



Surface Water and Drainage Partnership
North Tyneside Council, Quadrant East – Room 4.01
Wednesday 9 April 2014

Present:

Cllr John Harrison (Chair)	North Tyneside Council
Phil Scott	North Tyneside Council
Cllr David Ord	North Tyneside Council
Leila Huntington	Environment Agency
Phil Clark	Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue
Mark Newlands	North Tyneside Council
Kevin Ridpath	Capita
Ian Conway	North Tyneside Council
Derek Smith	Capita
Jackie Laughton	North Tyneside Council
Mike Madine	Northumbrian Water
Clare Langley	Northumbria Police
Phil Scott	North Tyneside Council

In**Attendance**

Julia Mather	North Tyneside Council
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Apologies

Richard Robinson	Environment Agency
Paul Hanson	North Tyneside Council
Barry Pilkington	Capita
Cllr Carole Burdis	North Tyneside Council
Jacqui Old	North Tyneside Council
Ian Roberts	Capita
Andrew MacDougall	Nexus
Eleanor Binks	North Tyneside Council

Item	Decision / Action	Who and when
1.	<p><u>Welcome and introductions</u></p> <p>Members of the group were welcomed, introductions were made and apologies noted.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Notes of last meeting and matters arising</u></p> <p>Agreed.</p> <p>Action point on Item 5 – Funding for flooding surge – NTC are also participating in a scheme from central Government whereby allocated funding will be administered by Local Authorities.</p>	



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3.	<p><u>Partner Update – Phil Clark – Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue</u></p> <p>PC gave a presentation noting the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water capability of the Fire and Rescue Service • A brief history of National resilience • Relevant legislation • Training, PPE and equipment • Deployment <p>Derek Smith enquired about the cost of items, such as the aqua sacs and aqua snakes. Phil Clark agreed to pass this information on.</p> <p>The group discussed the possibility of this kind of equipment for the teams, and sharing best practice from Fire and Rescue. PC reported that training could be provided.</p> <p>The group discussed the reality of having to prioritise deployment of appliances and resources. Governance arrangements are in place to assess risk, this is a statutory responsibility. Flooding areas have been plotted, the Emergency Preparedness and other plans for North Tyneside are in place. Multi-agency co-operation ensures higher risk areas are identified.</p> <p>The group considered whether there was a collective understanding of each other's level of capability, and the importance of access to each other's flood plans. Ian Lillie's role was recognised in this area.</p> <p>The group recognised that the flood warden training needs to get the right message across. The planned simulation exercise for Flood Wardens could include a 10-15 minute conversation with Fire and Rescue officers, to talk through the risks. Expectations also need to be managed as resources are not limitless and it is vital that everyone be clear on what is expected of Flood Wardens. Involving Fire and Rescue in the exercises may provide that level of reassurance.</p>	Phil Clark
4.	<p><u>Flood Risk Management Strategy</u></p> <p>Kevin Ridpath reported that the strategy is open for consultation until May 2014, and is available on the internet and through Customer Service centres.</p> <p>The strategy highlights roles and responsibilities in terms of dealing with flood risk, as well as policies and priorities.</p> <p>It is hoped that this strategy will be brought to Cabinet before the next meeting of the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership.</p>	



