

APPENDIX AC

SECTION 19 REPORT – SHIREOAKS – STORM BABET, OCTOBER 2023

Introduction

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:

1. 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 (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those RMAs has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:-
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant RMAs.
3. The objective of this report is to investigate which RMAs had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in October 2023 and whether the relevant RMAs have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19(1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
4. The Risk Management Authorities for this area of Nottinghamshire are the Environment Agency (EA), Bassetlaw District Council (BDC), Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), VIA East Midlands Ltd as Highways Authority on behalf of NCC, and Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).
5. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

6. Shireoaks is a village within the District of Bassetlaw, Nottinghamshire. It has a population of approximately 1,779 people according to the 2021 census.
7. The River Ryton (Main River) runs from West to East through the village, passing under a bridge on Thorpe Lane first and then under a bridge on Spring Lane approximately 350 metres downstream.
8. On the 20th October, during Storm Babet, Shireoaks suffered a flood event caused by sustained heavy rainfall. 103.2mm of rainfall was recorded at the Worksop rain gauge, with 75.4mm of this on the 20th alone, which is approximately 2km from Shireoaks (Figure 1).

9. Consequently, 8 residential properties were subject to internal flooding with more suffering flooding to gardens and outbuildings.

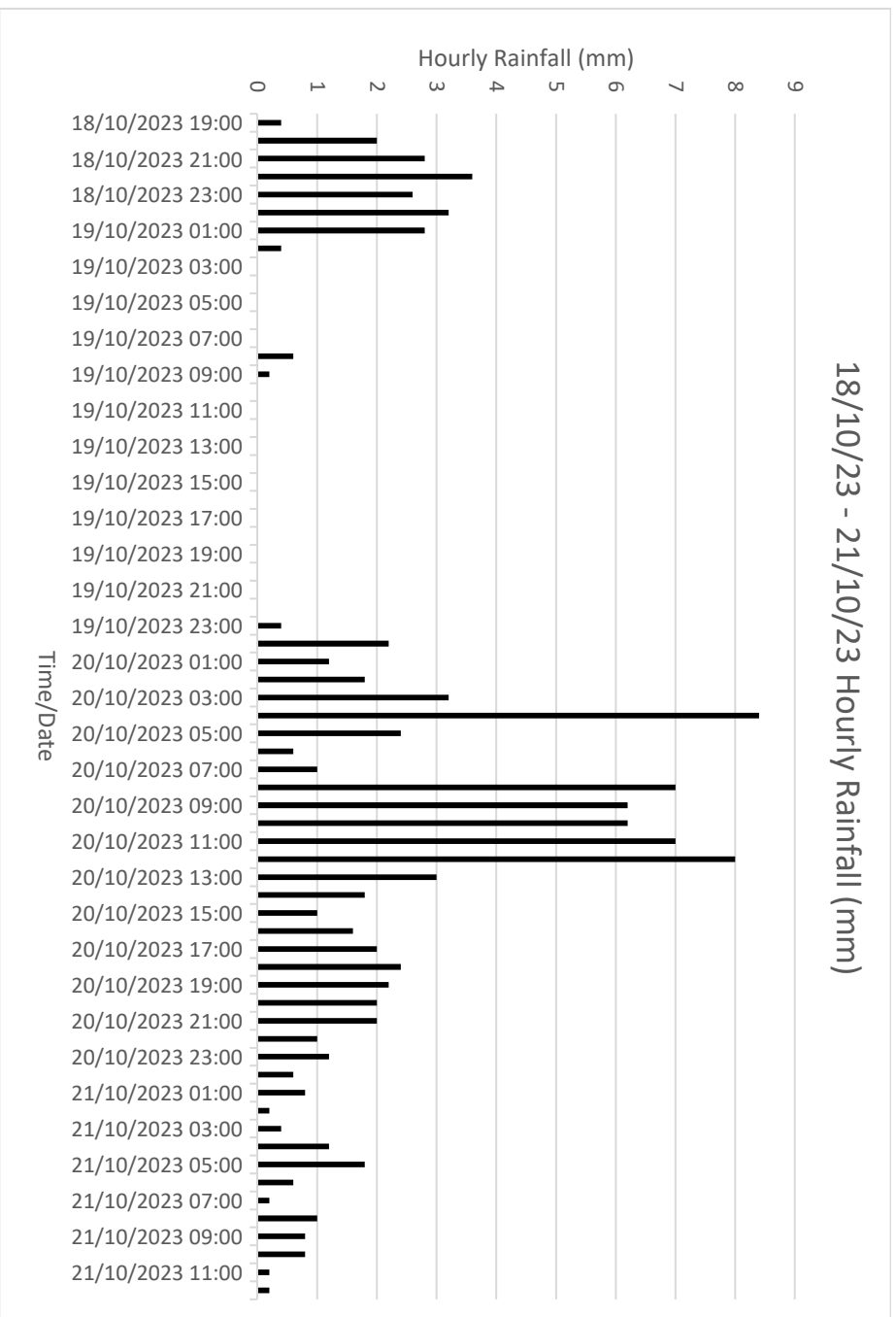


Figure 1. Workshop Hourly Rainfall 19:00 18th October – 12:00 21st October 2023. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

