

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (City Development)

Date: 27 January 2016

Subject: Supplementary information – Item 8 Flooding

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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 type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1 Purpose of this report

1.1 Following the publication of the Scrutiny Board (City Development) agenda further supplementary information was presented to the Executive Board on the 21st of January 2016 with regard to Storm Eva as follows:

- Business Recovery Impact Examples
- Draft Leeds Strategic Recover Plan

1.2 Also attached is a copy of the draft minute from the Executive Board meeting held on the 21st of January 2016.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to:

- a) Note the supplementary information provided and the draft Executive Board minute.

3 Background papers¹ - None used

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.

Business Recovery – illustrative examples of impact

The flooding has had a severe impact on many businesses throughout the District, but especially in Kirkstall, the City Centre and Hunslet/Stourton, and has caused disruption to numerous businesses in Otley, as well as ongoing impact in relation to affected infrastructure e.g. Linton Bridge. Several businesses, including some large manufacturers, have suffered significant damage to their premises, plant and machinery. Other businesses face issues around lost revenue, redundancies, insurance and contamination. The challenges are significant and work will continue for many months to support a full recovery. This is a major risk to investment and business confidence in Leeds. Businesses are worried about the long term impact of the flooding, citing concerns that areas such as Kirkstall Road might become less attractive, leading to an exodus of businesses.

The following illustrates a sample of the 519 businesses that are estimated to have been affected.

Kirkstall

- An automotive components manufacturer, who employs around 90 people manufacturing components for the automotive industry, suffered severe impact on their machinery (they have three deliveries they make to a major automotive manufacturer each day).
- A food manufacturing business incurred significant damage to stock and equipment. The company spent £80K to get up and running which had to be financed through bank finance. The company was closed for 24 days and lost £150K in sales (10% of their annual turnover).
- The closure of a well-established printers and the loss of 25 jobs.
- An engineering firm, who employ around 30 people, lost their welding machines.
- A clothing distribution centre was flooded and stock worth over £1 million was lost.
- A specialist printers have lost all their equipment. The lead time for ordering new equipment is six months and the company are currently outsourcing production to retain existing business.
- A number of independent retailers have been very badly damaged and face the real risk of closure.
- The retail parks were flooded and some leisure destinations and retailers were closed for several days.

Hunslet / Stourton

- A manufacturing company, who employ 200 people in Leeds, suffered significant damage and have decided to relocate rather than re invest on their existing site. The company have a site requirement for 30,000 sq. ft. of temporary space which the Council is assisting with finding suitable premises for. The company need a permanent new site and are at risk of moving to other UK locations.
- A number of other significant manufacturing and distribution businesses have been severely affected. One particular industrial estate has lost its electricity substation and is currently without power.

City centre

- The hardest-hit areas were around Leeds Bridge, Dock Street, Brewery Wharf and Wellington Street. Some businesses here suffered significant damage, and some were disrupted or closed for several days.
- A major hotel has been closed due to flooding in the basement area. The hotel has suffered significant damage to its electricity supply, boilers and IT. The hotel is likely to be closed for 9 weeks, with damage and losses estimated in excess of £2m.
- A leading accountancy/consultancy firms' Leeds office was closed due to damage to their basement. They experienced ongoing problems due to a collapsed sewer.
- A major insurance firm closed its city centre office and relocated staff and operations to other premises in the city.

Other locations

- A stables business in Horsforth suffered damage as the water came up to about 1.5 metres in the business's work area.
- Many businesses in proximity to Linton Bridge, which offers a connecting route between Collingham and Wetherby, have been disrupted by the bridge closure.
- Numerous farming businesses have been affected by flooding of agricultural land and buildings throughout the main river valleys of the Rivers Aire, Wharfe and Calder.
- A former energy storage and distribution site in Woodlesford suffered major flooding with potential contamination.

A further report on business impact will be produced for the Executive Board meeting in March.

Draft Leeds Strategic Recovery Plan

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To take stock of recovery activity to date and consolidate into an early draft of a Strategic Recovery Plan for the City, so that services, councillors and partners can contribute to develop and deliver the plan.

2 Background information

- 2.1 Storm Eva hit the city and beyond on 26th December 2015. The detail of the current position is contained in the main Executive Board paper being considered at the council's Executive Board on 20 January 2016.

3 Developing a Strategic Recovery Plan

- 3.1 The recovery process to date has been done within the context of the West Yorkshire Resilience Forum and with key partners on a bilateral/issue specific basis locally. A Council Recovery Group is in place to help lead recovery and the current position is described in the Executive Board Report. A draft Strategic Recovery Plan is attached and will be developed and delivered by a Leeds Strategic Recovery Group.

