

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	3 NOVEMBER 2020	5
REVIEW OF FLOODING/SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT IN FYLDE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

The report sets out the current situation with regard to flooding/surface water management in Fylde and outlines the Council's partner organisations and their roles and responsibilities in managing flood risk. The report recommends the establishment of a member working group to review the current situation and to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations and proposals to improve the way surface water management in Fylde is undertaken to reduce flooding in the future and to ensure that arrangements for dealing/responding to emergency flood incidents in Fylde are robust and effective to provide reassurance to members, residents and landowners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a member working group be established, made up of no more than 6 members to review flood risk and surface water management.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment Health and Housing Committee 7 January 2020 – Info Item - Park View Playing Fields Flood Incident

It was agreed that a workshop be established to discuss the implications of surface water flooding with partner organisations to develop a long-term action plan.

Environment Health and Housing Committee 7 January 2020 – Info Item – Bathing Water Quality

In response to a suggestion from the committee, there was an undertaking to meet with the River Ribble Trust, with a view to bring a report or presentation to a future committee meeting regarding the health of the river.

Environment Health and Housing Committee 8/1/19 - Information Item St Anne's Bathing Waters 2018

Mr. Steven Wong, Representative from United Utilities, provided the committee with an overview, by way of a presentation, on the latest information relating to: ongoing work regarding water quality, improvement works, and the scale and scope of United Utilities operation in the Fylde area. Following his presentation, Mr. Wong invited members of the committee to visit the Freckleton Water Treatment Plant for a tour of the site. The Chairman thanked Mr. Wong for his generous offer and asked that officers make arrangements for this to take place. A further presentation was provided by Darren Bell, Head of Technical Services, regarding the quality of the St Annes Bathing Water. A number of questions were asked by the committee and answered by the officers and representatives present. The Chairman requested that there be a report on bathing water quality presented annually to the Environment Health and Housing Committee and that this detail the bathing water quality results undertaken by the Environment Agency. It was suggested that the report should also include as much information as possible on the overall health of the main dyke river and estuary.

Environment Health and Housing Committee 6/9/16 – Information Item on East Lytham Drainage

It was the general view of the committee that a meeting be arranged at the earliest opportunity between representatives of United Utilities and the Environment Agency and relevant members (with officer support) on matters associated with Liggard Brook with a view to updating the committee in due course and progress on the East Lytham report was received.

Environment Health and Housing Committee 7/6/16 – Information Item on Flooding & Water Management

This information report provided detailed flooding and water management issues. A link (published on the council's website) was included in the report to access information on the types of flooding, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010; the authorities responsible including emergency planning; the council's position on the use of sand bags; grants that have been available to increase property resilience; partnership work across Lancashire to deal with water management and finally information on the Fairhaven and Church Scar Coastal Defence Project.

Cabinet 24/9/2014 – Flood Alleviation funding

RESOLVED to: 1. Approve the addition to the Councils approved Capital Programme for 2014/15 in the sum of £35,000 to be fully-funded by the receipt of a capital grant for this purpose of an equivalent amount to allow qualifying flood affected homes and business to establish flood resistance/resilience measures. 2. Approve the payments to eligible households in accordance with the scheme up to a maximum of £5,000 per property to a total sum of £35,000.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

BACKGROUND

1. There is growing concern as to the increased incidents of flooding occurring in Fylde, affecting both property and land. The concerns are that climate change is resulting in increased instances of intense rainfall which needs to drain away and that development in the borough contributes to increased risk from surface water run-off. As a consequence, we should be encouraging the effective management of surface water runoff to reduce flood risk, by mimicking / harnessing nature to reduce flood risk and deliver benefits to the environment and our communities.
2. Significant flooding events were experienced at Park View Playing fields 28 September 2019 and various locations across the Fylde Coast including Freckleton, Clifton ,Newton, Kirkham, Elswick, Staining, Cropper Road, Moss side and Greenhalgh on the 10/11 August 2020 which flooded property, businesses, roads and other land.
3. The majority of the borough is serviced by a combined surface water/foul drainage system which is under pressure at times of high rainfall. The majority of the system is historic and is managed/owned by United Utilities.
4. Fylde borough is low lying and the relatively flat topography means that water courses drain slowly.
5. The drainage of the Fylde is impacted by the tidal influence which daily inhibits surface water flow from the ditch systems reaching both the Ribble & Wyre rivers and ultimately out to sea. Surface water is held back by tide-controlled gates on most of the stream outlets.

