

Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens and Communities)

Report to Executive Board

Date: 19 October 2016

Subject: Storm Eva – Recovery 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

- 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, using a citywide Strategic Recovery Plan. Most actions, including support to communities and businesses affected, infrastructure repairs, ensuring effective communications and developing future resilience plans have continued for a significant period, and are now either completed or have been incorporated into business as usual projects and work.
- Council lessons learned from the response and recovery phases have also been collected and significant progress has been made on the recommendations produced, for example on revising the emergency handbook, supporting community flood resilience and reviewing policies on sandbags and on call arrangements. Most work is either completed or is being taken forward in business as usual or new projects together with partner organisations; in particular as part of the emerging Leeds Flood Resilience Programme Board with the Environment Agency.

3. The overall residential and business impact is being assessed at both the Leeds and Leeds City Region level however significant challenges remain and recovery is ongoing for some businesses. The Council have been administering grant funding for affected residents and businesses, as well as working with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) on schemes, and more than £3m of support has been provided, with the majority of schemes having now been wound up. Further support continues to those who are still unable to return home, businesses that are not yet fully operational, and those facing ongoing challenges in terms of recovery and flood resilience. Plans have been put in place and endorsed by the Department for Communities and Local Government to use remaining funding from the Government grants to target specific interventions.
4. The longer term resilience of Leeds to flooding continues to be an important issue and has been made more prominent by the events of Storm Eva. Significant developments over the last ten months have seen a commitment given from government to fund a feasibility study into Phase Two of the River Aire Flood Resilience Scheme, which Leeds City Council and the Environment Agency have been working closely together on. However there is still a concern regarding the commitment of government to fund the full phase two scheme and representations are being made to relevant ministers to request that this funding is committed to as part of the Autumn Statement.

Recommendations

5. Members of Executive Board are recommended to:
 - a) note the updates in the report, including on the progress of the Strategic Recovery Plan,
 - b) note the progress on recommendations from the lessons learned review,
 - c) support the decision to formally close the Council's recovery phase of work and for remaining issues to now be allocated to business as usual projects and programmes or service delivery,
 - d) agree the additional Communities and Business Recovery Scheme initiative of £100,000 for phase two of the River Aire clean-up activity, subject to the Director of City Development consulting with the Local Enterprise Partnership, and
 - e) agree the additional Communities and Business Recovery Scheme initiative of £150,000 to introduce a business growth scheme specifically to support Business Growth projects in affected areas, subject to the Director of City Development consulting with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Storm Eva



