

Public Document Pack

LATE ITEM FOR INNER WEST COMMUNITY COMMITTEE – 9TH MARCH 2016

UPDATE ON STORM EVA FLOODING

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: The Area Leader - West North West (Citizens and Communities)

Report to: The Inner West Community Committee (Armley, Bramley & Stanningley and Kirkstall)

Report author: Stuart Byrne (3367872)

Date: 9th March 2015

For noting

Update on the Storm Eva Flooding

Purpose of report

1. This report provides the Community Committee with context on the work undertaken within the Inner West area, as part of the city's response to the Storm Eva Flooding.
2. It also provides an introduction to the more detailed report that went to the Executive Board meeting held on 9th March 2016, which gives an overview of recovery activity that the city has undertaken since the recent floods.

Main issues

3. Following the events of Storm Eva on the 26th and 27th December 2015, Leeds City Council, working together with local communities, volunteers, and partners, has been responding to a range of recovery actions in affected areas.
4. These floods had a major impact on parts of Inner West Leeds, particularly within Kirkstall ward.
5. In contrast to other parts of the city, although some residential properties were affected, the vast majority of flooded properties were businesses along the Kirkstall Valley.

Kirkstall Flood Clean Up

6. In direct response to the Kirkstall flooding a new community led group was formed and they coordinated the volunteer response locally to Storm Eva. This group coordinated hundreds of volunteers, received and allocated high volumes of donations and are now seeking to recruit volunteer tradespeople to commit to slivers of time/ time banking to continue the ongoing repairs. They continue to liaise with local council services to offer guidance and support.
7. Kirkstall Flood Clean Up have received financial, material and in kind service donations from a range of individuals and organisations. Companies like Marks & Spencer and Jet2 have provided financial contributions; Asda, Tesco and Morrison's have all provided donations of goods including cleaning materials and equipment; local construction companies have provided advice and skills support. There were also a large volume of other smaller contributions from other organisations and individuals. Some of the donations were aimed at those suffering domestic flooding and given that the nature of the flooding in Kirkstall was largely businesses, these were distributed to other flood areas with greater need.
8. Kirkstall Flood Clean Up are now planning a Volunteer Thank You event to recognise the generous contributions of the many hundreds of people who gave their spare time to help with the clean-up effort.
9. Leeds City Council and the Communities Team – West North West continue to liaise with Kirkstall Flood Clean Up, in order to provide ongoing support through the recovery process.

Local Engagement

10. A post floods engagement event was held in January with local businesses at Viva Cuba. This was attended by representatives of Leeds City Council, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water, the LEP and insurers' representatives. The meeting was very well attended. This meeting was followed up by a second at the end of February and from these, it has been decided to try and establish a Business Forum for the area.
11. Leeds City Council has also attempted to visit all businesses identified as affected by flooding in the area. This has provided both help and advice, as well as promoting the available grant schemes.

Grants

12. There have been a range of grants made available to properties affected by the flooding. These schemes fall broadly into two categories: those available to residential properties; those available to businesses.
13. The grant funding received from Government has been used to provide households affected by flooding with a £500 cash payment to help with recovery costs and a £5000

grant scheme for householders to make their properties more resilient to future flooding events. In addition to these cash grant schemes, those householders who have been subject to internal flooding will be entitled to claim/receive council tax for a minimum of three months or longer if needed.

14. A grant of approximately £2,500 is available to businesses affected to help with recovery, as well as an ability to apply for a £5,000 property resilience grant. In addition to these cash grant schemes, those businesses that have had significant impact will be entitled to claim/receive business rate relief for a minimum of three months or longer if needed.
15. A separate grant scheme has been established and publicised by the LEP to assist businesses with grants being available for between £5,000 and £100,000. This is being administered by Leeds City Council on behalf of the LEP as part of our ongoing arrangements delivering the Business Growth Programme.

Corporate

16. There are a range of corporate considerations that are linked to the post flooding response and these are detailed as part of the full Executive Board report attached. However, of particular note to Inner West Community Committee is:
17. **a. Consultation and engagement** – A post floods engagement event, with local businesses, was held in January at Viva Cuba. This was followed up by a second meeting at the end of February. From these meetings, it has been agreed to establish a Business Forum for the Kirkstall Valley area.

Conclusion

18. This only provides an introduction to some of the work being undertaken within the Inner West as part of the post floods clean up. However, taken in conjunction with the Executive Board report, this should give an understanding of the broad range of activities, both locally and citywide, that are taking place as part of the post flooding response.

Recommendations

19. To note the content of this report and the activity undertaken within the Inner West, in response to the Storm Eva Floods.
20. To note the content of the Executive Board report, particularly those parts pertinent to the post flooding response within the Inner West area.

Background information

- None

This page is intentionally left blank

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to Executive Board

Date: 9 March 2016

Subject: Storm Eva – Recovery Plan Update

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s): Adel and Wharfedale, Armley, Beeston and Holbeck, Bramley and Stanningley, Burmantofts and Richmond Hill, City and Hunslet, Guiseley and Rawdon, Harewood, Horsforth, Kippax and Methley, Kirkstall, Otley and Yeadon, Rothwell, Wetherby		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. Following the events of Storm Eva on the 26th and 27th December 2015, Leeds City Council, working together with local communities, volunteers, and partners, have been responding to a range of recovery actions in affected areas. The number of affected properties is currently assessed at 3396 in total, however understanding the full impact of the Storm Eva flooding will continue for some time.
2. The Council have been administering grants for affected residents and businesses, proactively contacting those affected to encourage applications and reporting on progress to the national ministerial recovery group. Community and business focussed events have been held in a number of affected areas and the voluntary sector has continued to support the recovery process; with a number of new community groups being established.
3. The overall business impact is being assessed at both the Leeds and Leeds City Region level and regeneration proposals are being developed for relevant areas including Kirkstall, Hunslet and Stourton. Businesses are being engaged regarding the available grant funding and more than £1m of support has been paid out to date. The

Council is also working with the Manufacturing Advisory Service to assist affected manufacturing businesses.

