

**REPORT OF INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE)****STATUTORY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY:  
SECTION 19 REPORT RE FLOODING IN WORKSOP IN AUGUST 2022****Purpose of the Report**

1. This report sets out the County Council's duties as the Lead Local Flood Authority to report on flooding incidents under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) and to present its Section 19 Report in relation to the flooding in Worksop on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Information**

2. Following the severe flooding in many parts of the country 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 transposed the EU Floods Directive into UK Law and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) is a Lead Local Flood Authority and has powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate local flood risk management activities. NCC does this by working together with other organisations including the Environment Agency (EA), who manage flooding from generally larger rivers known as Main Rivers, such as the River Trent; Internal Drainage Boards (IDB) managing low lying areas; District, Borough, Parish and Town Councils; and infrastructure/ utility providers, such as Severn Trent Water (STW) and National Highways (formerly the Highways Agency). This partnership work is overseen by the Strategic Flood Risk Management Board, jointly chaired by NCC and Nottingham City Council (NCiC) and attended by all Risk Management Authorities (RMAs).
4. The Lead Local Flood Authority provides a countywide Flood Risk Management service supported by the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy & Action Plan (LFRMS) and the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA).
5. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses).
6. Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act gives NCC, as Lead Local Flood Authority, the following duties:

- A. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate:
- (a) Which Risk Management Authorities have relevant flood risk management functions.
  - (b) Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
- B. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must:-
- (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
  - (b) Notify any relevant risk management authorities.
7. It should be noted that the purpose of a Section 19 Report is to outline what happened during a flooding incident and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised or will exercise their responsibilities, it does not identify specific measures to prevent future flooding. It is up to the Lead Local Flood Authority if it wishes to then carry out further investigation into possible flood prevention and protection measures that could be implemented.
8. At Transport and Highways Committee on 31 Oct 2013 it was decided that Section 19 Reports should be prepared where NCC is aware that five or more properties in a locality have been affected by internal flooding (over the threshold [doorstep level] of the property). This threshold was triggered in Worksop on 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2022, hence the Section 19 Report included as an appendix setting out the findings following the Authority's investigation.
9. Nottinghamshire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority have a statutory responsibility to produce a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, the document reviews historic flood records within Nottinghamshire and assesses potential future flood risk. NCC also have a statutory responsibility to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which outlines the steps we will take to reduce flood risk for residents of Nottinghamshire. These documents have been produced by the Flood Risk Management team and are available to the public.
10. Alongside the delivery of capital schemes to reduce flood risk, the flood risk management team also undertake activities to promote community resilience. The current education programme delivers interactive sessions in schools to promote the understanding of flood mechanisms and potential mitigation options. In addition to this, the Community Flood Signage Scheme is led by the Flood Risk Management team and allows trained members of the community to close roads during a flood event. This reduces the impact of bow waves on properties and promotes road safety, therefore increasing community resilience to flooding.

### **Previous Flooding in Worksop**

11. Worksop has a history of flood risk with previous incidents recorded in 1922, 1932, 1958, 1964, 2007 and 2019. Major historical flooding incidents in Worksop have predominantly

been attributed to the River Ryton overtopping its banks and water flowing through the heavily urbanised centre of the town. The flooding event in 2019 resulted in a total of 308 properties being flooded internally, 128 residential and 180 businesses.

12. On the 7th November 2019, parts of the East Midlands experienced a month's worth of rainfall in just 24 hours, falling on ground already saturated following one of the wettest autumn's on record. Around mid-morning, the River Ryton started to overtop its left bank adjacent the Riverside Caravan Park and Sports Pavillion. Towards early evening, reports suggested the river levels and amount of stored water had increased to sufficient depth for it to overtop the right bank, spilling out onto and along the highway network and flooding properties along and around the Central Avenue area including Hardy Street, Allen Street, King Street, Newcastle Avenue and Ryton Street. Due to the River Ryton being surcharged, evidence also showed that its tributaries began to back up as they could not flow into the Ryton. These began to overtop and cause flooding issues in their respective catchment. The prevention of surface water freely discharging into the Ryton also caused flood levels to increase alarmingly in the town centre. Downstream, river levels increased further and the right bank of the river Ryton adjacent to The Canch spilled over. This water combined with water flowing from the central town and flooded the area around Memorial Park and the Library. From there it flowed out onto Priorswell Road and onto Shelley Street flooding properties in its path.
13. In response, Via East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council facilitated 66 road closures across the county, placed over 750 flood signs on the network to warn motorists of issues and delivered over 5000 sandbags. At 21:05 the flood event was declared a Major Incident by the Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) and the Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Police started to evacuate people from properties in the central area of Worksop. A rest centre was set up at the local sports centre to assist those who had been evacuated.
14. As a result of previous flood incidents, the Environment Agency have been developing a Flood Alleviation Scheme for Worksop. To date this has involved significant work modelling the River Ryton and subsequent investigation of potential mitigation options. After short-listing, the options can be classified into: conveyance improvements, opening up the river, flood storage, amend existing infrastructure, new infrastructure, natural flood management and combination approaches. Further modelling exploring the viability of varying combinations of interventions and maximising the benefits associated with the scheme is now being undertaken to work towards submission of a strategic outline case for assurance and approval.
15. Since the event in 2019 there has been regular contact between Risk Management Authorities. A Drop-In session held on the 20th October 2022 proved to be successful and allowed for the public to see the works all Risk Management Authorities had been undertaking and discuss this with representatives.
16. The Environment Agency have also increased the routine maintenance cycle activities and undertaken numerous conveyance improvement projects (de-silting at Ryton Place, The Canch, Bracebridge and CRT Aqueduct, tree and vegetation clearance near the Rugby Club, the Cricket Club and Bracebridge) on the Ryton.

17. Following the 2022 flooding, Nottinghamshire County Council have been working to establish a Community Flood Signage Scheme for Worksop. This would allow trained members of the community to close roads during a flood event. Volunteers have been recruited during drop-in sessions as well as through a targeted leaflet drop. An introduction meeting with potential Signage Wardens has been held and site visits are being planned to progress the scheme for Worksop.

## **Section 19 Summary for Worksop**

18. As a result of the flooding in Worksop on the 16th August 2022 the Lead Local Flood Authority carried out investigations and is now able to present its Section 19 Report as contained in Appendix A.
19. The report identifies the main sources of flooding as excessive overland flows and surface run off, as a result of short duration, intense rainfall following a prolonged dry period. This run-off followed flow paths predicted by surface water flood risk mapping and accumulated in low topographic areas.
20. Consequently, 87 Residential Properties, 17 Businesses and 1 Critical Infrastructure property (Bassetlaw Hospital) were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.

The main areas affected were:

- a. Rydal Drive
- b. Lady Walk, Redwing Close, Fulmar Way
- c. Longhurst, Jardine and Voce Court
- d. Queensway
- e. Gateford Road
- f. Sandy Lane
- g. Godfreys Court
- h. Central Avenue, Allen Street and Hardy Street
- i. Manton Villas
- j. Stanley Street and Mount Avenue
- k. Boundary Row