5.2mtr

highest ever recorded level

26

December 2015

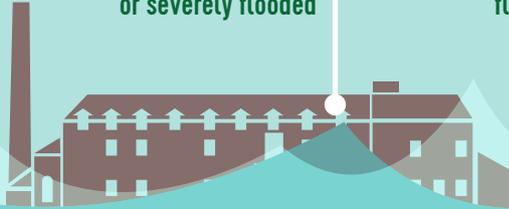
2683

residential properties affected, flooded or severely flooded



678

commercial properties affected, flooded or severely flooded



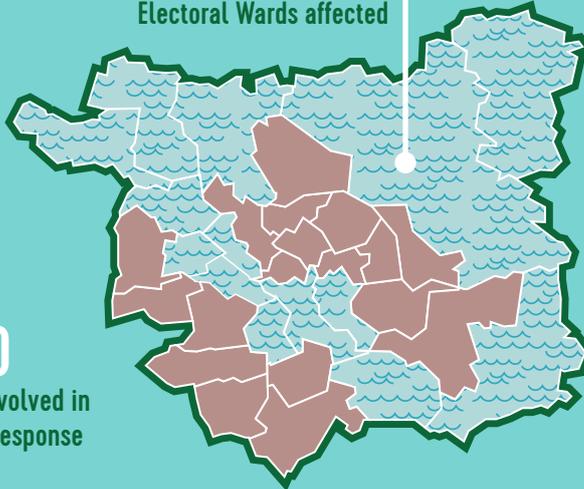
7

Other (ie churches, allotments) affected, flooded or severely flooded

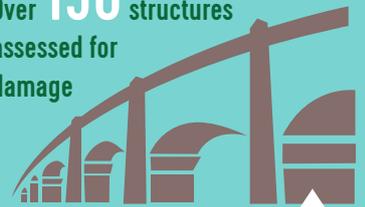


14

Electoral Wards affected



Over 150 structures assessed for damage



70 Calls to 999



400-500 calls for assistance



350

staff involved in initial response



1,000+

volunteers engaged



30

September 2016

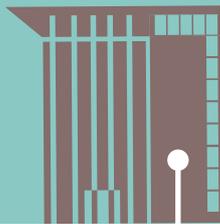
£354k

Community Support grants (£500) paid out to date



£467k

Business Support grants (£2,500) paid out to date



3,691

jobs safeguarded



£1.05m

Property Level Resilience grants (£5,000) paid out to date

£1.3m

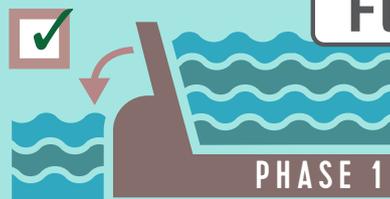
Further support planned



£45m

Phase 1 Flood Alleviation Scheme to protect 3,000 homes + 500 businesses

Due to complete 2017

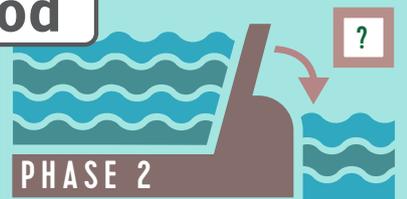


PHASE 1

Flood

£65m

Government asked to confirm funding for Phase 2 Flood Alleviation Scheme



PHASE 2



7 families still to return home



50 businesses still not fully operational

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update Members of Executive Board on the impact of Storm Eva in Leeds, specifically about the recovery plan, lessons learned, flood alleviation proposals for the city and support to businesses and residents affected.

2 Background information

- 2.1 This is the fourth and final Storm Eva update report brought to the Executive Board since the events of December 2015. However Executive Board will continue to receive reports on key issues as required, including, for example progress on the Flood Alleviation Scheme and on the repairs to Linton Bridge, as well as the Section 19 review.
- 2.2 The Executive Board report in January 2016 contained much of the detail on the events of Storm Eva and the immediate response work. The March 2016 report updated on recovery activity and the progress of support for affected residents and businesses, damage to infrastructure, and future resilience developments such as the Flood Alleviation Scheme and regeneration proposals. The last report in June included the findings and recommendations of the Council's lessons learned work. In addition, in April a paper was specifically produced on flood alleviation.

3 Main Issues

- 3.1 As a reminder, Storm Eva had a significant effect on residents and businesses in Leeds, with the following totals known to have been either flooded or directly affected by flooding.

	Flooded	Affected	Severely Affected	Total
Residential	298	1902	483	2683
- Houses	242	125		367
- Flats	56	1777	483	2316
Commercial	371	307		678
Other (churches, allotments, sports clubs)	4	3		7
Total	673	2212	483	3368

- 3.2 The remaining parts of this main issues section build upon the basis of these numbers, and are separated into the headings of the Strategic Recovery Plan. Progress on the Strategic Recovery Plan is included in Annex 1, with all of the actions either completed or now being considered as part of business as usual.

3.3 Recovery Plan - Community

- 3.3.1 The community recovery work has moved progressively from supporting those affected with clean up and temporary accommodation to looking further to property resilience and wider community preparedness and resilience. However at

this time there are still a small number of householders who are unable to return to their homes and specific support continues to be available for those individuals.

3.3.2 Grant schemes

3.3.3 As of 23/09/16, the following numbers of grants from the Government funded support and resilience schemes have been processed and paid:

Grant scheme	Number of Eligible Properties	Grant applications received	% of Eligible Properties	Grants paid	% applications received	Total amount paid
Community Support scheme (£500)	781	708	90%	708	100%	£354,000
Property Level Resilience (up to £5,000) Household	298	126	42%	118	94%	£ 569,756

3.3.4 Leeds City Council officers and members have worked closely with local effected wards to make sure that the availability of grants is known and that assistance is available for those who need help in applying for these. As reported in previous update reports, the community support scheme was promoted online and a simple application process for assistance was developed with little effort required by the affected residents, and direct payments made without need for further contact in the majority of cases. This proactive approach has received positive feedback from residents.

