



3 September 2020

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE & COMMUNITIES

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.
3. Provide an update on the County Council's Flood Risk Management Action Plan.

Information

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Local flood risk means flooding from surface water (overland runoff), groundwater and smaller watercourses (known as Ordinary Watercourses).

Lead Local Flood Authority General Update

7. 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. 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 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.
 - 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 publically available on the County Council's flood risk web pages.
 - 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 34 bespoke reports and are currently working on reports for Ruddington and Beeston.
 - 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. By means of 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 350 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 comment on surface water drainage to local planning authorities on major and sensitive developments. Over 3530 planning application have been received since April 2015, 2548 of those have been responded to with bespoke responses. Last year the service responded to 98% of applications in the required 21 days and in the last 6 months 13,206 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 at

every opportunity. We encourage and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in all new developments.

- Co-operating with other Risk Management Authorities to improve effectiveness, delivery and efficiencies.
- 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 1200 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.
- In the last five years 943 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	251	55	196
Totals	943	220	723

Resilience Update

8. 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.
9. 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 Clarbrough, Bleasby, Kimberley, Normanton on Soar, Gotham, Tollerton, Thurgaton, Southwell and Lowdham 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.

10. In the March Budget 2020 the Chancellor announced that the flood and coastal erosion risk management funding was to be doubled to £5.2bn over the next 6 years, from the 1st April 2021. The 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. NCC have made 8 successful bids for schemes to be included for delivery this financial year, (see paragraph 16 below).

Update on Flood Investigations and Schemes and Section 19 Investigations

11. 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 in being considered for feasibility and design. (Appendix A), This year Flood Risk Management has secured external funding of over £665k towards flood alleviation schemes, which complements the £900k brought in last year. We will continue as ever to seek external funding opportunities wherever possible.

12. In July DEFRA announced that they will cover any costs associated with Flood Defense 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.

13. In the last 8 months the County has been subjected to three significant flooding events: November 2019, February 2020 and June 2020. A total of 801 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.

14. These events have triggered 23 Section 19 investigation reports for Beeston, Bingham, Cotgrave, Cropwell Butler, East Markham, Egmont, Gotham Jacksdale, Lowdham, Radcliffe on Trent, Retford, Rhodesia, Ruddington, Shireoaks, Sutton Bonington, Tollerton, Trowell, Woodborough and Worksop. All Section 19 reports have been reported to previous Communities and Place Committee except for Beeston and Ruddington which are being presented in October.

15. Between the 14th and 17th June the Met office issued yellow weather warnings for Nottinghamshire. Torrential downpours ensued which resulted in localised flooding in Ruddington, Kirkby in Ashfield, Worksop, East Markham and across Broxtowe with 30mm of rain landing in less than an hour on the 17th. Most of the internal flooding to residential and business premises was caused by the pluvial flash flood, no reports of river flooding were received. A significant issue which made the difference between properties being flooded or not especially in Ruddington was bow-waves caused by traffic driving quickly through flood waters. NCC responded immediately with the reactivation of the Disaster Recovery Grant

payment scheme of £300 per business and £120 per residential property. The current status in terms of properties confirmed as internally flooding is:

▪ Broxtowe	-	34 Businesses 56 Residential
▪ Ruddington	-	21 Businesses
▪ East Markham	-	1 Residential
▪ Kirkby in Ashfield	-	3 Residential
▪ Worksop	-	3 Residential

16. The Flood Risk Management team have recently been successful in securing a total of £595k 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), Claborough (£45k), Shireoaks (£25k), Retford (£150k) and Gotham (£30k) and are all programmed to be completed by 31 March 2021. The funding for Retford and Gotham catchments also includes an allowance to create improvements to local watercourses including the use of natural flood management techniques. 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.

17. The additional funding secured through DEFRA for the emerging flood risk schemes across the County is valuable. However, there is an understanding that looking wider for funding opportunities and forging new relationships will go some way to supporting the ambitions of the authority moving forward. Initiating conversations and working with businesses to secure resources through initiatives such as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) days, team building days to securing partnership funding for Capital schemes is being investigated.