- A location map of Shireoaks is shown in Figure 2. The areas affected were Shireoaks Road (4 properties), Bethel Terrace (2 properties) and Spring Lane (2 properties).

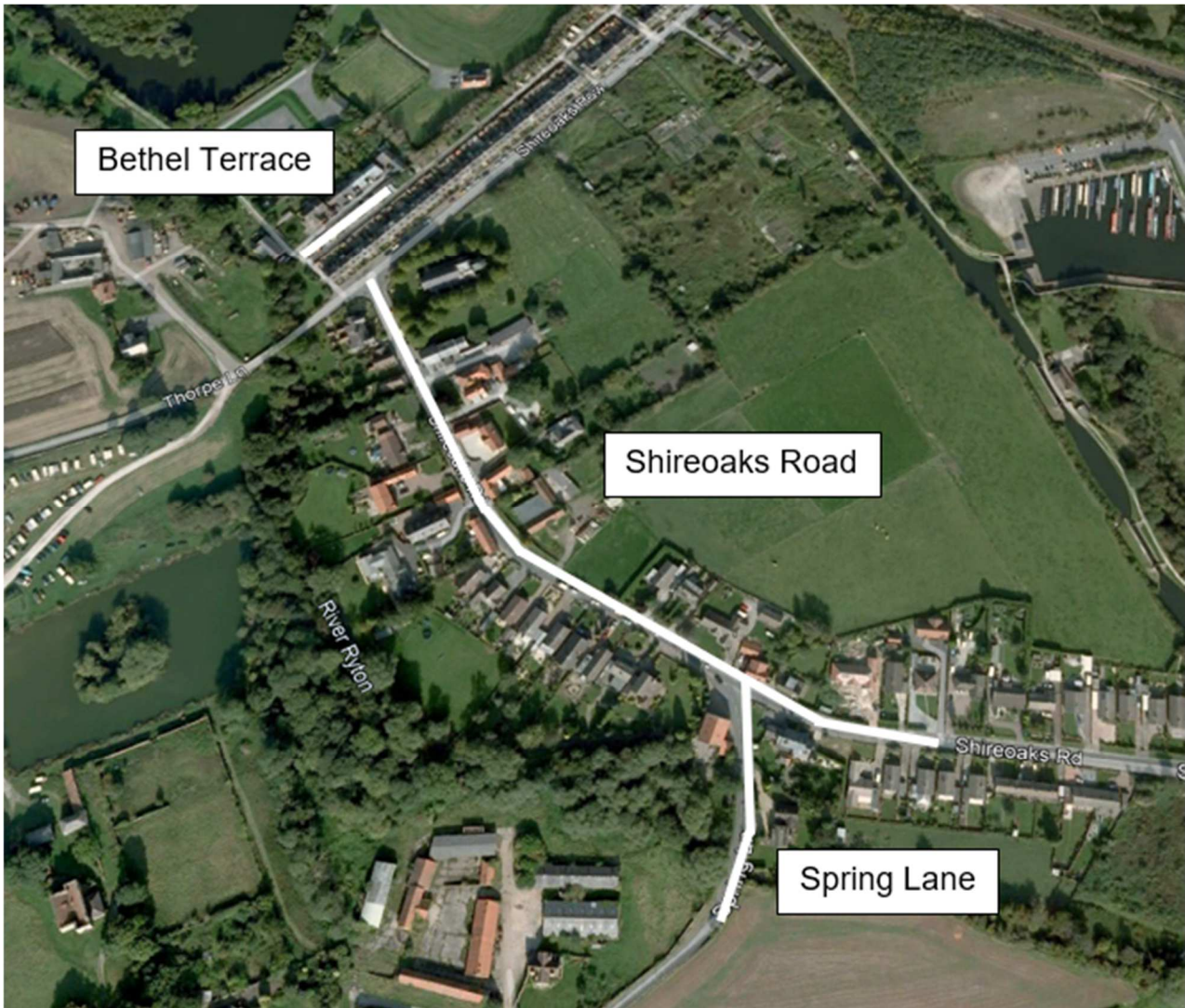


Figure 2. View of Shireoaks flood affected areas.

