



REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update for Members on the latest position in relation to the Council's duties and responsibilities under the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
2. To provide an update on current major flood investigations and progress on major flood protection schemes.

Information

3. Following severe flooding during the summer of 2007, the government commissioned an independent review (the 'Pitt Review') which in 2008 recommended that local authorities should lead on the management of local flood risk, working in partnership with other organisations. Two key pieces of legislation have brought this forward; the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) which transpose the EU Floods Directive into UK Law and the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). Currently 78,700 properties are estimated as being at risk of flooding across the County.
4. Since 2010 the Council has been a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) having powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities. The County Council does this by working together with other organisations including the Environment Agency, who manage flooding from generally larger rivers (known as Main Rivers, such as the River Trent), Internal Drainage Boards managing low lying areas, District, Borough, Parish and Town Councils and infrastructure/ utility providers, such as Severn Trent Water and the Highways Agency. Partnership work is overseen by a joint Strategic Flood Risk Management Board with Nottingham City Council that meets every six months.
5. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses).

Lead Local Flood Authority General Update

6. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council is delivering all its statutory duties and obligations under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which include:
 - Developing, maintaining, applying and monitoring of our Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan for local flood risk covering Nottinghamshire which was

published in January 2016 and updated in 2020. This suite of documents supports our Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment which was published in 2011 and updated in 2017. A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment is an assessment of floods that have taken place previously and that could take place in the future. It considers flooding from surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. This document is reviewed and approved at a National level.

- Co-ordinating activity with other local bodies and communities through public consultation, scrutiny and delivery planning.
- Co-operating with other Risk Management Authorities to improve effectiveness, delivery and efficiencies.
- Carrying out physical works to manage local flood risks in Nottinghamshire.
- Maintaining a register of assets – these are physical features that have a significant effect on flood risk across the county. Currently our register holds around 2000 records relating to bridges, culverts, historic structures, retaining walls and other drainage structures. This information is publicly available on the County Council's flood risk web pages. An inspection regime is ongoing of all Critical Assets across the County.
- Investigating significant local flooding incidents and publishing the results of such investigations in a Section 19 report. Significant for NCC equates to 5 or more properties suffering internal flooding in any one catchment. To date we have produced and published 37 bespoke reports.
- Using the powers under the Land Drainage Act 1991 to regulate our 1600 miles of ordinary watercourses (outside of internal drainage districts) to maintain a proper flow. This is achieved by issuing Consents for altering, removing or replacing certain structures or features on ordinary watercourses; and enforcing obligations to maintain flow in a watercourse and repair watercourses, bridges and other structures in a watercourse. During the last four years over 400 applications have been considered for consenting works on an ordinary watercourse. Our processes have recently been updated and streamlined to be more efficient and cost effective. Online applications and payment systems are now available to applicants and a fast track service and compliance checking charges for the larger developments are set to be implemented.
- Undertaking a statutory consultee role providing technical advice and comments on surface water drainage to local planning authorities on major and sensitive developments. Over 3930 planning applications have been received since April 2015, 2980 of those have been responded to with bespoke responses. Last year the service responded to 98.9% of applications in the required 21 days and in the last 6 months developments with 19,322 homes have been looked at as part of our planning responses. The County Council is committed to ensuring new developments adopt sustainable approaches to surface water management. To this end, the flood risk team are integrating local flood risk management into the planning process and supporting sustainable growth. We encourage and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in all new developments.

The table below shows the district split of planning applications received over the last 9 months.

Ashfield	Bassetlaw	Broxtowe	Gedling	Mansfield	Newark and Sherwood	Rushcliffe
84	120	36	42	97	188	154
TOTAL						921

- Playing a lead role with emergency planning and with recovery after a flood event. Local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act and must have plans to respond to emergencies, and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.
- Utilising the power to designate specific features as flood risk management assets, which give a degree of protection from damage and removal.
- Managing flood risk from surface runoff, ordinary watercourses and groundwater. Over 1300 localised reports of flooding have been investigated in the last eighteen months. The service has developed a robust approach to the prioritisation of schemes to manage flood risk. We have identified areas at greatest risk from local flood sources and make the best use of available information to develop, resource and prioritise. Working closely with colleagues in Via East Midlands Ltd. specifically the recently appointed Highway Drainage Manager and the Drainage Champions we are adopting an integrated approach where we are addressing issues concerning an overlap between surface water run-off and highway flooding.
- In the last six years 1,051 properties have been internally flooded in the county.

