

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet

14 September 2015

ITEM 7(a)
North Tyneside
Surface Water and
Drainage Partnership
Quarterly Update

Portfolio(s): Housing and
Transport

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from Service Area:

Environment, Housing and Leisure

Responsible Officer:

Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure (Tel: (0191) 6437295)

Wards affected:

All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

The establishment of the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership (the Partnership), was approved by Cabinet to progress work identified by the Flooding Task and Finish group which itself, was set up following the flooding events of 2012.

This report is intended to update Cabinet on the ongoing progress of the Partnership's work.

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 6 April 2015.

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.

In doing so, Cabinet agreed to the the Partnership being established.

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

1.5.2 The purpose of this report is for the Partnership to provide Cabinet with an update on progress, following its latest meeting on 15 July 2015.

1.5.3 At its meeting on 15 July 2015 the Partnership made the following progress:

- It received an update on the proposals made through the Killingworth and Longbenton Sustainable Surface Water Management Project, a partnership project between North Tyneside Council, Northumbrian Water and The Environment Agency;
- It noted the progress of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan which provided spend profile information on the Flood Alleviation Scheme design and installation from 2013/14 through to 2017/18;
- It received an update on the work being carried out around community preparedness and resilience, including the latest 'Flood Ready Flood Safe' feature from the Our North Tyneside residents magazine; and
- It received an update on the revised planning guidance and technical standards for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and the North East Combined Authority (NECA) SuDS Regional Working Group.

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

1.6 Decision options:

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

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

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

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Draft minutes of meeting held on 15 July 2015.

1.9 Contact officers:

Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, tel. (0191) 6437295
Jackie Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy, tel. (0191) 6437070
Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, tel. (0191) 6437038

1.10 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). 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, and which is available to fund future expenditure. Proposals are being prepared for a continuation of the scheme in future years to be considered as part of the 2016-2019 Financial Planning and Budget process.

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 impact 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 (SuDS) 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

Each edition of the Our North Tyneside residents' magazine includes a flooding article. There was a 3-page feature in the Summer edition of the Our North Tyneside residents magazine which included:

- Progress on the flood alleviate schemes
- How the council responds to flood warnings
- Community flood wardens, including case studies of two volunteers
- Self-help information.

Colleagues in Capita continue to produce the quarterly publication 'Reducing the Risk of Flooding in North Tyneside' which is distributed to North Tyneside residents.

As flood alleviation schemes are developed, local engagement will continue to ensure that ward members and residents are fully involved in, and informed of the plans.

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 Authority and its partners will not have adequate arrangements in place 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 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 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 at treatment plants, which then increases the capacity of these plants to service new building developments.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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