4. On infrastructure, further assessments have been made to key physical infrastructure sites including Linton Bridge. A subgroup to the Strategic Recovery Group is taking a multiagency approach to assessing and identifying the key infrastructure assets in the city. There has also been progress made regarding the Leeds (River Aire) Flood Alleviation Scheme with central government committing to fund a feasibility study into the next phase of the scheme.
5. The Council has continued to proactively communicate on the recovery process and to monitor ongoing media activity, with a communications plan under development regarding the Flood Alleviation Scheme. A thank you event was also held in Leeds Civic Hall to thank council staff involved in the response to Storm Eva and future opportunities are being explored to thank volunteers who have been involved in the recovery work.
6. Lessons learned from all agencies involved in the response and recovery to Storm Eva and other recent flooding incidences in the city will be invaluable, and a number of reviews are taking place at both the local and regional level, including Leeds City Council leading on the production of a Section 19 report into the cause and impact of Storm Eva.

Recommendations

7. Members of Executive Board are recommended to note the updates in the report, including the update on recommendations from the January Executive Board meeting as detailed in annex 1, and the ongoing progress made on the citywide Strategic Recovery Plan (attached at annex 2). It is also recommended to provide Members of the Executive Board with a further update in June.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Members of Executive Board on the impact of Storm Eva in Leeds, specifically in regard to the recovery response and developments regarding flood alleviation proposals for the city.

2 Background information

- 2.1 A report on Storm Eva recovery was brought to the Executive Board in January 2016, containing much of the detail on the events of Storm Eva and the immediate response work. The January report made a number of recommendations, and the table at annex 1 gives the current status of each of those recommendations.
- 2.2 Since the January Executive Board a significant amount of recovery work has taken place involving the council and partner organisations, as well as a significant continuing contribution from the community and from the voluntary sector. The West Yorkshire Resilience Forum has continued to provide a coordinating role at a West Yorkshire level, with the Leeds City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) also playing a key role to look at the economic and infrastructure impact.
- 2.3 A weekly meeting of the Ministerial Recovery Group at a UK Government level is collating information from each area affected by Storms Desmond and Eva, to draw a cumulative and comparative picture about impact and performance, for example, on the administration of the various grant schemes.
- 2.4 A Leeds Citywide Strategic Recovery Group met in February 2016 and agreed to work to a single Strategic Recovery Plan, which was reported in draft to the January Executive Board and is now updated and attached as annex 2. This group has formed a couple of task specific groups, and plans to meet again at an appropriate time, but has not formed into a standing group.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 The picture on properties flooded and affected continues to evolve, but the following table contains the latest numbers that have been submitted to Government. A breakdown of this information by ward area is also provided as annex 3 to this report. The ongoing reporting to Government about administering the financial support schemes will be done on the basis of these numbers as a means of measuring the recovery. The table highlights the particular circumstances for Leeds, particularly concerning flats in multi-storey buildings.

	Flooded	Affected	Total
Residential	2300	411	2711
- Houses	247	144	391
- Flats	2053	267	2320
Commercial	541	137	678
Other (churches, allotments, sports clubs)	4	3	7
Total	2845	551	3396

3.2 The remaining parts of this section build upon the basis of these numbers, and are separated into the headings of the Strategic Recovery Plan.

3.3 **Community/Household Impact**

3.3.1 The immediate recovery process overlapped with the emergency response, and the process of recovery continues to be in effect and will be so for some time to come, particularly concerning the following areas:

3.3.2 **Grant schemes**

3.3.3 The grant funding received from Government, as reported in the January Executive Board paper, has been used to provide households affected by flooding with a £500 cash payment to help with recovery costs and a £5000 grant scheme for householders to make their properties more resilient to future flooding events. In addition to these cash grant schemes, those householders who have been subject to internal flooding will be entitled to claim/receive council tax for a minimum of three months or longer if needed.

3.3.4 The Council has been proactive in promoting these schemes to affected households, and signposting to other relevant services or agencies:

- We have sent letters to all affected residents (whether in houses or flats) to encourage applications for the community support scheme and to specific properties regarding the property resilience grant.
- In advising affected households of the grant schemes, they were also notified in the same advice letter that Yorkshire Water had announced that they will suspend charges for their customers who were forced out of their homes by the recent floods. Eligible customers will have their charges suspended until such time as they are able to reoccupy their properties. Allowances were also to be made for those eligible customers who chose to remain in their properties but whose bills rise significantly as a result of clean-up activities.
- Information is on the Council's website, press releases have gone through local media, we have made relevant front line staff aware and we attended the three day "Flood Fair" in Leeds and other community flood events to provide information.
- We are liaising with DCLG colleagues on the best advice to give to groups who wish to pursue a pooled application for the property resilience grant.
- In addition, and in conjunction with Carers Leeds, carers that provide unpaid care for a friend or family member who were affected by the flooding were advised that they could receive help with both emotional and practical support. These were suitably placed on the Councils internet site for reference also.

3.3.5 As of 22nd February, the following grants and relief have been processed and paid:

- Emergency Relief = 604 cases (£302,000)
- Council Tax Relief = 171 cases (£60,223)
- Property Resilience = 7 cases (£35,000)

3.3.6 As well as the government funded grant schemes, Leeds Community Foundation has established a Flood Appeal with funds available to support individuals, charities, community projects and sports clubs affected by the floods, with individual households able to apply for up to £250, providing the damage caused cost more than the £500 that had already been paid by the Council, and organisations are able to claim up to £2,000. The appeal raised £133,000 thanks to donations from individuals and also businesses, and the Council is working with the community foundation on signposting to this funding. Other local flood appeals have also taken place across the city.