18. **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 and chaired by Derek Higon, Service Director for Place and Communities and Gary Wood, Group Manager for Highways and Transport.

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

19. The flood defence proposals have two key elements: physical engineering solutions being designed and delivered by Via 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 19 with completion by the end of June 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.

20. The Property Resilience works are being delivered by Whitehouse Construction, following a competitive tendering process. At the time of writing (July 20) 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 an end of project Community based presentation was delivered by Trent Rivers Trust earlier this year. The event, held at Southwell Library, drew an audience of some 30 residents and generated some lively and positive discussions.

22. The Trent Rivers Trust presented a summary of the project at the Westminster Insight “Developing the UK’s Flood Resilience Forum” on 5 December 2019.

23. 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. During the storm events of November, February and June there was no internal flooding reported in Southwell.

24. 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.

25. **Egmanton** – The first part of this scheme concerning the village centre was completed in 2017 and the final element that consists of an above ground storage area was completed in August. The project is being led by the Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and The County Council is supporting this work.

26. **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. Property Flood Resilience measures will be delivered using the Environment Agency's National Framework. Project completion is expected March 2021.
27. **Hucknall Thoresby Dale** – In February this year Thoresby Dale in Hucknall experienced significant flooding of the public highway. A joint response by Severn Trent Water, NCC and Via identified the cause of the flooding to be a significant blockage of the flood alleviation system downstream of Thoresby Dale. Once the blockage had been removed the system operated as designed. Whilst the flooding to the highway was significant there was no internal flooding. It should be noted that there has been no reported flooding since completion of the Flood Alleviation project other than this occasion. Via are currently looking at ways of reducing the risk and consequences of future blockage related issues.
28. **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 August 2020. 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 and community resilience where necessary. In July DEFRA announced an additional £5m contribution to this project to help secure its deliverability. Working in Partnership with Severn Trent Water we have helped deliver improvements to the management of surface water on the Southwell Road that will reduce the risk of flooding to a number of homes. 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 Covid 19 restrictions allow. This piece of work involves working in private gardens and as such it is harder to comply with working restrictions at the moment. These improvements are being funded by NCC Capital and a contribution from Via.
29. **Thurgarton** - The IDB are continuing to pursue cost effective options for the catchment prior to seeking funding.
30. **Retford** - The County Council have employed the Trent Rivers Trust to survey and implement a Natural Flood Management Project in Retford. We are also working with the Isle of Axholme Internal Drainage Board to identify possible watercourse improvements. It is hoped that these measures will compliment the engineered flood mitigation scheme managed by the Environment Agency. These proposals will be funded by a successful bid to DEFRA via the SR20 programme for £150k. We will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Board to ensure maximum benefit is achieved.
31. **Worksop** - following the major flood event in November 2019, the County Council are committed to working 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. A multiagency meeting held on the 8th of July agreed a number of actions and discussed partner responsibilities. A public facing summary document has been produced and public drop-in session will be held later in the year to update those impacted

by the flooding in November. Investigation updates will be shared as part of our commitment to working with the community of Worksop and to assist them in becoming self-resilient to the risk of flooding in the future.

