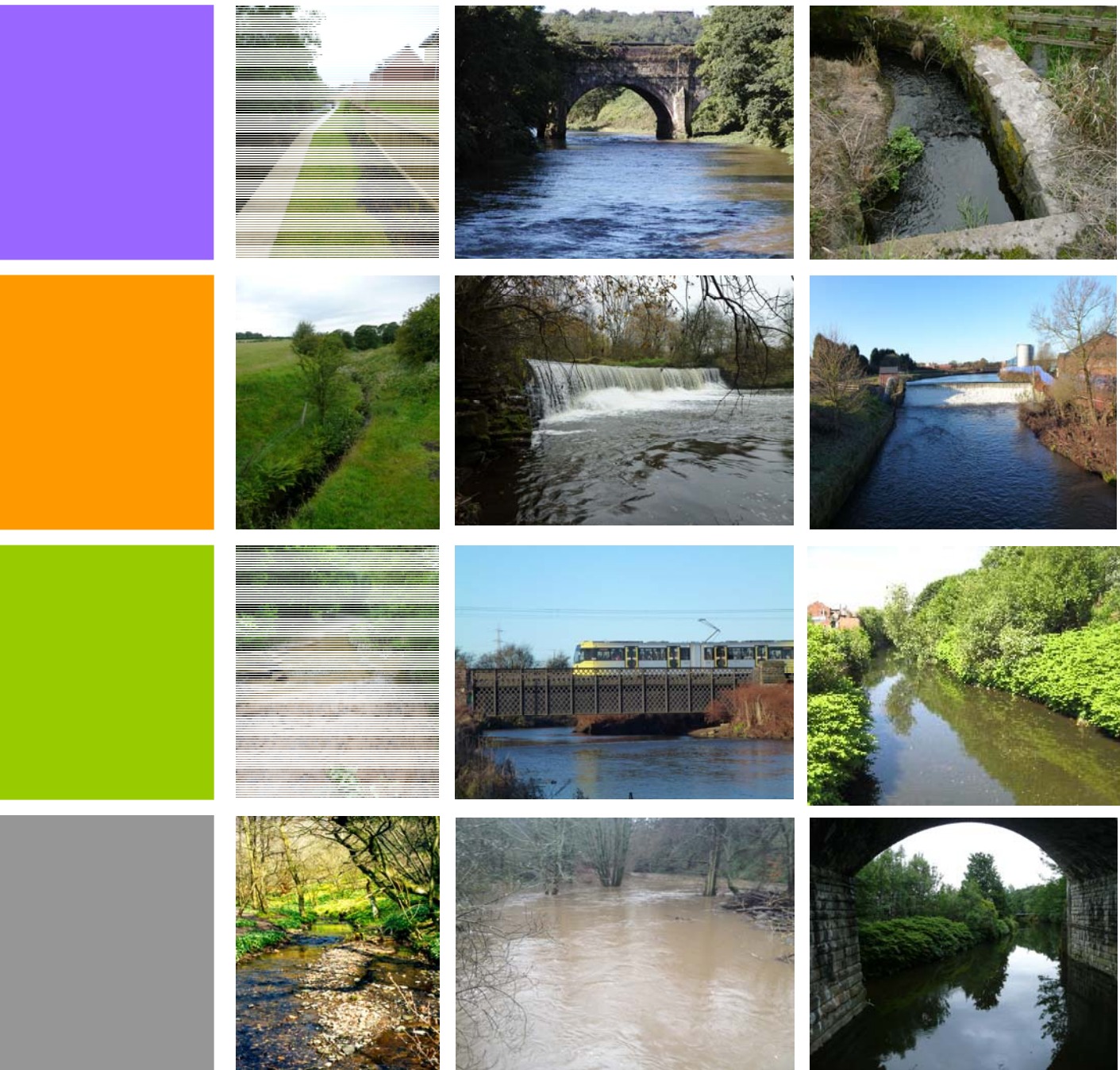


# Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

## Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report



## Executive Summary

We are producing Bury's first Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), which will guide the approach to flood risk management within the Borough. There is a requirement to undertake a statutory Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the strategy to ensure that any options considered for managing flood risk take into account the environmental and wider social and economic risks, as well as opportunities at the same time.

