

Mr Rob Niblett
Gloucestershire County Council
Environment Directorate
Shire Hall
Gloucester
GL1 2TH

Our refs: Glouc_04_25/09/2008
and
Glos Level 1 SFRA

Your ref: Level 1 Gloucestershire SFRA

Date: September 2008

Dear Mr Niblett,

RE: Strategic Flood Risk Assessments for Gloucestershire County Council; Cheltenham Borough Council; Cotswold District Council; Forest of Dean District Council; Gloucester City Council; Stroud District Council and Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to be involved in working together in partnership on your Level 1 SFRAs (Dated: September 2008). We write to confirm that the Final Level 1 SFRAs have addressed all of the Environment Agency comments made on the first draft and in discussions since. As a result we are pleased to confirm that we consider that your Level 1 SFRA is fit for use in accordance with PPS25.

Please do keep in mind that your SFRA is a 'living document' and as such needs to be reviewed regularly to see whether there have been changes that may effect the assessment (such as; changes to policy; flood events; improvements to techniques and guidance for investigation of flood risks etc.) and therefore whether it is a sound evidence base to inform your plans.

At our meeting 27 August 2008 it was confirmed to us that all Local Authorities within Gloucestershire will be undertaking Level 2 SFRAs. As agreed at this meeting, in accordance with PPS25 we will expect your Level 2 SFRAs to make further analysis of the current data contained within your Level 1 assessments and to supplement this where necessary with further investigations. We would expect this to comply with PPS25 and to use its Practice Guide and other good practice documents to inform its production. As agreed these Level 2 assessments should provide the information necessary for application of the Exception Test, where needed, as well as further investigation for site allocation areas and where necessary into climate change and the source, pathway and receptors of non-fluvial flooding - particularly in regard to the risk of surface water / overland flow and impounded water bodies.

Finally, thank you for working closely with the Environment Agency on this SFRA. We look forward to working together in partnership over the coming year on your Level 2 SFRAs, from the outset, so that all requirements can be satisfied. In the meantime if you have any questions about how you can best incorporate the information within your Level 1 SFRA into your plans please do feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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Cotswold District Council
Forest of Dean District Council
Gloucester City Council
Stroud District Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council

Beccy Dunn – Halcrow Ltd.