3.3.7 Independent donations have additionally been received from businesses directly to the Council which are being held on behalf of the Kirkstall flood recovery Community Interest Company (CIC) whilst the relevant arrangements for the CIC are established.

3.3.8 **Community Engagement and Communications**

3.3.9 Community engagement events are taking place in affected areas with councillors, officers and relevant partners. To date engagement events have taken place in Kirkstall, Otley, Methley and Mickletown, Collingham, Hunslet and Stourton. There has also been a three day event organised by the Flood Advisory Service together with Garforth Flood Support Group, as well as events for the Leeds Flood Relief Fund such as a bring-and-buy sale in Morley.

3.3.10 Building the capacity of communities is a key priority for future flood resilience, and learning from existing flood groups, such as the one at Garforth, will be important. Since Storm Eva this process has already started with the following community groups established:

- Yorkshire Voluntary Flood Support – Newly formed group helping to coordinate donations across the region, linking more locally based groups and reallocating donations to the most appropriate area i.e. household items from areas with mostly businesses affected to more residential areas. Sharing information via social media and investigating possible sites where they can store for distribution.
- Otley Residents Flood Group – Following on from a public meeting in Otley in January, the residents affected have now formed their own group – Otley Residents Flood Group (they have a Facebook page) - and continue to meet.
- Kirkstall Flood Clean Up – Newly formed group who coordinated the volunteer response to Storm Eva. Coordinated hundreds of volunteers, received and allocated high volumes of donations and are now seeking to recruit volunteer

trades people to commit to slivers of time/ time banking to continue the ongoing repairs. Webpage live and liaison with local council services to offer guidance and support.

3.3.11 **Liaison with partners**

3.3.12 The West Yorkshire Resilience Forum continues to be involved in coordinating the recovery work and Leeds is heavily involved in this. A separate city-wide strategic recovery group met at the end of January to discuss and action the strategic recovery plan, with subgroups being established to complete work around infrastructure and the role of the third sector.

3.3.13 Work is also taking place at a Leeds City Region level to report on the impact of recent flooding, particularly on businesses, and to provide recommendations to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and Local Enterprise Partnership. The work is intended to cover:

- The current flood resilience of critical local infrastructure (including utilities, digital and transport);
- The overall investment and planning approach which should be based on catchment areas rather than administrative boundaries;
- Business support – covering business insurance, investment in flood mitigation and emergency response schemes from Government, LAs/LEPs;
- The role of the Local Resilience Forum and Gold Command in the emergency response (linked to its own review);
- The effect on planning policy on housing and commercial development, and;
- How any devolved powers around flooding might operate.

3.4 **Business Impact**

3.4.1 **Grant schemes**

3.4.2 The impact of flooding on business in the city is still being quantified, with work being done to estimate the financial cost. The Council continues to engage businesses directly and work with organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturing Advisory Service and the Local Enterprise Partnership to assist businesses with recovery and accessing grant schemes.

3.4.3 As reported in January, a grant of approximately £2,500 is available to businesses affected to help with recovery, as well as an ability to apply for a £5,000 property resilience grant. In addition to these cash grant schemes, those businesses that have had significant impact will be entitled to claim/receive business rate relief for a minimum of three months or longer if needed. As of 22nd February, the following grants/relief have been processed and paid:

- Business Flood Relief = 149 cases (£318,411)
- Business Rates Relief = 100 cases (£734,380)
- Property Resilience = 4 cases (£17,300)

3.4.4 A separate grant scheme has been established and publicised by the LEP to assist businesses with grants being available for between £5,000 and £100,000. This is being administered by Leeds City Council on behalf of the LEP as part of our ongoing arrangements delivering the Business Growth Programme.

3.4.5 The Council has been proactive in promoting these schemes to affected businesses:

- Writing to businesses by overlaying the business rates database on a map of the affected area;
- Visiting most of these businesses and continuing to do so, to provide advice about grants and more general business support. We are prioritising this effort around those businesses at greatest risk and working proactively with these;
- Holding business community meetings including in Kirkstall and Stourton for businesses affected, with a future session planned for the city centre and;
- Administering business recovery/business property resilience grants on behalf of Kirklees Council at the request of the LEP.

3.4.6 **Business Support**

3.4.7 The Council has developed an initiative to support manufacturing firms that have been affected by the flooding. The Council's Economic Development team, through its partnership with the Manufacturing Advisory Service have enabled manufacturing expert advisors to provide support to affected businesses. The team, which includes manufacturing experts, have visited over 40 manufacturing businesses to discuss the issues they face as a result of flooding, to understand the scale of the impact, to advise how businesses can be supported to get production started again, and make their businesses more resilient for the future.

3.4.8 The Council's Economic Development Team is also providing assistance to firms that require new premises on either a temporary or permanent basis. This has included assistance with property searches, brokering discussions with property owners and developers, and advising on potential grant support.

3.4.9 **Regeneration**

3.4.10 Plans are being developed for longer term regeneration projects in the Kirkstall, Hunslet and Stourton areas.

3.4.11 The main considerations in this work are being given to:

- Interventions in relation to damaged / abandoned buildings, including capital grants, supporting action by social enterprises to bring buildings back into use, and supporting meanwhile uses;
- Improvement schemes to enhance the business environment on industrial estates and sites, including schemes to increase resilience;
- Supporting small businesses through advice, mentoring, and small grants to improve premises;
- Marketing and promotional activity; and
- Building / strengthening town partnerships, mobilising the business / community / third sector collaboration shown during the clean-up phase and taking this forward into a regeneration phase.

