
To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 19th December 2018

Subject: Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update

1 Purpose of the Note.

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Board 4 on progress with actions from the meeting of 5th April 2017. The actions are attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 To update the Scrutiny Board on the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Statutory Consultee role on planning applications.
- 1.3 To update the Scrutiny Board on the flooding events at Butt Lane, Allesley and Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green.
- 1.4 To update Scrutiny Board on the activities undertaken during delivery of the annual Drainage Capital Programme.
- 1.5 To update the Scrutiny Board on other key flood risk management activities since the last report.

2 Recommendations.

- 2.1 Note the progress of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in drainage and flood risk matters.

3 Lead Local Flood Authority Statutory Consultee on Planning Applications.

- 3.1 As previously reported, in April 2015, Coventry City Council had its role as LLFA extended to become Statutory Consultee for all major planning applications.
- 3.2 The team review all planning applications where there is a direct consultation from the Council's 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.
- 3.3 Enforceable planning conditions are recommended for 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 the Local Plan and Coventry City Area Action Plan.

- 3.4 All planning applications are tracked against the 21 day response timescale to focus resourcing. Collaboration on priorities with the planning service occurs when necessary.
- 3.5 To the end of October 2018-19, 143 direct consultations have been received which is a 15% increase compared with 2017-18. Following the adoption of the Local Plan in December 2017, we are expecting a gradual increase in consultations, including an increase for larger sites which require significant Officer review time.

4 Flood Alleviation Projects.

- 4.1 As previously reported to Scrutiny Board, 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 The Council has worked hard to secure £634k Flood Defence Grant in Aid from Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs, £800k Local Levy from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, £135k Private Developer contributions and £780k from the Council's own Highways Capital Improvements budget totalling £2,350k.
- 4.3 Washbrook Lane / Browns Lane / Butt Lane / Windmill Hill

There is a long record of historic flooding in Allesley including in 1966, 1979, 1981, 1988, 1999, 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2016. The most recent flooding inundated properties on Butt Lane and Washbrook Lane.

The Allesley Flood Risk Management Scheme seeks to address the high level of flood risk to 34 residential properties located in Allesley village. The most vulnerable 14 properties in this area have a 1 in 5 (20%) chance of flooding each year. These properties are at risk of flooding from the River Sherbourne and there is also risk of surface water flooding.

The Environment Agency developed an Outline Business Case for a storage pond located upstream in the agricultural land adjacent to Washbrook Lane, supplemented with natural flood management solutions. This business case was approved in August 2017 and the project was then developed further in preparation for project viability to be determined. A monthly project Governance Board commenced in February 2018 comprised of Council officers and Environment Agency officers. Project team updates occur every two weeks.

Following site surveys, hydraulic modelling and construction cost estimation a project viability assessment for the flood storage part of the project was completed in November 2018. The outcome was that the estimated project costs had risen from £1.7M to £5M to protect the 34 properties and the scheme has been determined to be unviable by the Environment Agency.

However, a scheme of natural flood management solutions to slow flow and hold back water within the upstream catchment is being taken forward and resilience measures to individual properties are being considered. The business case is being reworked to determine funding sources and outcomes. All measures will be subject to a viability assessment prior to construction.

Residents were updated in August 2016 by the issue of a joint City Council and Environment Agency letter; a targeted update letter was also sent to specific residents in May 2018. Ward members, have been kept up to date on survey activities on the ground that support this project. Further updates are planned as the preparation of the natural flood management and property resilience scheme is developed.

In parallel to the proposed measures, the Council has been addressing other localised drainage issues at Washbrook Lane / Browns Lane / The Windmill Hill over the last two financial years. Drainage improvements and repairs have been carried out totalling a sum of £156k.

The Council has also embarked upon a course of enforcement relating to flooding to gardens of properties on The Windmill Hill. In September 2018 we issued a reminder to property owners of their riparian responsibilities, and have commenced further visits to inspect the watercourse and determine next steps.

