1. **Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Mayor’s agreement to an update of Lewisham’s Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA).

1.2 Lewisham published a PFRA in 2011 to comply with the Flood Risk Regulations 2009. The Environment Agency requires the PFRA to be updated every 6 years to meet the EU Floods Directive. The deadline for submission of the updated report is 22 June 2017.

2. **Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor agrees the update to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment set out in the self-assessment at Annex A.

3. **Policy Context**

3.1 Following severe floods in 2007, the Government commissioned a review by Sir Michael Pitt of the response to flooding at an operational and strategic level. One of the conclusions of the Pitt Review was that "the role of local authorities should be enhanced so that they take on responsibility for leading the co-ordination of flood risk management in their areas."

3.2 The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) gave new statutory duties and powers to local authorities as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) including:

- Producing a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)
- Producing a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP)
- Publishing and delivery of a strategy for local flood risk management.
- Co-operation with other relevant flood risk authorities
- Recording and investigating all 'significant' flooding incidents
- Establishing and maintaining a register of structures which may have a significant effect on flood risk
- Administration and enforcement of consents regarding private changes to ordinary watercourses

3.3 *Shaping our future*, Lewisham’s Sustainable Community Strategy for 2008-2020,
sets out a vision for Lewisham: ‘Together, we will make Lewisham the best place in
London to live, work and learn’. Shaping our future includes the following priority
outcomes relevant to flood risk: ‘Clean, green and liveable: where people live in high
quality housing and can care for and enjoy their environment’.

4. Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

The Flood Risk Regulations establish a framework for managing flood risk that
includes:
- A preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA)
- Identification of areas of potential significant risk identified as Flood Risk Areas
- Mapping of flood hazards and risk
- Flood risk management plans.

4.2 The Flood Risk Regulations require each of the four elements above to be reviewed
and updated every 6 years.

4.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 created Lead Local Flood Authorities in
England and Wales giving local authorities statutory duties and powers for local flood
risk management in relation to ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface
water flooding. The Environment Agency retains responsibility for main rivers and
tidal flooding. Local authorities are required to contribute to the review and updating
of the framework for managing flood risk under the Flood Risk Regulations.

4.4 The PFRA is a high level screening exercise to determine if there is a significant
flood risk in an area and identify areas affected by the risk as Flood Risk Areas.
Identification of an area as a Flood Risk Area means that over the rest of the EU
Flood Directive Cycle the Lead Local Flood Authority has duties to prepare:
- A flood risk map
- A flood hazard map
- A flood risk management plan covering the Flood Risk Areas

4.5 Guidance on the update of PFRAs was published by the Environment Agency (EA) in
February 2017 and has been described by the EA as a light touch exercise.
Lewisham Council is asked to complete a self-assessment providing information on
activity relevant to the PFRA that has happened since the original was published in
2011. The Council is also given the opportunity to comment on the EA’s updated
flood risk maps. Relevant new information since 2011 includes:
- Lewisham’s Flood Risk Management Strategy published in 2015
- Significant flooding incidents – the Council has undertaken one formal
  investigation since 2011 relating to flooding occurring at Loampit Vale in 2016
- Planning documents including the Local Plan (2013), Strategic Flood Risk
  Assessment (2015) and River Corridors Improvement Plan (2015)

4.6 The Environment Agency updated flood risk maps identifying most of London, and all
of Lewisham, as likely to be Flood Risk Areas. This is the same as the flood risk
maps produced in 2009 that were used for Lewisham’s 2011 PFRA.

4.7 A self-assessment using the Environment Agency template is attached at Annex A.
Supporting information relating to the template will also be provided to the
Environment Agency but is not included in this report as the formatting of the
template spreadsheets prohibits this. The Environment Agency will review the
updated information provided by Lead Local Flood Authorities and has set December 2017 as their deadline to finalise the updated PFRAs.

5. **Financial implications**

5.1 There are no specific financial implications resulting from this report.

6. **Legal implications**

- A preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA)
- Identification of areas of potential significant risk identified as Flood Risk Areas
- Mapping of flood hazards and risk
- Flood risk management plans.

6.2 The Flood Risk Regulations require each of the four elements above to be reviewed and updated every 6 years.

6.3 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 created Lead Local Flood Authorities in England and Wales giving local authorities statutory duties and powers for local flood risk management in relation to ordinary watercourses, groundwater and surface water flooding. The Environment Agency retains responsibility for main rivers and tidal flooding. Local authorities are required to contribute to the review and updating of the framework for managing flood risk under the Flood Risk Regulations.

7. **Crime and disorder implications**

7.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.

8. **Equalities implications**

8.1 There are no specific equalities implications resulting from this report.

9. **Environmental implications**

9.1 There are no specific environmental implications resulting from this report.

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 It is recommended that the Mayor agrees the update to the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.

If there are any queries on this report please contact **Martin O'Brien, Asset Management Planning Manager**, 020 8314 6605.

**Background Documents**