

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GROWTH & SUSTAINABILITY

TITLE: FLOOD RECOVERY REVIEW 2023/24

REPORT TO:	CABINET
Date of Meeting	17 APRIL 2024
Cabinet Member Portfolio	ENVIRONMENT & HIGHWAYS
Key Decision	No
Public or Private	Public

Purpose of report

This report provides an update regarding activity across the Borough following the October 2023 flood event which directly affected 21 properties across the Borough.

The report covers progress on the following key areas;

- The “Section 19” report which identifies whether the relevant flood risk management authorities discharged their statutory duties or not.
- Measures being undertaken by the Council to bolster the response to any future flooding incidents.

Council Plan priority

- Sustainable Barnsley, Healthy Barnsley and Enabling Barnsley.

Recommendations

That Cabinet:-

- 1.** Endorse the attached Section 19 report on the effective discharge of statutory responsibilities with regard to flood risk management;
- 2.** Note the flood recovery actions that have been taken to date and are planned for the next period.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.** Storm Babet brought exceptional rainfall to parts of the UK with 150 to 200mm falling in the wettest areas and the Met Office issuing two red warnings for rain.

- 1.2. Coinciding with this red warning area the 19 October 2023 was, by a wide margin, the wettest day on record in a series from 1891. Heavy, persistent, and widespread rain also affected much of England, Wales, and Northern Ireland from 18th to 20th, with 100mm falling widely.
- 1.3. This rain came on top of very wet weather earlier in October with some central and eastern parts of England recording more than twice the October whole-month average rainfall in the first three weeks of the month.
- 1.4. Storm Babet tracked in a north westerly direction from the east coast of Lincolnshire and East Anglia on 19 October 2023. The impact was most significant in South of Yorkshire with the largest accumulations along the Pennine ridge to the west of Chesterfield and Sheffield. Rainfall amounts across the Don and Rother catchments were substantial with intense rainfall. Widely, there was one months of October average rainfall in 36 hours. The period July to October 2023 was recorded as the wettest for Yorkshire since 1880.
- 1.5. Flood Alerts were issued by the Environment Agency for the Upper River Don Catchment and River Dearne Catchment and Flood Warnings were issued for River Dearne at Burton Grange, Lundwood and River Dearne at Darton and Barugh.
- 1.6. In response, a Major incident was declared, and our emergency response teams mobilised to assist residents, businesses and to support the emergency services where required. During our response;
 - our Highways Team responded to 126 requests across the borough. They checked and cleared culverts, deployed tankers to pump water and cesspits, put up flood warning signs, delivered 500+ sandbags to high risk areas and dealt with 13 fallen trees. They also had to close 11 roads across the Borough.
 - Berneslai Homes deployed teams from the start of the storm in key areas such as Stacey Crescent and Lang Avenue;
 - our Contact Centre received 1,113 calls for Berneslai Homes and Highways between Friday and Sunday, helping to answer people's questions and get them the support they need;
 - our Safer Neighbourhood wardens supported communities throughout the night on shifts at all locations, filling sandbags, door-knocking to offer support and checking river and rising water levels;
 - the Stronger Communities teams helped fill sandbags and helped run the Burton Grange Community Centre alongside colleagues from Children's Services. This was a key part of our support for residents affected and remained open throughout the night; and
 - we provided alternative accommodation to people who needed it; and
- 1.7. Unfortunately, some of our communities were badly affected, with 20 properties in Lundwood suffering internal flooding and 1 property at the Ings Lane Caravan Site getting which, due to the extent of the flooding, required the evacuation of the site.

1.8. During the recovery phase the Council and Bernaslai Homes also;

- provided cleaning products and skips to help people remove damaged items.
- offered a £350 financial hardship payment to people whose living areas flooded;
- paused council tax payments for up to three months for those residents unable to live in their homes due to flood damage;
- paused business rate payments for up to three months for the business that we're unable to trade because of flood damage.
- supported Berneslai Homes tenants to repair the damage inside of their homes and signposted them to their hardship fund.

2. PROPOSAL AND UPDATES

Section 19 Report

2.1. Following the widespread and serious flooding in England during June and July 2007, an independent review was carried out. Following this the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 was implemented, and Councils took on additional duties as Lead Local Flood Authorities. The Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority has a statutory duty to investigate (under Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010) on becoming aware of a flood in its area.

2.2. The scope of the investigation should cover;

- Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
- Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

2.3. The Council is required to:

- Publish the results of its investigation, and
- Notify any relevant risk management authorities.