3.5 **Infrastructure**

- 3.5.1 A total of over 150 structures (bridges, culverts, retaining walls) have been subject to an initial assessment but will need more in depth investigation to assess the extent of any damage following the events of Storm Eva. Assessments have begun but have been a challenge due to continuing high river levels. A sub group of the city-wide strategic recovery group has been established to take a multi-agency partnership approach to the recovery of infrastructure in Leeds and to look at the key infrastructure in the city that may require future resilience. Central government is also currently in discussion about how areas such as Leeds can be assisted in the repair of infrastructure assets, including making assessments of damage costs.
- 3.5.2 Linton Road Bridge is in the top ten infrastructure issue for West Yorkshire on the DCLG Commonly Recognised Information Picture (CRIP). The inspection of the bridge to identify the cause of the structural damage was hindered by high river levels. However work has now commenced to stabilise the pier which will be followed with work to stabilise the arch from further damage or collapse. Repair costs are estimated at £4,330,000 which includes the temporary works to stabilise the bridge and the repair works necessary for reopening. An allowance of £400k has been included for a provision of a temporary pedestrian footbridge but this is subject to the outcome of feasibility work currently being undertaken and funding being secured from Central Government.
- 3.5.3 Damage to other infrastructure such as roads, street lighting, traffic signal equipment, flood alleviation scheme and Canals and Rivers Trust assets are estimated to cost approximately £4.55m. Immediate urgent repairs to this infrastructure have been completed with further major work planned.
- 3.5.4 Looking forward, central government have launched a national flood resilience review which will be led by Oliver Letwin MP and will investigate the nation's resilience to flood risk and make recommendations on a future investment strategy. It is intended that Leeds will engage with this review, as a member of the Core Cities UK group and independently, to make sure that the report reflects the

resilience challenges for the city and that lessons are learned from the impact of Storm Eva.

3.6 Flood Alleviation Schemes

- 3.6.1 Since the Executive Board report on Storm Eva in January progress has been made relating to flood alleviation schemes for Leeds. Following a meeting of the Leader of Council and the Leeds MPs with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, a commitment was received from the Secretary of State to fund the feasibility study for the further phases of the Leeds (River Aire) Flood Alleviation Scheme including Phase 2; which aims to provide Kirkstall the same level of protection as currently under construction for the City Centre; and Phase 3; which will provide an enhanced standard of protection for the entire scheme from Newly Bridge to Woodlesford
- 3.6.2 Since the announcement, the Environment Agency has been tasked with leading on an initial scoping report for the River Aire by the end of March this year which will outline the content of a feasibility study brief to be completed by April 2016, to define the aspiration, extent and level of flood protection to be delivered in the city, including upstream measures beyond Leeds. Leeds City Council is working with the Environment Agency to help develop the brief and will take a key role in developing the feasibility study. .
- 3.6.3 A letter recently received from the Secretary of State for DEFRA has indicated the latter could take 18-24 months to complete. Taking into account required processes such as detailed design, acquiring planning permissions and procurement process this could mean businesses and communities in Leeds being without adequate protection for some 4-5 years. Bearing in mind the process work completed by the Environment Agency, particularly their 'Alternative Options' report, in 2011/12 we will seek to have this timescale significantly shortened to ensure businesses and communities are protected as soon as possible.
- 3.6.4 Leeds City Council are also working with the Environment Agency in identifying measures to reduce Flood Risk to the other areas of Leeds that were affected by the recent flooding; work already identified includes:
- The need for the EA to review the existing flood defences at Collingham which were breached during storm Eva;
 - The existing overflow system at Otley will be reviewed to identify if any improvements could be made and also Local Levy Funding will be applied for to undertake a feasibility study on potential Flood Alleviation works at Otley, and;
 - The EA are undertaking modelling work on the lower River Aire catchment area, which will be used to identify the most appropriate scheme to deliver from the ring fenced S106 money for Flood Alleviation works at Mickletown/Methley when the development commences.

3.7 Media and Communications

- 3.7.1 The Council has continued to proactively communicate on the recovery process and to monitor ongoing media activity. Available assistance and grant schemes have been promoted and signposted via the Council's website, social media and press. Updates have been sent to key partners in the city and press releases issued. As part of the strategic recovery plan a communications strategy is being developed around the Flood Alleviation Scheme.
- 3.7.2 A thank you event was held in February for Leeds City Council members of staff involved in the response and recovery effort to thank them for their efforts. Further opportunities are being explored to recognise staff and the volunteering effort which saw over a 1,000 volunteers engaged, with plans proposed including to incorporate this in the Annual Volunteering celebration.

3.8 Section 19 and Lessons Learned

Leeds City Council as the lead Local Flood Authority has committed to undertake a statutory Section 19 report into the causes and impact of Storm Eva. This is likely to take between six and twelve months to complete, but some draft findings are proposed to be available in the summer. In addition to this, a lessons learned review is taking place, at a Leeds level as well as at a wider West Yorkshire partnership level, to make sure that learning is recorded and acted upon, including relating to recent flooding events prior to Storm Eva. The Annual Business Continuity Report for 2016 will also be submitted to Corporate Governance and Audit Committee which will include a section on the impact of Storm Eva on the Council's most critical services.

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

- 4.1.1 Community engagement events were reported as part of the January Executive Board paper and further engagement events have since taken place in a number of affected communities. More will be arranged as required and requested by local members and communities, and specific proposals to further mitigate the risk of flooding and its impacts upon residents, businesses and communities will continue to be subject to specific consultation and engagement arrangements.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

- 4.2.1 Further initiatives to mitigate the risk and effects of flooding across the city will be subject to detailed Equality Impact Assessments to ensure that the most disadvantaged are not adversely impacted and that individual needs and the requirement to make reasonable adjustments where necessary are recognised.
- 4.2.2 Equality impact considerations are built into the council's own emergency and business continuity management arrangements.

