GUIDANCE NOTE:
EMERGENCY PLANNING

1. Essential Infrastructure

The success of emergency response is dependent upon a pre-planned course of action. In relation to flooding it is vital that Highly Vulnerable emergency infrastructure, such as hospitals and fire stations, are able to operate and not rendered useless by being flooded themselves. In planning new infrastructure, such as transport links which may be relied upon as essential evacuation routes, it is vital that flood risk is taken into account. Section G11 of PPS25 states that:

"Essential Infrastructure which has to be located in flood risk areas should be designed to remain operational when floods occur."

The Flood Risk Vulnerability and Flood Zone Compatibility Table (D3.22, PPS25) states that essential infrastructure should be sited in Flood Zones 1 or 2.

2. Access Routes

In the event of a severe flood, either by overtopping or defence breach, consideration must be given to the safe evacuation of people of different levels of mobility. The flood extent maps within this Level 1 SFRA highlight the flood risk to access routes during the 100 and 1,000 year return period scenarios. However, the flood mapping does not show the depth or velocity of flooding that would occur. If access is an issue for any of the proposed allocated sites, or there is a risk of overtopping or breach from a flood defence then this will need to be investigated in a Level 2 SFRA in the form of Hazard Mapping.

Further guidance is given in the Sections 5.46 to 5.51 of PPS25.

3. Emergency Planning

Section G12 of PPS25 sets out the importance of flood warning and evacuation plans. The evacuation plan should identify "safe havens", where people forced to evacuate their homes are able to seek refuge. However these warnings and plans will not deal with the actual flood risk alone so it is important to also address the residual risk of flooding.

It is also essential that support services know their responsibilities in the event of flood, (Section H11, PPS25).