

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 25th April 2013

Lead Member: Lead Member for Public Realm

Report Author: Corporate Director: Economic & Community Ambition

Title: Flood Investigations: November 2012 incidents

1. What is the report about?

Investigations into the flooding events across Denbighshire in November 2012 have been underway since February 2013. The investigations cover a number of separate locations and are nearing their conclusion. A full report will be made to Council when the investigations are complete. Meanwhile, an update is provided to Partnerships Scrutiny for information and discussion on emerging findings and potential recommendations.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update Partnerships Scrutiny on progress with the flooding investigations and provide an opportunity for discussion of emerging potential recommendations before the report to Council is finalised.

3. What are the Recommendations?

Partnership Scrutiny is invited to consider progress with the investigations and discuss the potential emerging recommendations.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 Significant flooding occurred in a number of locations across Denbighshire on 26/27th November 2012. Around 500 properties, commercial and residential, were flooded at a total of 12 separate locations. Under the terms of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, the Council is currently undertaking an investigation into the causes of flooding. Natural Resources Wales (formerly Environment Agency Wales) is supporting the Council with the investigations.
- 4.2 The investigation was formally launched in February 2013 and was due to report to Council in May. Investigations at the two larger flooding incidents are taking longer to complete, however, and it is now likely that the report will be delayed until June. The investigation Terms of Reference are attached for information (Appendix 1).

- 4.3 The purpose of the investigations is to clarify why the flooding happened, how likely it is to recur and what, if anything, needs to be done to manage flood risk appropriately in the future.
- 4.4 The majority of the flood investigations are being carried out by the Council and Natural Resources Wales. Independent experts have been commissioned to carry out the investigation into the flooding at Glasdir, Ruthin, however, due to the complexity of events at that location. The independent experts, Dr Jean Venables and Clive Onion, will also review the Council and Natural Resources Wales' findings for all other flood locations.
- 4.5 The locations being investigated are:
- Rhuddlan
 - St. Asaph, including properties along Lower Denbigh Road
 - Brookhouse
 - Gellifor
 - Llanynys
 - Llanbedr DC
 - Park Place / Mwrog Street / Maes Ffynnon, Ruthin
 - Glasdir, Ruthin
 - Corwen
 - Loggerheads
 - Sarn Lane
 - Glyndyfrdwy
- 4.6 The criteria for agreeing a location for investigation are:
- One or more properties with internal flooding
 - Disruption to critical infrastructure, e.g. roads or utilities
 - A repeated 'near miss' of either of the above.
- 4.7 Discussions are underway at national level as to whether flooding of non residential or commercial properties and/or open land should also be investigated.
- 4.8 The flood investigation work is co-ordinated by a Flood Investigation Working Group comprising officers from the Council, Natural Resources Wales and the Trunk Road Authority. To date, two Stakeholder briefings have been issued and these are attached for information. Meetings have also been held with representatives of residents at the two larger flood locations at Glasdir and St Asaph.
- 4.9 Summaries of findings to date and emerging recommendations are outlined in Stakeholder Briefing 2 (Appendix 2). A verbal update on further progress will be provided at Partnerships Scrutiny meeting.
- 4.10 Given the length of time it is taking to conduct a thorough investigation of the causes of flooding, notwithstanding the results of the investigation, the Council has already taken some interim action to address identified flood risks. These include:

- Fitting of anti-flood non return valves on surface water drains at Brookhouse and the Mwrog Street channel, Ruthin
- Removal of the safety grilles on the 5 box culvert at Glasdir and the fitting of a temporary telemetry enabled water gauge in the culvert channel
- Repairs to the flood defence bund at Cae Ddol, Ruthin

5. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

A contingency of up to £40,000 has been set aside to cover the investigation and associated costs.

6. What consultations have been carried out and has an Equality Impact Assessment Screening been undertaken?

To date, two Stakeholder Briefings have been produced to share with all interested parties. Regular liaison meetings are taking place with representatives of the residents at Glasdir. A similar meeting is now scheduled with representatives of residents at St Asaph.

No EQIA has been undertaken.

7. Power to make the Decision

S19 of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 gives the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, the responsibility to investigate incidents of flooding.

Article 6.3.2(c) of the Council's Constitution

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