4.3 Council policies and Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 Under the council's renewed Best Council/Best City ambition agreed by the Executive Board in September 2015, Leeds aspires to be a compassionate city with a strong economy, supported by an efficient and enterprising local authority that works effectively with partners and communities. The response to December's flooding in Leeds was a testament to this compassion and joined-up working while the commercial effects highlight the importance of managing the risk of flooding for individual businesses affected (owners and employees) and the wider economy of Leeds.
- 4.3.2 The arrangements detailed in the report form part of the council's Emergency Planning Policy, Business Continuity Management Policy and Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.
- 4.4 **Resources and value for money**
- 4.4.1 In line with the council value of 'spending money wisely', the council is committed to using its resources in the best possible way in both the initial response and longer-term recovery stages from a flooding incident.
- 4.4.2 To date, we've received £3.435m of grant from central government to support the Communities and Business Recovery Scheme – which includes £500 community support payments, up to £2,500 business support grants and up to £5,000 property resilience grants.
- 4.4.3 We've also received £1.238m in separate government funding to support the Council Tax and Business Rate discount schemes – the discount schemes are separate and the funding will be reconciled to match the discounts actually given.
- 4.4.4 It is worth noting that under the government's current guidance we expect a large number of those flooded in Leeds not to be entitled to payments under the schemes above, and we have notified DCLG of this issue and are discussing potential solutions. This is due to the unique context in Leeds as reported in the main issues section, particularly concerning large numbers of flats and businesses in multiple occupancy buildings who fulfil the government provided criteria on properties flooded or affected by flooding (the basis for which the grant allocations are calculated), but who may not, for example, be individually entitled to property resilience grants under existing government grant scheme guidance. We also have a number of properties that are registered as second homes or empty properties, which are currently not entitled to any support under existing grant scheme guidance. Officers are engaging civil servants on these matters to gain further clarity on grant eligibility given Leeds' specific context but we are also looking at how we can utilise the grant money received flexibly to help those most affected and put underspent funding towards regeneration activity. To date, we have not received any funding for the infrastructure damage caused by Storm Eva. Despite some early positive feedback; this is very disappointing. We continue to press for confirmation of funding being made available as has been the case for North Yorkshire and Calderdale.
- 4.5 **Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

- 4.5.1 There are no specific legal implications or access to information issues with this report. The report is subject to call-in.

4.6 Risk Management

- 4.6.1 All corporate risks, and the action plans in place to mitigate them to an acceptable level, are reviewed on an ongoing basis and those related to flooding will be updated again in response to recent events. Lessons learned activity being undertaken will do so within the framework of the identified risks relevant to flooding.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 A great deal of response and recovery work has already taken place in the aftermath of Storm Eva, but the full impact is still to be fully understood, including the impact on business and on infrastructure. Immediate support is being provided to householders and businesses affected and many will also need longer-term support. Future flood resilience and flood alleviation is now a critical issue for the city. Citywide recovery is being supported by partners in the public sector and work is also being undertaken to draw lessons learned from these events.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 Members of Executive Board are recommended to note the updates in the report, including the update on recommendations from the January Executive Board meeting as detailed in annex 1, and the ongoing progress made on the citywide Strategic Recovery Plan (attached at annex 2). It is also recommended to provide Members of the Executive Board with a further update in June.

7 Background documents¹

- 7.1 None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Annex 1: Progress of Executive Board recommendations

Exec Board recommendations		
No	Issue Raised	Status
EB1	Thank staff, partners, local ward members, community representatives, volunteers and all those affected by the floods for their efforts in supporting the recovery operation;	Leeds City Council held a Flood Heroes – Thank You event on the 11th February for council staff members who were involved in the response to Storm Eva. Also exploring using the annual volunteering event later in the year to celebrate the volunteer effort around Storm Eva and other opportunities to recognise the continued efforts of staff in the recovery process. See section 3.7.2 of main report.
EB2	Note the implementation of a Council Flood Emergency Management Team, led by the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities), which met for the first time on the 4th January 2016.	This Team continues to meet fortnightly to ensure response and recovery is taking place: driving progress on the strategic recovery plan, reporting to DCLG and the Ministerial Recovery Group.
EB3	Note that we are working with other councils and partners, especially Calderdale Council, West Yorkshire Police, West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, the Environment Agency and other key partners on the recovery work at both a local and West Yorkshire level.	This is being done through the West Yorkshire Resilience Forum and also a Leeds Citywide Strategic Recovery Group. See section 3.3.11 of main report.
EB4	Endorse the financial support and advice arrangements that have been put into place to support affected householders and businesses.	Financial support and advice continues to be administered by Leeds City Council staff. See section 3.3.2 of main report.
EB5	Note the funding provided by Government to support the schemes and ask the Deputy Chief Executive to keep a record of all relevant expenditure associated with responding to Storm Eva.	This is ongoing and records are being kept of expenditure. See section 4.4 of main report.
EB6	Require the Director of City Development to work with the Environment Agency to bring a report to Executive Board as soon as possible on the city's flood alleviation developments including plans for seeking Government support to progressing phase 2 and 3 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme.	A commitment has been made by the Government to fund the feasibility study for the next phase of the Leeds (River Aire) Flood Alleviation Scheme. The City Council is working with the Environment Agency, who have been tasked with leading on the formation of a brief for April to define the aspiration, extent and level of flood protection to be delivered in the city and potentially for some distance upstream. It is planned to bring a report to a future Executive Board to update on the Environment Agency's proposed scope of works and to outline the timescale for the completion of the feasibility work. See section 3.6 of main report.

