



Northamptonshire County Council Initial Equality Impact Assessment - Please note that this form replaces the previous Screening Form

Division/Service Area and Directorate	Directorate: Environment, Development & Transport Division: Environment & Planning	Persons undertaking the assessment (please also state name of contact or lead officer)		Josie Bateman	
Name of policy or function to be assessed	Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Date of assessment	November 2016	New or existing policy	Existing

Positive Equality Duties

Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) takes equality and diversity seriously. The council believes in the dignity of all people and their right to respect and equality of opportunity. We want to provide a high quality and appropriate service for everyone in Northamptonshire.

Through Equality Impact Assessments (EqIAs), we assess council policies to identify whether the needs of different community groups have been sufficiently considered. These assessments allow policymakers to consider whether more community consultation is needed before a change of service delivery may be required. This assessment is a 'living' document so please send any comments to equalities@northamptonshire.gov.uk

This initial EqIA will also help you to identify whether there are opportunities for promoting equality. Even if there are no adverse impacts, this part of the process is essential, as it will ensure that we meet our equality duties. These equality duties are set out in a number of pieces of legislation but can be summarised as follows:

The need to promote equality of opportunity between and for different groups based on:

- Gender,
- Gender reassignment (i.e. transgender individuals),
- Age (young and old),
- Disability (mental, and physical)
- Ethnicity and race,
- Sexual orientation (heterosexuality, homosexuality, etc)
- And religion or belief (including no belief)

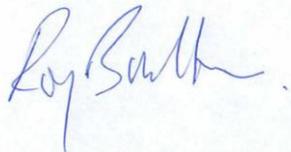
Under the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010), Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), must develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) will manage local flood risk from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. The purpose of the LFRMS is to outline NCC's approach to this new role and to local flood risk management in Northamptonshire. The strategy forms a policy document and sets out an action plan and implementation measures.

The LFRMS introduces a number of specific policies and actions for the management of flood risk across the county. Evidence collected suggests that the impacts of implementation of these policies and actions on particular equality groups will be no different to impacts on the general population.

<p>1. Briefly describe the aims, objective or purpose of the policy/service/function being assessed. If this EqlA is assessing the impact of a proposed change please describe the proposed change.</p>	<p>The overarching aim of Northamptonshire LFRMS is to provide a robust local framework to manage and communicate the risks and consequences of flooding in Northamptonshire. The objectives by which this vision will be achieved are set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborative Approach – Adopt a collaborative approach to managing local flood risk by working with local partners and stakeholders to identify, secure and optimise resources, expertise and opportunities for reducing flood risk and increasing resilience to flooding; 2. Local Flood Risk – Develop a greater understanding of local flood risk by improving the scope of local knowledge and understanding of current and future local flood risks; 3. Enhance the Natural and Historic Environment – Adopt a sustainable approach to reducing local flood risk, seeking to lessen the risk of localised flooding using mechanisms that are economically viable, deliver wider environmental benefits, conserve and enhance heritage assets and their settings, and promote the wellbeing of local people; 4. Preparedness and Resilience – Reduce the harmful consequences of local flooding through proactive actions, activities and education programmes that enhance preparedness and resilience to local flood risk. 5. Flood Risk and Development – Minimise the increase in local flood risk that may arise from new development by producing guidance, setting standards and supporting the development of local policies and guidance, discouraging wherever possible surface water runoff in new and future developments and where possible influencing or supporting developments that seek to reduce existing flood risk. 6. Economically Sustainable Approach – Ensure the financial viability of flood related schemes through the development of appropriate policies and assessment tools to ensure that flood risk management measures provide value for money whilst minimising the long-term revenue costs. Seeking to use natural processes where possible or source the costs of any maintenance from the financial beneficiaries of the development. 7. Riparian Responsibilities – Encourage flood management activities by private owners of ordinary watercourses and flood defence structures as well as limit the development of constrictions on ordinary watercourses. <p>The actions defined within the Northamptonshire LFRMS to meet these objectives will not cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community. Once implemented the actions will have a positive contribution to equalities in terms of protecting those of greatest priority in terms of flood risk.</p>
<p>2. Are there any associated objectives of the policy/service/function that should be considered as part of this assessment? If yes please describe.</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>3. Who is intended to benefit from this policy/function/service?</p>	<p>The LFRMS aims to benefit all those within the county who are at risk of flooding from local sources (surface water, ground water and flooding from ordinary watercourses).</p>