3.3.5 The Property Level Resilience Grant (PLR), for owners of residential properties flood affected to apply for up to £5k towards works to their homes to increase resilience to flooding, has been extended for applications until December 2016. The scheme will help with resilience measures such as barriers to external doors and/or works to reduce the effects post flooding such as plastic internal doors, raising electrical points or plastering with waterproof plaster. Further applications for the scheme are expected to be received by the end of the year.

3.3.6 To date the following work has taken place to support the residential PLR scheme:

- Upfront payments to owners within 48 hours of their completed applications, which has been warmly welcomed.
- All flooded properties have been targeted both in writing and by officer visits.

- Officer assistance in helping group residential schemes that pool more than one property level resilience grant.
- Looking to take forward work to support 8 city centre flat complexes that may have been excluded from the grants process due to Government eligibility criteria (£160,000)
- Looking to take forward work to support a single proposal to move utilities from the basement areas in 26 properties on Kirkstall Road. (£130,000)

3.3.7 Council Tax relief was also offered to affected properties that needed to be vacated due to flooding. To date £105,562 of relief has been offered, with extensions given to those who were unable to return to their homes in the initial three month period of the relief scheme as well as relief being offered on rented temporary accommodation for those residents. As of October 1st, seven properties are still receiving relief as they continue to be out of their homes.

3.3.8 On top of this other grants have been made available to communities, particularly from the Leeds Community Foundation appeal but also from individual donations and fundraising events.

3.3.9 Leeds Community Foundation raised approximately £300,000 to give out in the Leeds area and, to date, have given or committed just under £260,000. This has funded 25 organisations to deliver a range of activities. Examples of funding include: to Open Source Arts to contribute towards costs of volunteering support during floods; Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to fund litter picking, wetland development and community tree planting; Phoenix Dance to replace spoilt costumes; Boston Spa Parish Council to repair a path by Thorp Arch Bridge; Skill Mill to train young people referred from the Youth Offending Service and support river clean ups. There have also been 47 grants to individual home owners of £250 or £500 and there are a range of other projects still under consideration.

3.3.10 **Community Engagement and Communications**

3.3.11 Further detail of work taking place around community engagement is included in the annex to this paper on the lessons learned recommendations, however it is worth noting that significant progress has been made in relation to building greater community resilience in the form of flood groups, and also in working up plans for how spontaneous volunteering could be best used in case of future emergencies. Headline progress to date includes:

3.3.12 The Garforth Flood Action Group continues to be central to community resilience within the South East. Having been established for a number of years, they have developed a number of local systems for reacting to flood events and have gained a great deal of experience, which they have been happy to share with other organisations across the city. They continue to undertake work, such as clearing the vegetation from the beck on Main St at the Barleyhill Road junction.

3.3.13 Methley & Mickeltown residents have set up a flood action group and both Kippax and Allerton Bywater are also looking to launch groups. Garforth Flood Action Group has made links with each of these and is providing help and advice.

- 3.3.14 In Outer North East, much of the post flooding response is being headed-up by Collingham with Linton Parish Council, which has undertaken a range of post flood activity. They have worked to promote the help and support that is available to flood victims, and have worked closely with the Environment Agency.
- 3.3.15 West Yorkshire Community Action are currently subsidising a free shuttle bus between Linton, Collingham and Wetherby, while Linton Bridge is closed for repair. Members and key stakeholders, including the Parish Council and local businesses, are looking to extend this service and increase its sustainability. Community support and use of this will be key.
- 3.3.16 Otley Residents Flood Group was established following two floods in Otley, in November and December 2015. Its aims were for the Bridge Avenue and Farnley Lane community to address the issues of both improving and implementing flood defences and to put in place a Flood Day Action Plan for 'when the inevitable happens again'. They have liaised with a number of LCC service areas, as well as the Environment Agency, who have provided support to them.
- 3.3.17 Kirkstall Flood Clean Up continues to be an active group of volunteers, loosely coordinated by Open Source Arts. They have worked to promote the help and support that is available to flood victims. They held a volunteer thank you event over the summer and continue to hold volunteer events, including seven Team Kirkstall clean-ups and four corporate clean-ups of the banks of the River Aire in Kirkstall. As the majority of flooded premises in Kirkstall were commercial, rather than residential, this limited their access to some grant schemes. In response, the group has registered a company that can accept and administer financial donations, towards addressing this and future flooding events in the area. It is also looking to develop a Kirkstall Flood Info Shop.
- 3.3.18 Apart from the local groups, the council has also helped Yorkshire Voluntary Flood Support – a West Yorkshire wide group that has been providing items and services to affected residents across the region. They continue to collect and disseminate items and have been using the former Burley Willows site as a storage facility.

