

## Report of the Interim Director of Traffic and Transport

### Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to allow the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the progress that Nottingham City Council has been making towards the implementation of the Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. This Strategy concentrated on reducing flood risk from surface water.

The City Council, Environment Agency, and Severn Trent Water all work closely together to reduce flood risk from whatever source to citizens. Therefore the way these organisations work together is critical, and so representatives from the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water will also be present at the meeting.

### Action required

The Committee is asked to review the progress towards the implementation of the Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy, and the work being carried out by all of the flood risk management authorities to reduce flood risk to citizens. The committee is requested to provide feedback to ensure that the work being carried out to reduce flood risk reflects the needs of the community.

### Background information

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 clarified and amended the roles and responsibilities of organisations involved in flood risk management and introduced a significant new role for Nottingham City Council as 'Lead Local Flood Authority' (LLFA). The new responsibilities include:

- Responsibility for managing flood risk from 'local' sources, which includes surface water, minor ('ordinary') watercourses and groundwater,
- Developing, maintaining, applying and monitoring a strategy for local flood risk management (a 'local flood risk management strategy'),
- Investigating flood incidents to identify the organisation(s) with relevant flood risk management functions,
- Developing and maintaining a register of flood risk management assets and features.

The overarching aim of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy is to reduce the impact of flooding on people, property and businesses in Nottingham.

### **The Nottingham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy**

This document was discussed at the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 4 February 2015, and approved by full Council on 9 March 2015. The strategy included an action plan, as reproduced in Appendix 2. Even though the committee has been requested to review progress against

this action plan, it needs to be recognised that many of the actions are still ongoing.

### Statutory Duties

The Council has continued to carry out its statutory duties as required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, (S1 to S6 in the action plan). Flooding was experienced in June 2016, with 23 incidents of flooding reported to the City Council but very few of these involved internal flooding of any properties. The City Council has previously set thresholds regarding when a formal investigation of a flooding incident will occur. These thresholds were not triggered in any flooding in 2016, and so no formal S19 investigations have been instigated.

### Asset Management

The importance of effective maintenance of all drainage assets by all of the flood risk management authorities cannot be stressed sufficiently. Nottingham City Council's key role is ensuring that the highway gullies are operating effectively neither inhibited nor blocked by silt, nor covered in debris. Highway Services also maintain a number of ordinary watercourses throughout the City, ensuring that trash screens are kept clear of debris. To assist in this operation sensors have been fitted to some of these trash screens that automatically warn of rising water levels and alert the operative.

### Community Engagement

With the assistance of the National Floods Forum, (a national charity that supports flood victims) the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and Nottingham City Council have carried out community engagement with the residents of Old Basford. As well as raising the awareness of flood risk amongst citizens, and informing them of the measures being taken to reduce flood risk across this catchment, this forum has also given the flood risk management authorities the opportunity to understand the concerns of these citizens.

In recognition of the need to improve community engagement, as well as providing a more effective flood risk management service the Council is in the process of filling a number of vacant flood risk management posts. Once the team is fully up to strength, Nottingham City Council's ability to act effectively as Lead Local Flood Authority, will be greatly enhanced. In addition it needs to be recognised that flood risk management is a small part of a large number of officers work, for example planners to ensure that new developments do not increase flood risk, emergency planners to ensure that we are prepared and capable to assist citizens displaced from their homes, the Council as a landlord, as well as those members of staff that ensure that highway gullies work effectively.

## **Capital Investment**

In addition the Council has been progressing with the following Capital investment schemes:

### City Wide, Property level protection programme

The first phase of this project was delivered in early 2016, and 30 properties have now a significantly higher resilience against repeat flooding. New flood doors, including patio doors, have been fitted along with special air bricks, and sealing any other gaps through which water could enter the houses. Even though the scheme was implemented by the City Council, using funds from Defra, the measures are the property of the home-owner.

The second phase of this work to protect a further 40 properties is currently being procured, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed by 31 March 2017, in line with the funding requirement.

### Woolsington Close, Strelley; Surface Water Management Scheme

This scheme redirects flood water away from a 14 properties and into Broxtowe Country Park, where it can be stored, and discharged slowly through the existing drainage system without causing a nuisance. The scheme was constructed in April 2016.

### Mapperley Park Surface Water Management Scheme

The regular flooding in Mapperley Park and on Mansfield Road is not a problem that Nottingham City Council can solve alone. Consequently Severn Trent Water and Nottingham City Council are progressing with a joint project to reduce the risk of flooding at this location. The first step is detailed hydraulic modelling, so that we can understand better what affordable measures could be taken. The funding available at the moment is only for the modelling and development, but there is an indication that further funding may be available towards the end of the 6 year flood defence programme.

### Colmon Close, Top Valley; Surface water Management Scheme

Funding is available within the current financial year to implement a flood alleviation scheme at this location. Consultants have carried out detailed modelling work and proposed a series of measures. Since some of these are quite complex, it is unlikely that the scheme will be fully implemented before 31-3-2017, and therefore the Council is in discussion with the Environment Agency about the possibility of deferring implementation of the scheme until 2017/18. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that funds will be available in future financial years.

## Day Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Environment Agency are leading on this scheme. To address flooding issues in this rapid response catchment, it is likely that work will be required within both the County and City areas. Even though some funding is available from Defra in the form of Flood Defence Grant in Aid, match funding will also be required in order to implement the scheme. Consequently a bid has been made to the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) for a wide ranging project to enhance blue / green infrastructure. Should this bid be successful then this will provide some match funding for the flood alleviation scheme.

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