

North Tyneside Council

Report to Cabinet

Date: 13 October 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 Our Place theme within the Council Plan.

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 meeting on 23 July 2014.

1.6 North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership – Progress Update

1.6.1 At its meeting on 23 July the Partnership made the following progress:

- received a presentation from Northumbria Police of an overview of their work and responsibilities and details of the structures for responses to emergency incidents - Bronze, Silver and Gold. 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, which was formally adopted at Cabinet on 14 July 2014. It is a statutory requirement to have such a strategy and the partnership noted the local objectives and highlighted the importance of engaging with residents to efficiently target resources by priority
- 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
- considered a briefing note providing an overview of flood operations since April 2014, detailing any issues raised. During the period of 1 April to 23 July 2014, the Highways Operations team has undertaken flood response operations following weather warnings on 3 occasions
- received a report giving an update of the Flooding Community Preparedness sub – group and a presentation about the boroughs Community Flood Wardens, who are now operational.

1.6.2 A copy of the draft minutes from this meeting is attached at Appendix 2.

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

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 & 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 are regularly briefed.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Council's regular Community Conversation activity offers opportunities for engagement on flooding issues. The first round of these events included an update on what the Council and its partners are doing in terms of flooding. As flooding mitigation schemes are developed, there is local engagement to ensure that Ward Members and residents are fully involved in the plans.

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 council is doing. A network of Community Flood Wardens is currently being developed; there are currently a pool of over 40 volunteers undergoing training with 14 active wardens who we have begun to involve in any weather warnings.

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.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

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