Year	Internals	Business	Residential
2015	2	2	0
2016	53	0	53
2017	0	0	0
2018	87	0	87
2019	550	163	387
2020	359	60	299
Totals	1,051	225	826

- Investigating flooding events and pursuing possible solutions. Where we have areas in the County that do not meet the criteria for flood mitigation schemes, we will consider carrying out work funded via the £100k Land Drainage Budget. Following a prioritisation process and working with Local Communities, Elected Members and other Risk Management Authorities we organise the demands into a yearly programme.
7. The 18th January saw meetings of the Local Resilience Forum Flooding Tactical Coordinating Group (Chaired by Nottinghamshire Police) and the County Council's Risk, Safety and Emergency Management Board to discuss the possibility of river flooding in the county as a result of Storm Christoph. The multi-agency response to the week's flooding episode stood down on Saturday 24th January as the levels on the Trent began to stabilise.

Throughout the week the main areas of concern were along the Nottinghamshire Trent corridor from the south to the north, with the Environment Agency predicting potential high levels of internal flooding based on rising river gauge indicators. The communities of Gunthorpe and Tolney Lane in Newark were prepared for evacuation, however the river levels began to stabilise and thankfully this action was not necessary.

8. The week long multi agency approach worked well and the preparation in light of the added complication of Covid 19 to support and prepare our at risk communities was a priority. Over 250 calls were made to clinically extremely vulnerable residents and other vulnerable residents to offer support and to plan for potential evacuations. Communication with Elected Members and the wider Public were a constant focus and colleagues in Via East Midlands Ltd., Communications, the Customer Contact Centre, Communities staff and Emergency Planning worked long and hard to manage the response. In addition to requests handled by the districts Via East Midlands Ltd. delivered almost 5000 sandbags, some to individual households who were in the very vulnerable category, closed 12 roads and provided additional signage to 14 communities and mobilised gully emptying tankers to respond to local requests. Thankfully no internal flooding was reported during this worrying and challenging time.

Resilience Update

9. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, we are committed to reducing the risk of flooding across the County. The Flood Risk Management team provides a service for all residents within the County, both domestic and commercial, with an aim to educate, support, influence and empower. We look to support communities through flood resilience intelligence that is site specific and bespoke, assisting communities to understand how to proactively manage flood risk and resilience measures.
10. We work with communities to enable them to become more resilient to flooding and to understand their land drainage responsibilities, with the ambition to enable some 199 communities to 'Prepare not Repair' and engage with decision making across the 10 Risk Management Authorities. Utilising knowledge sharing, community participation, actions and leadership to reduce economic impacts of flooding and protect our customers quality of life. We currently have active working relationships with Claborough, Clayworth, Bleasby, Kimberley, Normanton on Soar, Gotham, Tollerton, Thurgarton, Southwell, Lowdham, Balderton and Caunton and will continue to expand this initiative across the county. The progression of flood risk management technology including the MyNotts Application and improvements to our online resources will assist with this ambition. This area of work is very well supported by colleagues in Emergency Planning and Via East Midlands Ltd. especially with regards to Flood Warden recruitment and training.
11. In the 2020 March Budget, the Chancellor announced that the flood and coastal erosion risk management funding was to be doubled to £5.2bn for the next 6 years, from the 1st April 2021. HM Treasury have announced that £140m of the £5.2bn will be made available to be spent this financial year 20/21 to accelerate schemes and maximise the number of properties that can be better protected. As part of this announcement a £200m fund was made available to implement innovative projects which help communities become more resilient to flooding. All LLFA's across the country are invited to apply by the end of January to compete to be one of the 25 applications chosen. Nottinghamshire County Council are submitting a bid to the initiative which could fund 100% of project costs to assist the community of Girton in Newark and Sherwood. The bid is for an innovative project which will aim to help the community of Girton live with water, prepare and protect themselves from flooding and so recover more

quickly. The 25 chosen projects will be announced in the Spring 2021 and be delivered as part of the next 6 year programme.

