

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 20 January 2020

#### Title: North Tyneside Surface Water and Drainage Partnership Annual Update

---

<b>Portfolio: Community Safety &amp; Engagement</b>	<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Councillor Carole Burdis</b>
---	------------------------	---------------------------------

---

**Report from Service Area:** Environment, Housing and Leisure

**Responsible Officer:** Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure      **Tel: (0191) 643 7295**

**Wards affected:** All

---

#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Executive Summary:**

The establishment of the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership ('the Partnership'), was approved by Cabinet to progress work identified by the Flooding Task and Finish Group which was itself set up following the flooding events of 2012.

At the time of establishment, Cabinet requested an annual update on the activity within the Partnership. This report provides Cabinet with this annual update.

Following its establishment in 2013, the Partnership has overseen the development of a local flood risk strategy and has successfully delivered a large programme of major schemes which have greatly reduced the risk of flooding in communities across North Tyneside. There has also been much successful work around community engagement including the creation of a community flood warden initiative.

The Authority has contributed £4.75million into flood risk management working with its partners this has resulted in an overall investment of around £20million. The investment plans are now complete.

Established regional networks with partners relating to flood risk management exist that have their own separate governance arrangements. As the Partnership has now met its aims and objectives it is proposed that it is now dissolved.

The management of local surface water issues continue to be managed using a business as usual approach through these established regional arrangements.

## 1.2 Recommendations:

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- 1) notes the report and the progress made; and
- 2) agrees to the dissolution of the Partnership for the reasons set out in Section 1.5.5 and Section 1.5.6 of the report.

## 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty-eight days' notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 20 September 2019.

## 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2018-2020 Our North Tyneside Plan:

Our Places will:

- Provide a clean, green, healthy, attractive, safe and sustainable environment
- Have an effective transport and physical infrastructure

Our People will:

- Be healthy and well

## 1.5 Information:

### 1.5.1 Background

On 14 January 2013 Cabinet considered the final report of the Flooding Task and Finish Group. In doing so, Cabinet agreed to the Surface Water and Drainage Partnership ('the Partnership') being established. On 10 June 2013, Cabinet considered the progress made by the Partnership to date and agreed that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Transport would act as the Chair of the Partnership. The role of Chair was later transferred to the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Engagement. The Partnership normally meets quarterly.

1.5.2 This report provides Cabinet with an annual progress update and makes recommendations about the Partnership's future.

### 1.5.3 Progress Over the Last 12 Months

Over the last 12 months the Partnership has coordinated the Authority's involvement in the following areas:

- the Killingworth and Longbenton Sustainable Surface Drainage Project, a multi-agency project between the Authority, Northumbrian Water and The Environment Agency;
- progression of the Flood Risk Implementation Plan, overseeing the planned improvements and progression of schemes and the works;

- the work being carried out around community preparedness including ongoing communications and regular engagement with the wider community, key stakeholders and community flood wardens; and
- the Flood Alleviation spend.

1.5.4 The following specific work has been delivered since the last update report to Cabinet:

- Briar Vale, Monkseaton – Completion of the final phase of work in Murton Gap to reduce the risk of flooding to nearby homes. The £0.800m scheme involved installing large dry storage basins and a new culvert system
- Killingworth & Longbenton Sustainable Drainage Project – Completion of the final phase of this £6million partnership project which involved the creation of a large dry storage basin at the edge of Killingworth lake and a new culvert to divert lake drainage into a nearby natural watercourse.

#### 1.5.5 Review of the Partnership

The Briar Vale major flood alleviation scheme was the final project in a 4-year programme of capital work to reduce the risk of surface water flooding. The programme was completed earlier this year. The Partnership has therefore undertaken a review to

- 1) summarise what has been achieved throughout the Partnership's lifetime
- 2) determine whether the aims and objectives of the Partnership have been met
- 3) recommend whether or not there is a need to continue with the Partnership.

Achievements of the Partnership are summarised below:

- Development of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and associated Implementation Plan
- Introduction of unique branding including a distinctive logo which helped to give the Partnership and associated work its own identity
- Improvements to emergency flood response procedures to increase resilience
- Financial investment of around £20million for schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in the borough with North Tyneside contributing £4.75million
- Completion of 8 major flood risk reduction schemes. Examples include Green Lane, Dudley; Shiremoor; Fairfield Green, Monkseaton and Briar Vale, Monkseaton
- Completion of the £6m Killingworth and Longbenton Sustainable Drainage Project
- Completion of around 30 smaller drainage improvement schemes
- Installation of property level protection to homes at Oak Grove, Wallsend and Murton Village
- Improving links between partner drainage agencies and regional bodies such as the Northumbria Region Flood and Coastal Committee
- Investment in 2 new gully cleansing vehicles with associated silt level measuring ICT
- Completion of numerous studies and drainage modelling to better understand surface water issues and risks
- Administering the DEFRA Repair and Renewal grant funding to support residents and businesses affected by flooding

