft policies stipulate developers should refer to the Habitats Regulations in instances where a proposal may impact upon the integrity of such sites. Draft policy LP42 reinforces the significance of this issue and consequently developers will need to consider these matters at the earliest possible stage when preparing their proposals and provide sufficient information for the Local Planning Authority to undertake the appropriate assessment.
- 5.4 In addition to the Habitats Regulation Assessment, the draft policies have undergone full Sustainability Appraisal.

### **Coastal Change Management Area**

- 5.5 In accordance with the requirements of the NPPF, the Borough Council has considered whether there is a need to designate a CCMA.
- 5.6 Using the advice in the PPS25 Practice Guide: Development and Coastal Change advises that a CCMA will only be defined where the rates of shoreline change will be significant over the next 100 years. Furthermore, CCMA's are not required where the current adopted Shoreline Management Plan policy is to hold or advance the line for the whole period covered by the SMP. In Gosport's case the adopted North Solent SMP policy covering all three time epochs for the whole of the Borough's coastline is to Hold the Line'. The Borough Council, in consultation with the Eastern Solent Coastal Partnership, currently preparing the River Hamble to Portchester Coastal Flood Risk and Erosion Management Strategy, concluded that it is not necessary to identify a CCMA for this plan period (2011-2029). This situation will be kept under review as part of the monitoring of the new local plan and through future reviews of the SMP.

## Evidence Studies and other references

### National Guidance

Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga\\_20090023\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga_20090023_en.pdf)

Flood and Water Management Act 2010

[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga\\_20100029\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/pdfs/ukpga_20100029_en.pdf)

The Flood Risk Regulations 2009

[www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3042/contents/made)

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2012) National Planning Policy Framework

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2)

Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) (2014) National Planning Practice Guidance <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/>

The Pitt Review (2007)

[webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview/final\\_report.html](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100807034701/http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview/final_report.html)

### Sub Regional Planning Documents

Environment Agency (2009) - South East Hampshire Catchment Flood Management Plan

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-hampshire-catchment-flood-management-plan>

Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) / Environment Agency (2009) - River Basin Management Plan South East River Basin District

[publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GESO0910BSTA-E-E.pdf](http://publications.environment-agency.gov.uk/pdf/GESO0910BSTA-E-E.pdf)

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