

North Tyneside Council Report to Cabinet Date: July 2014

Title: North Tyneside
Surface Water and
Drainage Partnership
Quarterly Update

Portfolio(s): Housing and
Environment

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr John Harrison

Report from Service Area: Surface Water and Drainage Partnership
Responsible Officer: Phil Scott (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

notes 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 15 April 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 in 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 meetings on 8 January 2014 and 9 April 2014.

1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

1.6.1 At its meeting on 8 January the Partnership made the following progress;

- received a presentation from Nexus of an overview of their work and responsibilities (including future works), problem stations in North Tyneside system, their processes for reporting and responding to flood warnings and their work around prevention & mitigation. 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 progress of the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy. It is a statutory requirement to have such a strategy and the partnership noted that the public consultation was available on the website from the beginning of January 2014. The strategy is still a work in progress and key points need to be developed with North Tyneside Officers. The Partnership recognised that nationally there has been a lot of criticism of agencies over flooding and good communication is key to the strategy.
- 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 updated the group on plans for the next quarter. Plans for a Market Place event for residents were also noted.
- noted the update on the Flood Season Plan/Preparedness that highlighted the tidal surge incident in December 2013, and the success of the partnership response.
- considered the members future approach to their own roles and responsibilities regarding legislation, funding and improving partnership working. The Partnership agreed a review of roles and responsibilities be coordinated.
- received a report giving an update of the Flooding Community Preparedness sub-group. This included a section on the flood warden scheme; a copy of the Flood Warden Handbook; and a discussion around the Flood Ready Flood Safe leaflet and the positive comments received. The sub group is now working towards the launch of the flood wardens by the end of June 2014 and rolling out more targeted training.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 2. The next meeting of the Partnership took place on 9 April 2014.

1.6.3 At its meeting on 9 April the Partnership made the following progress;

- received a presentation from Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue noting the water capability of the service, a brief history of national resilience, relevant legislation, training, Personal Protection Equipment and equipment, and deployment.

- noted the progress of the North Tyneside Flood Risk Management Strategy. The strategy was open for consultation until May 2014, and available on the internet and through Customer Service centres. The strategy highlights roles and responsibilities in terms of dealing with flood risk, as well as policies and priorities
- 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 and updated the group on plans for the next quarter.
- noted the update on the Flood Season Plan/Preparedness, which reported that Cabinet has approved the production of the plan. Plans to carry out a desk top exercise to review how the Plan operates were also noted.
- received a report giving an update of the Flooding Community Preparedness sub-group, and discussed the communication route during a flooding event. The group also considered widening the scope of Flood Wardens to include business parks.

1.6.4 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 3. The next meeting of the Partnership is due to take place on 23 July 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: Terms of Reference for the Partnership

Appendix 2: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Draft minutes of meeting held on 8 January 2014.

Appendix 3: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Draft minutes of meeting held on 9 April 2014

1.10 Contact officers:

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). This scheme was extended as part of the 2014-18 Budget setting process, with £1.0m available in 2014/15. There is currently £0.2m of residual monies allocated to flooding held within the New Homes Bonus balances available 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 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. The first round of these events included an update on what the council and its partners are doing in terms of flooding. Each month the Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn, 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 council is doing.

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

- Deputy Chief Executive
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Strategic Manager–
Strategic Services