
To: Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)

Date: 2nd December 2021

Subject: Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update

1 Purpose of the Note.

- 1.1 To update Scrutiny Board on the activities undertaken during delivery of the annual Drainage Capital Programme.
- 1.2 To update the Scrutiny Board on the flooding events and improvements at Butt Lane, Allesley and Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green.
- 1.3 To update the Scrutiny Board on other key flood risk management activities since the last report in September 2019.

2 Recommendations.

- 2.1 The Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4) are recommended to:
 - 1) Note and support the activities of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) relating to drainage and flood risk matters.
 - 2) Identify and further recommendations for the Cabinet Member

3 Annual Drainage Capital Programme – Update

- 3.1 The annual drainage capital programme sits within the overall Transportation and Highway Maintenance Capital Programme and predominantly consists of drainage improvements and localised repair schemes. An annual list of drainage schemes is approved by Cabinet Member for City Services for delivery. In addition to planned works, the programme includes a portion of the budget for unplanned works in response to flooding issues that arise during the current year.
- 3.2 All flooding events are recorded and investigated with a “One Coventry” approach. resulting in either intervention cleansing by the Highway Operations & Development team and if drainage defects are identified, these are ranked against city-wide priorities for consideration for future capital works programmes.
- 3.3 The drainage capital programme has also funded partnership contributions to larger externally funded projects delivered in collaboration with the Environment Agency. These larger project are in the main, funded by DEFRA and the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This year, the drainage capital programme budget is £350k to fund of 26 localised flooding schemes.

- 3.4 In addition to work on the Public Highway, where there is the risk of culvert blockage, new or improved trash screens are installed. At Canberra Road, 25 homes were at risk of flooding and therefore an improvement was made to the existing trash screen.

4 Flood Alleviation Projects

- 4.1 No flooding on a community scale has taken place in the City since the last year. There have been a number of small scale localised river and rainfall flooding events. We continue to work on mitigating flooding from hotspots recorded around the City in previous flood events.
- 4.2 Washbrook Lane / Browns Lane / Butt Lane / Windmill Hill, Allesley.
- 4.3 This scheme is in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Warwickshire Wildlife and a developer contribution.
- 4.4 The Allesley Flood Risk Management Scheme seeks to address the high level of flood risk to 42 residential properties located in Allesley village. The source of the flooding is the River Sherbourne and there is also risk of surface water flooding.
- 4.5 A scheme of Natural Flood Management (NFM) solutions to slow the flow and hold back water within the upstream catchment is being delivered. To date the NFM measures rolled out are 49 leaky barriers, 4 retention pools, 90 linear metres of hedgerow planting and 60 trees have been planted.
- 4.6 In addition to this, resilience measures to individual properties are being delivered. Most of the 42 homes have been surveyed and the installation of measures is planned in the spring.
- 4.7 The adjustment of road surface level at the junction of Browns Lane with Butt Lane to direct extreme rainfall flood flows away from homes, back towards the River Sherbourne, is still ongoing and when construction cost is determined, including services diversions, an investment decision will be made.
- 4.8 Broad Lane / Banner Lane, Upper Eastern Green.
- 4.9 This scheme is also in collaboration with the Environment Agency and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. Funding sources are the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, DEFRA and Coventry. No internal flooding has occurred at the junction of Board Lane / Banner Lane since the installation of the new roundabout scheme.
- 4.10 The Upper Brookstray Flood Risk Management Scheme seeks to reduce flood risk to 25 properties. The source of the flooding is the Brookstray (tributary of the River Sherbourne) and also from surface water.
- 4.11 A scheme of Natural Flood Management solutions to slow the flow and hold back water within the upstream catchment is being taken forward. In preparation for this, the majority land owners within the Solihull part of the catchment and land owners on the Coventry boarder have been identified and approached. 40 leaky barriers are being considered.
- 4.12 In addition to this, resilience measures to individual properties is also proposed. Home surveys are planned to commence following the completion of the measures at Allesley.

5 Other Key Activities

- 5.1 Flood Risk Management Plans
- 5.2 The Environment Agency is preparing Flood Risk Management Plans that relate to England, Scotland and Wales. As part of the River Severn Flood Risk Management Plan, Coventry have a commitment to measures in 2021 – 2026 to manage down the impacts of flooding, promote climate change adaptation and support communities in flood risk areas.