Summary of flooding and its causes

10. Due to the sustained heavy rainfall the River Ryton (main river) rose quickly from approximately 10am on the 20th, reaching a peak level of 2.11m at 11pm on the 20th at the Worksop river guage. This was the 3rd highest level on record following 2.16m in November 2019 and 2.19m in June 2007. The peak level remained steady until gradually falling from approximately 9am on the 21st. Figure 3 shows the recorded levels on the River Ryton at Worksop, approximately 2.5km away.

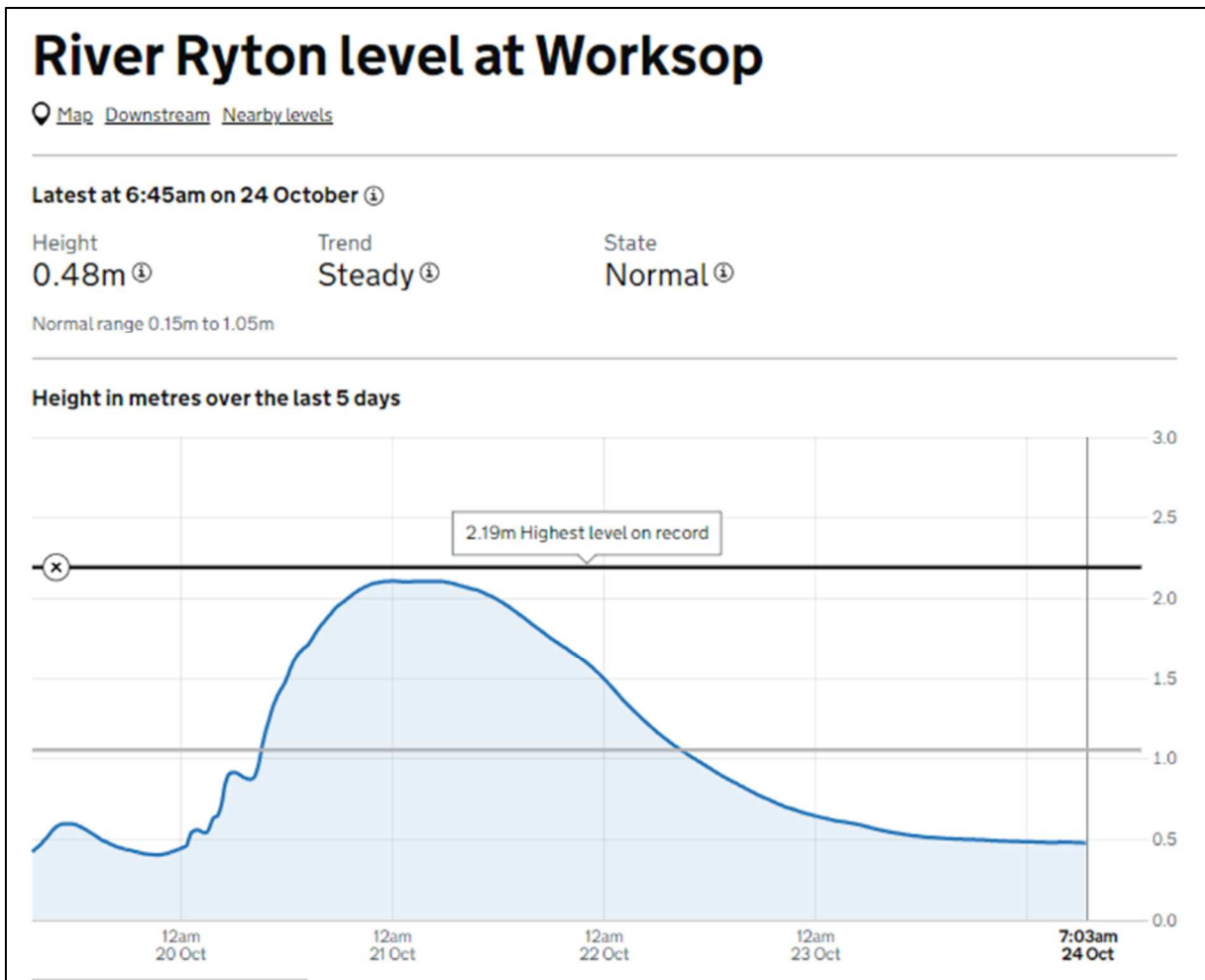


Figure 3. River Ryton level gauge at Worksop from 19th to 24th October. Data supplied by the Environment Agency.