2.4. The Council is required to carry out a Section 19 investigation following a flooding event but has discretion in terms of the depth of investigation undertaken and the degree of follow up. As a result, area specific investigations into the unique causes of flooding at specific locations are being progressed as part of individual work packages and are not contained within the Section 19 report.

2.5. Appendix 1 contains the final report summarising the impact of the October 2023 floods, the underlying cause of the flood event and, the identification of all Risk Management Authorities with relevant Flood risk Management Functions.

2.6. Council officers have engaged with key partners with flood management responsibilities: the Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Boards, Highway Authorities and Water Companies to produce the final version.

2.7. It is recommended that Cabinet Endorse the attached Section 19 report on the effective discharge of statutory responsibilities with regard to flood risk management.

Progress on key flood alleviation schemes

2.8. As part of the Council's on-going commitment to invest in flood resilience measures the following sections provide an update on key schemes and projects.

2.9. Lundwood Flood Alleviation Scheme

2.9.1. Since experiencing significant flooding events in 2007 and 2019, the Council and partners have been working together to address flood risk in this area. Collaborating closely with Berneslai Homes, our focus has been on investigating the underlying causes of flooding along Lang Avenue and the surrounding area.

2.9.2. Phase 1 of the investigation was completed in 2021/22 and involved monitoring water levels across the River Dearne Gauge, modelling surface water flows, surveying and repairing local drainage assets and carrying out maintenance of the drainage assets on the western side of the Trans Pennine Trail embankment.

2.9.3. Phase 2 of the investigation was completed in 2022/23 and involved CCTV inspection of the local drainage assets, a topographical survey of the area, hydraulic modelling of the River Dearne and a flood storage assessment, modelling of the Yorkshire Water sewer network and the repair of existing culvert headwalls.

2.9.4. Phase 3 is now underway with William Saunders Partnership (WSP) commissioned to undertake detailed analysis of the Phase 1 and 2 information, including flood risk history and the flooding mechanism. A multi-stage optioneering exercise will then take place which will identify and test (using complex hydraulic modelling software) a number of practical solutions. This stage is expected to be completed in March 2024.

2.9.5. Following this Officers will review all options and report back to Cabinet on the preferred solution, costs, risks and timescales for implementation.

2.10. Low Valley (Bulling Dyke) flood prevention scheme

- 2.10.1 This scheme aims to produce a new hydraulic model and a flood study for the Low Valley area in Wombwell, where the River Dove and the Bulling Dyke pose significant flood risk to properties.
- 2.10.2 The scheme requires up-to-date, consistent topographic survey data for the Bulling Dyke and River Dove, as well as CCTV condition survey of the culvert under Station Road.
- 2.10.3 The outputs of the updated baseline model will include problem definition drawings, a technical note, a hydraulic modelling report, and recommendations for future work such as a feasibility study and an outline design. The overall goal is to provide a baseline model for a flood alleviation scheme (FAS) for this area.
- 2.10.4 The scheme will consult with the consulting engineers (WSP), the Environment Agency (EA), Yorkshire and Humber Drainage Boards, local members and the local community. The project will also liaise with the EA on their parallel model build of the River Dove and share data and outputs to minimise discrepancies and inconsistencies.
- 2.10.5 The project aligns with the National Flood & Coastal Erosion Flood Risk Management Strategy (FCERMS) and the Barnsley Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS), which set out the objectives and measures to improve flood resilience, promote sustainable development, and raise awareness of flood risk.
- 2.10.6 The project still needs to finalise the hydraulic model with inflows, produce flood mapping, problem definition drawings, a hydraulic model report, and a technical note. The draft documentation is expected to be completed by Friday 22nd March.

2.11. Barnsley Culvert Programme

- 2.11.1 There are 76 known culverts in Barnsley whose size is in excess of 900mm wide. However there is a significant number (estimated to be in excess of 500) which are un-mapped. This project aims to identify drainage culverts within the boundaries of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) to create a controlled asset system for maintenance. The review will also include a condition assessment and a recommendation of any remedial work required.
- 2.11.2 The project is separated into 4 phases, with each phase increasing the amount of information collected. Phase 1 consists of information gathering followed by the identification and mapping of culverted watercourses along A-Roads, B-Roads and the Unclassified road network.
- 2.11.3 Stakeholders required to support the initial information gathering on culvert locations include Yorkshire Water, Network Rail, the Environment Agency, Open Rivers, OS Open Network, historic flood incidents records and Open Street View.

2.11.4 The output of the project will be a GIS representation of the Borough's culverted drainage assets which can be used to inform future maintenance schedules and identify new upgrade and improvement schemes to further improve the flood resilience of the Borough.

