

ADDENDUM – Update to the preliminary flood risk assessment report for Central Bedfordshire Council

The preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) and flood risk areas (FRAs) for Central Bedfordshire Council were reviewed during 2017, using all relevant current flood risk data and information, and agreed with the Environment Agency on 22 December 2017.

Changes to the assessment of risk since the preliminary assessment report was published in 2011 are described in the statements in this addendum

The annexes to the preliminary assessment report have been reviewed and updated to show relevant new information since 2011

1. Past flood risk

When reporting past floods as part of the PFRA, information is only required on floods that have occurred since December 2011 and which had significant harmful consequences. In summary only flood events that required a subsequent investigation under Section 19 of the FWMA need to be identified. Since 2011, the Council has undertaken and published two such investigations, these concerned:

- a. Flooding in Stotfold in June 2015, and
- b. Flooding in Aspley Guise, Cranfield, Dunstable and Stotfold in June 2016.

The Council's criteria for defining a 'significant' flood event is defined in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. It should be noted that, in line with its adopted criteria, CBC may consider undertaking a Section 19 investigation where a flood event results in internal flooding to five or more properties. This threshold is significantly lower than the criteria used by the PFRA to identify 'Flood Risk Areas' (FRAs), and therefore not all Section 19 investigations will result in an area that would be identified at significant risk of flooding under the PFRA.

In the second cycle of PFRAs, Dunstable is the only area investigated by the LLFA under Section 19 of the Flood and WATER Management Act 2010 to be identified within an FRA. Dunstable is one of Central Bedfordshire's most urbanised areas. The consequences of the flooding investigated under Section 19 by the LLFA supports the findings of the second cycle PFRA review.

2. Future flood risk

The understanding of flood risk across Central Bedfordshire, from all sources of flood risk, is considered in detail in the Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Although no areas are identified that would be considered significant in the context of the PFRA, the Strategy has informed the Council's understanding of flood risk and categorisation of this across Central Bedfordshire for the purpose of enhanced flood risk management. Please refer to the local Flood Risk Management Strategy for more detail.

3. Flood risk areas (FRAs)

The following FRAs have been identified for the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) 2nd planning cycle: DUNSTABLE.