

## Briefing: Summer Storm Section 19 Investigation

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### 1. Background

In the summer of 2023, Rotherham experienced intense and prolonged heavy rainfall on the 18th of June and 8th of July. This led to severe flooding. The rainfall experienced exceeded the capacity of the drainage system, affecting 17 residential properties in various areas of the Borough with internal flooding. July 2023 was the wettest in England since 2009 and this flooding impacted the lives of residents and businesses. The aftermath prompted a collective response, with ongoing efforts since the night of June 18th to address the challenges posed by the flood event. The Council provided residents assistance during the event to minimise the extent of flooding and support residents and businesses in recovery. Since the event the Council has carried out a number of projects to reduce the flood risk to properties and worked with residents and business to provide resilience against future events.

### Legislation

The Flood and Water Management Act was published in 2010 to take forward the Pitt Review recommendations and create a national approach to flood risk management across England and Wales. The creation of Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) formed part of the Act along with Risk Management Authorities (RMA) all of whom have responsibilities in the management of flood risk.

Under Section 19 of the act (Part 1.3 Section 19), as the LLFA, RMBC has the duty to investigate flood incidents and publish the results of the investigation.

The act states that:

On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate—

- a) which Risk Management Authorities (RMA's) have relevant flood risk management functions,
- b) whether each of those RMA's has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must—

- a) publish the results of its investigation.
- b) notify any relevant RMA's.

Section 19 reports are to be published on Rotherham Council website.

## **Summary**

The accompanying report fulfils our legal duty to produce a Section 19 report (as set out above) The Section 19 report will be shared with RMA's and affected residents. In addition, we have produced community flood fact reports which will be provided to those residents affected by internal flooding. These reports are additional information for residents and not for publishing on our web page.

**ENDS**