Carrying out the SEA at the same time as we are developing the Strategy has helped to influence options at an early stage to reduce their negative impacts.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) occurs in two stages:

- **Scoping:** Establishes the data and information considered adequate to enable the later assessment stage: and
- **Assessment:** Identifies the likely significant effects of the draft LFRMS, and makes recommendations to change or improve it, where appropriate.

This Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report presents the information we currently have about key, relevant issues in the Borough and provides details about how we intend to assess the impact of the LFRMS options on our communities and the environment.

We are seeking your opinions on this scoping report and would welcome any comments or information you may have that is relevant to this SEA and the LFRMS. Please submit this information by 14<sup>th</sup> October to:

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Bury Council is required to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The aim of this strategy is to set out how the Council plans to manage local flood risk and fulfil its duties under the Flood and Water Management Act, balancing the needs of communities, the economy and the environment through partnership working, effective risk management and prioritisation, and the sharing of data and information.

The LFRMS has been identified as a plan that is subject to the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment", known as the Strategy Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.

## 1.2 Draft Aims and Objectives of the LFRMS

The draft aim of the LFRMS is to produce a strategy which demonstrates how Bury Council will work with individuals, the community, and businesses to manage the risk of flooding and its impacts within the Borough. The draft objectives are:

- To gain a strategic understanding of flood risk from all sources in Bury;
- To manage the likelihood of flooding within the Borough;
- To help Bury residents to manage their own risk;
- To ensure that new development in Bury reduces rather than increases flood risk;
- To improve flood preparation, warning and post flood recovery;
- To endeavour to direct flood risk funding to areas most at need or where solutions will be most effective.

## 1.3 The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive

European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (commonly referred to as the SEA Directive) introduced a mandatory requirement to undertake SEA on certain plans and programmes upon which work commenced after 21 July 2004. The LFRMS is one such document.

The aim of the SEA is to identify potentially significant environmental effects created as a result of the implementation of the LFRMS on issues such as 'biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic, material assets including architectural and archaeological heritages, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. The Directive was transposed into English legislation by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the 'SEA Regulations').

## 1.4 Habitats Regulation Assessment

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The Council is required under Regulation 48 (1) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006, to carry out an Appropriate Assessment in respect of any plan or project which would either alone or in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site and is not directly connected with the management of the site for nature conservation. There are no sites with European designations<sup>1</sup> in the Borough. However, the Council has a responsibility to consider the impacts of its strategies, plans and projects on European sites in adjacent districts.

The closest protected site is the Rochdale Canal (located 4km to the south east)<sup>2</sup> which runs from Rochdale through Oldham and Tameside into Manchester. Other more distant sites are the South Pennines SAC<sup>3</sup> (13km), the Peak District SPA<sup>4</sup> (17km) and Manchester Mosses SAC<sup>5</sup> (10-16km).

## 1.5 Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC, and the WFD Regulations 2003 require the Council to ensure that the strategy will not lead to actions which result in a deterioration in the status of any water body (including the channel, the flow, and the flora and fauna), will not prevent future restoration/improvement, and includes opportunities for improvement in the status of water bodies to help meet WFD objectives. This requirement will be incorporated into the assessment framework.

## 1.6 Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report

The first step in the SEA is to produce a scoping report which presents the proposed structure and knowledge base for the assessment. This report describes the information that we have gathered so far and explains how we will undertake the assessment of the LFRMS.

