

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	9th June, 2010
3.	Title:	Final Report – Localised Flooding in June 2009 All Wards
4.	Programme Area:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To provide a final report on the flash flooding event of June 2009 together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to further improve resilience against future flooding.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 that the contents of the Final Report be published on the Council's web site.
- 6.2 to continue to explore all means of obtaining funding to improve resilience against future flooding.

7. Proposals and Details

On the 9th October 2009 a Progress Report and a Post Incident and Initial Investigations Report were presented to the Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee on the flash flooding event of June 2009 together with actions taken by the Council to date and proposals to further improve resilience against future flooding.

Shortly after the floods the Council's Streetpride, Drainage Team carried out initial drainage investigation surveys to establish the cause of the flooding and to indicate possible solutions and/or improvements needed to existing drainage systems. Interim Progress Reports were prepared and issued to Ward Members, Members of Parliament, Parish Councillors and later published on the Council's web site for residents affected by the floods.

The Final Report has now been completed and provides details of the feasibility works that have been carried out by Streetpride Drainage Team into the cause of the flooding and possible recommendations into improving the flooding problems. Below is a brief summary of the feasibility work carried out:

- September to October 2009 – Topographical and Closed Circuit Television Surveys for all areas in Rotherham affected by the June 2009 floods.
- October 2009 to February 2010 – Feasibility works in Aston, Swallownest and Aughton.
- January to March 2010 - Feasibility works in Todwick, Treeton, Laughton Common, Herringthorpe, Thurcroft, Clifton, Holmes and Thrybergh.
- April 2010 – Completion of the Final Report.

A copy of the Final Report is attached in Appendix A.

In addition to the above information, works have been carried out to minimise the risk of future flooding. A brief summary of these works are detailed below.

- Ongoing discussions are taking place between the Environment Agency and Streetpride Drainage Team, into the possibility of piloting a pluvial (e.g. surface water run off from fields etc), flood warning system in Aston, Swallownest and Aughton.
- Streetpride, Drainage Team has worked closely with Yorkshire Water in identifying problems with public sewers. Yorkshire Water is presently investigating their public sewerage systems in the areas affected by the floods, and the Council is awaiting the results of their investigation works.
- Applications for funding were submitted by the Council to DEFRA for 'Quick Wins' funding from the "Early Action Bids for Tackling Surface Water Flooding" programme. DEFRA have now approved two bids for the sum of £115,000, for the completion of two flood alleviation schemes at Lodge Lane to Heron Hill, Aston, and Kensington Close, Laughton Common. The design works have commenced and the construction works will be completed before April 2011.

- Applications for funding were submitted by the Council to DEFRA for funding through the Property Flood Level Grant. DEFRA have now approved the bids for the sum of £57,000 and for the protection of 10 individual properties in the Eastwood and East Dene area. These works will be completed before April 2011.

Various maintenance and improvement works were carried out by the Streetpride Drainage Team. Some of these works consisted of:-

- Carried out various maintenance works to ditches and outfalls, including diverting a ditch to transfer water away from properties in Windle Court and Shoreland Drive, Treeton, on behalf of Green Spaces.
- Major de-silting works have also been carried out to the highway drain in Worksop Road, Swallownest.
- Works are ongoing to locate a buried culvert downstream of Wetherby Drive within Rother Valley Country Park.
- An existing highway drainage system was relaid at Lodge Lane, Aston. The cost of the scheme was £15,000
- Additional gully cleansing works were carried out in areas affected by the June 2009 floods.

8. Finance

The Council's Streetpride, Drainage Team have now completed the feasibility works, established the cause of the flooding and indicated possible solutions and/or improvements needed to existing drainage systems. In September 2009 CMT approved the sum of £70,000 for the commencement of the drainage investigation and feasibility works.

Various flood alleviation solutions have been identified within the final report. It is proposed to report these schemes early with a view to obtaining funding and achieving timely improvements if possible. Several minor strategic capital allocation bids have been forwarded to the Council for approval, to carry out various flood alleviation works.

DEFRA have approved two bids for the sum of £115,000, in accordance with the 'Quick Win' schemes from the "Early Action Bids for Tackling Surface Water Flooding" programme. The two bids are for the completion of two flood alleviation schemes at Lodge Lane to Heron Hill, Aston, and Kensington Close, Laughton Common. These works are ongoing and will be completed before April 2011.

DEFRA have approved bids for the sum of £57,000, in accordance with the Property Flood Level Grant programme. The bids are for the completion of various flood resilience works required for the protection of 10 individual properties situated at Eastwood and East Dene. These works will be completed before April 2011.

Please note any requirements for additional revenue funding are not reflected in the current medium term financial strategy.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Successful applications for additional funding were submitted by the Council to DEFRA and Environment Agency, for flood alleviation works at Aston, Laughton Common, Eastwood and East Dene. The final report identifies other areas within the Borough of Rotherham where additional funding is required to alleviate further flooding problems. There are no guarantees that future funding will be made available by DEFRA or the Environment Agency to carry out the works outlined in the final report.

It is likely that there will be additional pressures on the Council to carry out some of the improvement works to alleviate future surface water flooding throughout Rotherham. The Council is exploring other means of obtaining funding from other sources but presently the Council has made no financial allowances for these works to be completed.

Some residents affected by the floods are now demanding that the Council take action to resolve the flooding problems. Failure to progress the works could leave the Council vulnerable to future events of this nature and seriously affect the Council's future reputation.

The majority of the surface water overland flooding problems are from privately owned land and will require the full corporation of the landowner(s). The duty of all riparian owners (i.e. private landowners) is to ensure that all flows within a watercourse are not impeded. The Council has a duty to maintain the safety of the highway and has certain permissive powers to ensure that riparian owners carry out their maintenance duties.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

- (1) Sir Michael Pitt Review 2007 Floods, issued December 2008
- (2) Flood Risk Regulations 2009
- (3) Proposed Floods and Water Management Bill 2010

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix A – June 2009 Floods – Final Report

The issues contained within this report support the Council's main themes of Rotherham Safe and Rotherham Achieving.

Ward Members in the Wards listed above have been consulted. Further consultations are required.

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