

13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City & County Council

Re: CFRAMS Flood Mapping

A Chomhairleoir, a chara,

I refer to the briefing session for Councillors held on 13<sup>th</sup> January in relation to the CFRAMS process (copy attached).

The EU Directive on the *Assessment and Management of Flood Risks* (commonly known as the 'Floods' Directive) came into force late in 2007. The Floods Directive was transposed into Irish Law by means of the *European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010*. It is these Regulations that form the basis of the CFRAMS (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies) process.

The aims of the CFRAM Studies are to:

- assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;
- identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole; and
- work towards strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk.

The initial stage of the process was the identification of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment areas. We are **currently** at the stage of the Flood Hazard Maps. After receipt of observations on the Flood Hazard Maps, the OPW will proceed with the next stage of the process- the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.

Under article 12.2.c of *European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010* the Council may make **such observations in regard to the Flood Maps as such Council thinks proper**. The making of such observations is a reserved function. The latest date for the making of observations to the OPW on the Limerick maps is January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Accordingly, The Council is hereby requested to consider the Flood Mapping produced as part of the CFRAMS process and if any observations on same are to be made to the OPW.



**Kieran Lehane,**  
**Director,**  
**Transport & Travel / Environment**



## Purpose of Presentation

- The purpose of this presentation is
- to set in context the matter of observations on the Flood Hazard Mapping and
- to collate for the Councillors some background to the CFRAMS process.

## Basis of CFRAMS

- The CFRAMS process is founded on three main elements:
- The Flood Review Group Report of 2004
- The EU Floods Directive
- European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010

## Flood Policy Review Group Report

- The inter-departmental Flood Policy Review Group was established in 2002 and report was published in 2004. Among the recommendations of that report were:
- Future policy should seek to minimise the national level of exposure to flood damages through:
  - the identification and management of existing, and particularly potential future, flood risks in an integrated, proactive and river basin based manner
- That River Basin Flood Risk Management Plans (RBFMRPs) be developed
- That comprehensive Flood Hazard Maps be developed
- That an asset register of flood defence be developed for the purposes of risk identification and the determination of maintenance priorities and programmes

## Floods Directive

- The EU Directive on the *Assessment and Management of Flood Risks* (commonly known as the 'Floods' Directive) came into force late in 2007.
- It is a framework directive that requires Member States to follow a certain process for flood planning

## Floods Directive -process

- Undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) to identify areas of existing or foreseeable future potentially significant flood risk (referred to as 'Areas for Further Assessment, or 'AFA's)
- Prepare flood hazard and risk maps for the AFAs and,
- Prepare flood risk management plans, setting objectives for managing the flood risk within the AFAs and setting out a prioritised set of measures for achieving those objectives

## Floods Directive -process

- The Directive also requires that the process is executed coordination with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.
- The Directive also requires that the PFRA and Flood Maps are published, and
- that public and stakeholder consultation and engagement is undertaken in the preparation of the flood risk management plans.
- 



## CFRAMS

- Catchment
- Flood
- Risk
- Assessment and
- Management
- Studies



## CFRAMS

- The Floods Directive was transposed into Irish Law by means of the *European Communities (Assessment and Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010*.
- It is these Regulations that form the statutory basis of the CFRAMS process.



## Aims of CFRAMS process

- assess flood risk, through the identification of flood hazard areas and the associated impacts of flooding;
- identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks for localised high-risk areas and within the catchment as a whole; and
- work towards strategic Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) that sets out the measures and policies that should be pursued to achieve the most cost effective and sustainable management of flood risk.



## Where are we in the CFRAMS process

- The initial stage of the process was the identification of Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment areas.
- We are currently at the stage of the Flood Hazard Maps.
- After receipt of observations on the Flood Hazard Maps, the OPW will proceed with the next stage of the process- the preparation of the Flood Risk Management Plans.



## Flood Maps –important note

- The draft flood maps are not information on floods that have occurred in the past
- The maps are ‘predictive’ flood maps designed, to show the chances of different types of flood events that could occur in the future and their impact. They have been developed from detailed data, modelling tools and techniques.



## Public Consultation Days

- There have been extensive public consultations during the CFRAMS process to date



## Non Statutory Consultations

- The consultations on the Flood Maps were part of a statutory consultation process
- To ensure that the Flood Risk Management Plans will have feasible solutions (to flood risks) the OPW is currently undertaking an informal public consultation in local areas.
- This consultation is part of the overall CFRAM Programme but unlike the statutory consultation on the draft Flood Maps is not a statutory requirement.



