

# North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: 14 October 2013

ITEM 6(a)  
Title: North Tyneside  
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

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7000)

Wards affected: All

## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to update Cabinet on the progress of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership (the Partnership).

### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet:

(1) Note the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Quarterly Update.

### 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 31 July 2013.

### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following themes in the "Our North Tyneside" Plan – Our People and Our Places

### 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 Partnership. The terms of reference for the Partnership are contained at Appendix 1.

On 10 June 2013, Cabinet considered the progress made to date by the Partnership and agreed that the Cabinet member for Housing and Environment would act as the Chair of the Partnership.

1.5.2 This report is the progress update from the Partnership, following its latest meeting on 2 July 2013.

## **1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update**

1.6.1 At its meeting on 2 July the Partnership made the following progress;

- noted the progress made to develop the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy. It is a statutory requirement to have such a strategy and it must be published by the Autumn. The Partnership agreed that a draft strategy would be published on the Authority's website for consultation with the public and also that consideration should be given to carrying out some targeted engagement with the residents who have been affected by flooding. The targeted approach seems to be the most appropriate given the technical nature of the document and the fact that there is a broad programme of engagement on flooding more generally
- agreed the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which sets out the three year planned work programme of schemes and other measures to mitigate the flooding risk in the priority areas across the Borough. The Partnership noted that this includes work to consider improvements to the gully cleansing programme. It was agreed that this information is of key importance to the residents and businesses across the Borough who have been affected by flooding. Following the meeting, the work programme was published on the Authority's website and information has been provided to Ward Members. Information was also published in the media. The Partnership agreed that communications to support this work programme is vital to ensure that residents and businesses in the Borough are clear about what is being done
- received a presentation from Capita Symonds of the Seasonal Flood Operational Plan for North Tyneside. This explains how the Authority will respond in the event of a flood risk arising in the Borough including in respect of the 34 key sites across the Borough where there has been flooding in the past. The Partnership discussed this plan and sought assurance around the levels of protection
- noted the progress made to support community preparedness and resilience. This includes the work underway to establish a network of community flood wardens across the Borough. The Partnership noted that the role of these wardens is voluntary and is not to replace the responsibilities of any of the statutory agencies who are involved during a flooding event. The Partnership were clear about that potential benefits of having such wardens in place, noting how similar schemes have worked elsewhere
- received a presentation from Northumbrian Water of an overview of their work to mitigate the risks of flooding including their customer education and awareness campaign. The Partnership welcomed the broad range of work underway and

supported the need to continue to work in close partnership to address the ongoing risk of flooding across North Tyneside

- noted the update from a planning perspective and the work underway to develop the Core Strategy for North Tyneside.
- agreed that the actions contained in the original Action Plan for the Partnership have now all been delivered.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 2. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place on 2 October 2013. At this meeting the Partnership will review the incidents of flooding which occurred most recently in August and the additional steps which were or might need to be taken as a result.

### **1.7 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

#### Option 1

Note the progress made by the North Tyneside 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.

### **1.9 Appendices:**

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

Appendix 2: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Draft minutes of meeting held on 2 July 2013.

### **1.10 Contact officers:**

Paul Hanson Strategic Director of Community Services, tel. 0191 643 7000  
Phil Scott, Head of Environment and Leisure 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 Partnership involves the Authority'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 Authority's magazine for residents and on the Authority's website. Two

consultation events on the proposed flood warden scheme were 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 North Tyneside 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
- Strategic Director(s)
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager Policy and Partnerships