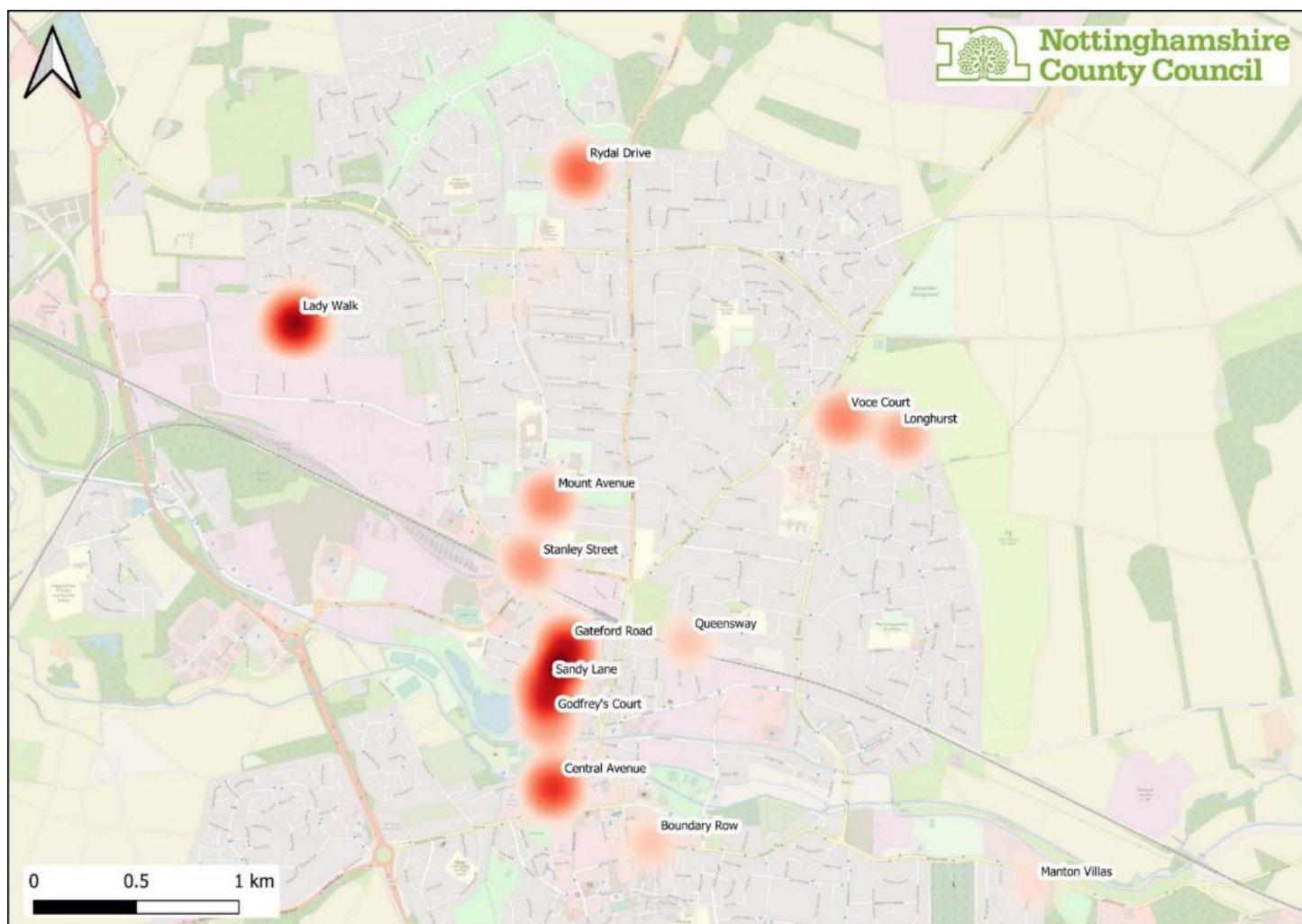


Figure 1. Flood affected areas heatmap. Darker red denotes increased number of properties affected.

21. The report also identifies that all relevant Risk Management Authorities carried, and continue to carry out, their respective duties. Individual Risk Management Authorities response to the flood event is detailed below.

a. The Nottinghamshire County Council.

- i. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- ii. Administered the Flooding Hardship Fund.
- iii. Initiated and coordinated emergency planning procedures, such as vulnerable people checks for the affected streets identified by emergency services for potential evacuation.
- iv. Put emergency accommodation on standby and liaised with Police on the scene and the Environment Agency to maintain situational awareness.
- v. Held a public drop-in session on the 8<sup>th</sup> September to offer support and discuss the flooding experienced by impacted residents and businesses.
- vi. Started to actively recruit Flood Signage Wardens to establish a Road Closure Scheme for areas of Worksop.

b) Bassetlaw District Council.

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of the flooding event including access to sandbags/aqua sacs and standby rest centre with housing needs support officer presence.
- ii. Provided skips, caged vans and staffing support to residents to dispose of flood damaged property.
- iii. Cleansed significant detritus from roads, car parks and paths, liaising with the NCC gulley/drain team to co-ordinate works.
- iv. Relocated affected tenants from Council properties.
- v. Undertook repairs to affected Council housing properties.
- vi. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.
- vii. Supported a resident/business post flooding support event.

c) Environment Agency.

- i. Provided an emergency response crew to assist in management of the flooding event.
- ii. Anticipated the scale of the event and operated their local flood alleviation assets.
- iii. Coordinated with fellow risk management authorities to confirm the nature of the flooding was not fluvial; and advised against emergency evacuation of local households and advised that an emergency evacuation of local households due to fluvial flood risk from the River Ryton was unlikely to be necessary, based on forecast information.
- iv. Issued the Flood Alert for the River Ryton and Tributaries on the 16th August at 18:27 to encourage the public and partners to be prepared for flooding. The Flood Warning River thresholds for the River Ryton were not reached during the event.
- v. Assisted the Canal & Rivers Trust in operating their local assets.

d) Severn Trent Water (STW)

- I. Prior to and during the flood event, there was close monitoring of alarms at pumping stations.
- II. Following reports of flooding, STW attended site and supplied 3 tankers across Worksop.
- III. Flooding investigations, including CCTV work of STW's local sewer network, was completed following the flood to check for any network defects or blockages.
- IV. STW has actively engaged with residents post flood event which helped gather further information on the event.
- V. Hydraulic flood modelling is being undertaken at the time of publishing this report to assess the performance of the sewer system during the event.
- VI. Evaluating rainfall data to understand the severity of the event.
- VII. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

22. The Section 19 report delivers a duty defined within the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and in line with approved County Council Policy.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

23. 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 preparation of Section 19 Reports.
24. 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**

25. The costs of preparing and publishing the Section 19 Report are contained within existing budgets.

## **Implications for Residents**

26. Since becoming an Lead Local Flood Authority, NCC has worked in collaboration with colleagues, risk management authorities, partners and local communities to help reduce the risk of flooding in Nottinghamshire.

## **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

27. It is anticipated that the Section 19 Report may support delivery of sustainable projects that reduce flood risk across the county whilst also reducing the negative impacts the flooding has on the environment.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Committee approves the publishing of the Section 19 report Appendix in line with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and our Lead Local Flood Authority responsibilities.

**DEREK HIGTON, INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PLACE)**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SJE - 29/11/2022)**

28. This decision falls within the Terms of Reference of the Place Select Committee to whom responsibility for the exercise of the Authority's functions relating to statutory flood risk management scrutiny has been delegated.

### **Financial Comments (GB 04/10/2022)**

29. The costs of the Section 19 Report will be contained within existing budgets. Since becoming an Lead Local Flood Authority, NCC has worked in collaboration with colleagues, risk management authorities, partners and local communities to help reduce the risk of flooding in Nottinghamshire.

### **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.

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- Worksop East - County Councillor Glynn Gilfoyle
- Worksop North - County Councillor Callum Bailey
- Worksop South - County Councillor Nigel Turner
- Worksop West- County Councillor Sybil Fielding