

ITEM 6(d)

North Tyneside
Surface Water and
Drainage Partnership
Quarterly Update

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 10 February 2014

Portfolio(s): Housing and
Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from: Surface Water and Drainage Partnership

Report Author: Phil Scott, Head of Environment and Leisure (Tel: (0191) 643 7295)

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 8 January 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report 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 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 October 2013.

1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

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

- received a presentation from Environment Agency of an overview of their work and responsibilities as a risk management authority. 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 on the Flood Season Plan/Preparedness that covered the responses Capita have taken, the lessons learned and what improvements can still be made.
- noted the progress of the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy. It is a statutory requirement to have such a strategy and it was originally scheduled to be published by the Autumn. There had been some resource and timescale slippage issues that impacted on the progress. The strategy includes a section on funding and how schemes will be implemented. The public consultation is to be available on the website from the beginning of January 2014.
- Noted the progress of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which highlighted the major and minor projects that have been completed or a work in progress and the plans for the next quarter.
- Received a copy of the flood pack made to support community preparedness and resilience. This included a briefing on the progress being made around Community Preparedness including the flood warden scheme; a copy of the news release that was published on the 6 August; the draft agenda for the Flood Warden orientation event being held on the 23 November; a draft copy of the Flood Warden Handbook; and the leaflet produced by Capita that is on the website – with information on the Flood Risk Implementation Plan schemes.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 1. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place on 8 January 2014.

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 Draft minutes of meeting held on 14 October 2013.

1.10 Contact officers:

Paul Hanson, Deputy Chief Executive, 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 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

The council has moved to ward-based engagement and has launched two new ways that residents can engage with the council in their local communities.

'**Community Conversations**' offer opportunities for conversations between ward councillors and the public about issues that matter, with sessions organised for all 20 wards in the borough.

Each month the Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn, will also host a '**Listening Event**', giving residents an opportunity to come along and talk to her and members of her Cabinet about what is important to them, and how they think the council is doing.

The first round of these events included an update on what the council and its partners are doing in terms of flooding.

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