- Raising public awareness about flooding and flood resilience through news articles, websites, community presentations, social media and other forms of communication
- Introduction of a Community Flood Warden scheme. The Authority has a network of 20 volunteer flood wardens, who have received lone-working and health and safety training. They have also participated in emergency response desk-top exercises. The flood wardens were issued with personal protective (PPE) equipment, a handbook and dedicated telephone numbers for use during an incident. The scheme has been shared as best practice with other authorities and was included in a case study produced by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE).
- Supporting the creation of an Environment Agency community engagement officer to provide a regional resource to advise communities and businesses on flooding issues
- Regular updates to the Cabinet and other committees to keep members informed about the work undertaken by the Partnership.

Officers have revisited the Partnership Terms of Reference to test whether the original aims and objectives have been met. These are set out below together with the assessment made against each:

### **Visible Partnership and Accountability**

OBJECTIVE: The Council and its partners need to be seen to work together and to be accountable for their performance in this area. North Tyneside residents and businesses need to understand who is acting on their behalf and what responsibilities those organisations have.

ASSESSMENT: The Partnership has ensured visibility and accountability which has now been embedded more widely in the partner organisations. For example, quarterly liaison meetings are now held between the Authority and its partner drainage agencies to discuss all surface water issues. The Authority is also represented by the lead Cabinet Member at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This improved visibility and accountability will continue in the future. The partnership objective has been met.

### **Visible Preparation and Management**

OBJECTIVE: The residents, communities and businesses of North Tyneside need to be able to see that the Authority and its partners play their appropriate part in preparing for flooding and managing surface water in a manner that mitigates the risks of pluvial flooding. North Tyneside residents and businesses need to see that the Authority and partners take flooding seriously and work hard to mitigate the risks.

ASSESSMENT: The Authority and its partner agencies have undertaken a large range of visible activity to demonstrate our commitment to surface water management and flood risk reduction and this work will continue as a matter of routine. Some examples are publishing information on the website, holding public engagement events, issuing news releases and so on. Positive feedback we have received from residents and businesses provides evidence that this partnership objective has been met.

### **Community Awareness and Resilience**

OBJECTIVE: The Council and its partners need to work together to help residents, communities and businesses understand the risks, the intelligence available to them and what they can do to be resilient to flooding. North Tyneside residents and businesses need to feel they know how to cope.

**ASSESSMENT:** A great deal of work has been undertaken by the Partnership in this area. Examples include the creation of the community flood warden scheme and the creation of a dedicated flooding engagement officer funded through the local levy. The engagement officer works with residents and businesses to advise on how they can make themselves more resilient to flooding and what to do in an emergency. This partnership objective has been met.

### **Understood Response Priorities**

**OBJECTIVE:** The Authority and other Category One Responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 have clear response priorities. For the Authority that is the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable. It is clear that is sometimes at odds with other partners' priorities which might be to open the road network for example. North Tyneside residents and businesses need to understand the priorities in a response situation and act accordingly. The Partnership is responsible for the Local Flood Risk Management strategy comprising:

- The Development Plan
- The Implementation Plan
- The Surface Water Management Plan

**ASSESSMENT:** The Partnership oversaw the successful completion and operation of the three plans referenced above and also made improvements to emergency flood response procedures by introducing an Operational Flood Action Plan. The Authority has now completed a programme of capital schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in our most vulnerable areas as identified in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Implementation Plan. The engineering team will continue to seek funding for smaller scale projects as and when the opportunity arises in the future. This partnership objective has been met.

#### 1.5.6 Conclusion and Recommendation

The review has concluded that the objectives of the Partnership have been successfully met and the good practice that has been developed is now embedded in the daily business of the partner organisations. It is therefore recommended that the existing governance arrangements of the Partnership are dissolved. Established regional networks with partners relating to flood risk management exist that have their own separate governance arrangements. It is therefore proposed that the management of local surface water issues continue to be managed using a business as usual approach through these arrangements. Should the recommendation be approved, this will be the final progress report made to Cabinet.

#### 1.5.7 The Future

If the formal governance arrangements are dissolved a number of measures will be kept in place to ensure that the good work of the Partnership is continued. These are:

- Continued active participation in the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership – this is a regional partnership that brings together all drainage agencies to deal with surface water issues in a strategic way. The Authority will remain an active participant in this
- Continued active regular liaison with other partner drainage agencies to deal with day to day surface water issues

- Continued public engagement and community activity including continuation of the flood warden scheme.