EB7	Request that the Chief Executive write to the relevant Secretary of State requesting the urgent approval of £3m to allow for preparatory and design work to commence on Phase 2 of the Leeds (River Aire) Flood Alleviation Scheme with a firm commitment being provided by Government to support both phases 2 and 3.	Following a meeting with Leeds MPs and the Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Affairs, and a letter from the Chief Executive, a commitment has been made by Government to fund the feasibility study. See section 3.6 of main report.
EB8	Require the Director of City Development to work with the Environment Agency to identify measures that could be undertaken to increase flood resilience for all communities affected Storm Eva.	The City Council is working with the Environment Agency in bringing forward modelling work, specifically on the River Aire at Mickletown/ Methley and on the River Wharf at Otley which can be used to identify appropriate measures to reduce the risk of flooding. See section 3.6 of main report.
EB9	Require the Director of City Development to complete a full assessment of all impacts of Storm Eva on city infrastructure and develop proposals for the necessary repair and rebuild work that maybe necessary, including work required on Linton Bridge.	A sub group of the city-wide strategic recovery group has been established to take a multi-agency partnership approach to the recovery of infrastructure in Leeds and to look at the key infrastructure in the city that may require future resilience. Plans to undertake temporary works to stabilise Linton Bridge from further damage or collapse are well advanced. Works to stabilise the structure have commenced through the agreed use of private land to obtain access for plant and vehicles. Anticipated repair time to the reopening of Linton Bridge is 12 months. See section 3.5 of main report.
EB10	Request that the Director of City Development consider the development of a regeneration based approach to help Kirkstall recover from Storm Eva.	Work has commenced to develop a regeneration based approach for the Kirkstall Road corridor, and industrial areas in Hunslet and Stourton. This work includes mapping all of the affected properties, identifying those most at risk of abandonment and consideration of how the areas may change through the Flood Alleviation Scheme that is being scoped. Linked to this, work to strengthen Kirkstall District Centre is also underway. The potential for the change of use of sites will form part of the analysis undertaken. The work will set out how support can be provided to businesses, and how the partnerships built in the clean-up phase can be taken forward in a regeneration phase. See section 3.4.9 of main report.

EB11	Require the Director of City Development to make arrangements to undertake a statutory Section 19 investigation into the causes and impacts of the Storm Eva flooding event.	The initial work on the report has started. Draft findings should be developed by the Summer 2016, with the final report completed before the end of the year. See section 3.8 of main report.
EB12	Require the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) to oversee the development and delivery of a Storm Eva Strategic Recovery Plan and report back to Members on this plan as well a further update on recovery efforts in March 2017.	A further update on the Strategic Recovery Plan is included in annex 2 to this March Executive Board Paper and a future update will be provided again in June.
EB13	Require the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) to undertake a lessons learned exercise and provide a formal report on this to the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.	Lessons learned exercise has begun and will look to report in the next few months. A separate Business Continuity report will be taken to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. See section 3.8 of main report.
EB14	Require the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) to ensure experiences and impacts in Leeds are fed into the national review of flooding.	The terms of reference for the National Flood Resilience Review have been released and work is taking place to contribute to this. A meeting took place with Brigadier Matt Holmes in Leeds in January to contribute to a Review of National Flood Apparatus. See section 3.5.4 of main report.

Annex 2: Leeds Strategic Recovery Plan – Storm Eva 26 December 2015

This recovery plan fulfils directly the request for a Strategic Recovery Plan in Executive Board recommendation 12 (EB12) from January (see Annex 1), and is being supported by the Council Flood Emergency Management Team (EB2). The second column of the table below references further Executive Board recommendations as relevant to the actions of the Strategic Recovery Plan.

Aims and Objectives of the plan:

- Demonstrate our ambition to be the best city, being a compassionate city in a strong economy
- Understand the impact and provide the best possible support to individuals, families, communities and businesses affected by the events
- Build a positive, ambitious future for affected areas through strong city leadership
- Ensure coherence across partners acting on recovery, seeing the bigger picture and making the best use of resources and efforts
- To support the case for major investment in flood alleviation measures across the city
- Use the event to learn lessons for the future

No.	Relevant Executive Board Recommendation(s)	Action/Timeframe	Lead (named person)	Status/Commentary
1. Community				
1.1	EB4: Endorse the financial support and advice arrangements that have been put into place to support affected householders and businesses. EB5: Note the funding provided by Government to support the schemes at paragraph 3.1.2 and ask the Deputy Chief Executive to keep a record of all relevant expenditure associated with responding to Storm Eva.	Ensure financial assistance through the following schemes from early January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Recovery scheme - Property Level Resilience scheme - Council Tax Discount scheme 	LCC Steve Carey/John Statham	Identification and payments in progress Regular updates to be provided and numbers reported.
1.2		Ensure advice and support is available to communities and residents and maintain and monitor and respond to the “contact us” interface from early January.	Adam Quesne LCC / Environment Agency/ LCC FRM	Active and regular reports on numbers and type to be provided.
1.3		Ensure the appropriate use of funds donated through the Leeds Community	LCF / LCC	Appeal launched. Grant Scheme launched. Regular