## 1.7 Consultation

We are seeking your opinions on this scoping report and would welcome any comments or information you may have that is relevant to this SEA and the LFRMS. Please submit this information by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to:  
Fran Smith  
Planning Policy and Projects  
3 Knowsley Place  
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<sup>1</sup> European sites are Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)

<sup>2</sup> Designated because the canal supports a protected species (floating water-plantain – *Luronium natans*)

<sup>3</sup> Designated because the area supports habitats of value such as European dry heaths, blanket bogs, old sessile oak woods.

<sup>4</sup> Designated because the area supports protected species (short eared owls (*Asio flammeus*), Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) and Golden Plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*).

<sup>5</sup> Designated because the area contains raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration.

## 2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

### 2.1 SEA Screening

Prior to starting the SEA process a plan or programme would normally undergo 'screening'. This process determines whether the plan is subject to the SEA Directive and therefore requires an SEA.

**The LFRMS does require an SEA.**

### 2.2 SEA Guidance

This Scoping Report follows and sets out the requirements of the SEA and has been developed in accordance with the following guidance:

- A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (ODPM, August 2006)

### 2.3 SEA Stages

The assessment of the LFRMS has five stages. These stages and the tasks for each stage are listed in Table 2.1.

This report presents the findings of Tasks A1 to A4 of the SEA process in a logical progression to reflect the way in which the work was undertaken.

**Table 1: Stages in the SEA Process**

SEA Stages	SEA Tasks
<b>Stage A:</b> Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope.	A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and environmental protection objectives.
	A2: Collecting baseline information
	A3: Identifying environmental issues and problems
	A4: Developing the SEA objectives and framework
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the SEA
<b>Stage B:</b> Developing and refining options and assessing effects	B1: Testing the plan objectives against the SEA objectives
	B2: Developing strategic alternatives
	B3: Predicting the effects of the plan, including alternatives
	B4: Evaluating the effects of the plan, including alternatives
	B5: Mitigating adverse effects
	B6: Proposing measures to monitor the environmental effects of implementing the plan
<b>Stage C:</b> Preparing the Environmental Report	C1: Preparing the Environmental Report
<b>Stage D:</b> Consulting on the draft LFRMS and the SEA Report	D1: Consulting on the draft LFRMS and Environmental Report with the public and consultation bodies
	D2: Assessing significant changes
	D3: Making decisions and providing information
SEA Adoption Statement	

<b>Stage E:</b> Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the LFRMS.	E1: Developing aims and methods for monitoring
	E2: Responding to adverse effects

**This Scoping Report represents Stage A shown in Table 1 above.**  
The purpose of this stage is to agree the SEA methodology and collate the information needed to carry out the SEA



**Task A1: Identifying other relevant plans, policies and programmes and sustainability objectives****3.1 Aim: Identifying other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainable development objectives that will affect or influence the LFRMS.**

- 3.1.1 The LFRMS must comply with existing policies, plans and programmes at international, national and regional levels and strengthen and support local plans and strategies. It is therefore important to identify and review those policies, plans and programmes and environmental protection objectives which are relevant to both the LFRMS and the SEA at an early stage. This allows any inconsistencies or constraints within the LFRMS to be addressed and also to help develop the SEA framework.
- 3.1.2 It is possible, for example, that a Local Flood Risk Strategy could lead to an action which inhibits or counteracts the achievement of other planned activities or their aims. This could be a project which is proposed to use the same area of land as another proposed by somebody else, or it could be a policy which lead to changes opposite to the policy or aim of another plan.
- 3.1.3 It is recognised that no list of plans or programmes can be definitive and as a result this report describes only the key documents which influence the LFRMS. Table 2 outlines the key documents. These documents will be used throughout the preparation of the LFRMS and to inform the SEA process.