<p>4. What outcomes are wanted from this policy/function/service?</p>	<p>In line with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and the Flood Risk Regulations (2009), a management structure has been put in place to ensure the requirements of the legislation are met. This was agreed by Cabinet in November 2010. The key objectives relating to the delivery of Flood and Water Management include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a range of measures to manage local flood risk and set out the measures; • Instil confidence by delivering prioritised flood alleviation measures; • Support the development of a naturally resilient Northamptonshire; • Reduce the number of properties at risk of flooding; • Enhance sustainability opportunities and promote the low carbon agenda through innovative and ‘softer’ flood alleviation measures. 		
<p>5. How do these outcomes meet or hinder the priorities of NCC?</p>	<p>Flood and water management is seen as a key priority to the council. The strategy has put in place a number of policies, which will help to reduce the implications of flood risk across the county.</p>		
<p>6. What factors/forces could contribute/detract from the intended outcomes?</p>	<p>Provision of funding and reduced national funding opportunities.</p>		
<p>7. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to this policy/ function/ service (e.g. partners, community groups, etc)?</p>	<p>The initiatives to reduce the implications of flood risk across the county will benefit local communities, businesses and Flood Risk Management Authorities (Water and Sewerage Companies, The Environment Agency, the Borough and District Councils, the Internal Drainage Board, the Highways Authority and Highways England).</p>	<p>8. Who implements the policy/ function/ service and is responsible for the policy?</p>	<p>Northamptonshire County Council and the associated Flood Risk Management partners. (Water and Sewerage Companies, The Environment Agency, the Borough and District Councils, the Internal Drainage Board, the Highways Authority and Highways England).</p>
<p>9. What is the strategy for consultation and engagement with the main stakeholders?</p>	<p>National policy requires all local authorities to ensure that communities, stakeholders and interest groups are effectively engaged in consultation. In order to guide this consultation and engagement, the council has adopted a Communications, Engagement and Consultation Strategy for all elements of work produced by the Council under the Flood and Water Management Framework. This document sets out the key principles which the Council will follow to involve all communities in consultation, and includes:</p> <p>Principle 1: Engagement is a two-way process. We will listen to what people have to say and consider this in developing our assessments and strategies;</p> <p>Principle 2: Engagement will be planned, programmed and publicised. We will link involvement to those key times when input from stakeholders will be valuable in helping us increase our understanding around flooding and water management and when plans and strategies are being produced;</p> <p>Principle 3: Engagement will be relevant and practical. We will ensure that engagement is relevant to the issue and that techniques used are appropriate.</p> <p>Principle 4: The purpose of the engagement will be made clear. We will explain clearly and honestly why people are being asked for their views or opinions and how those replies will be taken on board and used.</p>		

Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Religion or Belief including no belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
Human Rights Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							
<p>12.If there is any <u>evidence</u> of <u>adverse</u> impact on any equality groups (see summary above) please detail here.</p> <p>State if you believe that this could amount to unlawful discrimination or failure to meet statutory equality duties.</p>	No									
<p>13.Should the policy proceed to a full impact assessment? If there:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is <u>evidence</u> of <u>adverse</u> impact on any equality groups, • are <u>concerns</u> that there may be any impact on people from any equality groups that cannot be easily mitigated or alleviated through alterations, <p>then you must answer <u>yes</u></p>	No									
<p>14.Have there been any important demographic changes or trends locally? For example is the population changing, and if so, how and what might that mean for the service or function?</p>	No									
<p>If a full assessment is not required, are there any recommended alterations or actions required to the policy/function/decision that will easily mitigate or alleviate possible impacts</p> <p>You must clearly list such alterations and actions in a SMART format</p>	None									
Completing Officer (Name):	Josie Bateman									

Completing Officer (Signature)	
Authorising Manager (Name)	Roy Boulton
Authorising Manager (Signature)	
Date	November 2016