Update on Flood Investigations and Schemes and Section 19 Investigations

12. The current flood risk investment programme is facilitating the delivery of 5 significant schemes across the county with a total estimated value of £8.3m. A further 23 schemes are being considered for feasibility and design. In 2020/21 Flood Risk Management has secured external funding of over £1M towards flood alleviation schemes, which compliments the £900k brought in last year. We will continue as ever to seek external funding opportunities wherever possible.
13. In July 2020 DEFRA announced that they will cover any costs associated with Flood Defence Grant in Aid funded scheme delays caused by the Covid 19 restriction that result in an exceedance of approved funding. We are currently evaluating our position on Southwell and Hucknall Titchfield Park Flood Alleviation Schemes and will make claims if applicable.
14. The County has been subjected to two significant flooding events: February 2020 and June 2020. An isolated event in August also led to internal flooding of 5 businesses. A total of 359 properties are recorded as having suffered internal flooding across almost 80 communities and our estimates suggest some 180,000 people across the County will have been impacted by these events in one way or another.
15. **SR20 (Defra Spending Review 2020)** – The Flood Risk Management team have recently been successful in securing a total of £520k DEFRA funding to complete hydraulic studies on a number of catchments across the County. These studies will cover West Bridgford (£200k), Mansfield (£100k), Bleasby (£25k), Rhodesia (£20k), Clarbrough (£45k), Shireoaks (£25k), Retford (£75k) and Gotham (£30k) and are all programmed to be completed during 2021. It is hoped that the outputs from these studies will identify areas for potential further flood mitigation investment. Our approach to delivering these studies and improvements will see us liaise with all other relevant Risk Management Authorities and communities where applicable. It is hoped that the outputs from these studies will identify areas for potential further flood mitigation investment.
16. The additional funding secured through DEFRA for the emerging flood risk schemes across the County is valuable. We are exploring multiple funding sources with private sector partners initiating conversations and working with businesses to secure resources through initiatives such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) days.
17. **Southwell** - NCC successfully negotiated the rigorous Environment Agency approval process and in February 2018 secured a total of £4.4 million for the engineering scheme and £350k of Local Levy funding for the Natural Flood Management scheme. Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority are responsible for the overall delivery of all elements of the Southwell Flood Alleviation project. The project management is overseen by a Project Board, made up of the key partners.

Project Board key partners are:

- Nottinghamshire County Council – Project Lead.

- Via East Midlands Ltd. – Design and Construction of engineering schemes.
- Southwell Flood Forum – Community Representatives.
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board – Watercourse Management.
- Southwell Town Council – Community Representatives.
- Newark and Sherwood District Council – District Representatives.
- Trent Rivers Trust – Natural Flood Management delivery.
- Environment Agency – Lead Funding Partners.
- Severn Trent Water – Utility Company.

18. The funding package was supported with further additional partnership contributions including £600k investment from the County Council, £220k from Newark and Sherwood District Council, £120K Southwell Town Council, £25k Southwell Flood Forum, an additional £300k Local Levy for the flood mitigation scheme and £233k Renew and Repair grant community contributions from a central government fund.

19. The flood defence proposals have two key elements: physical engineering solutions being designed and delivered by Via East Midlands Ltd and Property Flood Resilience measures being designed and delivered by Whitehouse Construction Ltd. Development of detailed design for the physical engineering proposals is progressing well with Via East Midlands Ltd. Construction commenced in Autumn 2019 with completion by the end of September 2021. Whilst every effort has been made to continue with the project during the Covid 19 situation it has resulted in a predicted 3 month extension to project completion with further complications including land negotiations and archaeological constraints necessitating a total contract extension of 6 months.