**Table 2: Key Documents**

<b>International Plans and Programmes</b>
EU Floods Directive - Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks, 2007
EU Water Framework Directive - Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy, 2000
<b>National Plans and Programmes</b>
Flood and Water Management Act 2011
Flood Risk Regulations, 2009
The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (May 2011)
National Planning Policy Framework (2012)
Future Water, The Government's water strategy for England, 2008
Water for People and the Environment; Water Resources Strategy for England and Wales, 2009
Making Space for Water – Taking forward a new Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in England (2005)
Directing the Flow: Priorities for Future Water Policy, 2002
The Impact of Flooding on Urban and Rural Communities, 2005

EA Policy: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, 2002
Land Drainage Act, 1991, (as Amended 2004)
Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Water Act, 2003
Securing the Future: Delivering the Sustainable Development Strategy, 2005
<b>Sub-National Plans and Programmes</b>
Environment Agency (2009); River Basin Management Plan – North West River Basin District
The North West of England Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy (2008)
Scott Wilson (2008): Greater Manchester Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
AGMA/Jacobs/JBA Consulting (2013): Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan
AGMA/TEP (2008): GM Green Infrastructure Scoping Study (Towards a Green Infrastructure Framework for Greater Manchester
TEP (2010): AGMA Green Infrastructure Study Phase 3 and Bury Green Infrastructure Assessment
Environment Agency (2009): Irwell Catchment Flood Management Plan
GM Minerals and Waste Planning Unit (2012) Joint Waste Development Plan Document for Greater Manchester
GM Minerals and Waste Planning Unit (2012) Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan Document
<b>Local Plans and Programmes</b>
Bury Council (2013) Publication Core Strategy
JBA (2009): Bury, Oldham and Rochdale Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
AGMA/Jacobs/JBA Consulting (2013): Greater Manchester Surface Water Management Plan – Water Street
Bury Council (2012) PPS25 Sequential Test
JBA Consulting (2011) Bury Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment



## Task A2: Developing the baseline information

- 4.1 Aim: Collect relevant social, environmental and economic baseline information and produce a characterisation of the plan area.**
- 4.1.1 Collation of baseline information is required under SEA legislation. It is fundamental to provide a background evidence base for identifying environmental problems and opportunities in Bury and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring the effects of the LFRMS.
- 4.1.2 To consider how the developing LFRMS may affect the environment, it is essential to understand the environmental characteristics of the area and how the environment is likely to change in the future.
- 4.1.3 The baseline sought to identify targets and trends, while also summarising the key issues arising for particular environmental topics. Further details of the environmental baseline are provided in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy SEA Scoping Report – Environmental Baseline Report.

### Data Limitations

- 4.1.4 Data is used to explain how things are changing over time. However, they are limited in how well they can explain why particular trends are occurring and the secondary effects of any changes.
- 4.1.5 The data, therefore, acts as an indicator and has been selected to monitor progress towards the achievement of particular objectives and provide a tangible, measure with respect to broader issues. Much of the data is collected or collated by external bodies and the Council has little control over the spatial scope of the data collected and whether collection methods may change in the future. There are some gaps in the data collected as not all information is consistently available.

## Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues

- 5.1 Aim: Identify key sustainability issues for the SEA to address.**
- 5.1.1 A key role of this Scoping Report and consultation exercise is to identify and agree the significant environmental issues within Bury given the context of the LFRMS.
- 5.1.2 The SEA Regulations identify environmental receptors that must be initially considered for all SEAs. These include:
- Population and human health
  - Biodiversity, flora and fauna;

- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage
- Landscape; and the
- Inter-relationship between the above factors

5.1.3 This list serves as a starting point from which issues have been scoped out of, or into, the SEA, depending on whether or not they are considered likely to affect or be affected by the LFRMS.

5.1.4 The SEA will not address any impacts likely to result during the implementation of any built solution, for example construction impacts that might arise during the building or raising of flood defences. These issues are more appropriately considered during project level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) undertaken for specific schemes. However, if environmental opportunities or constraints of built solutions are broadly identifiable they will be highlighted in the SEA in order to avoid adverse effects and facilitate positive environmental opportunities at an early stage of planning.