6. There is concern that regular maintenance of the ditches/dykes in Fylde is insufficient and that weeds and debris impede proper water flow. Only ditches classed as 'main river' are managed by the Environment Agency (EA), the remainder are generally the responsibility of the landowners (riparian ownership) and many are in a poor condition.
7. The Council has managed to secure the services of a Principal Drainage Engineer who has been employed on a fixed term contract with Fylde Council until March 2022.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

8. There is no single body responsible for managing flood risk in the UK. Responsibility is joint among a number of bodies.
9. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the policy lead for flood and coastal erosion risk management. These National policies are then delivered by Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) which are –
 - Environment Agency
 - Lead Local Flood Authorities
 - District and Borough Councils
 - Coast Protection Authorities
 - Water and Sewerage Companies
 - Internal Drainage Boards
 - Highways Authority
10. The Environment Agency has a strategic overview of all sources of flooding and coastal erosion (as defined in the Flood and Water Management act 2010). It is also responsible for flood and coastal erosion risk management activities on main rivers and the coast.
11. Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) are County Councils and Unitary Authorities. They lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses). Lancashire County Council is the LLFA in the Lancashire area covering Fylde Borough. Blackpool Council are also a LLFA.
12. District and Borough Councils are Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) are key partners in planning local flood risk management. Fylde Council is a Risk Management Authority.
13. District and unitary authorities in coastal areas are Coastal Protection Authorities. They lead on coastal erosion risk management activities in their area. They are responsible for developing shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) which provide a long-term holistic framework for managing the risk of coastal change on their section of the coast. Fylde Council is a Coastal Protection Authority.
14. Water and Sewerage Companies are Risk Management Authorities (RMAs) and play a major role in managing flood and coastal erosion risks. They manage the risk of flooding to water supply and sewerage facilities and flood risks from failure of their infrastructure. United Utilities operate and maintain the sewerage system across most of the North West including the Fylde Borough.
15. In January 2019 a representative from United Utilities, provided the Environment Health and Housing committee with an overview, by way of a presentation, on the latest information relating to: ongoing work regarding water quality, improvement works, and the scale and scope of United Utilities operation in the Fylde area. Following this the committee visited the waste treatment facility at Freckleton.
16. Lancashire County Council have recently undertaken a scrutiny review entitled Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness in Lancashire. It is essential that any lessons learnt from this are fully embraced in the management of surface water in Fylde.
17. Water and sewerage companies (WaSCs) have long been required, upon request, to adopt sewers as part of new developments, provided they're constructed in line with certain standards. A new Ofwat code for sewer adoption will allow WaSCs to adopt certain Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The new code and guidance came into effect on 1st April 2020. There are a number of exclusions from adoption including things like permeable pavements, green roofs, and street drainage. Subject to assessment, certain SuDS components constructed to serve new developments are potentially adoptable as public sewers or lateral drains under

Section 104 of the Water Industry Act 1991, provided they're constructed in line with the approved sector guidance. It should be noted that SuDS adoption in England is not mandatory and is voluntary from the developer.

CONCLUSION

18. It is recommended that the committee establish a member working group of no more than 6 members to undertake a scrutiny review of flooding/surface water management. It is suggested that the committee consider appointing some members from outside the committee to ensure that a wider representation and points of view are sought.
19. The working group can take written and verbal evidence from Risk Management Authorities, Flood Action Groups, householders, farmers and land owners together with senior officers from Fylde's Planning and Technical Services teams.
20. Following this the working group will develop a comprehensive set of recommendations and proposals to improve the way surface water management in Fylde is undertaken to reduce flooding in the future and to ensure that arrangements for dealing/responding to emergency flood incidents in Fylde are robust and effective to provide reassurance to members, residents and landowners.
21. It is hoped that the working group can also look at innovative and best practice approaches that are in place in other parts of the country to learn and adopt improvements for Fylde.
22. A report will be prepared and presented back to the Environment Health and Housing Committee during 2021 with the member working groups findings which will make recommendations for the future

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No implications arising from this report.
Legal	No implications arising from this report.
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
LCC scrutiny review entitled Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness in Lancashire.		https://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=18131