3.4 **Recovery Plan – Business**

- 3.4.1 As with community recovery, support for businesses has begun to look further ahead to future resilience; however the effects of Storm Eva are still being felt in some areas.
- 3.4.2 **Grant schemes**
- 3.4.3 More than £3m of support has been provided to affected businesses in Leeds since the start of January, including business support, property resilience, business rate reliefs and the Local Enterprise Partnership flood grant. As of 23/09/16, the following numbers of grants from the Government funded support and resilience schemes have been processed and paid:

Grant scheme	Number of Eligible Properties	Grant applications received	% of Eligible Properties	Grants paid	% applications received Paid	Total amount paid
Business Support scheme (up to £2,500)	371	245	66%	218	89%	£467,116
Property Level Resilience (up to £5,000) Business	371	120	32%	104	87%	£477,577

3.4.4 In addition to the above grants, the Council has delivered a Flood Recovery Grant to strategic businesses across the Leeds City Region on behalf of the LEP. To date this has approved 43 applications including 14 from Leeds businesses worth over £900,000. The Council has provided over £1.1m of rates relief to affected Leeds businesses.

3.4.5 The Council has now closed the Business Recovery Grant to new applicants. This grant provided up to £2,500 to help with initial clean up related costs and 218 businesses have been assisted through the scheme. The remaining funds have been allocated to an extension of the scheme which offers an average of £10,000 grant assistance to help businesses severely affected by the Storm Eva floods. Grant support will be targeted at businesses who can demonstrate a need for additional assistance to help them to recover from the floods. This has been consulted on with the Local Enterprise Partnership who have given their support for the extension. It is envisaged that the extension of the Business Recovery Grant will operate until the 30th November 2016, with all grant claims processed by the 30th January 2017, and that approximately 40 businesses will receive additional assistance, with a total spend up to £400,000.

3.4.6 The Resilience Grant for businesses will remain open until the 31st December 2016, with final claims processed by the 31st March 2017. It is envisaged that up to 150 businesses will receive support for resilience measures. The LEP Flood Recovery Grant is now closed to new applicants, it is anticipated that up to 50 strategic businesses based in the City Region will receive assistance worth in total in excess of £2m.

3.4.7 **Business Support**

3.4.8 The Council, working with our partners in the LEP, continues to offer support to those businesses that are yet to return to full operating capacity as well as a number who are still in the process of taking decisions over relocation options. A number of Leeds businesses have received significant Council assistance, and a number of case studies are provided in Annex 3; the company names & specific locations have been removed from the report to reflect the sensitive nature of the information.

3.4.9 **Long term Impact on Business & Key Employment Areas**

3.4.10 To date there has been one high profile business closure, Thyssen Krupp Woodhead on Kirkstall Road, which will result in the loss of 93 skilled engineering jobs, and a number of small firms have closed. There is one strategic manufacturer at risk of closure/relocation and one important food distribution business which has downgraded its presence in Leeds and relocated some activities to the Midlands. Anecdotal evidence would suggest that flooding has had a significant impact on the long term growth prospects of flood affected businesses.

3.4.11 There is a need to address the longer term impact on key employment areas on the Leeds flood plain and a need to continue to underpin investment confidence to protect jobs/encourage future private sector investment.

3.4.12 A number of businesses are now reporting that they can no longer obtain flood insurance cover. The evidence to date would suggest that insurance companies are “red lining” particular postcodes and are not prepared to provide insurance cover in these areas. In the longer term this lack of insurance cover could force businesses to relocate and may lead to landlords not investing in industrial /commercial properties in the affected areas.

3.4.13 Without further intervention there is a risk of an increase in property vacancy rates and a reduction in employment in these commercial areas. There is also a risk that new business investment in these areas will be deterred and that properties may be abandoned/ suffer from dereliction.