20. The Property Flood Resilience works are being delivered by Whitehouse Construction, following a competitive tendering process. At the time of writing (January 2021) protection measures had been installed to over 100 properties. We will be continually reviewing which properties are protected by each element of the project as the designs develop. We are also looking at ways of providing protection to a number of Listed Buildings in the catchment and are liaising with the Conservation Team at Newark and Sherwood District Council in order to agree the proposals.

21. The Natural Flood Management proposals within the catchment are now all complete and operational.

22. Part of the wider catchment flood mitigation proposals includes a project to retrofit sustainable urban drainage features at Lowes Wong School. This work was substantially completed late November 2019 and has been designed and delivered using Via East Midlands Ltd. The project was joint funded by NCC Property Team and has a total value of £550k. Bad weather towards the end of 2019 prevented final completion of the project which was further complicated by both the weather and Covid 19 this year. However, the project team of Via and their contractors worked closely with the School management team to complete any works necessary and ensure they could open their doors as safely as possible once the restrictions on Schools were relaxed. The final smaller details of this project will be completed by the end of March 2021. During the storm events of November, February, and June there

was no internal flooding reported in Southwell and a member of the Southwell Flood Forum reported no surface water runoff from the Lowes Wong site during the heavy rain on 23rd December, significant evidence of the success of the project.

23. **Egmanton** – The first part of this scheme concerning the village centre was completed in 2017 and the final element of the scheme, consisting of an above ground storage area, was completed in August 2020. The project was delivered by the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board with support from the County Council.
24. **Hucknall Titchfield Park Brook Scheme** - A project to protect 86 properties from flooding along the Titchfield Park Brook catchment has been allocated £912k of Flood Defence Grant in Aid and Local Levy funding for delivery in 20/21 with support from NCC capital. The business case was approved in August 2019 and is progressing through detailed design stages. The project has three discreet elements and will be delivered utilising expertise available from Ashfield District Council (as landowners of Titchfield Park) and Via East Midlands Ltd. A contract to deliver the Property Flood Resilience measures has been awarded to Whitehouse Construction Ltd using the Environment Agency's National Framework. Project. This element of the project will see 43 properties receive bespoke property flood resilience measures and work began on site in January 2021. Completion of all elements of the project is expected by March 2021.
25. **Lowdham** - The Environment Agency are continuing to develop the outline business case for a flood alleviation scheme to protect Lowdham with a view to submitting their business case in Spring 2021. Officers from the Flood Risk Management Team are liaising with the Project Team at the Environment Agency and the Lowdham Flood Action Group to help support progress of both the project a community resilience where necessary. In July 2020 DEFRA announced an additional £5m contribution to this project to help secure its deliverability, with a condition that this be spent by 2021/22. NCC working in Partnership with Severn Trent Water, improvements have been made to the management of surface water on the Southwell Road, that will reduce the risk of flooding to several homes once completed. These improvements were delivered by Severn Trent Water on our behalf whilst they were on site working on their sewerage system. Further improvements are planned within the Old Tannery Drive estate and these will be completed once formal land entry issues have been resolved with the relevant landowners. These improvements are being funded by NCC Capital and a contribution from Via East Midlands Ltd. To compliment the ongoing work in Lowdham Via East Midlands Ltd. have undertaken several highway schemes which have been very well received by the local community and praised by the local flood action group FLAG.
26. **Thurgarton** – The Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board have identified their preferred option for reducing the risk of flooding to the catchment and currently looking at funding options. NCC have made an allocation of £65k available as a contribution to support any viable proposals.
27. **Shireoaks** - Following a successful bid to DEFRA via the SR20 programme for £25k the County Council are working in collaboration with the Trent Rivers Trust to survey the upper catchment of Shireoaks with a view to implementing Natural Flood Management measures. The aim of this project will be to store water on the land surrounding Shireoaks hopefully lessening potential future flood impacts. The feasibility study for this project will be completed by April 2021.

