



## Policy and Scrutiny

### Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Communities

Report to:	<b>Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>30 January 2014</b>
Subject:	<b>Flood Risk Maps – New Publications which now include Surface Water Maps</b>

#### Summary:

To brief the Committee on the new and updated flood maps which were published on the Environment Agency's website from 12 December 2013 and now includes surface water flood maps for the first time.

#### Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to consider and comment on the contents of the report and to be aware of the newly published suite of maps.

### 1. Background

From 12 December 2013 the Environment Agency (EA) published new and updated flood maps on its website which show the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, reservoirs and for the first time surface water.

The table below summarises the maps which are now available:

Online web name - What members of the public see	Product name	What they are
Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)	Flood Map	The existing flood map has not disappeared. It remains on the website and will still be used by customers for land-use planning purposes.
Risk of Flooding from Rivers and Sea	National Flood Risk Assessment (NaFRA)	This map is the national assessment of the likelihood of flooding from rivers and the sea, taking into account flood defences.
Risk of Flooding from	Reservoir Flood	This map shows the extent of

Reservoirs	Maps	flooding if a reservoir was to fail.
Risk of Flooding from Surface Water	Updated Flood Map for Surface Water (uFMfSW)	This map is the primary source of national information on surface water flooding.
Flood Risk Maps	Flood Risk Maps	Summary PDFs showing what can be affected by flooding i.e. people, infrastructure and environmental areas of importance. These maps are at a River Basin District scale showing the impact of flooding from river, sea, surface water and reservoirs.

As can be seen the major changes are that the existing flood maps for rivers and the sea, which do not take account of defences, have now been replaced by the NaFRA Maps which take account of flood defences. As would be expected this generally reduces the flood outline members of the public will see.

In addition and importantly for the first time members of the public are able to view maps showing surface water flood risk.

Members of the Committee will be aware that whilst the EA has the national overview role in respect of flood risk and has operational responsibilities for managing flood risk from rivers and the sea, the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has responsibility for managing flood risk from surface water.

Whilst the updated flood maps for surface water have been produced nationally and are posted on the EA's website there has been significant involvement by LLFAs in their development and local information has been included where this is better than the national data. In addition Lincolnshire County Council's Flood, Water & Major Development Manager, sat on the national project board which developed and produced the maps.

As the flood maps for surface water are new, a national and local media launch and communication plan was implemented which included

- Writing to all County Council Members
- Writing to all District Councils
- Press releases and social media messages
- Training for EA and LCC Call Handling Staff
- The development of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) which are posted on LCCs website.

The County Council's press release is included at Appendix A and the FAQs are included at Appendix B.

During the first week of the launch the release of the maps did not result in any significant negative responses. Visits to the EA's maps website were slightly higher than the normal number of unique visitors, with a peak of 5,500 on 12 December (launch day), which compares with a normal level of approximately 4,000 unique visitors per day. This can be compared to during floods, when up to 60,000 unique visitors are received in a single day.

## **2. Conclusion**

The new and updated suite of flood maps now provide public information on all the major types of flooding which affect England, including the risk of flooding from surface water. They are presented in a clear, simple and consistent way, which will make it easier for people, communities and partner organisations to understand all types of flood risk and make decisions about how to manage it.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Policy Proofing Actions Required**

N/A

## **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Press Release for New Surface Water Flood Maps
Appendix B	Frequently Asked Questions Risk of Flooding from Surface Water Maps

## **5. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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