

10 January 2013**Agenda Item:7****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHWAYS****INVESTIGATIONS INTO FLOODING IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE IN JUNE AND
JULY 2012****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the initial results of the investigations into the flooding of properties that occurred in June and July 2012. The County Council continues to invest £500,000 a year in flood protection schemes for communities including North Wheatley and East Markham. The Council is also proactively investigating flooding incidents across the county and working with the Environment Agency on main river flooding, and Severn Trent and Anglian Water on sewer flooding. The County Council continues to provide a first response through its highways and emergency planning teams to floods to protect and assist local communities

Information and Advice

2. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the County Council is a Lead Local Flood Authority dealing with surface water flooding and flooding from ordinary watercourses. The Environment Agency are the lead authority for main river flooding. As well as major rivers like the River Trent a number of smaller watercourses are classified as main rivers and these include the Cocker Beck at Lowdham, the Woodborough Beck at Woodborough and the Crock Dumble at Burton Joyce. There was significant flooding in parts of the County in June and July 2012 and this led to the internal flooding of a number of properties. The County Council is carrying out an investigation to identify the causes of this flooding where there has been internal flooding of property under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act. Internal flooding for this purpose does not include garages, cellars or outbuildings. The Section 19 requirement does not make the County Council responsible for solving the flooding problems, as it simply requires the County Council to identify those risk management authorities who are best placed to resolve the problem and to publish that information. Risk Management Authorities include the Environment Agency, Water Companies, Internal Drainage Boards and District Councils
3. Information on flooding has come from a number of sources including from the County Council Customer Service Centre, District Councils, Severn Trent Water, Internal Drainage Boards, Emergency Services, Parish Councils and from our own highways staff. It is still possible that there may be properties that flooded in

the County that we are not aware of, as there is sometimes reluctance from property owners to make a record that their property has been flooded.

4. This report does not identify the individual property that has been flooded, but makes reference to the area involved. In certain cases further investigation work is being carried out by a different Risk Management Authority such as the Environment Agency who is better placed to reduce flood risk at a specific location.

Areas for Investigation

5. **Cropwell Butler** - There was flooding of a number of properties in the village on Main Street/ Hardigate Road which has required a research into the route, condition and ownership of the surface water drainage system in the village. Severn Trent have also carried out a CCTV of what is currently classified as Public Surface water sewers in the village. The County Council as highway authority checked the condition of highway culverts, and has replaced the culvert under Radcliffe Road. The A46 Trunk Road improvement works drainage system connect into the surface water drains through the village, and we are investigating whether the improvement works have contributed to the problems that the village has experienced. Details of the drainage systems and their method of operation have been requested from the Highways Agency and their contractors and consultants. The County Council remains the lead authority for this ongoing investigation
6. **East Leake** - Several properties were flooded internally on St Mary's Crescent and Manor Road and this is being considered by Severn Trent who are carrying out hydraulic modelling work on their surface water sewer system. which is the main drainage system in this part of the village. Severn Trent are the Lead Authority for this Investigation
7. **Keyworth** - There was some property flooding on Nottingham Road possibly from overland flow from higher ground. Again as at East Leake, Severn Trent are modelling their surface water sewers in the village to identify any possible causes, and are the lead authority for this investigation.
8. **Bingham** – Surface water flooding occurred on Hill Drive. The owner of surface water drains on the Hill Drive estate was traced and maintenance works were carried out by their owner, a local housing association. Bingham is a good example of a town where a significant proportion of the surface water system is not adopted by any authority, and where ownership and maintenance responsibilities are confused. The County Council has led on this investigation
9. **Lowdham** - Although only one property experienced flooding this summer the flooding risk to the village remains significant. The Cocker Beck watercourse through the village is classified as a main river and flooding occurs when it overtops its banks. The Environment Agency who are responsible for the Cocker Beck are leading in determining whether any improvements to the existing flood defences are possible and achievable in financial terms.

10. **Woodborough** - Flooding in the village is caused when the Woodborough Beck breaks its banks and floods adjacent properties on Main Street. The Woodborough Beck is a main river and the responsibility of the Environment Agency through the village. They are the lead authority in this investigation.
11. **Burton Joyce** - One property was flooded adjacent to the Crock Dumble which again is a Environment Agency main river, and they are considering whether property protection is feasible at this property.
12. **Tollerton** - One property flooded in summer 2012 and again in November 2012 (3 further times) when a number of adjacent properties also flooded. Initial investigations suggest that this may be due to the watercourse which runs alongside this property, rising when it is not able to drain to high water levels in a nearby main river. Further technical advice from The Environment Agency is being sought on the main river interaction. There are also suggestions that changes to land use and the watercourse upstream may also have contributed to the problem. The County Council is leading this investigation.
13. **Car Colston** - A property was flooded in the summer 2012, but this was only reported to the local Internal Drainage Board in late November 2012 and no investigation has been carried out. The County Council will lead on this investigation.
14. The Strategic Flood Risk Management Board For Nottingham and Nottinghamshire which is Chaired By Cllr Laughton and where all Risk Management Authorities are represented, will help steer the investment of all authorities to reduce flood risk to these areas.

Conclusions

15. The purpose of the investigations is to identify those risk management authorities who are best placed to resolve flooding issues at a particular location, and to try and develop schemes in partnership to reduce flood risk to affected communities.
16. It is suggested that a further progress report is brought to this committee in 6 months to update the findings from the investigations listed together with information on schemes that are developed. The further progress report will include any further incidents that have occurred during November.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. The investigations are legally required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
18. This report has been compiled having given due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty and after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the

service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is RECOMMENDED that the Committee note the result of these initial investigations.

Andrew Warrington
Service Director Highways

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Andy Wallace – Flood Risk Manager Tel: 0115 977 4590

Constitutional Comments

Committee has the power to decide this Recommendation. SHB. 04.12.12

Financial Comments

There are no direct financial implications arising from the contents of this report IC 11.12.12

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All