		Foundation Leeds Flood Relief Appeal; closing date end of January.	Sally-Anne Greenfield/Shaid Mahmood	updates to be provided.
1.4	EB8: Require the Director of City Development to work with the Environment Agency to identify measures that could be undertaken to increase flood resilience for all communities affected Storm Eva.	Look to assess, educate and build upon existing capacity within communities in relation to flood resistance and resilience starting with community engagement events in affected wards and ongoing including other risk areas in Leeds, timeframes to be developed.	LCC / Environment Agency Shaid Mahmood	Areas at risk being identified by Area Teams and FRM. Events held in Kirkstall, Methley/Mickletown, Otley Collingham and Hunslet
1.5		Ensure appropriate advice and support is given to residents regarding insurance, coordinating with insurance companies where appropriate	LCC Steve Carey	LCC officers attended sessions on the incoming Flood Re insurance scheme on February 26. Conversations have taken place with the Association of British Insurers
2. Business				
2.1	EB4: Endorse the financial support and advice arrangements that have been put into place to support affected householders and businesses. EB5: Note the funding provided by Government to support the schemes at paragraph 3.1.2 and ask the Deputy Chief Executive to keep a record of all relevant expenditure associated with responding to Storm Eva.	Linked to 1.1. Ensure financial assistance through the following schemes from early January: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Business Support scheme - Property Level Resilience scheme - Business Rate Relief scheme 	LCC Tom Bridges/John Statham	Identification and payments in progress. Regular updates to be provided on numbers.
2.2		Linked to 1.2. Ensure advice and support is available to businesses, and maintain and monitor and respond to the "contact us" interface from early January.	LCC Tom Bridges	Active and regular reports on numbers and type to be provided.
2.3	EB10: Request that the Director of City Development consider the development of a regeneration based approach to help Kirkstall recover from Storm Eva.	Ensure business in affected areas is minimised by implementing regeneration plans where appropriate or specific business support and advice	LCC (Tom Bridges) / LEP?	Draft regeneration plans being developed, especially for Kirkstall, Hunslet and Stourton. Business support

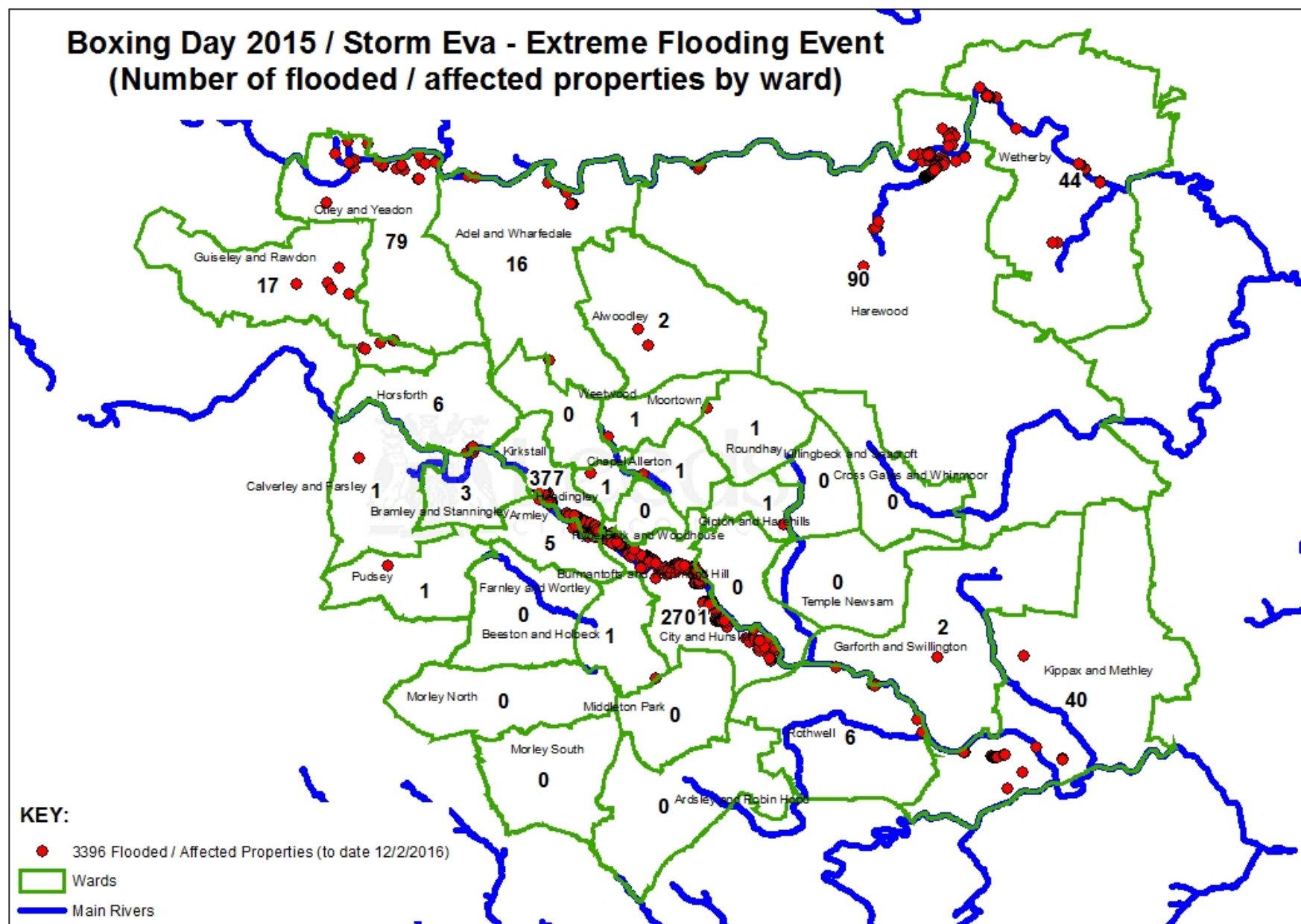
		for large companies.		team managing relationships with key businesses affected.
2.4		Run business engagement events in affected wards	LCC / Environment Agency	Events held in Kirkstall Hunslet and Stourton. Flood Fair held Victoria Gardens 19/20/21 January
2.5		Work with other WY councils and the LEP to develop and implement a business support scheme on the right scale to respond to the incident.	LCC Tom Bridges / LEP	LEP scheme approved and established, administered by LCC
2.6		Undertake a piece of work to understand the economic impact on the city, before the end of March 2016.	LCC/ Tom Bridges/Alan Gay	Scope to be developed and work commissioned. Leeds City Region level work taking place through the WYCA
2.7		Linked to 1.5 Ensure appropriate advice and support is given to businesses regarding insurance, coordinating with insurance companies where appropriate	LCC Tom Bridges	Conversations taken place with Association of British Insurers and with some individual insurers
3. Infrastructure				
3.1	EB9: Require the Director of City Development to complete a full assessment of all impacts of Storm Eva on city infrastructure and develop proposals for the necessary repair and rebuild work that maybe necessary, including work required on Linton Bridge.	Assess the impact on key physical infrastructure and assets and required action, in particular regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridges - Roads - Council assets (including business continuity for services) - Other assets 	LCC / Environment Agency / Utilities partners	A subgroup to the strategic recovery group created to oversee citywide infrastructure recovery The Annual Business Continuity Report will include a section on the impact of Storm Eva on the Councils most critical services
3.2		Carry out repairs taking into consideration priority and urgency	LCC / Environment Agency	Linked into the subgroup on citywide infrastructure

