

INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	15 JUNE 2021	14
REVIEW OF FLOODING/SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT IN FYLDE			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

This report provides Members with an update on the current review of flooding and surface water management in Fylde.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Paul Walker, Director of Development Services

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To keep the committee informed as to progress with the review.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

WORK TO DATE

1. The committee at its November meeting agreed that a member working group be established to review flood risk and surface water management. Since then several meetings of the group has taken place and good progress is being made with the review.
2. The Objectives of the review that have been agreed by the committee are:
 - a. To review the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in the management of surface water in Fylde to ensure greater coordination and effectiveness of resources to reduce flooding in the future.
 - b. To ensure that arrangements for dealing and responding to emergency flood incidents in Fylde are robust and effective to provide reassurance to members, residents and landowners.
 - c. To understand how the Development Plan System, strategic flood risk assessments and planning decisions taken by Fylde Council impact on surface water management in the borough and make any observations or recommendations how the council as Local Planning Authority along with statutory consultees can improve the imposition, assessment, monitoring and enforcement of conditions to

mitigate the impacts of flooding from new development.

3. The Methodology of the review agreed by the committee is:
 - a. Identify where we need to be to match best innovative practice in surface water management
 - b. Take evidence to identify where we are now in Fylde in comparison to that best innovative practice
 - c. Make recommendations on how we can get to where we need to be to reduce flooding and the impacts of it
4. The working group has met on 6 occasions in the last few months as set out below.

Meeting date	Stages/elements covered to date
Late November 2020	Agreed scope and approach to conducting the review Considered the legislative background to surface water management. Considered the policy/strategy context to surface water management.
January 2021	Identified and mapped surface water infrastructure including all rivers/ streams/ brooks/ ditches/ dykes/ culverts/ pumping stations/ SUDS, etc. Identified known flooding issues/locations in Fylde. Met with lead officers from Technical Services, Planning and Env Health at Fylde. Agreed consultation and engagement format
February 2021	Met/engaged with residents/landowners/communities affected by flooding.
March 2021	Considered findings of consultation undertaken
March 2021	Met with each of the bodies and organisations involved in managing surface water in Fylde (LCC/EA/UU).
April 2021	Met with officers from West Lancashire Council and Wyre Council and the Ribble Rivers Trust to look at best practice.

5. At the February meeting the working group took evidence from several residents/landowners/councillors on flooding in Fylde. Each were invited to:
 - a. to share their personal experiences of flooding within Fylde
 - b. describe the effect it had on them and their community,
 - c. explain what they believed to be the causes of the flooding they had experienced,
 - d. outline what they believed were the solutions to prevent it reoccurring.
6. Members heard first-hand accounts of the impact that flooding had on residents. This included pictures of damage down to homes and belongings. This was of benefit going into the meeting with LCC/EA/UU.
7. During the past few months, the Chairman and officers have visited several locations across the borough that have been the subject of flooding to help understand the causes of such events and how these can be prevented in future. This has included both new build and older properties impacted. There has also been continued engagement with the Environment Agency over the management and maintenance of local assets they are responsible for.
8. At the later March meeting the working group met with Lancashire County Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority which had undertaken an in-depth scrutiny review of flooding and surface water management which had resulted in additional resources being directed at the matter. Members looked forward to seeing the benefits of this through increased liaison and problem solving in Fylde.

9. The remaining workplan of the working group is set out below.

Meeting date	Stages/elements to be covered
June 2021	Site visits to infrastructure assets, e.g. Dock Bridge pumping station, Park View overflow tank, Crematorium SuDS, Wyre Council, River Ribble Trust, etc.
July 2021	Summarise findings and draft conclusions and arrive at recommendations of the working group to committee.
September 2021	Report findings and recommendations to Environmental Health and Housing Committee

10. Consultation was undertaken between late January and early March. The headlines of the consultation are set out below with the full consultation report attached at appendix A. The findings of the consultation will help inform the final findings of the working group.

Headlines.

Numbers



327

Survey responses



244

Respondents who have experienced flooding to their home premises



49

Respondents who have experienced flooding to their business premises



40%

Of residents (and 35% of businesses) referred to repeated flooding incidents in their comments

Context



77%

Of those who experienced flooding to their home premises, reporting that it occurred in their garden



79%

Of those who experienced flooding to their business premises, reporting that it occurred on their land



August and October

The months where most flooding incidents were reported to have occurred



64%

Of those who experienced flooding to their home, reporting that they experienced some form of emotional distress

Reasons and Action



43%

Of those who experienced flooding to their home premises giving drains or gulleys not coping as the reason



46%

Of those who experienced flooding to their home premises reporting it to the relevant agencies



27%

Of those businesses that experienced flooding, identifying that it came from neighbouring land or waterways



25%

Of those businesses that experienced flooding, indicating that they conduct their own checks and maintenance

11. It is anticipated that the remaining work of the group can be concluded, and the findings brought to the next meeting of committee in September.