

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 10 June 2013

ITEM 7(d)

Title: Surface Water and
Drainage Partnership
Quarterly Update

Portfolio(s): Housing and
Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from: Surface Water and Drainage Partnership

Report Author: Paul Hanson (Tel: (0191) 643
7000)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the progress of the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (1) Note the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Quarterly Update; and
- (2) Note that the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment and that the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement will also be a member.

1.3 Forward Plan:

28 days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 24 April 2013.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report was agreed by Cabinet and relates to the following themes in the Sustainable Community Strategy 2010-13: Quality of Life, Sense of Place.

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

On 14 January 2013 Cabinet considered the final report which of the Flooding Task and Finish Group which had been established after the flooding events in 2012.

In doing so, Cabinet agreed to establish the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership. The terms of reference for the Partnership are set out in Appendix 1. Cabinet agreed that the Partnership would take forward an action plan to deliver the following outcomes

- Visible Preparation and Management

The residents, communities and businesses of North Tyneside needed to be able to see that the Authority and its partners played their appropriate part in preparing for flooding and managing surface water in a manner that mitigated the risks of pluvial flooding. North Tyneside residents and businesses needed to see that the Authority and partners took flooding seriously and worked hard to mitigate the risks.

- Community Awareness and Resilience

The Authority and its partners, especially the Community and Voluntary Sector, needed to work together to help residents, communities and businesses understand the risks, the intelligence available to them and what they could do to be resilient to flooding. North Tyneside residents and businesses needed to feel they knew how to cope.

- Understood Response Priorities

The Authority and other Category One Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 had clear response priorities. For the Authority this was specifically the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable. It was clear that this was sometimes at odds with other partners' priorities which might be to open the road network for example. North Tyneside residents and businesses needed to understand the priorities in a response situation and act accordingly.

- Visible Partnership and Accountability

The Authority and its partners needed to be seen to work together and to be accountable for their performance in this area. North Tyneside residents and businesses needed to understand who was acting on their behalf and what responsibilities those organisations had.

1.5.2 Cabinet also agreed that the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership would provide regular updates on progress to Cabinet and other bodies as required. This report is the first of these.

1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

1.6.1 The Partnership held its first meeting on 22 March 2013 and achieved the following progress:

- confirmed its terms of reference (attached at Appendix 1);

- confirmed the lead responsibilities and timescales for the 24 items in the Action Plan (attached at Appendix 2). Of the 24 actions, 21 were complete, with action on the remaining 3 being undertaken;
- discussed draft versions of two key documents presented by Capita Symonds – the North Tyneside Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Implementation Plan. The Partnership is due to approve the final versions of these at its next meeting on 2 July 2013;
- reviewed the Council’s Flood Season Action Plan that has been developed by the Authority’s emergency planning team, the intention is to now develop this plan into a reference document that can support our Flood Warden volunteers. A final version of the Action Plan is due to be agreed at the next meeting of the Partnership on 2 July 2013, ahead of the start of “flood season”;
- discussed the Communications Plan to support the work of the Partnership. This plan had been developed by the Partnership’s Community Preparedness Sub Group. The Group noted the information products which had been issued to residents and agreed that a more targeted approach would be needed for local businesses. The Group discussed the feedback from the public information event which was held on 16 March 2013 and agreed that further work should be done by the Community Preparedness Sub Group to run some area based town centre roadshows to continue to raise awareness and to provide information. This work is underway;
- noted the progress made by the Partnership’s Community Preparedness Sub Group to establish a network of Community Flood Wardens as part of the work on community resilience – particularly for those parts of the Borough that are at risk of flooding. The proposal for Flood Wardens is being based on best practice from similar schemes in other areas such as Doncaster and the role of the Wardens will be agreed through the Council’s Emergency Response Leadership Group to ensure an appropriate fit with emergency response handling. Some residents have already volunteered to be Flood Wardens, following some earlier media coverage on the proposal and two events are due to be held on 12 (Shiremoor Centre) and 13 (White Swan Centre) June 2013 to provide more information for people who are interested. The aim is for Ward Members to be closely involved with the Flood Warden network; and
- agreed that each meeting of the Partnership would include a briefing from one of the partner agencies on the key areas they are taking forward in relation to flooding. At the first meeting, this was Capita Symonds who outlined the creation of a new Surface Water Management Team.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this first meeting is attached at Appendix 3. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place on 2 July 2013. The Elected Mayor has agreed that in future the Partnership will be chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment and the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement will also become a member.

1.7 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

Option 1

Note the progress made by the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.8 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended so that the work of the Partnership can progress in line with its agreed action plan.

1.9 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Terms of Reference.

Appendix 2: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Action Plan.

Appendix 3: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership draft minutes of meeting held on 22 March 2013.

1.10 Contact officers:

Paul Hanson Strategic Director of Community Services, tel. 0191 643 7000
Phil Scott, Head of Environmental Services, tel. 0191 643 7295
Jackie Laughton, Strategic Manager (Policy, Partnerships, Performance and Communications), tel. (0191) 643 7070
Alison Campbell, Finance Business Manager, tel. (0191) 643 7038

1.11 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

(1) None

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

2.1.1 The 2013-14 Financial Planning & Budget setting process saw the approval of a three year capital scheme for Surface Water Management Improvements (Flooding) to a value of £4.75m, with £1.25m available in 2013/14. In addition £0.100m per annum from the New Homes Bonus grant has been allocated to fund revenue expenditure.

2.2 Legal

2.2.1 [The Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#) translate the EU Floods Directive into law for England and Wales. The Regulations bring the Environment Agency, County Councils and Unitary Authorities together with partners such as water companies to manage flood risk from all

sources and to reduce the consequences of flooding on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment.

The [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#) is designed to put in place the changes recommended by Sir Michael Pitt in his review of the summer floods of 2007.

The 2009 Regulations and the 2010 Act carry with them some new duties for local authorities, including:

- The duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy;
- The duty to produce and maintain a register of assets which have a significant effect on the flood risk in the area. Such assets need to be designated and works to those assets subsequently controlled through a consent procedure;
- A responsibility to investigate and publish reports on flood incidents in their area; and
- The duty to establish a Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes approval body.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The work undertaken and to be undertaken by the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership involves the Council's Emergency Response Leadership Group and the Partnership's Community Preparedness sub-group. Both the Cabinet Members for Housing and Environment and Community Engagement have been briefed on the work of the Partnership and will be members of the Partnership going forward.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Around 700 residents who were directly affected by the floods in June and September 2012 have been kept informed of progress made, and personally invited to attend a Flood Information event held at Quadrant on 16 March 2013. External consultation has also been undertaken via the members of the Partnership (and previously the Flood Task and Finish Group) and its sub groups – including Northumbrian Water, Environment Agency, Nexus, Northumbria Police and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service and information has been shared previously at Area Forums. Information has been included in the Council's magazine for residents and on the Council's website. Two consultation events on the proposed flood warden scheme are due to be held on 12 and 13 June 2013.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report

2.6 Risk management

Without this work, there is an increased risk that the Council and its partners will not have adequate arrangements to deal with any future flooding events.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report

2.8 Environment and sustainability

It is anticipated that the work of the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership will have a positive impact on the environment of North Tyneside, and the sustainability of communities.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive x
- Strategic Director(s) x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) x
- Chief Finance Officer x
- Monitoring Officer x
- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships x