

## Enclosure 29

- 5.135** In hydrological terms the Falkirk Council area is dominated by the Forth Estuary and the two catchments of the River Avon and Carron that flow into it. The area therefore faces issues of both watercourse and coastal flooding which are identified by SEPA's Indicative Flood Map. Whilst flood risk can often be managed through appropriate mitigation, in some circumstances sustainable flood management or mitigation measures may not be achievable.
- 5.136** The Council in partnership with SEPA and other neighbouring authorities produced a draft Flood Risk Management Plan for the Forth Estuary Local Plan District in early 2015. Currently the Council maintains maps of all watercourses in its area and collects data from a variety of sources on both actual and predicted flooding events. In addition to this, the Council uses SEPA's Indicative Flood Map as a strategic tool to identify land that may be at risk from flooding. This information has been taken into account in allocating land for development.
- 5.137** Opportunities may exist to promote natural flood management along a number of watercourses to help to reduce overall flood risk. This could include wetland restoration, riparian planning, flood plain creation and reconnecting modified watercourses to their natural flood plains. However, it is not considered prudent to promote these opportunities in an uncoordinated fashion as some natural flood management measures may actually have an adverse effect on the flood profile of a watercourse. Where resources allow, the Council will promote the study of the potential for natural flood management measures on a catchment by catchment basis and any measures identified will be promoted through the Local Flood Risk Management Plan and highlighted in subsequent versions of the LDP.
- 5.138** Over the recent past, flooding incidents within Falkirk Council area have been relatively small scale, and have tended to be caused by localised management and maintenance issues. This illustrates the importance of not only avoiding development in areas that will obviously be at risk from flooding, in accordance with the SPP, but making sure, for all development, that best practice design advice for surface water management is followed. Where a planning application is likely to raise a flooding issue from all identified sources, applicants will be required to demonstrate that any flood risks can be adequately managed. In carrying out this assessment Falkirk Council will have regard to the risk framework set out in the SPP.

5.139

**Policy RW06 Flooding**

1. Development on the functional flood plain should be avoided. In areas where there is significant risk of flooding from any source (including flooding up to and including 0.5% (1 in 200 year) flood event) development proposals will be assessed against advice and the Flood Risk Framework in the SPP. There will be a presumption against new development which would:
  - Be likely to be at risk of flooding;
  - Increase the level of risk of flooding for existing development; or
  - Result in a use more vulnerable to flooding or with a larger footprint than any previous development on site.
2. Development proposals on land identified as being at risk from flooding, or where other available information suggests there may be a risk, will be required to provide a flood risk assessment that demonstrates that:
  - any flood risks can be adequately managed both within and outwith the site;
  - an adequate allowance for climate change and freeboard has been built into the flood risk assessment;
  - access and egress can be provided to the site which is free of flood risk; and
  - water resistant materials and forms of construction will be utilised where appropriate.
3. Where suitably robust evidence suggests that land contributes or has the potential to contribute towards sustainable flood management measures development will only be permitted where the land's sustainable flood management function can be safeguarded.