3.4.14 **Proposed Action Plan to tackle long term issues**

3.4.15 Discussions have taken place with representatives from the Department for Communities and Local Government on how further business support and property resilience can be provided to affected businesses in Leeds from grant funds remaining in the Community and Business Recovery Scheme. Given the unique impact of Storm Eva in Leeds, particularly in relation to urban areas, it has been acknowledged that there is clear rationale for exploring additional initiatives on top of the standard business support and property resilience grants, on the basis that they are clearly aimed at assisting those affected businesses with recovery and future resilience. A number of initiatives have therefore been agreed to in principle, including the up and running extension to the Business Recovery Grant (see 3.4.5 above), and work is taking place to progress those. The other initiatives are:

- River Aire clean-up activity – in partnership with EA and Leeds Community Foundation and others, aimed directly at the visual amenity impact on flood affected businesses along parts of the River Aire in Kirkstall and Hunslet and Stourton, and continuing concerns about the negative impact on trade and inward investment. (£50k phase 1 already paid, £100k phase 2 proposed)
- A budget to provide expert external technical assistance to increase take up of Property Level Resilience grants for businesses. The proposal is to utilise the equivalent of 10% of £500,000 worth of PLR grants, as per the scheme

guidance, to secure specialist technical assistance to support increased take-up of PLR grants (maximum spend £50,000).

- To introduce a business growth scheme specifically to support Business Growth projects – targeted especially at businesses, buildings and surrounding areas of affected parts of the city that will support those businesses directly impacted by Storm Eva (£150,000);

3.5 **Recovery Plan - Infrastructure**

3.5.1 **Infrastructure update**

3.5.2 Repairs to infrastructure damaged during Storm Eva continue to be a priority, with work underway particularly on the required strengthening to Linton Bridge. A complex temporary arch support system is currently being installed so that work can safely be undertaken beneath the bridge, with all works due to be completed ahead of a reopening in summer 2017. A short video explaining how the work is being undertaken has been posted on the council's website, and regular updates have been provided locally on progress.

3.5.3 The final estimate for the work will not be known until the tendering exercise for the repair project has been completed, which is currently in the evaluation phase, and it may be that it is beyond the level of funding that has been provided from Department for Transport. In the meantime work continues on site and is progressing on schedule.

3.5.4 **Flood Alleviation Schemes**

3.5.5 Phase One of the River Aire Flood Alleviation Scheme is progressing well and is due to be completed in Spring 2017, protecting 3000 residential properties (mostly flats) and 500 business. A recent £3.8m bid to the Environment Agency for Storm Eva related damage has been successful and will assure the smooth delivery of this significant and innovative scheme.

3.5.6 Significant work has also been undertaken in recent months to tender and procure consultancy/contractor support for the feasibility study for phase two of the River Aire Flood Alleviation Scheme. This follows the initial study carried out by the Environment Agency in conjunction with the Council in the immediate aftermath of Storm Eva. The contract commenced in September and will allow for the feasibility study, design and business case to be developed. This work will determine the type of defence work to be undertaken across the whole River Aire catchment area from Malham Tarn through Kirkstall and to Leeds Railway station. Considerable work has also been undertaken in shaping the governance arrangements for this catchment wide work which Leeds City Council will oversee with the involvement and support of multiple organisations and interested parties. The estimated timeline for phase two is described in the following table:

Activity	Duration	Date
Feasibility & Business case	12 months	complete October 2017
Submission of Business case		October 2017
Specimen design	6 months	complete April 2018
Detailed design & Build Tender & Award	4 months	complete August 2018
Start Detailed Design & Construction		September 2018
Commence Construction Works		immediately pre or post Xmas 2018

3.5.7 Although funding has been committed for the feasibility study, there is still uncertainty regarding the long term commitment of funding for phase two of the scheme from central government, particularly after recent announcements and the National Flood Resilience Review report (see 3.5.10 below). Representations are being made to relevant ministers to request that this funding is committed to as part of the Autumn Statement.

3.5.8 Further downstream Flood Alleviation Schemes are being developed along the Wykebeck and Lin Dyke tributaries. A flood barrier scheme is currently being designed for the Pit Lane area of Mickletown and the Lower River Aire Catchment Model will be used to identify other Flood Protection works for Methley and Mickletown.