5.	<p><u>Flood Risk Implementation Plan</u></p> <p>KR presented the group with the progress of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan and gave an update on major schemes. Capita is working with the Environment Agency, and Northumbrian Water, and it is vital that public expectations are managed.</p> <p>The group considered the leaflet which Capita have produced “Reducing the risk of flooding in Forest Hall – Benton/Killingworth wards”.</p> <p>Leila Huntington from the Environment Agency contested the contents regarding an estimated start date of 2015 to replace a culvert that carries the stream Longbenton Letch at the rear of Otterburn Close, stating that funding had not been agreed for this scheme and so could not be committed to.</p> <p>Cllr Harrison was very clear that as this information is now in the public domain he expected EA and Capita to work together to make it happen.</p> <p>There had been much discussion at the recent Community Conversation, around funding for next year. It is possible that this has been misinterpreted.</p> <p>The funding has to be available to carry out the work, and the project has yet to be appraised by the Environment Agency.</p> <p>A meeting is needed between the Environment Agency and the Community Engagement team. It was confirmed that the North Tyneside Council submission does not match with the Environment Agency documents. The funding submission could possibly be pulled forward, but it will still be into 2015/16.</p> <p>Cllr Harrison reiterated that it has been indicated to Councillors and local residents that this scheme will be going ahead, and his expectation is that this is resolved.</p> <p>Other areas of North Tyneside are looking positive. The Dudley scheme, involving a £350,000 deep pipe diversion, is slightly ahead of schedule. The detailed designs are completed, with just the easements to resolve.</p> <p>Work has started on the culvert in Shiremoor. Islands have been put in the flood land around Earsdon, and this will relieve Wellfield as well as Shiremoor.</p> <p>Work on the pithead could go ahead in June, and water can be taken off here without flooding other areas.</p> <p>Earsdon Road work is taking place in conjunction with</p>	
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	<p>Northumbrian Water.</p> <p>50 people dropped in to the residents' meeting in Monkseaton recently.</p> <p>The landowner has given permission for the clearing out of a stream on his land, and this should be carried out within 2-3 weeks. Cllr Burdis questioned whether funding is available to landowners to clear streams.</p> <p>From the points of view of tenants securing home insurance, how does information about the work being carried out get passed to insurance companies and acknowledged? Tenants are referred to the website which highlights the scheme plans to reduce the risk of flooding and can pass this information on to their insurance companies.</p> <p>195 other investigations are also ongoing.</p> <p>It was reported that when all engineering ideas are exhausted, there may be grants available for property surveys, providing airbricks etc. There are only relatively small areas across North Tyneside that surface water/flood risk cannot be managed.</p> <p>It was asked whether there were any schemes to build up the area using reclaimed land. It was agreed that schemes like these are possible, but cost benefit analysis could show it is not viable.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Flood Season Plan/Preparedness</u></p> <p>It was reported that Cabinet has approved the production of the plan, on condition that it is reviewed annually.</p> <p>A desk top exercise is to be carried out by the Resilience Team and Capita to review how the Plan operates. This will be followed up by a live event to see how the flood wardens would be utilised. The desk top exercise is being held internally, the later exercise will highlight the multi-agency approach.</p> <p>It was reported that there has been low incidence of flooding this year, and there have been no call outs since the last meeting of this group.</p>	



7.

Community Preparedness & Resilience

The group received a report giving an update of the Flooding Community Preparedness sub – group.

JL reported that the group could usefully build in lots of the training and issues highlighted by Phil Clark's presentation.

The training needs to work from a flood warden and responder's point of view.

The group discussed the communication route during a flooding event.

It needs to be made clear who flood wardens relay information to, such as North Tyneside Council, Northumbrian Water or Environment Agency. A clearing house system is required, so information can be passed on to the right agency. Care Call may need a script on where to divert calls to. .

Residents could identify flood wardens and report issues to them, but Emergency Response Officers may be in a better position to advise concerned residents. Consideration needs to be given as to how the agencies can work better together to respond and coordinate the response.

Flood wardens could send pictures of flood water, to help with depth perception and other issues.

It is important to raise awareness that resources may need to be directed to other places, and not necessarily where the flood warden is reporting from at that point.

It is important to manage the expectations of wardens. Inspectors and team members are reporting back all the time, and flood wardens will act as extra sets of eyes, supplementing the professionals.

It was accepted that some of the messages contained in the recent leaflets may need to be reviewed.

These messages have been targeted at areas that are known to be at risk of flood.

Some wardens only want look after their own street, whereas others are willing to help out across the borough.

The group considered whether only the residential risks are being managed. Is it realistic to look at a wider scope, for example, have wardens for town centres and business parks been considered? It was confirmed that businesses were being engaged with, along with schools, community groups and others.

Business parks etc are less likely to have people around later at night. If business owners can be alerted to the risk of flooding, it is in their interest to check.



8.	<u>Any Other Business</u> There was no other business.	
9.	<u>Dates of Future Meetings</u> The next meeting of the Surface Water & Drainage Partnership Board will be held on Wednesday 23 July 2014 at 4pm, Quadrant East, room 4.01	