11. As a result the river burst its banks through Shireoaks. This directly caused flooding to many of the properties affected. Properties on Bethel Terrace were also aware of pumping interaction from the local fishing lakes to the River Ryton. There is no further evidence at present that allows any further detailed comment on this interaction.
12. On Spring Lane it was observed that water levels were deep enough that cars which had attempted to drive through were left stranded in the floodwater.
13. The flooding broadly follows that predicted by the fluvial flood extents shown in Figure 4, albeit to a slightly enlarged area.

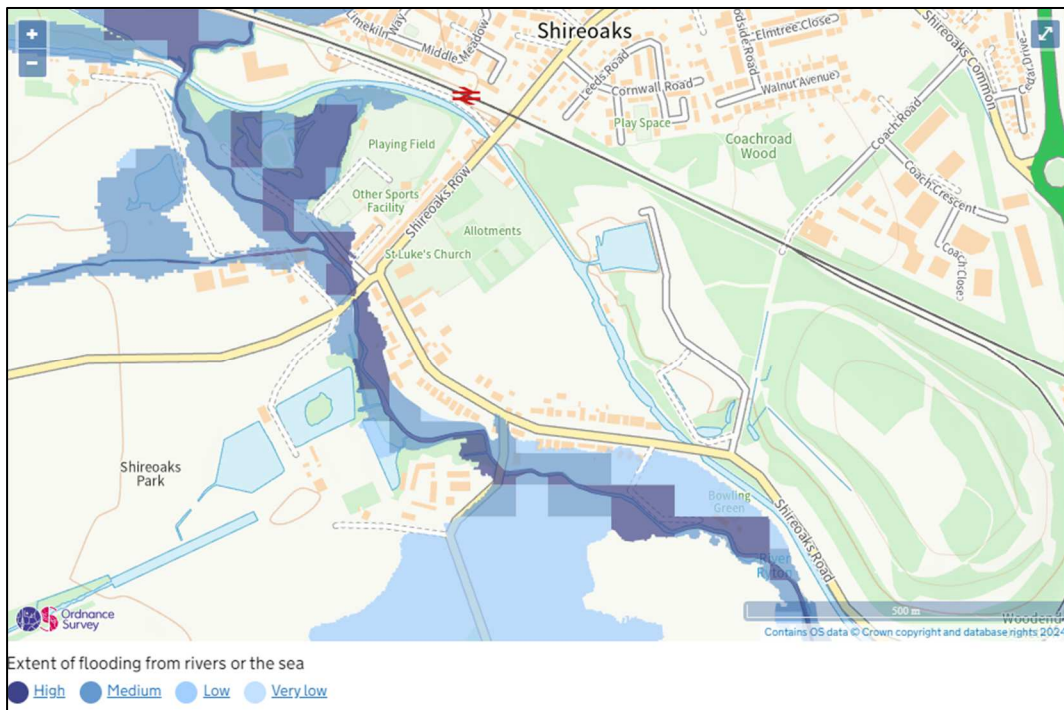


Figure 4. Fluvial Flood Risk Mapping. Data Provided by the Environment Agency – Main Road.

14. It must also be noted that flooding on Shireoaks Road was evident during the event which had now come from the River Ryton coming out of bank, and led to internal flooding of at least one residential property.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

15. Nottinghamshire County Council.
 - a) Lead Local Flood Authority.
 - i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
 - ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
 - iii. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we have a new duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
 - iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
 - v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.
 - b) Emergency Planning.
 - i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.
 - c) Highway Authority (NCC/VIA East Midlands Ltd).
 - i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
16. Bassetlaw District Council.

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

17. The Environment Agency.

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

18. Severn Trent Water Ltd. (STW).

- a) Maintenance of the public sewerage system.
- b) As a water and sewerage company, STW manage the risk of flooding from their water supply and sewerage facilities. This includes:
 - Surface water sewers – these carry rainfall and surface water away from properties to watercourses.
 - Foul water sewers – these carry wastewater away from properties to be treated.
 - Combined water sewers – these drain both wastewater and surface water from properties along with run off from highways.
 - Managing the impact of flooding to their networks by ensuring their systems have the appropriate level of resilience to flooding.
 - Engage with RMAs on how water and sewerage company assets impact on local flood risk.
 - STW are Category 2 responders under the Civil Contingencies act, providing emergency response and supporting the management of flooding events.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

19. The following lists the actions taken by each RMA in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

20. The Nottinghamshire County Council.

Officers from across the County Council played a key role in the response to the Major Incident that had significant impacts across the county. The following lists the key actions taken by Nottinghamshire County Council:

- a) Initiated its Community Flood Recovery Grant to support individuals affected by internal flooding as a short-term recovery aid.
- b) Attended site after flooding occurred to verify scale of internal flooding, offer support, guidance and advice to affected residents and businesses.
- c) Information gathered on site was fed back to relevant RMA's and partners.
- d) Collated flood impact data from other RMA's and partners and published verified data on Resilience Direct.
- e) Visited flood affected residents and businesses to establish sources and mechanisms of flooding and severity of flood impacts.
- f) Chaired and attended Strategic / Tactical / Recovery Coordination Group meetings initiated by the Local Resilience Forum.
- g) Provided 24-hour support through the Emergency Planning team.
- h) Carried out relevant actions requested by Strategic / Tactical / Recovery Coordination Groups.