4.4 Broad Lane / Banner Lane / Goldthorn Close

As part of the new roundabout works associated with the development at Bannerbrook, drainage improvements were completed in an effort to address the localised surface water flooding issue, however further main river flood mitigation work is required.

The Upper Brookstray Flood Risk Management Scheme seeks to reduce flood risk to 45 properties at risk of flooding from the Brookstray (tributary of the River Sherbourne) and from surface water. The proposal is a cross boundary storage pond supplemented with natural flood management within Solihull Council's area. In view of the coordination needed with both Coventry and Solihull Council, the Environment Agency have been leading on this project.

Site surveys have been carried out and following further project preparation, a viability assessment will be carried out and if determined to be viable, an investment decision is planned in February 2020, construction completed is currently planned in November 2020. The total estimated project cost to date is £1.6m. However, currently partnership funding does not meet this level.

5 Annual Drainage Capital Programme – Update

The annual Drainage Capital Programme sits within the overall Transportation and Highway Maintenance Capital Programme. The programme predominantly consists of drainage improvements and localised repair schemes. 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.

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 for consideration for future capital works programmes.

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 Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. For example, of the £450K budget this financial year, £250K has been allocated to the Allesley Scheme.

6 Other Key Activities

6.1 Screen Asset Management Project

Screens are installed on the ends of culverts to :

- reduce the amount of trash and debris entering the culvert (where it could cause a blockage), known as trash screens; and / or
- to prevent unauthorised access to the culvert, known as security screens.

Using historic asset records, screens across Coventry have been inspected to determine the asset condition and were priority ranked using a range of assessment criteria. 39 screens were identified overall with the Council having responsibility of 27 screens.

The project has resulted in a more intelligent approach to the management of these important flood risk assets, and enabled the Council to attract external funding for screen replacement where needed. For example, we received Flood Defence Grant in Aid funding of £25,335 for the replacement of a screen on Bowness Close in Holbrooks. This was installed in November 2018, reducing flood risk to 34 properties.

£50K Grant in Aid funding has also been allocated for screen replacement and culvert improvements at Canberra Road, also to be delivered this financial year subject to business case approval.

6.2 Bennetts Road, Keresley

Following a national review of schemes put forward for Defra funding in September 2018, £150K Flood Defence Grant in Aid was allocated for a flood alleviation scheme at Bennetts Road to reduce surface water flood risk to 14 properties; for delivery in 2019/20. We are now working with the Planning Services and Severn Trent Water to ensure the scheme is developed to be consistent with the planned Keresley Sustainable Urban Extension.

6.3 Catchment coordination

The Governments 25 Year Environment Plan called for improved management of river catchments. There is significant development planned within the Sherbourne catchment and multiple organisations are aspiring to deliver improvements such as biodiversity, flood alleviation, and amenity. Therefore the team has produced integrated catchment mapping for partners, and chaired the first meeting of the Sherbourne Operational Catchment Partnership on 13th December 2018. We believe this partnership approach will help to deliver sustainable gains for the city, and therefore if successful may be extended to other catchments such as the River Sowe.

