

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet 9 March 2015

ITEM 7
North Tyneside
Surface Water and
Drainage Partnership
Quarterly Update

Portfolio(s): Housing and
Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from Service Area:

Environment and Leisure

Responsible Officer:

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 receives the report and notes the progress made.

1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 5 April 2014.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2014/18 Our Council Plan

(1) Our Places theme

1.5 Information:

1.5.1 Background

On 14 January 2013 Cabinet considered the final report 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.

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 meeting on 14 January 2015.

1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

1.6.1 At its meeting on 14 January 2015 the Partnership made the following progress:

- noted the progress of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which highlighted the major and minor projects that have been completed, or are work in progress, including culvert replacement in Astley Drive and Blue Bell pit heap swale and drainage;
- noted that the Emergency Plan was to be updated, following successful completion of several key schemes, meaning some local areas no longer require the same level of priority in our emergency response plans;
- received information on the £2.3billion allocation to tackling flood risk announced in the Autumn Statement.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 1.

1.7 Decision options:

Cabinet is recommended to receive the report and note the progress made.

1.8 Reasons for recommended option:

The report is intended to provide an update on the progress made by the Partnership.

1.9 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Draft minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2015.

1.10 Contact officers:

Phil Scott, Head of Environmental Services, tel. (0191) 643 7295
Jackie Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy, 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) [The Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#)
- (2) [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

2.1.1 The 2013/14 Financial Planning and Budget process saw the approval of a three year capital scheme for Surface Water Management Improvements (Flooding) including £1.000m available for 2014/15. The newly approved Investment Plan for 2015-2019 includes £2.600m for Surface Water Management Improvements including £1.600m for 2015/16 which reflects £0.600m reprogramming from 2014/15 as reported to Cabinet on 10 November 2014. There is currently £0.200m of residual monies allocated to flooding held within the New Homes Bonus balances available to fund future 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 are regularly briefed.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Authority's regular Community Conversation activity offers opportunities for engagement on flooding issues. As flooding mitigation schemes are developed, there is local engagement to ensure that Ward Members and residents are fully involved in the plans. A number of events have been held to recruit flood wardens including information sessions in priority areas. A handbook has been produced in consultation with potential flood wardens

Each month the Elected Mayor hosts 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 Authority is doing. The first two cohorts of volunteer flood wardens have been recruited and trained. Communication of weather warnings is regular, and feedback is being received.

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

The work of the North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership has a positive impact on the environment of North Tyneside and the sustainability of communities. Flood risk reduction schemes are designed in line with sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) principles. New drainage assets such as wetlands and storage ponds require little maintenance and will often enhance the local environment and improve wildlife habitats. Designs also involve the removal of surface water from the Northumbrian Water main combined sewer system resulting in less sewage having to be treated which then increases the capacity for new building development.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Head of Corporate Strategy