## Previous Consultations

AFA	County	Venue	Date	Time
Limerick City	Limerick / Clare	Merchant's Quay, Limerick	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	11am – 8pm
Adare	Limerick	Adare Library	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	12pm – 7.30pm
Clarina	Limerick	Ballybrown/Clarina Community Resource Centre	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April 2015	12pm – 7.30pm
Newcastle West	Limerick	Council Offices Newcastle West.	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	12pm – 7.30pm
Foynes	Limerick	Foynes Community Centre	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2015	12pm – 7.30pm
Cappamore	Co. Limerick	Cappamore Library	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2015	2pm – 7.30pm
O'Brien Bridge / Montpellier / Springfield	Clare / Limerick	Clonlara Sports and Social Club, Castle Oaks House Hotel	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1.30pm – 7.30pm
Castletown	Limerick	Castletown	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1pm – 7.30pm
Croom	Limerick	Croom Enterprise Centre	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	1pm – 7.30pm
Askeaton	Limerick	Askeaton Library	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	2.30pm – 4.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm
Rathkeale	Limerick	Rathkeale Library	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	12pm – 1pm and 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Abbeyside	Limerick	Abbeyside Library	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	1.30pm – 5pm and 6pm – 7.30pm
Athea	Limerick	Athea Hall	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	12pm – 7.30pm
Dromcolliher	Limerick	Dromcolliher Library	Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	11.30pm – 1pm and 6pm – 7.30pm
Kilmallock	Limerick	Kilmallock Library	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2014	11.30am – 4pm



## Recent CRFAMS Public Consultations

Adare	Adare Community Hall,	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Croom	Croom Enterprise Centre,	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Abbeyside	Abbeyside Library,	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2015	2pm to 5pm and 6pm to 7.30
Cappamore	Cappamore Library	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015	12pm to 1pm and 5pm to 6pm
Castletown	Castle Oaks House Hotel,	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Athea	Athea Hall, Con Colbert Street	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Rathkeale	Rathkeale Library,	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 5pm
Askeaton	Askeaton Library	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 4.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm
Newcastle West	Council Offices	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Foynes	Community Centre	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 7.30pm
Dromcolliher	Dromcolliher Library,	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	6pm to 8pm
Kilmallock	Kilmallock Library,	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	2pm to 4.30pm and 6pm to 7.30pm



## Upcoming CRFAMS Public Consultations

- Clarina Community Resource Centre, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 2pm to 7.30pm
- Merchant's Quay, Limerick Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016 2pm to 7.30pm



## Statutory Consultations with the Public on the CFRAMS maps

- The statutory consultations on the CFRAMS maps consisted of displays at Council offices from 20<sup>th</sup> November to 23<sup>rd</sup> December



## Observations

- Under article 12.2.c of *the CFRAMS Regulations* the Council may, within two months after the date of the publications of the Flood Risk Maps, make observations on the Maps
- The making of such observations is a reserved function. The latest date for the making of observations on the Limerick maps is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016



## Future Council involvement in process

- At a later time after the OPW have prepared the Flood Risk Management Plans, the Council will have a further opportunity to make observations on those Plans when they are published.
- Once again those observations will be a reserved function.
- It is anticipated that the draft Flood Risk Management Plans will be published later this year.



## Future Council involvement in process

- The Regulations subsequently allow for a Flood Risk Management Plan to be confirmed by the Minister of Finance.
- After such confirmation, the Plan will again be forwarded to the Council for it to examine, to consider and to decide whether to adopt the Plan or otherwise.



## Observations on the Draft Flood Maps

- The Council may if it wishes make observations on the Draft Flood Maps.
- Alternatively it may choose to Note the Draft Flood Maps



## Observations on the Draft Flood Maps

- There are a number of points that the Council may wish to consider should it wish to make observations:
- The CFRAMS exercise is to be welcomed in that it provides a comprehensive national flood risk mapping on a similar basis throughout the country. It is clear from examination of the Maps that considerable effort has gone into their preparation.



## Observations on the Draft Flood Maps

- There are a number of points that the Council may wish to consider should it wish to make observations :
- The recent flooding on the Shannon and elsewhere has caused hardship for families affected, as well as for farms and other businesses; coming so soon after the 2009 floods it has been a natural reaction of people to question such frequency of flooding. Therefore it may be appropriate to request that the OPW incorporate the experience of the recent flooding in their estimations of future flood risk.



### Observations on the Draft Flood Maps

- There are a number of points that the Council may wish to consider should it wish to make observations :
- Limerick is at the mouth of the Shannon; the Maigue and the Deel are large rivers that also flow into the Shannon Estuary. Measures to address flooding issues upstream always need to be properly designed so as not to worsen flood risk downstream of the improvements.
- In that context, Limerick has a particular interest in seeing that works intended to improve flooding risk upstream of the estuary will not increase flood risks within Limerick City and County.



### Observations on the Draft Flood Maps

- There are a number of points that the Council may wish to consider should it wish to make observations
- Some of the areas shown to be at flood risk are currently protected by embankments. For the protection of premises within such areas it is essential that embankments are maintained and improved in order to reduce the real flood risk to those premises.



### Observations