32. **Gunthorpe** - The County Council is working with the Environment Agency (who have the lead role) to develop proposals to protect the village from flooding. Once a technical report into the options is available, we will have more of a part to play in reviewing any proposals.
33. **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. The project has a programmed delivery date of 21/22 in Severn Trent Water's Investment programme 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.
34. **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 Upper Daybrook Catchment Study detailed further in paragraph 26.
35. **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. The report provides a detailed insight into the catchment and identifies a number of areas that warrant further discussions between the key partners regarding future improvements and investment into flood alleviation measures. A key output of these discussions will be to agree the lead partner for each of the areas to ensure clarity and consistency of approach. These discussions will be scheduled later this year and key updates will be provided as necessary.
36. **Newthorpe** - Severn Trent Water have taken over as lead authority and are 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 option will be progressed through Severn Trent Waters investment process with financial support from NCC Capital and a Section 106 contribution.
37. **Girton** - The County Council has worked with the Environment Agency to explore the possibility of developing a deliverable scheme to protect this village which suffers from main river flooding. A significant funding shortfall is being explored and will need to be overcome before a scheme is progressed.
38. **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 Internal Drainage Board are lead for the project and are currently looking at economically viable options for reducing flood risk in the catchment. A report on their proposals is expected late 2020.

39. **Normanton on Soar** – A scheme to help resolve surface water and highway flooding in Normanton is due for completion later this year. This scheme has necessitated a pragmatic approach to problem solving from all parties affected including Highways, Severn Trent Water, Normanton on Soar Parish Council, the Environment Agency and NCC Flood Risk Management and will see benefits delivered to all involved.
40. **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.
41. **Clarborough** - The County Council have employed the Trent Rivers Trust to work with land owners in Clarborough to install Natural Flood Management measures which will store water during heavy rain. Alongside the NFM work we are currently appraising a shortlist of options for an engineered flood mitigation scheme for Clarborough. The feasibility on these options was carried out by Bassetlaw District Council and JBA consulting. We will continue to update the Parish Council on developments and assist the community in becoming self-resilient to the risk of flooding in the future. This project is part of the accelerated programme funded by DEFRA.
42. **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 have employed the Trent Rivers Trust to survey and implement Natural Flood Management measures to store water on the land surrounding Gotham hopefully lessening potential future flood impacts. Also, considerable work has been undertaken by the County Council, Severn Trent Water, local organisations and the Parish Council to repair and improve the condition of the existing drainage system. This work has been extensive but important, a fully operational drainage system should reduce the risk of future flooding. We will continue to update the Parish Council on developments and assist the community in becoming self-resilient to the risk of flooding in the future. This project is part of the accelerated programme funded by DEFRA.
43. **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, Emergency Planning and the Flood Risk Management team are working together to investigate and address a number of concerns on the network. This project is part of the accelerated programme funded by DEFRA.
44. **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. We are liaising with Via 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. We also continue to liaise with affected residents where possible to ensure they are kept informed.

45. **Ompton-** Contractors have successfully undertaken investigations on Flash Lane and Ollerton Road, cleansing both riparian and highway drainage systems. We have written to land owners in the catchment reminding them of their Riparian maintenance responsibilities and will continue to liaise with the community as necessary.
46. **Radcliffe on Trent** - Following repeated flooding in several areas of Radcliffe on Trent we commissioned investigations into the surface water drainage systems on Nottingham Road (vicinity of St Lawrence Bvd.) and Main Road / The Green. These investigations allowed us to clean systems as necessary and have identified a number of issues that warrant further works / investigations. We are pursuing rectification of these issues with the relevant parties to ensure existing systems operate as effectively as possible. We have also worked with riparian owners who have carried out significant maintenance works to a length of the Sykes Drain (main watercourse in the Clumber Drive / Queens Road area) adjacent to Addington Court. We continue to pursue further improvements in the area and are liaising with riparian owners as required to remind them of their maintenance responsibilities.

Local Levy 2020/2021 Update

47. 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.
48. Since 2014 Nottinghamshire have been very successful in bidding into the Levy securing approximately 2.5 million for flood risk schemes in the county, to work with communities to reduce flood risk.

Digital Media

49. 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. Our action plan identifies a need to increase the public knowledge on the risks of flooding as well as providing guidance, support and greater knowledge to those at risk and those of who have already suffered flooding. We are currently 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.