28. **Retford** - Following a successful bid to DEFRA via the SR20 programme for £75k the County Council are working in partnership with the Trent Rivers Trust to survey the catchment of the Retford Beck with a view to implementing Natural Flood Management measures. It is hoped that these measures will slow the flow to the Beck whilst also complementing the proposed engineered flood mitigation scheme managed by the Environment Agency. Work will also include working with the Isle of Axholme IDB to survey the Carr Dyke and its relationship with the River Idle. There are properties along Darryl Road in Retford which are subject to a significant flood risk from the Carr Dyke. It is hoped this work will indicate a scheme which could reduce this risk in future.
29. **Worksop** - Following the major flood event in November 2019, which saw 320 properties internally flooded, the County Council are continuing to work in partnership with the Environment Agency, Bassetlaw District Council and the Canal and Rivers Trust to investigate the incident and work towards mitigating against the risk of repeat flood events. Regular multi-partnership meetings attended by County Councillors are underway and the outcome of these meetings are published on NCC website. New resilience stores and sandbag supplies have been secured and an operational protocol has been established for times of flood. Flood Warden training is underway with volunteers in the local community and every effort is being made to keep the local community informed of progress and to provide information to assist them in becoming self-resilient to the risk of flooding in the future.
30. **Calverton** - The early partnership working between NCC and Severn Trent Water in this catchment has led to the utility company securing significant investment to deliver a capital improvement project in the catchment. The project is currently in detailed feasibility stage and once options are identified we will work together to identify ways of delivering mutually beneficial outputs in the catchment. NCC are currently liaising with Severn Trent Water's team to programme in a delivery date, however this is dependent on the outcome of feasibility / design. Once a preferred option has been agreed arrangements will be made to share these with the wider community.
31. **Arnold** - Nottinghamshire County Council have completed the Section 19 report into the devastating flooding that happened in June 2019. We are continuing to work closely with residents and our partners Severn Trent Water and Gedling Borough Council to clarify responsibilities and identify potential measures to reduce and mitigate the risk of flooding events in the future. Due to its history of flooding this area has been included as part of the Daybrook Upper Catchment Study detailed further in paragraph 30. Several properties affected within Arnold have now been fitted with Property Flood Resilience measures. This project has been led by Severn Trent to add an additional level of protection to properties in the area. NCC are additionally installing Property Flood Resilience measures on properties in the area of which were not included in the Severn Trent programme.
32. **Daybrook Upper Catchment Study** - In order to understand the complex interaction between surface water assets in the upper Daybrook (Arnold) catchment, NCC secured £99k of Local Levy to carry out a detailed study. The study has been carried out by Severn Trent Water and their specialist contractors and the final report was completed in July. An executive summary of the report was presented to Local Members in 2020 prior to submitting final amendments for the document. Members and Officers have worked together to agree

a prioritised list of areas for investment and further details of those are contained within the report partners are going to launch this programme in the spring of 2021.