Neal Thomas – Flood Risk Manager

Place Directorate

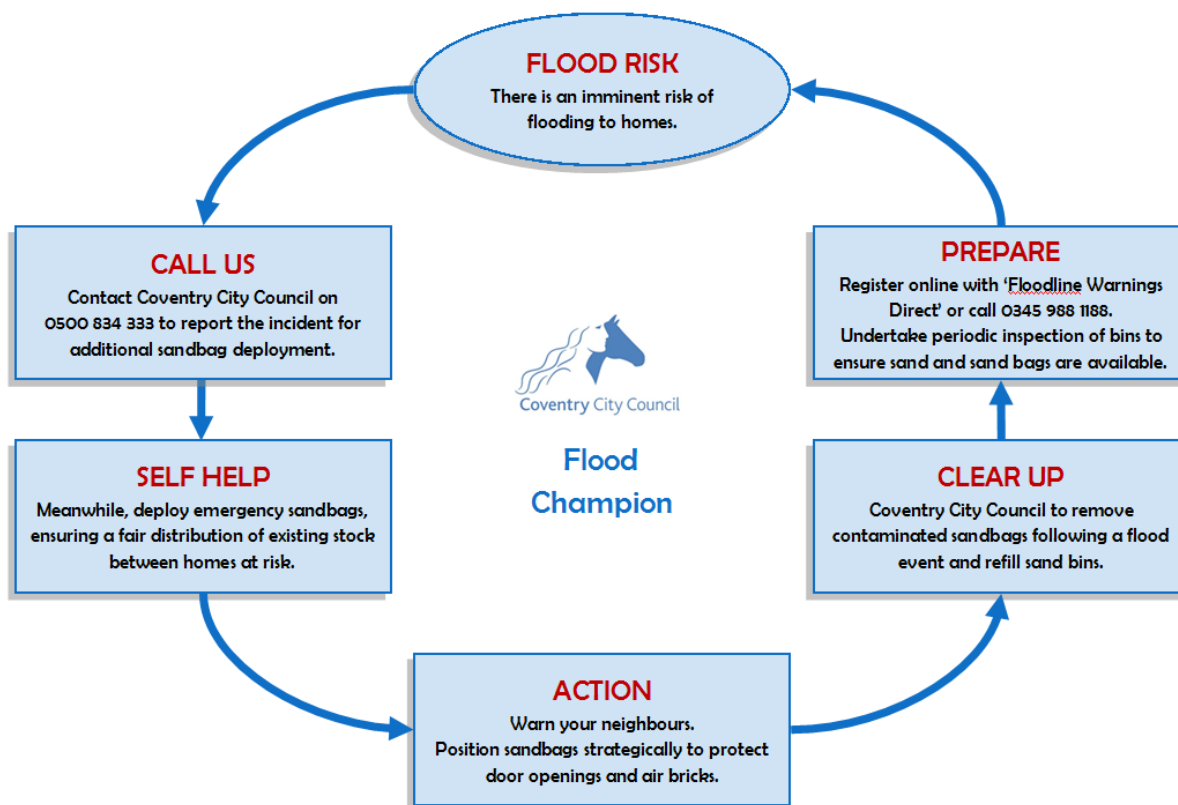
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Actions from the Scrutiny Board meeting held 5th April 2017

Action No 1.0 - 1 A copy of the protocol for the “Flood Champion” to be circulated to all members of the Scrutiny Board.

Response No 1.0 – Information relating to Flood Champion Protocol was issued to Scrutiny Co-ordination and the Governance Services Team and is repeated below

Flood Champion Protocol



Sandbag Policy

Relating to the Flood Champion Protocol, the link to website indicating the Sandbag policy is below :

http://www.coventry.gov.uk/info/10028/flooding/1394/flooding_advice/7

Action No 2.0 - Officers requested to find out the aspirations of the Warwickshire Wild Life Trust in relation to Lake View Park and inform the Scrutiny Board accordingly.

Response No 2.0 – Warwickshire Wildlife Trust secured £60,000 funding from BIFFA for the first phase of works, to be delivered in 2018/19. This phase includes creation of a large wildlife pond, wetlands and extension of meadows. Further improvements are desirable and may be delivered through the emerging Sherbourne Living Landscapes Project. The Trust will hear in

December 2018 as to whether a project development bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund was successful for this catchment wide initiative.

Action No 3.0 - The Scrutiny Board to be provided with information/links to the central data base regarding flooding in the City.

Response No 3.0 – Following the April 2017 meeting, a map showing all known historic flood locations was provided to Scrutiny Co-ordination and the Governance Services Team.

Action No 4.0 - Officers to investigate / clarify any potential flooding implications of HS2 and report back as appropriate.

Response No 4.0 – The proposed location of HS2 is outside the Council's area to the south of Gibbet Hill. The land in this area falls way from the Council's boundary and therefore HS2 will have no flooding impacts upon Coventry.