5.1.5 Considering the findings of the Sustainability Appraisal of the Bury's Draft Local Plan (2013), the review of relevant policies, plans and programmes (Task A1) and the accompanying SEA Scoping Report Environmental Baseline (Task A2), those topics identified above, for which the likely effects of the LFRMS could be significant have been 'scoped into the SEA. Table 1 describes which topics are scoped into the assessment and why.

**Table 1 - Topics scoped into the SEA Framework**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Scoped Out</b>	<b>Scoped In</b>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>		
Population and properties at risk from flooding		Actions arising from the LFRMS will affect the population and properties within flood risk areas.
Quality of life/social deprivation		Quality of life is affected by flooding, more socially deprived communities are likely to be more significantly affected by the impact of flooding
Employment		Level of flood risk could have a significant effect on existing industry and employment
Noise	The LFRMS will not have a significant effect on noise. The effects of any local flood risk management activities on noise would be considered further at a project EIA stage.	
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>		
International nature conservation sites and known supporting sites.	An HRA will be undertaken separately, the results of which will be incorporated into the SEA Environmental Report	Basic data collection on internationally designated sites from the HRA will be included in the SEA to avoid duplication
National nature conservation sites		Actions arising from the LFRMS could have direct or indirect effects on the features of nationally designated sites. The SEA will focus on those sites potentially affected by current or future flooding.
Local nature conservation sites		Locally designated sites of nature conservation importance may be

Topic	Scoped Out	Scoped In
		affected by current or future flooding.
Nationally and regionally important habitats and species	Detailed information on BAP species and habitats should be considered at the EIA stage.	
Key habitat areas		Flooding could potentially change the nature of habitats and therefore needs to be taken into account.
<b>Soil</b>		
Soils		LFRMS measures could alter the extent or duration of flooding and therefore have implications for soil quality. Impacts on soil quality could subsequently affect other environmental receptors that fall under other SEA topics such as Biodiversity, Water and Population and Human Health.
Contaminated Land		Changes in water management could result in improved protection for areas of known contaminated land or landfill sites, or could negatively affect these sites, by flooding or erosion, which may cause pollution of water bodies and designated conservation sites.
<b>Water</b>		
Water Quality		LFRMS measures could have direct and indirect effects on surface and

Topic	Scoped Out	Scoped In
Water Framework Directive	Although the LFRMS could have direct and indirect effects on water resources, this SEA does not have the scope for a detailed WFD Assessment, which may need to be undertaken separately, depending on the findings of the SEA.	groundwater quality. The SEA objectives will incorporate the basic requirements of the WFD in their underlying assessment criteria.
Flood Risk	Strategy and measures should mitigate flood risk.	
Water Resources		Water resource issues linked to local geology (e.g. groundwater levels) will be considered where relevant. Overall water resources also need to be considered.
<b>Air</b>		
Air Quality	The chemical of predominant concern in Bury is nitrogen oxide, which is associated with traffic emissions. Flood risk management options are unlikely to have significant air quality or noise implications. The most likely affects will be from the construction phase of engineered flood defences, but these will be short lived.	
<b>Climatic Factors</b>		
Climatic Facts		LFRMS has the potential to enhance resilience to climate change, through reducing flood risk or environmental enhancement measures. Opportunities to improve climate

Topic	Scoped Out	Scoped In
		change adaptation will be explored.
<b>Material Assets</b>		
Infrastructure		Actions arising from the LFRMS have the potential to affect key transport routes within the Borough.
<b>Cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage</b>		
Historic Landscape Character		LFRMS options may involve construction activities, land use changes or alterations to flooding regimes that can adversely affect historic landscape character. The options may also manage the flood risk to heritage features or lead to improved access to historic environment sites.
Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other known or unknown features of archaeological and/or heritage interest		LFRMS could potentially affect Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other known or unknown features of archaeological and/or heritage interest. Direct impacts could result from the development or enhancement of flood defences. Indirect impacts may be caused by flooding.
Conservation Areas		LFRMS measures may affect the character and setting of Conservation Areas.
<b>Landscape</b>		
Designated landscapes	The Green Belt has been scoped out of	The SEA will address the impacts of



