


REPORT TO ECONOMY, SKILLS, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

18 January 2018

Subject:	Section 19 Flood Investigation Report June 2016 Flood Event
Presenting Cabinet Member:	Councillor David Hosell - Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment
Director:	Executive Director - Neighbourhoods Dr Alison Knight
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Robin Weare Services Manager, Highways Robin_weare@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board:

1. consider the draft Flood Investigation Report for the June 2016 Flood Event and that any observations or comments made be referred to the Cabinet Member for Highways and Environment and taken into account when the report is considered for approval by Cabinet.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This Flood Investigation Report has been produced by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
- 1.2 Lead Local Flood Authorities (unitary authorities or county councils) are responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management in their areas and for maintaining a register of

flood risk assets. They also have lead responsibility for managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

- 1.3 Under Section 19 of the FWMA the council on becoming aware of a flood as lead local flood authority must to the extent that it considers necessary and appropriate investigate.
 - (a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
 - (b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
- 1.4 Where an authority carries out an investigation it must—
 - (a) publish the results of its investigation, and
 - (b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.
- 1.5 LLFAs and the Environment Agency and all other Risk Management Authorities need to work closely together and ensure that the plans they are making both locally and nationally link up. An essential part of managing local flood risk is taking account of new development in land use plans and strategies.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 On Wednesday 8th June 2016, Sandwell was affected by sporadic thunderstorms accompanied by intense rainfall, leading to flooding of a number of local areas and communities. Further storms on Tuesday 14th June 2016, gave rise to similar but less extensive flooding. Over the two events around 218 properties suffered internal flooding, with 138 reported near misses where external flooding occurred outside the property or along the highway.
- 2.2 All 6 Town areas Sandwell (West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Oldbury & Tipton) suffered incidents of internal property, external property and highway flooding.
- 2.3 The aim of this Flood Investigation Report is to bring together all useful information captured from communities and various sources across Sandwell, where we have been made aware of flooding. Other authorities that have relevant flood risk management responsibilities and functions are Severn Trent Water (STW) and Environment Agency (EA)

3 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

3.1 Data has been collected from a number of sources, including:

- Information captured by the Risk Management Authorities
- Online Survey hosted on the council's website
- Local Site Visits and Surveys
- Highway, Operations, Emergency Callout/Highway Resilience Unit
- Media and social media
- Contact from MPs and Councillors
- Contact from Residents, Social Housing, Road Users and Businesses
- Environment Agency analysis of rainfall return periods

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 There is no recommended affordable alternative

5 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Local Strategy for Flood Risk Management is funded from the target revenue budget for Flood Protection managed by Highway Services..

5.2 The Corporate Risk Management Strategy has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks. Based on the information provided, it is the officers' opinion that for the significant risks that have been identified, arrangements are in place to manage and mitigate these effectively. This assessment has identified there are no current "red" risks to be reported.

6. LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA).

6.2 Under section 21 FWMA a lead local flood authority must establish and maintain—

(a) a register of structures or features which, in the opinion of the authority, are likely to have a significant effect on a flood risk in its area, and

(b) a record of information about each of those structures or features, including information about ownership and state of repair.

- 6.3 The lead local flood authority must arrange for the register to be available for inspection at all reasonable times.
- 6.4 Under the FWMA, the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority lead in managing local flood risks (i.e. risks of flooding from surface water, ground water and ordinary (smaller) watercourses and will work with all relevant organisations and local communities as far as reasonably possible to reduce the chance of a repeat flood event.
- 6.5 Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the council as Lead Local Flood Authority is a category one responder and has a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event to protect and assist local communities.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment has not been carried out as maintaining the highway infrastructure is not believed to impact significantly against the protected characteristics.

8. DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Not applicable.

10. SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 10.1 Not applicable.

11. HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 11.1 This flood investigation report supports 2030 Ambitions as follows

5. Our communities will feel safe, more protected and confident in their homes and neighbourhoods.

6. Our residents will have excellent public transport that connects them to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.

10. Sandwell will have a national reputation for getting things done, focussing on what really matters in people's lives and their wider community.

12. IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

12.1 Highway maintainable at public expense. The report is consistent with the aims and objectives as set out in the Corporate Asset Management Plan and Highway Asset Management Plan in particular ensuring the safety of the highway network.

13. CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 Approval of Flood Investigation Report will meet the statutory obligations of the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority by with regard to relevant considerations as set out in legislation and statutory guidance.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

14.1 Sandwell MBC Highway Asset Management Plan

15. APPENDICES:

15.1 Flood Investigation Report for the June 2016 Flood Event

Dr Alison Knight
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