In the event of a major flooding event existing major incident protocols will be used as part of the resilience an emergency planning arrangements that have been improved and embedded.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

Cabinet may either:

- 1) Note the progress made and accept the recommendation to dissolve the existing Partnership governance arrangements; or
- 2) Note the progress made and not accept the recommendation to dissolve the existing Partnership governance arrangements.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended as a review of the Partnership has concluded that it has met its original aims and objectives. The capital work overseen by the Partnership is now complete and the good practice developed has been embedded in daily business which means there is no longer a requirement for a formal partnership arrangement.

## **1.8 Contact officers:**

Phil Scott, Head of Environment, Housing and Leisure, tel. (0191) 643 7295

Jackie Laughton, Head of Corporate Strategy, tel. (0191) 643 7070

Colin MacDonald, Senior Manager Technical & Regulatory Services, (0191) 643 6620

Mark Newlands, Highways & Infrastructure Manager, tel (0191) 643 6129

Claire Emmerson, Senior Manager, Financial Strategy and Planning, 0191 643 8109

Emma Simson, Legal Manager, Commercial & Development, Tel: (0191) 643 5375

## **1.9 Background information:**

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) [The Flood Risk Regulations 2009](#)
- (2) [Flood and Water Management Act 2010](#)
- (3) [Flood Risk Management Plan](#)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

2.1.1 A four-year allocation of capital funding for surface water improvement schemes totalling £4.75 million was made available through the Authority's Investment Plan. The programme has now come to an end and it enabled the delivery of a range of drainage projects which has dealt with all high-risk flooding areas. A residual programme of smaller schemes for lower risk continues to be developed. Future work on these smaller schemes will be funded through a combination of existing revenue budgets and Environment Agency grants such as the local levy.

### **2.2 Legal**

2.2.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 translate the EU Floods Directive into law for England and Wales. The Regulations require the Environment Agency, county councils and unitary authorities together with partners such as water companies, to manage flood risk from all sources and to reduce the impact of flooding on human health, economic activity, cultural heritage and the environment.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is designed to put in place the changes recommended by Sir Michael Pitt in his review of the summer floods of 2007.

The 2009 Regulations and the 2010 Act carry with them duties for local authorities, including:

- the duty to produce a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy;
- the duty to produce and maintain a register of assets which have a significant effect on the flood risk in the area. Such assets need to be designated and works to those assets subsequently controlled through a consent procedure;
- a responsibility to investigate and publish reports on flood incidents in their area; and
- the duty to establish a Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes (SuDS) approval body.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and the Regulations made under that Act, Cabinet is responsible for considering and determining this matter.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

The work undertaken and to be undertaken by the Partnership involves the Authority's Emergency Response Leadership Group and the Partnership's Community Preparedness sub-group. Both the Cabinet Members for Housing and Environment and Community Engagement are regularly briefed.

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

The following external consultation and engagement activity has been undertaken:

- Articles on flood risk reduction have featured in the Our North Tyneside residents' magazine
- During the Briar Vale Flood Alleviation Scheme, there was engagement with key stakeholders on a regular basis. A letter was delivered to residents in advance of works getting under way and six electronic bulletins provided progress updates and details of key milestones. News releases were issued to local media at the start and finish of the scheme
- The Authority has worked closely with the Environment Agency's Local Community Engagement Officer which is a new post covering all of Tyne & Wear. The officer has been working on priorities for North Tyneside, which include:
  - Enhancing the Authority's work with schools to engage children and young people
  - Developing links to local businesses
  - Expanding the North Tyneside Community Flood Warden Scheme
  - Holding joint events and creating linkages between the North Tyneside community flood wardens and the Environment Agency's flood wardens
  - Working with residents in priority communities for surface water flooding

## **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

## **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report

## **2.6 Risk management**

Without this work, there is an increased risk that the Authority and its partners will not have adequate arrangements in place to deal with any future flooding events.

## **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report

## **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

The work of the Partnership has a positive impact on the environment of North Tyneside and the sustainability of communities. Flood risk reduction schemes are designed in line with SuDS principles. New drainage assets such as wetlands and storage ponds require little maintenance and will often enhance the local environment and improve wildlife habitats. Designs also involve the removal of surface water from the Northumbrian Water main combined sewer system resulting in less sewage having to be treated at treatment plants, which then increases the capacity of these plants to service new building developments.



### **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive  X
- Head of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service  X