- 5.3 The eleven measures agreed with the Environment Agency will complement Coventry's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Surface Water Management Plan when reviewed in the coming months.
- 5.4 Severn Trent Community Fund
- 5.5 A project is being prepared to increase footfall access to the Guphill Brookstray and this scheme would bring in a substantial fund from Severn Trent Water (STW). This project is a collaboration with between Highways and Streetscene and Greenspaces and is supported by the Council's Ecologist with a potential contribution from Biodiversity funding. The overall estimated cost is in excess of £500k and extends over 3.0 km in length. If the fund bid is successful, £200k initial funding from STW will deliver early phases. When benefits are being realised, future fund sources will be considered for future phases.
- 5.6 The project includes the preparation of a consultation with Ward Members, focus groups and residents ahead of the fund bid application. Early indication from STW suggests this fund bid will be well received.
- 5.7 Severn Trent Water Flow Separation Project
- 5.8 In collaboration with the Council, a project is being promoted with Severn Trent Water to remove surface water from some public combined sewers. This separated surface water would discharge to retrofit sustainable drainage in Council owned spaces and Public Highway. In Coventry, thirteen locations have been identified at feasibility stage. We are coordinating with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Council stakeholders to identify current and future opportunities.
- 5.9 The project delivers obvious gains for STW but also provides opportunities for the Council for Water Framework Directive Compliance; increased amenity; flood risk reduction; health and wellbeing; habitat and the environment.
- 5.10 Sustainable Drainage Influencing Developers
- 5.11 The Council continues to be require Developers to use sustainable drainage to reduce discharge to sewers, watercourse and rivers. A great deal of work continues to be done with Planning and Development Management teams to ensure new development does not increase flood risk to itself and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. This is achieved with robust policies, planning conditions and rigorous examination of plans submitted by developers.
- 5.12 Sustainable Drainage Commuted Sums
- 5.13 A business opportunity that has now come to fruition is for Highways to maintain water bodies within the Council's green spaces, funded by private developer commuted sums. This is both an opportunity for income and ensure the management of these water bodies is appropriately placed.
- 5.14 One opportunity has now been realised in the city and a maintenance regime is being programmed. Three more are now in the pipeline, one of these is already on the table and land transfer process is ongoing.
- 5.15 Advice to Developers
- 5.16 A further business opportunity being realised is advice to private developers on a fee paying basis. To help balance budget pressures, drainage advice services are being offered to developers and this continues to grow. Approval has been given to add a team member to the establishment for this sole purpose. The compliments the existing Pre-App advice being offered through the Planning Service.
- 5.17 Drainage Cleansing, Camera Survey and Lining Contract
- 5.18 The Council owned drainage and culverts are cleansed, camera surveyed and where needed are lined by a term contractor.

- 5.19 Working with Procurement we are in the final stages of the preparation of a new contract and this will be operated in collaboration with Warwickshire County Council. The new contract will be in place at the beginning of financial year 2021-22.
- 5.20 This contract not only helps deal with day to day maintenance and blockages but also helps increase the Councils asset records.
- 5.21 Catchment Coordination (River Sherbourne and River Sowe)
- 5.22 In 2018 the Government published the 25 Year Environment Plan that called for improved management of river catchments.
- 5.23 Coventry has for some time focused on the coordination of activities within catchments. The catchment of the River Sherbourne was the initial focus and work was done to identify partner schemes, large scale new development, flooding issues impacting at a community scale and the Council's flood mitigation schemes.
- 5.24 This catchment coordination work has now been focused on the River Sowe. A similar approach to the work on the Sherbourne is on going to coordinate activities in this catchment, within the administration area of Coventry. The catchment is extensive and is largely outside Coventry. We have a good working relationship with Warwickshire and this will underpin this important catchment coordination work.
- 5.25 Transformational Schemes
- 5.26 Collaboration continues with teams preparing schemes that step by step are transforming Coventry. Whilst not leading on these schemes, however, assistance is provided with challenges and encouraging support for partners to facilitate these schemes. By example, Palmer Lane is a proposal for the first deculverting in the city centre.
- 5.27 Borne out of the Ripple Effect report funded by Severn Trent Water, was cited water improvements for Coventry.
- 5.28 Collaboration between Historic Coventry Trust and the Council is making this scheme a reality. The River Sherbourne deculvert scheme has buy-in with Environment Agency and this transformational project is supported by Coventry Lead Local Flood Authority.
- 5.29 This transformation scheme is considered to be a gateway project and it is hoped would enable future deculverting opportunities.
- 5.30 Additional information can be found at Appendix A

6 Health Inequalities Impact

- 6.1 On-going projects and NFM solutions are engaging with the community to support the Marmot principle of creating and developing healthy and sustainable places and communities.

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