

Agenda Item 28.

TITLE	Flood Risk Management Update
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Community and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee
WARD	None specific
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR	Sarah Hollamby, Director Locality & Customer Services
LEAD MEMBER	Parry Batth, Executive Member for Environment and Leisure

OUTCOME

To inform Members of the progress made with the Lead Local Flood Authority's (LLFA) duties under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010 during 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report and offers comment.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Flood risk management is a key responsibility of Wokingham Borough Council in its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) following the introduction of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) in 2010. The LLFA has been gradually progressing with the implementation of its responsibilities (to manage the coordination of surface water and groundwater flood risk in order to protect residents from flooding) whilst continuing to deliver existing reactive drainage services. This report provides an update to Members on the progress made during 2018/19. The next 12 months will also see further progress which will be reported back to the committee next year.

Background

During the financial year 2018/19, the Flooding and Drainage team made significant progress in fulfilling Wokingham Borough Council's (WBC) statutory obligations as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010. The primary responsibility as an LLFA is to manage the coordination of surface water and groundwater flood risk in order to protect residents from flooding. As the highways authority, WBC is also responsible for ensuring that the highways drainage is working effectively in order to prevent highway and property flooding following heavy rain. In order to deliver these responsibilities, a number of actions have been taken over the past 12 months including:

1. The completion of the Surface Water Management Plan for Shinfield;
2. Progression with the development of a Flood Asset Register under Section 21 of the FWMA 2010;

3. The delivery of numerous capital drainage schemes across the borough;
4. Ongoing revenue drainage maintenance works;
5. Comments on planning applications in relation to flooding and drainage;
6. Development of a natural flood risk management scheme for the Lower Loddon;
7. Collaboration with the University of Reading on flood risk studies;
8. Designation of additional flood risk structures.

1. Completion of a Surface Water Management Plan for Shinfield

As a Lead Local Flood Authority, WBC has a responsibility to manage the risk of Surface Water Flooding in the borough. To help achieve this, last year, officers carried out a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) of Shinfield, which resulted in the successful application for DEFRA grant funding to complete a flood risk management scheme south of Church Lane. This work is being carried out on third party land and involves the creation of a 250 metre ditch and a 190 metre bund to protect properties on Church Lane from surface water flooding.

Moving forward, officers intend to carry out SWMPs for all town and parishes at risk of surface water flooding in the borough. During this current financial year, officers have begun to work with consultants to develop a SWMP for Lower Earley, focusing on the areas in and around Maiden Erlegh Lake.

2. Section 21 Asset Register

Under Section 21 of the FWMA the LLFA has a duty to maintain a register of features or structures within the borough that, in the opinion of the Authority, could affect flood risk. The LLFA must also maintain a record, aligned to the register, of information regarding the ownership and state of repair of each feature or structure.

The register and record helps the Council to develop more informed maintenance regimes which can take account of assets important for managing flood risk. It also helps to establish where the borough's drainage and watercourse systems are, allowing for quicker identification of the responsible authority in incidences of flooding.

The information is currently being stored in ArcGIS, allowing staff to view the assets via a mapping system. Part of the information has been made publicly available so that residents are able to report faults with individual assets across the borough.

3. Delivery of capital drainage schemes

Officers have recently delivered a capital drainage scheme on Wilderness Road, between the junctions of Pepper Lane and Ramsbury Drive. This involved CCTVing

and jetting the entire stretch of drainage on this section of road, as well as the installation of approximately 80 metres of new kerb drainage.

Officers also delivered schemes during road closures for roads including Kentons Lane, Gipsy Lane, Jubilee Road, Milley Lane, Milton Road, Orchard Road, Tag Lane, Rowan Drive, Nelsons Lane, Nine Mile Ride, Culver Lane, Blakes Lane and Aston Lane.

In 2019/20 officers are also expecting to deliver capital schemes for Pound Lane, Jouldings Lane, Pepper Lane, and Barkham Ride.

4. Drainage revenue works

WBCs contractor emptied over 40,000 gullies between April 2018 and April 2019 as part of the annual gully cleansing programme. Whilst emptying the gullies, silt levels were recorded allowing officers to develop a risked based approach to gully cleansing. The silt levels have enabled officers to identify areas where silt was building up rapidly and where silt was not building up at all. This has been used to develop a new gully cleansing programme which targets increased cleansing in areas where silt is prone to building up more quickly in the gullies.

In addition, 1215 drainage problems, reported by residents, were responded to on the highways network, including localised flooding, gully emptying, delivery of sandbags, replacement of small sections of pipe, installation of new drainage, manhole and gully lid replacement and CCTVing works.

5. Commenting on planning applications in relation to flooding and drainage

During 2018/2019 the Flooding and Drainage team provided consultation responses to 460 planning applications. This has helped to ensure that the most appropriate drainage strategies are being implemented by developers, in turn contributing towards a reduction in surface water flood risk across the borough.

6. Development of a natural flood risk management scheme for the Lower Loddon

Officers are in the process of investigating the feasibility of a natural flood risk management scheme, south of the M4, to help reduce the risk of river flooding to the highway network and to properties along the Lower Loddon. Officers are currently developing the preliminary design and are liaising with affected stakeholders.

7. Collaboration with the University of Reading

Officers are working with a number of students at the University of Reading on water related studies which will provide the council with more accurate and detailed information about flood risk and water quality across the borough. As part of their third year dissertation module, students are investigating issues such as pollution within the surface water run-off from the M4, public perceptions of flood risk in the borough, and the impact of development on flood risk.

8. Designation of additional flood defence structures

Over the last 12 months officers have formally designated a number of features/structures within the borough that could have an impact on flood risk if significant changes are made to them. This means that the owner of the feature/structure is unable to do anything to it without the previous consent of the LLFA. Furthermore, the feature/structure will be shown as a designated structure on the local land charges register so that any successive owner is aware of the significance of it in terms of flood risk.

List of Background Papers
The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/community-and-safety/emergencies/drainage-and-flooding/

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