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**To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board**

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

**Subject: Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update**

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## **1 Purpose of the Note**

- 1.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) to note actions from the Board held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016. The actions are attached as an appendix to this report. See appendix 1.
- 1.2 To update the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Statutory Consultee role on planning applications
- 1.3 To update the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the flooding event that occurred within Coventry on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green and Butt Lane, Allersley.
- 1.4 To update the Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) on the activities undertaken during delivery of the annual Drainage Capital Programme.

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
  - 1) Note the progress of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) as Statutory Consultee on planning applications.
  - 2) Note the outcome of the flooding event that occurred within Coventry on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2016
  - 3) Note the activities undertaken during the delivery of the annual Drainage Capital Programme.
  - 4) Identify any further recommendations for the Cabinet Member.

## **3 Lead Local Flood Authority Statutory Consultee on Planning Applications**

- 3.1 In April 2015, Coventry City Council had its role as LLFA extended to include Statutory Consultee on planning applications.
- 3.2 The Flood Risk Management & Drainage team review planning applications where there is a direct consultation with the planning service on a statutory and non-statutory basis to determine if there is a flood risk to the proposed development or to the local community. The team are also challenged with the review of the weekly list of planning applications submitted in addition to the direct consultations received from planning. Annual average planning applications reviewed by the team have amounted to circa 2300.
- 3.3 Enforceable planning conditions are recommended for all new development and redevelopment sites to ensure this is sustainable for Coventry and future flood risk is

managed down. Where deliverable, improvements to existing flood risk are sought in line with the national planning policies of England.

- 3.4 All planning applications are tracked against the 21 day response timescale to help focus resourcing. Collaboration on priorities with the planning service occurs and regular service improvement meetings are being held to ensure well focused service delivery.

#### **4 Coventry City Flooding Event 6th February 2016 – Update**

- 4.1 As previously reported to SB4, during Saturday 6th February 2016 there was prolonged, very heavy, rainfall throughout Coventry causing flooding at a number of locations. The majority of issues reported to the City Council were highway and garden flooding but there were reports of internal flooding at 8 properties.
  - 4.2 Broad Lane / Banner Lane / Goldthorn Close
  - 4.3 As part of the new roundabout works associated with the new development site at the Bannerbrook, flood mitigation and drainage improvements were proposed in an effort to address the flooding issue.
  - 4.4 The flood mitigation scheme initially considered was river storage on-line, parallel with the Broad Lane, however, excessive Public Utility Service diversion costs and storage volume achievable have proved this part of the scheme to be unviable.
  - 4.5 The flood mitigation proposal is now a larger cross boundary scheme with Solihull Metropolitan Council for upstream storage areas on the Brookstray. This larger scheme will deliver increased benefits for the community at risk. In view of the coordination needed with both Coventry and Solihull, the Environment Agency will now lead on this project.
  - 4.6 A Flood Defense Grant in Aid bid is being prepared and scheme delivery timescale is being prepared by the Environment Agency. Early consultation with the Environment Agency, ahead of the next meeting of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee at the end of April 2017 suggests the scheme could be deliverable in 2018/19.
  - 4.7 Washbrook Lane / Browns Lane / Butt Lane / Windmill Hill  
The Environment Agency is developing the business case for a main river storage pond including Natural Solutions. It was hoped that the Autumn Statement 2016 would deliver the majority of the funding for this scheme but unfortunately, this funding was not made available.
  - 4.8 In view of this, a fund bid has been made to DEFRA with additional contributions from Local Levy, a private developer and the City Council's Capital Programme. At the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in April 2017 a decision will be made on financing this scheme.
  - 4.9 Subject to the total finance being made available, a decision can be made on a single or multi-phase scheme deliverable in 2017/18.
  - 4.10 The City Council has already spent in excess of £44k on surface water management solutions at this location and plans to spend a further £40k in 17/18.
- #### **5 Annual Drainage Capital Programme – Update**
- 5.1 The Annual Drainage Capital Programme sits within the overall Transportation and Highway Maintenance Capital Programme.

- 5.2 The £390,000 annual drainage programme includes pipework inspections by Closed Circuit Television Survey (CCTV) to inform the forward capital programme, and also includes drainage improvements and localised repair schemes, delivered within the current year.
- 5.3 A list of drainage schemes is approved by Cabinet Member for City Services for delivery annually. In addition to this planned works, the programme includes a portion of the budget for unplanned works in response to flooding issues that arise during the current year.
- 5.4 All flooding events are recorded and investigated resulting in either intervention cleansing or if drainage defects are identified, these are ranked against city-wide priorities.
- 5.5 The capital programme this year has included an Asset Management Data Capture project to determine the condition and hydraulic capacity of surface water culverts under Public Highway. This information will strengthen the Council's Asset Register and assist with the management of flood risk within Coventry.
- 5.6 The drainage capital programme also funds partnership contributions to larger externally funded projects delivered in collaboration with the Environment Agency, in the main, funded by DEFRA and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.

**Neal Thomas – Flood Risk Manager**

Place Directorate  
024 7683 4307

**Actions from the Scrutiny Board meeting held 9th March 2016**

**Action No 1.0** - Members discussed the need for officers to look at the strategic network when closing roads during flooding to prevent potential additional damage by flood water though vehicles continuing to use flooded routes.

**Response No 1.0** – An emergency road closure protocol has been agreed with Urban Traffic Management and Control to close and manage diversion of traffic during flood events.

**Action No 2.0** - Members discussed the need for officers to look at the sandbag distribution network and investigate a “flood champion” role with elected members to ensure fair distribution of bags and update when supplies are running low.

**Response No 2.0** - A Flood Champion has been identified at Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green and a protocol has been prepared for acceptance by the resident. An approach to residents is planned for Butt Lane, Allesley and is being progressed.

**Action No 3.0** - Members discussed proposals for the Bannerbrook development and requested information when the pond or alternative improved drainage scheme will be completed.

**Response No 3.0** – A response to this action is contained within the Briefing Note.