- i) Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation, including liaison with relevant RMA's, parish councils, community groups, affected residents and businesses.
- j) Leading on procurement and delivery of DEFRA Property Flood Resilience Repair Grant Scheme.
- k) Liaised with and supported existing community flood signage schemes during the flooding.
- l) Delivered sandbags to affected areas and communities.
- m) Closed 77 roads across Nottinghamshire to promote road safety and avoid additional flood damage to at risk areas.
- n) Supported District and Borough partners by sharing resources during the emergency response.
- o) Utilised existing communication channels to update the public, partners and Elected Members with key messages during the event.

21. Bassetlaw District Council

- a) Provided emergency response support for management of the flooding event including:
 - i. Participation in all LRF Strategic Co-ordination Group, Tactical Coordination Group, Communications Cell and Recovery Coordination Group meetings.
 - ii. Active deployment of sandbags and aquasacs to vulnerable premises and residents.
 - iii. Provision of community resilience stores enabling access to sandbags and aquasacs.
 - iv. Public communication of key messages at different phases of the incident, including warn and inform and recovery.
 - v. Provision of a rest centre at Retford Leisure Centre.
 - vi. Provided temporary accommodation to affected residents in need.
- b) Provided skips, caged vans and staffing support to residents to dispose of flood damaged property.
- c) Cleansing of significant detritus from roads, car parks and paths.
- d) Rehoused affected tenants from Council properties.
- e) Undertook repairs to affected Council housing properties.
- f) Promoted and administered Business Recovery Grant and Business Rates Relief schemes.
- g) Promoted and administered the Community Recovery Grant and Council Tax Discount schemes.
- h) Worked in Partnership with Nottinghamshire County Council in relation to the verification and administration of the Property Flood Resilience Grant Scheme.
- i) Actively engaged in the section19 Flood Investigation.

22. The Environment Agency

- a) The Environment Agency warned and informed the community of Shireoaks in a timely manner by issuing a Flood Alert for the Ryton Oldcotes catchment on 20/10/2023 and issuing a Flood Warning for the River Ryton at Worksop Town Centre including Shireoaks on 20/10/2023.
- b) The Environment Agency also instigated flood patrols to operate their structures in accordance with their incident response procedures and cleared blockages in the area before and after the peak flows.
- c) The Environment Agency has no operational structures in the area.

23. Severn Trent Water Ltd.

- a) At the time of writing this report, Severn Trent has received reports of flooding in this area and are completing ongoing investigations into the source of flooding.
- b) Severn Trent actively engaged with the Section 19 Flood investigation.
- c) Severn Trent have been in contact with affected residents post flood event to further investigate sewer flooding issues.

Additional Information and Future Actions

24. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
25. As the Lead Local Flood Authority we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.
26. Nottinghamshire County Council will liaise with the Environment Agency to further understand the interactions between the fishing lakes and the River Ryton which was observed by residents.
27. The Environment Agency will continue to gather data and evidence to help validate the Flood Warning Service and investigate further options to reduce flood risk in the area.
28. The Environment Agency will organise a multi-agency drop in event for Worksop & Shireoaks.
29. NCC will continue to support its Flood Warden / Road Closure training programme and community volunteer groups to help ensure they operate as effectively and safely as possible.
30. The Flood Risk Management team will look at the suitability of its Property Flood Resilience Programme for communities affected by Storm Babet and will take recommendations through the Cabinet Member later this year for consideration.
31. Bassetlaw District Council participated in the LRF Storm Babet Debrief and learning review meeting which identified a number of future actions.
32. Bassetlaw District Council has undertaken an internal review of the response to Storm Babet which identified a number of future actions.
33. Following a motion to Bassetlaw full Council on 25 January 2024 a resolution was passed to establish a working group reporting into Cabinet to focus exclusively on flooding, to ensure continued focus and scrutiny.
34. Bassetlaw District Council will work with partners to lobby for a change in government policy regarding the Environment Agency funding framework to enable more flood alleviation schemes to be delivered locally.