33. **Newthorpe** - Severn Trent Water as lead authority are currently carrying out detailed feasibility on the catchment. NCC have contributed to the feasibility study to allow a cohesive study into all sources of flood risk in the area. Preferred options will be progressed through Severn Trent Waters investment process with financial support from NCC capital funding and a Section 106 contribution. Severn Trent Water are currently progressing optioneering with close interaction with NCC as part of this process, preferred option has been completed and early engagement with NCC has been undertaken. We are currently working on creating a project utilising Severn Trent's data with the ambition to secured extra funding in Quarter 1 of 2021.
34. **Girton**- Has a significant flood history and a community that lives with a continuing flood risk, the village was surrounded by water from the River Trent and very close to flooding again due to the impacts of Storm Christoph in January 2021. The size of the village makes traditional flood defence difficult to finance, however the recent Innovative Flood Resilience Programme announced in the Chancellors March 2020 Budget has provided an ideal opportunity to assist that community in need. Nottinghamshire County Council has submitted a bid to this initiative to fund an innovative project which will aim to help that community live with water, prepare and protect themselves from flooding and so recover more quickly. An announcement on successful bids will be made in Spring 2021.
35. **Sutton on Trent** - Following severe flooding in 2018 NCC worked closely with Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board to understand the causes of the flooding and ways to reduce the risk of future occurrences. The IDB have identified their preferred option for reducing the risk of flooding to the catchment and are currently looking at funding options, with a view to submitting an application for Flood Defence Grant in Aid in 2021/22. NCC have made an allocation of £50k available as a contribution to support any viable proposals.
36. **Normanton on Soar** – A scheme to help resolve surface water and highway flooding in Normanton is currently in final design with the scheme being led by Severn Trent Water Ltd. and an investment decision expected in February. This scheme has necessitated a pragmatic approach to problem solving from all parties affected including NCC Highways, Severn Trent Water, Normanton on Soar Parish Council, the Environment Agency and NCC Flood Risk Management and on completion will see benefits delivered to all affected.
37. **Willoughby on the Wolds** - NCC are working closely with Severn Trent Water to identify both short and long term solutions to prevent localised flooding and pollution of a watercourse. NCC have been working with residents to clear the watercourse of silt and debris, whilst Severn Trent Water continue to investigate the operation of their drainage network. Severn Trent Water are liaising with the Parish directly and NCC will retain an overview of the situation.
38. **Clarborough** - Following a successful bid to DEFRA for £45k via the SR20 programme and to the Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for £30k of Local Levy; the County Council are working with the Trent Rivers Trust to run a Natural Flood Management project in Clarborough. This project began in July 2020, working with local landowners to identify the optimum areas to install Natural Flood Management measures. The project is due to finish by the end of 2021 and once completed should reduce the risk of repeat flooding to the

community. Alongside this work we are appraising a shortlist of options for an engineered flood mitigation scheme for Clarborough. We continue to update the Parish Council on developments and assist the community in becoming self-resilient to the risk of flooding in the future.

39. **Gotham** - Section 19 reports have been published for both significant flood events suffered by the residents of Gotham in November 2019 and February 2020. Driven by the severity of those events and similar events historically, the County Council Flood Risk Management Team working with Severn Trent Water, Via, local organisations and the Parish Council, have carried out work to repair and improve the condition of the existing drainage system. The benefits of this valuable work were evident during the recent Storm Christoph where the renewed drainage network was observed to work more effectively with no significant flooding reported. The Flood Risk Management Team have also asked the Trent Rivers Trust to survey the land surrounding Gotham with a view to implementing Natural Flood Management measures. The aim of this project is to store water on the land surrounding Gotham further lessening potential future flood impacts. The feasibility study for this project has been funded by a successful bid to DEFRA for £30k via the SR20 programme.
40. **West Bridgford** – Following the significant rain storms last August which caused some severe surface water flooding across the catchment, Via East Midlands Ltd, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Severn Trent Water, NCC Emergency Planning and the NCC Flood Risk Management team are working together to investigate and address a number of concerns on the network. This project is part of the Spending Review 2020 funded by DEFRA. NCC are working closely with key Risk Management Authorities in the area to manage and understand the risk of flooding in several locations across the catchment, several site meetings have been held with various members of the public and risk management authorities to gather additional data to feed into investigations across West Bridgford.
41. **Tollerton**- Following the devastation of the flooding events in November 2019 and February 2020 we have completed detailed investigations into surface water drainage assets on Tollerton Lane and Cotgrave Lane and are pursuing a number of improvements in these areas. The improvements include works to the highway drainage system and riparian owned watercourses and culverts and Property Flood Resilience. We are liaising with Via East Midlands Ltd and relevant land owners with a view to ensuring surface water in the area is managed as effectively as possible and to reduce the likelihood of future flooding events. Via East Midlands Ltd currently have an approved works programme to undertake a large variety of improvement works in the area including, over 300-metre of highway drainage and a replacement of a 12-metre culvert under the highway. We also continue to liaise with affected residents where possible to ensure they are kept informed.
42. **Radcliffe on Trent** - Following a number of reported incidents of flooding across the catchment, we are currently pursuing maintenance based improvements in a number of areas in Radcliffe on Trent. We are also working with riparian owners to ensure existing surface water systems operate as effectively as possible. Investigations and feasibility works are taking place into the flooding at Thomas Avenue in order to identify ways of reducing surface water runoff from the fields. Close liaison also continues with residents on Clumber Drive following the flooding in February last year. In response to the Flood Alerts and Warnings issued during week 18 - 25th January 2021 sandbags were delivered to The Green as a precautionary measure and visual checks were made on River levels at Wharf Lane Caravan Park to support our understanding of the emerging situation.