Topic	Scoped Out	Scoped In
	further assessment.	the LFRMS measures on the Borough's designated landscape as appropriate.
Wider Countryside		The SEA will address the impacts of the LFRMS on the wider countryside not covered by designation. It will make use of the Landscape Character Assessment.
<b>Accessibility and Recreation</b>		
Tourism and Recreation		Actions arising from the LFRMS could affect important tourist, recreational and amenity resources and could present opportunities to deliver recreational benefits.

## **Task A4: Developing the SEA Objectives and Framework**

### **6.1 Aim: Identify the SEA Objectives and Framework to assess the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

- 6.1.1 The draft SEA Framework comprises SEA objectives to address key environmental issues identified in the baseline report, assessment criteria and potential indicators to appraise the effects of the implementation of the LFRMS on environmental receptors.
- 6.1.2 Environmental issues were identified from the analysis of the baseline information which, in combination with the review of plans and programmes, informed the formulation of the SEA objectives and SEA assessment criteria.
- 6.1.2 Potential indicators have been identified for each of the SEA Objectives in the interests of monitoring progress towards delivering these. However, these may not all be collated due to limited resources and difficulty in data availability or collection.

**Table 2 - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy SEA Objectives**

Draft LFRMS SEA Objective	Assessment Criteria Would the LFRMS, in combination with other plans....	Potential Monitoring Indicator
<b>Population and Human Health</b>		
To minimise the risk of flooding and to promote awareness of flooding, but to manage expectations	Reduce flood risk and the risk of direct physical impacts of flooding on people?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of properties/business at risk of flooding;</li> <li>• Number of new developments permitted in areas of flood risk;</li> <li>• Number of developments permitted contrary to EA advice;</li> <li>• Number of flood defences developed;</li> <li>• Number of Sustainable Drainage Systems implemented since publication of the LFRMS.</li> </ul>
	Help provide safe development?	
	Reduce the fear of flooding	
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>		
To protect, enhance and restore biodiversity, flora and fauna, geological and geomorphological features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce damage to, fragmentation or loss of existing designated wildlife sites, wildlife corridors and priority habitats?</li> <li>• Support opportunities to enhance biodiversity?</li> <li>• Maintain or improve existing water levels and water quality?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change in areas of biodiversity importance;</li> <li>• Changes in condition to designated sites;</li> <li>• Achievement of Biodiversity Action Plan targets</li> </ul>

Draft LFRMS SEA Objective	Assessment Criteria Would the LFRMS, in combination with other plans....	Potential Monitoring Indicator
<b>Soil</b>		
To conserve soil resources and reduce land contamination	Require or encourage LFRM schemes on previously undeveloped land?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of proposed and actual flood mitigation developments to be located within the Greenbelt;</li> <li>• Area/Number of incidences where Grade 1,2 or 3 soil is lost due to need for flood defence</li> </ul>
	Reduce risk of soil contamination (e.g. through remediation of contaminated land, or reducing flood risk in known areas of contaminated land)?	
	Reduce soil erosion caused by flooding?	
<b>Water</b>		
To protect and improve the quality of controlled waters in Bury and to sustainably manage water resources	Result in improved drainage and attenuation (e.g. installation of SuDS), so that surface run-off is controlled to reduce pollution of soils and watercourses as well as run-off rates?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological status of rivers</li> <li>• Chemical status of rivers</li> <li>• Condition of water bodies (Water Framework Directive)</li> </ul>
	Reduce flood risk?	
	Improve the ecological conditions of water bodies, with respect to the Water Framework Directive?	
	Prevent or assist future improvement of the physical, chemical or biological status waterbodies	