Charging for Services

50. 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. A suite of documents, guidance and forms have been created and are ready to be implemented for full time use within our process. We are currently working with our key business partners to upload and update our information online to ensure all users of this service are aware of the changes. A new guidance document has been prepared and has been considered by NCC legal to ensure the content is appropriate for use within the Council. The team will now start using this approach for Land Drainage Consents moving forward. These changes are in line with other Lead Local Flood Authorities across the country. By creating these new measures, it will allow for closer scrutiny of new developments and assist in reducing flood risk across the county.

Telemetry

51. Planning and preparing for flooding as a community can reduce the impact it has, 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 you 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 Risk Management Authorities responses to flooding and help inform how to better manage these high-risk locations. Across Nottinghamshire County 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. It is intended to secure and trial this technology in the very near future.

Drones

52. Discussions have taken place within the Place Department to explore potential applications for drone technologies. Initial internal research for the potential uses of drone technologies within the Authority appears to be significant. Investigations concerning applications have concluded with a view to purchasing the appropriate technology shortly. COVID-19 restrictions have delayed this project as it was not possible to negotiate with suppliers, however as soon as we are able to liaise with them we will move this project forward.

Property Flood Resilience Programme

53. 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. It is proposed that a request for this funding will go to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee in the near future.

54. 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. An initial list of 10 areas have been generated to carry out scoping exercises. The work would be delivered by Whitehouse Construction Ltd. who have been procured by NCC through the Environment Agencies PFR framework.

Flood Risk Management Capital Programme - Appendix A

55. In addition to the funding and external investments drawn into the county via the Local Levy, Flood in Grant Aid, DEFRA, District and Borough Councils and various other successful partnership funding initiatives the County Council supports the Flood Risk Management capital programme with an allocation of £600k per year. Appendix A shows the current capital delivery programme contributions supported by the levels of external investment attracted. Confidence in NCC's ability to deliver is evidenced by the level of match funding being secured across the current 6 year programme.

Flood Risk Management Action Plan – Appendix B

56. The County Council have reviewed the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Action Plan. The document sets out the Statutory Duties of the team, ambitions and flood risk capital schemes. The document guides our flood risk activity in Nottinghamshire over a 6-year period. It also highlights wider ambitions including the use of technology to further improve the understanding of flood risk, how to make space for water in Nottinghamshire and improving the biodiversity of the County. Key internal and external partners have been consulted and feedback has been incorporated to improve the plan. Key objectives of the plan are better management of flood risk across the county, increased levels of awareness of risk within local communities, maximising available resources, improved partnership working and being ambitious for the future in exploring new opportunities and better use of technology. The detailed action plan will be formally reviewed again in 2022.

Scheme Delivery Partners

57. NCC are actively engaged with a number of key partners to enable better scheme delivery and communication across the county. Flood Risk Management 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
- City, Town, District and Parish Councils and Meetings
- Local Flood Forums
- Local 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
- Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport
- Midland Service Improvement Group
- Specialist Service Providers

Summary

58. We have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. 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 develop scheme options and ensure our communication gives cohesive and clear messages to all. 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. 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.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

60. 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

61. 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.

62. 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

63. The cost of these schemes will be measures and indicatives contained within existing budgets and externally secured funds.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

64. 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.
- 1) The Committee endorses the work outlined in the report.
- 2) Members approve the publishing of the updated Flood Risk Management Action Plan.
- 3) Committee encourages all agencies involved to seek and implement suitable measures to alleviate flooding in Nottinghamshire as soon as reasonably possible.
- 4) That Members approve a request for funding in relation to the £1m Property Flood Resilience scheme outlined in paragraph 53 be taken to Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee.

Adrian Smith
Corporate Director, Place

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Gary Wood – Group Manager, Tel: 0115 9774270
Sue Jaques – Flood Risk Manager, Tel: 0115 9774368

gary.wood@nottsc.gov.uk
sue.jaques@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SJE 23/07/2020)

65. 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.

Financial Comments (GB 20/08/2020)

66. The 2020/21 approved Communities and Place capital programme includes £3.1m of funding to carry out the 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