- 3.2 The draft plan proposes some aims/objective and covers issues for the short/medium/long term. It is deliberately high level and relatively simple; though clearly there will be more detail underneath on some of the specific actions. The headings are drawn from best practice/guidance and experience of other councils. Inevitable each theme is interlinked, but we have used the following headings:

- Community
- Business
- Infrastructure
- Comms/PR
- Prepare

- 3.3 Significant additional detail and context is in the Executive Board paper, for example about the recovery/support schemes, flood alleviation, strategic recovery and lessons learned.

- 3.4 There will be a geographic focus to some aspects of the Strategic Recovery Plan, including those areas affected by Storm Eva, but also drawing on other areas in the city previously affected by flooding or at risk.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 Note progress, next steps and that there will be a full report back to Executive Board in March.

Leeds Strategic Recovery Plan – Storm Eva 26 December 2015

Aims and Objectives of the plan:

- Demonstrate ambition of best city, strong economy, compassionate city
- Understand and provide the best possible support to individuals, families, communities and businesses affected by the events
- Use events as an opportunity – building 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
- Use the event to learn lessons for the future

No.	Action/Timeframe	Lead (named person)	Status/Commentary
1. Community			
1.1	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.
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 John Bleakley	Active and regular reports on numbers and type to be provided.
1.3	Ensure the appropriate use of funds donated through the Leeds Community Foundation Leeds Flood Relief Appeal; closing date end of January.	LCF / LCC Sally-Anne Greenfield/Jam es Rogers	Appeal launched. Grant Scheme launched. Regular updates to be provided.
1.4	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 (08/01), Methley (12/01) and Otley (13/01)
2. Business			
2.1	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	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	Ensure business and economic impact in affected areas is minimised by implementing	LCC (Tom Bridges) / LEP?	Draft regeneration plans to be developed,

	regeneration plans		especially for Kirkstall.
2.4	Run business engagement events in affected wards	LCC / Environment Agency	Event held in Kirkstall (08/01). Hunslet to be organised.
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	In hand and being developed.
2.6	Undertake a piece of work to understand the economic impact on the city, before the end of March 2016.	LCC/ Tom Bridges	Scope to be developed and work commissioned.
3. Infrastructure			
3.1	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	Assessment completed X Assessments to be completed X LCC Business Continuity initial work to report w/c 18/01/2016
3.2	Carry out repairs taking into consideration priority and urgency	LCC / Environment Agency	Ongoing
3.3	Prepare the case for schemes requiring Government funding – Linton Bridge	LCC / WY Resilience Forum	Submitted 11/01/2016
4. Media, Communications and Public Affairs			
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 media plan/public affairs strategy to support recovery response	LCC/Dee Reid	To be commenced
4.3	Capture the scale of enquiries and activity and impact e.g. properties affected, nature of effect, grants applied for and paid, case studies of impact etc.	LCC	Ongoing – regular updates to councillors, partners, public
4.4	Ensure communications of thanks and appreciation to those working on the recovery operations	LCC/Partners	
5. Prepare			
5.1	Complete the Section 19 assessment of the recent flooding events	LCC John Bleakley/ Environment Agency	Establish timescale and communicate progress.
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	Immediate capacity work completed
5.3	Draw up lessons learnt related to two key risks to feed future plans and to test the Severe	LCC / Partners	Report by March 2016.

	Weather Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- City resilience- Council resilience		
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	To be commenced

DRAFT

Draft Executive Board Minute – 21 January 2016

Minute 120 Storm Eva - Recovery Plan

The Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) submitted a report regarding the extent of the impact of Storm Eva in Leeds, and provided details of both the emergency response undertaken at the time and also the short term recovery work that has followed. In addition, the report sought approval of the strategic recovery approach proposed, with specific reference to financial support, advice and guidance, community engagement, infrastructure repair and flood alleviation proposals. Finally, the report outlined the proposed approach to be taken towards a 'lessons learned' exercise regarding the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements designed to respond to, and recover from incidents of this nature.

At the meeting, Executive Board received further information which provided specific examples of how the flooding impacted upon local businesses, together with a draft Strategic Recovery Plan for Members' consideration. In addition, during the consideration of this item, a range of images illustrating the impact of the flooding across the city were shown.