Local Levy 2020/2021 Update

43. Central Government is currently investing £2.6bn nationally in a six-year Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management programme, of which approximately £170m will be spent in the Trent RFCC region. The local levy is vital in supporting this programme of schemes and studies and directly helps reduce flood and coastal risk to communities. It helps to ensure we maximise the use of central Government funds, and also fund locally important schemes where helping our communities, including local businesses. In many cases the use of local levy has enabled schemes to progress sooner and attract a significant amount of additional national funding, further increasing our capability to address areas of flooding.
44. Since 2014 Nottinghamshire County Council have been very successful in bidding into the Levy securing approximately 2.6 million for flood risk schemes in the county, to work with communities to reduce flood risk. The sums secured equate to around 40% of the overall Local Levy pot.

Digital Media

45. As a Lead Local Flood Authority, we are committed to ensuring all residents, users and interested bodies can access a wealth of information in order to better understand the risk of flooding within Nottinghamshire. The Flood Risk Management Strategic Action Plan identifies a need to increase knowledge on the risks of flooding as well as providing guidance, support and greater knowledge to those at risk and those who have already suffered flooding. Currently we are working with our key business partners within Nottinghamshire County Council to better understand how to update and present our information in a clear and succinct manner in order to better disseminate that information to our key users. We are working with other teams within the authority to ensure a level of continuity to the advice provided to the users and are exploring the use of the MyNotts app. We have refreshed our public facing website in order to better display information to the public. This update has been heavily audited by our key business partners to ensure that any changes have been a positive step towards ensuring all residents, users and interested bodies can access this information easily. Further work is currently being undertaken to produce leaflets of information of which can be sent to any relevant resident within Nottinghamshire in order to provide greater guidance, support and knowledge.

Charging for Services

46. Following the Highways and Transport Services Charging for Services Report that went through Communities and Place Committee on the 5th March 2020 the Flood Risk Management Team have put together a new process in order to generate additional income through the Land Drainage Consent programme. The team has now started using this approach for Land Drainage Consents and is operational.

Telemetry

47. Planning and preparing for flooding as a community can reduce the impact it has, through knowing when to act. Flood telemetry systems monitor watercourses and keep track of water levels, they provide data that indicates when flooding may occur. Based in and around local watercourses telemetry technology can give residents and agencies enough time to prepare for flooding and take action. A combination of telemetry and camera monitored sites across the County in key high-risk locations are proposed as part of a telemetry pilot scheme. This scheme will assist in the managing and analysing of Risk Management Authorities'

responses to flooding and help inform how to better manage these high-risk locations. Across Nottinghamshire there are large number of critical drainage assets including: trash screens, culverts, weirs, grills and other structures that function to collect debris, manage flows and prevent blockages of our watercourses. These key high-risk locations form part of our current asset inspection programme. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, non-essential businesses ceased trading. As such undertaking further research and information gathering during this time was not possible. We have secured and are undertaking a trial of this technology and we will be undertaking installation in the upcoming months in each of our pilot areas.

Drones

48. We are currently in the process of identifying appropriate training courses for members of the authority to become adequately and appropriately trained as pilots. The Civil Aviation Authority have been contacted regarding the application of a licence for NCC to be given permission to undertake commercial flights within Nottinghamshire. Operational and logistical details will be taken through Place Leadership Team in due course.

Flood Resilience Programme

49. Following the significant flood events in November 2019 and February 2020, the County Council identified the need to implement Property Flood Resilience measures (PFR) to properties in areas vulnerable to flooding but not covered by Central Governments Flood Protection Grants. At Full Council on the 27th February 2020 it was proposed that funding in the region of £2m be set aside to be put towards flood prevention schemes in Nottinghamshire, with the ambition that this funding be matched by partners including the Environment Agency. £1m of this funding is being utilised to fund the Property Flood Resilience.