Draft LFRMS SEA Objective	Assessment Criteria Would the LFRMS, in combination with other plans....	Potential Monitoring Indicator
Climatic Factors		
To reduce contributions to and promote adaptation to the impacts of climate change	Help reduce flood risk to receptors across the SEA topic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicative floodplains under current conditions and under climate change scenarios and the developments occurring within them.</li> </ul>
	Help reduce the impact of flood risk across the range of SEA topic areas.	
Material Assets		
Minimise adverse impacts of local flood risk on key infrastructure, land assets and properties	Improve protection of existing or proposed key transport routes or infrastructure?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and severity of incidents leading to disruption or damage to transport infrastructure;</li> <li>Number and severity of incidents leading to disruption or damage to service provision.</li> </ul>
	Ensure the protection of services, including water, power and telecommunications?	
	Reduce flood risk to properties	
	Have a positive impact on the local economy? e.g. through improved flood protection or enhanced recreation opportunities	
	Reduce flood risk to areas of high quality agricultural land	
	Reduce flood risk to areas important for their mineral resource	
	Reduce flood risk to the access routes used to access any of the above assets.	

Draft LFRMS SEA Objective	Assessment Criteria Would the LFRMS, in combination with other plans....	Potential Monitoring Indicator
Cultural, Architectural and Archaeological Heritage and Landscape		
To protect and enhance and make accessible for enjoyment, the diversity and distinctiveness of landscapes, townscapes, the countryside and the historic environment	Cause visual intrusion to historic landscapes, landscape character or the loss of damage to the significance of other heritage assets and their setting?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of listed buildings at risk of flooding events</li> <li>• Number of flood defences implemented to protect listed buildings since the LFRMS was published</li> </ul>
	Promote schemes that enhance the condition and character and promote understanding of the significance of conservation areas and other heritage assets and their settings?	
	Cause any direct or indirect physical impacts on the borough's features of landscape character, historic, archaeological and architectural or artistic interest, or their setting?	
	Enhance the range and quality of the public realm, including viewpoints and open spaces?	



## Assessment Approach

- 6.1.4 The LFRMS and Action Plan will be evaluated in light of their potential cumulative environmental effects on the different SEA topics. The assessment of these environmental effects will be informed by professional judgement and experience with other flood risk related SEAs, as well as an assessment of national, regional and local trends. In some cases, the assessment will draw upon mapping data to identify areas of potential pressure, for example due to flood risk or presence of environmental designations.
- 6.1.5 In line with the Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (July 2013), a “whole-plan” assessment approach has been used to appraise the LFRMS and Action Plan. This means that the combined effect of the Strategy will be assessed in terms of its impact on each of the topic areas.
- 6.1.6 Consideration will be given as to how the Strategy and Action Plan will affect (both positively and negatively) the environment. Results of the assessment will then be considered in light of the evolution of the environment in the absence of the plan.
- 6.1.7 A basic table will be used to identify the SEA topics which are impacted upon by the Strategy and Action Plan. A basic table will be used to present this information, using the following key, as set out below:

KEY	
	Significant Implications
	Less Significant Implications
	Little or no Implications

- 6.1.8 This matrix is used to screen out those topic areas which will not be impacted upon by the LFRMS. This allows the assessment to focus on those topics with significant impacts.

## **Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SEA**

**Aim: Produce a Scoping Report and consult relevant authorities, the public and other key stakeholders on the scope of the appraisal and the key issues and possible options for solutions.**

A key component of the SEA process is consultation with stakeholders. The consultation throughout this period will be in accordance with Article 6 of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (Regulation 12(6)) defines certain timescales for consulting the statutory bodies on a scoping report. This requires the responsible authority to give the consultation body a period of 5 weeks from the date it receives the Scoping Report. The Council is allowing a 6 week period of public consultation. The statutory bodies are:

- Natural England
- Environment Agency
- English Heritage

Other appropriate consultees will be contacted at various stages throughout the assessment process.