2.12. South Yorkshire Connected By Water (CbW) Partnership

2.12.1 The CbW partnership is an alliance of the four South Yorkshire Councils, the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, the Environment Agency and Yorkshire Water plc with the core focus of improving flood resilience across the region.

2.12.2 Partners have been working together collaboratively since 2019 to deliver flood risk management schemes and to plan catchment wide measure for the future to help meet the challenges of climate change.

2.12.3 Examples of projects currently in development and delivery include:

- Developing an Adaptation Pathways model approach (with £1.6m EA funding) to enable scenario testing to inform future investment decisions at the catchment level to address flooding and climate change;
- A multimillion-pound Source to Sea nature-based solutions programme in the Don Catchment bringing a variety of nature-based solutions to slow the flow and create more space for water;
- Establishing a regional multi-agency flood risk and emergency event visual dashboard, supported and part funded by the Local Resilience Forum and being delivered in partnership with the Integrated Care Board;
- An education programme to be delivered in South Yorkshire schools creating a generation of flood aware children;
- Public campaigns and events to help communities become more resilient to flooding;
- Scoping a regional partnership surface water and sewer flooding capital programme (with Yorkshire Water) and potential YW South Yorkshire 'Single Pot';
- Plans to adapt ways of working to enable integrated water management and easier collaboration between organisations;
- A new web platform and social media accounts to raise the profile, increase credibility of the partnership and engage wider supporters and potential partners @ConnectedbyH2O, and;
- one combined data system, bringing regional flood risk data together to inform future investment decisions.

2.12.4 CbW partners are currently exploring the benefits of adopting a Strategic Place Partnership model to provide further efficiencies in future funding, greater alignment of resources and promote a more collaborative approach to national and local decision making.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

3.1 Financial and Risk

- 3.1.1 Consultations on the financial implications have taken place with representatives of the Director of Finance (S151 Officer)
- 3.1.2 There are no direct financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report. Internal and external funding routes will continue to be explored for the mentioned flood alleviation schemes and follow up approvals sought as necessary.
- 3.1.3 The long-term recovery and renewal of flood protection across the Borough will require considerable external investment. Medium Term Plan (MTP) bids have been submitted to the Environment Agency and allocations have been made for key projects as part of the Highways annual budget setting programme.

3.2 Legal

- 3.2.1 The Council has a number of powers and duties in relation to the matters considered within this report, including the requirements specified within Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010.

3.3 Equality

- 3.3.1 In accordance with the corporate guidance note, no EIA is required. This report satisfies the Authority's statutory responsibility under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010.

3.4 Sustainability

- 3.4.1 The Council continues to recognise the increasing threat of climate change-induced flooding following the unprecedented rainfall from Storm Babet in October 2023. This event highlighted the continued need for the development and implementation of flood resilience measures in our most vulnerable communities.
- 3.4.2 The Council will continue to progress flood alleviation schemes such as the Lundwood Flood Alleviation Scheme and the Low Valley flood prevention scheme to demonstrate the Council's commitment to addressing climate change-induced flooding and improving community flood resilience against future events.
- 3.4.3 Improving the Borough's resilience to adverse weather events, like

flooding, also supports the broader aims of the Council's Adverse Weather and Health Plans.

3.5 Employee

3.5.1 There are no employee implications arising from this report.

3.6 Communications

3.6.1 There are no direct communication requirements required as a result of this report. Established communication practices already exist to inform residents of the Council's ongoing work in relation to flood response and resilience.

4 CONSULTATION

4.1 Discussions have been held with representatives from Berneslai Homes, Culture and Tourism and Communities in the preparation of this report.

4.2 Mirror reports are also being taken through Doncaster MBC, Rotherham MBC and Sheffield CC and representatives from all three South Yorkshire Councils have been consulted on the development of the Section 19 Report.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 No alternative options are required to be considered due to the nature of the recommendations of this report.

6 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Elected Member approval of the Section 19 report fulfils the Statutory obligation of the Council, as a Lead Local Flood Authority, under Section 19 of the Floods and Water Management Act 2010).

7 GLOSSARY

- FAS – Flood Alleviations Scheme
- YW – Yorkshire Water
- WSP – William Saunders Partnership
- EA – Environment Agency
- FCERMS – Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy
- LFRMS – Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

8 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Section 19 Report

9 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Not applicable.

10 REPORT SIGN OFF

Financial consultation & sign off	Senior Financial Services officer consulted and date Ashley Gray – Strategic Finance Business Partner
Legal consultation & sign off	Legal Services officer consulted and date <i>Andrew Perriman 21 March 2024</i>

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Post: Head of Highway's & Engineering
Date: February 2024