				recovery
3.3	EB9: Require the Director of City Development to complete a full assessment of all impacts of Storm Eva on city infrastructure and develop proposals for the necessary repair and rebuild work that maybe necessary, including work required on Linton Bridge.	Prepare the case for schemes requiring Government funding – Linton Bridge	LCC / WY Resilience Forum	Initial submission 11/01/2016. Awaiting full survey reports and potential funding support for a temporary footbridge
3.4	EB6: Require the Director of City Development to work with the Environment Agency to bring a report to Executive Board as soon as possible on the city's flood alleviation developments including plans for seeking Government support to progressing phase 2 and 3 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme. EB7: Request that the Chief Executive write to the relevant Secretary of State requesting the urgent approval of £3m to allow for preparatory and design work to commence on Phase 2 of the Leeds (River Aire) Flood Alleviation Scheme with a firm commitment being provided by Government to support both phases 2 and 3.	Progress to the next stage of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme (River Aire) and a wider catchment approach to schemes across Leeds	LCC / Leeds MPs / Environment Agency	Commitment received from Government to fund the requested feasibility study 28/01 with an initial scoping to be completed by April.
3.5		Ensure the resilience of key strategic infrastructure by identifying those key assets and evaluating the current resilience in place	LCC / Environment Agency / Utilities Partners	Need to understand key infrastructure both in public and private ownership, linked into the subgroup on citywide infrastructure recovery
4. Media and Communications				
4.1		Monitor, respond and support traditional and social media on the flooding, communicating developments and maintaining profile whilst also highlighting Leeds as open for business	LCC Dee Reid/ Environment Agency	Ongoing
4.2		Develop a communications plan to support recovery response, and a	LCC/Dee Reid	Commencing with a focus on: reassurance,

		communications strategy regarding Flood Alleviation Scheme(s)		reputation, resources (FAS), resilience
4.3		Capture the scale of enquiries, activity and impact e.g. properties affected, nature of effect, grants applied for and paid, case studies of impact etc. Using this also as an opportunity to explore data sharing with partners.	LCC/Partners	Ongoing – regular updates to councillors, partners, public
4.4	EB1: Thank staff, partners, local ward members, community representatives, volunteers and all those affected by the floods for their efforts in supporting the recovery operation;	Ensure communications of thanks and appreciation to those working on the recovery operations	LCC/Partners	Staff event held in February; Volunteer event in consideration
4.5		Update and manage the alerts system to ensure timely warning information is shared with the right individuals/organisations. Also promote self-help access to information	LCC Nigel Street	Initial list updates started, wider work on use of alerts to be commenced
5. Prepare				
5.1	EB11: Require the Director of City Development to make arrangements to undertake a statutory Section 19 investigation into the causes and impacts of the Storm Eva flooding event.	Complete the Section 19 assessment of the recent flooding events	LCC FRM/ Environment Agency	Timescale likely to be 6-12months, with potential for draft findings by Summer 2016. Currently gathering information on the extent of the flooding.
5.2		Ensure immediate capacity for on call key services and consider undertaking a review of on call processes, increase in the short term.	LCC Neil Evans/Partners	Immediate capacity work completed. Need to do longer term scoping and take an approach across organisations
5.3	EB13: Require the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) to undertake a lessons learned exercise and provide a formal report on this to the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. EB14: Require the Assistant Chief Executive	Draw up lessons learned related to 2/3 key risks to feed future plans and to test the Severe Weather Plan: - City resilience - Council resilience	LCC / Partners	Report work taking place and to be completed by April 2016

	(Citizens and Communities) to ensure experiences and impacts in Leeds are fed into the national review of flooding.			
5.4		Consider and evaluate future resilience needs (i.e. a cross-council Incident Management System that all responding council services can access/issue, receive and monitor progress with tasks)	LCC Nigel Street / Partners / WY Police	To be commenced

Page 26



Number of Flooded/Affected Properties by Ward (as at 16/02/2016)

STORM EVA:

WARD_NAME	Count Of Flooded-Affected Properties	
City and Hunslet	2701	
Kirkstall	377	
Harewood	90	
Otley and Yeadon	79	
Wetherby	44	
Kippax and Methley	40	
Guiselley and Rawdon	17	
Adel and Wharfedale	16	
Horsforth	6	
Rothwell	6	
Armley	5	
Bramley and Stanningley	3	
Garforth and Swillington	2	
Alwoodley	2	
Gipton and Harehills	1	
Pudsey	1	
Headingley	1	
Calverley and Farsley	1	
Beeston and Holbeck	1	
Chapel Allerton	1	
Moortown	1	
Roundhay	1	
Temple Newsam	0	
Weetwood	0	
Hyde Park and Woodhouse	0	
Middleton Park	0	
Ardsley and Robin Hood	0	
Burmantofts and Richmond Hill	0	
Farnley and Wortley	0	
Morley North	0	
Cross Gates and Whinmoor	0	
Morley South	0	
Killingbeck and Seacroft	0	
	3396	TOTAL

This page is intentionally left blank