50. In order to help accelerate the provision of flood defences to flood victims a PFR prioritisation tool has been developed to ensure those areas in need are effectively and justifiably targeted. These reliance measures are for those most susceptible to flooding and look to reduce the likelihood of water entering properties at ground level. Proposals for parts of Jacksdale, Ollerton, Cropwell Bishop, Tollerton and East Markham are all currently being developed with a view to deliver agreed measures over the coming months. The work will be delivered by Whitehouse Construction Ltd. who have been procured by NCC through the Environment Agencies PFR framework. This programme is evolving and will be further developed in the coming months and reported back to Committee.

Scheme Delivery Partners

51. NCC are actively engaged with a number of key partners to enable better scheme delivery and communication across the county. The Flood Risk Management Team works in collaboration with multiple partners and consults with these agencies to assist in the development of pipeline schemes, new initiatives and improvements to processes. We have an influence on regional (Catchment wide) and national policy through being part of the networks below:

- The Environment Agency.
- Canal and Rivers Trust.
- City, Town, District and Parish Councils and Meetings.

- Local Flood Forums.
- Residents and Businesses.
- Severn Trent Water.
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board.
- Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
- Association of Drainage Authorities.
- Trent Rivers Trust.
- National Flood Forum.
- Nottingham Trent University.
- Via East Midlands Ltd.
- HS2.
- Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).
- Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport (ADEPT).
- Midland Service Improvement Group (MSIG).
- Specialist Service Providers.

Summary

52. Flooding devastates communities and since taking on the role of Lead Local Flood Authority, Nottinghamshire County Council has strived to protect and serve our vulnerable communities. We have secured multi million pound external investments for flood alleviation schemes, demonstrating our partners confidence in NCC ability to deliver. NCC will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events. We will ensure our communication gives cohesive and clear messages to all those effected by what we aim to achieve.

53. In the last year alone our role as Statutory Consultee has seen us responding to planning applications in order to protect over 19,000 new properties from the risk of flooding through the planning process. Our ability to respond to flooding incidents and prepare and publish Section 19 reports in a concise and timely manner is admired across our flood risk colleagues in the Midlands and has been an exemplar within the MSIG forum. We continue to look for opportunities to maximise the efficiencies of the delivery of our service and draw in additional contributions to enhance our offer. We will strive to increase levels of awareness within local organisations and communities, so they can become more resilient to flooding and understand their land drainage responsibilities. Flood Risk Management recognises the importance of partnership working and we will continue to take an active role in developing local flood risk management partnerships and seek to collaborate with local stakeholders to achieve common goals.

Other Options Considered

54. To do minimum works which would leave communities at a significant risk of future flooding.

Reason/s for Recommendations

55. The recommendations are designed to ensure the most effective and efficient route towards the management of surface water flood risk across the County.

Statutory and Policy Implications

56. The County Council has a number of statutory duties and powers under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 including duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities.

57. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

58. The initiatives and schemes summarised in the report sit within existing revenue and capital budgets unless described as otherwise. Any additional funding requirements will be subject to normal internal budget approval processes.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

59. It is anticipated that the recommendations will ultimately result in delivery of a sustainable projects that reduce flood risk across the county whilst also reducing the negative impacts the flooding has on the environment, the economy and our communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Members consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the report the report;
- 2) The Committee endorses the work outlined in the report;
- 3) Committee encourages all agencies involved to seek and implement suitable measures to alleviate flooding in Nottinghamshire as soon as reasonable possible.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

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Constitutional Comments (SJE – 18/01/2021)

60. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Communities & Place Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to flood risk management scrutiny has been delegated. If Committee resolves that any actions are required, it must be satisfied that such actions are within the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Financial Comments (GB 01/01/2021)

61. The 2020/21 and 2021/22 Communities and Place capital programme includes £7.2m of funding to carry out works identified in this report. Should the Authority secure any further external funding there will be a requirement to vary the capital programme accordingly through the usual processes.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All