In considering the submitted report, the following key points were raised:-

- The Board as a whole paid tribute to the resilience of the local residents and those in the business community who had been badly affected by the flooding. In addition, on behalf of the Council, Members placed on record their thanks to all of those communities, Council officers, volunteers, emergency services, partner organisations and armed forces who had given up their time and who made valuable contributions towards the multi-agency recovery work which had taken place to date, and which continued to take place;
- Given the co-ordinating role which continued to be played by the Council in response to the flooding, Members emphasised how these recent events had illustrated the crucial role played by Local Government in the city;
- It was noted that building upon the flood defence schemes as originally proposed, any future feasibility study would look to update and adapt such schemes in order to address the issues which came to light as a result of the recent flooding;
- It was also highlighted that the scope of any future defence strategies would need to be widened in order to consider all water courses affecting the city, and which would require a co-ordinated approach with neighbouring authorities;
- In addition to the comments made around the impact upon the city centre and those areas in close proximity to it, emphasis was also placed upon the impact that the flooding had had upon the more outlying communities;
- Emphasis was placed upon the associated work that the Council could consider in order to mitigate risk of future flooding, such as the establishment of wetlands and reviewing the flooding risk of any sites proposed for development;

- Members highlighted the need to ensure the involvement of any affected communities in the development of associated recovery and regeneration programmes, whilst also providing support to enable communities to develop their own capacity in such areas, in order to harness the community spirit which had been present throughout the response;
- Responding to an enquiry regarding the issues which had been experienced in respect of insurance, the Board received an update on the work which was being undertaken by the Council, in liaison with the Association of British Insurers on such matters;
- The Board also received an update regarding the ongoing actions being taken by the Council as part of an overarching recovery plan, noted the latest statistics in terms of affected properties and businesses, and received the current position regarding the delivery of associated grant schemes.

The Chair advised that the White Paper Motion regarding the issue of flooding, as agreed by Council on the 13th January 2016 had been submitted to Government. In addition, the Board noted that a meeting with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs attended by the Leader, the Chief Executive and Leeds MPs had been held earlier in the day. It was highlighted that the Secretary of State had confirmed that the establishment of appropriate flood defence mechanisms in Leeds was a Government priority, together with an acknowledgement that the current city centre flood defences were not adequate. However, it was noted that no commitment was made by the Secretary of State regarding additional funding to provide flood alleviation measures in Leeds. It was noted that representations had been made at the meeting that the establishment of adequate flood defences, which included the initial development of an associated feasibility study, was urgently required. Members were also informed that a further meeting would be scheduled with the Secretary of State in order to progress such matters, and it was highlighted that all-party representation at that meeting would be sought, together with support from the local business community.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That on behalf of the Executive Board, all staff, partners, local Ward Members, community representatives, volunteers and all those affected by the floods be thanked for their efforts in supporting the recovery operation;
- (b) That the implementation of a Council Flood Emergency Management Team, which is led by the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) and which met for the first time on the 4th January 2016, be noted;
- (c) That it be noted that the Local Authority is 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;
- (d) That the financial support and advice arrangements which have been put in place to support affected householders and businesses, be endorsed;
- (e) That the funding provided by Government to support the schemes detailed at paragraph 3.1.2 of the submitted report be noted, and that the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to keep a record of all relevant expenditure associated with responding to Storm Eva;

- (f) That the Director of City Development be required to work with the Environment Agency in order to submit a report to Executive Board as soon as possible on the city's flood alleviation developments, including plans for seeking Government support for progressing phases 2 and 3 of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme;
- (g) That the Chief Executive be requested to 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, and which seeks a firm commitment from Government to support both phases 2 and 3;
- (h) That the Director of City Development be required to work with the Environment Agency in order to identify measures that could be undertaken to increase flood resilience for all communities affected Storm Eva;
- (i) That the Director of City Development be required to complete a full assessment of all impacts of Storm Eva on city infrastructure, and to develop proposals for the necessary repair and rebuild work that maybe necessary, including work required on Linton Bridge;
- (j) That the Director of City Development be requested to consider the development of a regeneration based approach towards helping Kirkstall recover from Storm Eva;
- (k) That the Director of City Development be required to make arrangements to undertake a statutory Section 19 investigation into the causes and impacts of the Storm Eva flooding event;
- (l) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) be required to oversee the development and delivery of a Storm Eva Strategic Recovery Plan, and also be requested to report back to Members on this plan, together with a further update on recovery efforts, in March 2016;
- (m) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) be required to undertake a lessons learned exercise and provide a formal report on this to the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee;
- (n) That the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities) be required to ensure that the experiences of, and impacts in Leeds are fed into the national review of flooding.