

POLICY BSUI3 MANAGING FLOOD RISK

Proposals requiring a Flood Risk Assessment must demonstrate that the development will be resistant and resilient to all relevant sources of flooding including surface water. **Proposed development must pass the sequential and exceptions test as required by national policy.** The design and layout of proposals requiring a Flood Risk Assessment **as set out in paragraph 6.7.37** must contribute to flood risk management and reduction and:

- a) minimise the risk of flooding on site and not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere;
- b) wherever possible, reduce flood risk overall;
- c) ensure a dry means of escape;
- d) achieve appropriate finished floor levels which should be at least 300mm above the modelled 1 in 100 year plus climate change flood level; and
- e) not create new basement dwellings in areas of high flood risk.

Proposals that would fail to make appropriate provision for flood risk mitigation, or which would increase the risk or consequences of flooding, will be refused.

Opportunities will be sought from the redevelopment of sites in functional floodplain (flood zone 3b) to restore the natural function and storage capacity of the floodplain. Proposals that **result in an increase involve the loss of functional floodplain or otherwise would constrain its in natural function, by impeding flow or reducing flood storage capacity and the environmental quality of the watercourse,** will be **encouraged resisted.**

LONDON PLAN

Policy SI12 – Flood risk management

Justification

6.7.1 Consistent with national and London Plan policy, development in Brent will not be allowed that unacceptably increases the risk of flooding. Development proposals must comply with the flood risk assessment and management requirements set out in the NPPF and the associated technical guidance on flood risk over the lifetime of the development. The West London SFRA provides more detail of the requirements for **Flood Risk Assessments** (FRAs) undertaken to support development proposals in Brent. In accordance with national policy the sequential test will be applied to ensure development is steered to areas with the lowest probability of flooding. Where suitable sites of lower flood risk are not available, the Exceptions Test is a method to demonstrate and help ensure flood risk to people and property will be managed satisfactorily.

6.7.2 Developments which are required to pass the Exceptions Test will need to address flood resilient design and emergency planning in accordance with London Plan policy. This has to take account of the latest climate change allowance as identified by the Environment Agency, but take a precautionary approach to reducing long term risk based on the fact that such allowances are subject to periodic review.

6.7.2a The Plan's site allocations and intensification corridors have been considered to be acceptable in principle taking account of the recommendations of the Brent Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 2 August 2020 (SFRA2) and the Brent Flood Risk Sequential and Exceptions Test September 2020. Applications for their development must be consistent with the recommendations of the SFRA2 and supported with an appropriate FRA that shows that the development does not unacceptably increase flood risk on or off site.

6.7.2b The Council will only consider the redevelopment of sites in functional floodplain to occur within the already identified site allocations and intensification corridors that have been supported by a Level 2 SFRA and Sequential Test. When applying this policy the guidance in the West London SFRA (2018) specifically Sections 3.11.1 and 3.11.2 must be adhered to, so that it is clear which parts of the site are developable and which areas of the site should remain for flood storage (i.e. functional floodplain). The compatibility of development vulnerability classifications for Flood Zones 3a and 3b set out in the Planning Practice Guidance will apply. The policy is specific about the improvements that will be sought such as restoring natural function and storage capacity of the floodplain. The Council will also seek to improve the environmental quality of any watercourse on these sites. The high level of flood risk warrants very careful consideration of design, mitigation and overall environmental improvement, taking into account climate change, and early discussions with the Environment Agency are recommended."

6.7.3 Zone 3 flood zones for fluvial and surface water are shown on the Policies Map. Flood risk zones are shown on maps produced by the Environment Agency, available on their website and updated annually. For ease of use any such changes will also be made to the interactive West London SFRA maps as well as the Policies Map.

Information in support of applications

6.7.4 The following development proposals should be accompanied by a FRA to consider all forms of flooding:

- a) in flood zone 2 or 3 including minor development and change of use
- b) more than 1 hectare (ha) in flood zone 1
- c) less than 1 ha in flood zone 1, including a change of use in development type to a more vulnerable class (for example from commercial to residential), where they could be affected by sources of flooding other than rivers
- d) in an area within flood zone 1 which has critical drainage problems

6.7.5 The West London SFRA sets out a check list for sustainable flood risk mitigation measures and level of detail to be included in site-based FRAs dependant on the flood zone to demonstrate how the development seeks to reduce flood risk. For development within Zone 3 for surface water, the applicant will be expected to have undertaken dialogue with the council's Lead Local Flood Authority representative prior to submission of an application.