3.5.9 For the River Wharf, Leeds has commissioned a consultant to review the documentation and data associated with the whole catchment and to recommend the scope for the subsequent stages. The outcome should provide recommendations for the next phase of the study in particular for Otley and for other downstream communities. This work is being done collaboratively with the Environment Agency, adjacent Local Flood Risk Authorities and a number of trusts looking at Natural Flood Management.

3.5.10 **National Flood Resilience Review**

3.5.11 The national flood resilience review was published in September and outlined measures for improved rain and flood modelling, a significant increase in new temporary flood defences and greater protection to infrastructure. The final details of this work are yet to be published however it does not appear that the work coming from the review will provide any greater certainty to Leeds in the short term of the Government's intention for greater flood protection for the city.

3.6 **Recovery Plan - Media and Communications**

3.6.1 The Council has continued to communicate on the recovery process and to monitor ongoing media activity. The availability and closure dates of 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, and targeted communications have been sent to affected businesses and also to residents surrounding Linton Bridge regarding the ongoing repairs and alternative arrangements for travel. Further communications activity has taken place around the national flood resilience review. Going forward communications will play an important role in the developing Leeds Flood

Resilience Board and around messaging for the one year anniversary from Storm Eva in December.

3.6.2 As part of the lessons learned review, Council communications officers have benchmarked best practice on alternative communications systems and have updated procedures to use mobile app software. Work is also taking place around the use of social media during emergency incidents and an innovation workshop session with developers to explore how digital technology can innovate in this area is being developed.

3.7 **Recovery Plan - Prepare**

3.7.1 **Section 19 report**

3.7.2 Leeds as a Lead Local Flood Authority is preparing under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 a report on the Storm Eva flooding event. This is due to be reported to Executive Board in the next three months.

3.7.3 **Leeds City Region Review**

3.7.4 Leeds City Region Leaders also requested work to be done on a Leeds City Region Floods review, included an economic impact analysis. A full report is expected to be discussed by Leeds City Region Leaders in December. Leeds City Council officers have been involved on the steering group for this work, led by the Deputy Chief Executive.

3.7.5 **Lessons learned review**

3.7.6 In the June Executive Board update the report and recommendations of the Leeds City Council Storm Eva lessons learned exercise were noted and agreed for update in October. Significant progress has been made on these recommendations, with a number of actions already completed and others being taken forward as part of business as usual work in the council or as part of the developing Leeds Flood Resilience Programme Board together with the Environment Agency and other partners.

3.7.7 The full progress of implementing the lessons learned recommendation is included at annex 2. Key activity includes:

- Revision of the emergency handbook
- A review of Christmas closedown and on call procedures
- Work to clarify the council's sandbag policy and advise to the public
- Consideration of the use of social media and alternative communications
- Feedback to West Yorkshire Resilience Forum and national government on the response and recovery in Leeds

4 **Corporate Considerations**

4.1 **Consultation and Engagement**

4.1.1 Community engagement events were reported as part of the January and March Executive Board paper and further engagement events have since taken place in a number of affected communities. 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. Future regeneration developments may also be subject to specific consultation and engagement going forward.

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 March 2016, 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. As part of the lessons learned recommendations a review of the Emergency Handbook is taking place and reviews are also being completed on a number of other policies including in relation to out of hours and sandbags. These have been reviewed in line with Best Council/Best City ambitions.

4.4 **Resources and value for money**

4.4.3 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.

4.4.4 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. In regard to the Communities and Business Recovery Scheme, as has been reported in previous update Executive Board reports, as expected there are a large number of those affected by flooding in Leeds not entitled to payments under the schemes, due to the nature of the impact

particularly to flats and businesses in multiple occupancy buildings. Discussions have taken place in September with the Department for Communities and Local Government regarding additional initiatives to utilise remaining funding from the individual property schemes that would have significant benefits for affected business and households, in line with the flexibilities permitted by central government.

- 4.4.5 Details of those additional initiatives are detailed in the main body of the report and include further property level resilience measures for flats, an enhanced business support scheme for the worst hit businesses and business growth schemes targeted at flood affected areas. Some of these have been agreed already through delegated decisions or as extensions of the existing property level resilience grant, and Executive Board are asked to approve the remaining initiatives in the recommendations of this report. The total maximum spend of all additional initiatives would be £1.01m, with Executive Board asked to approve initiatives totalling £250,000.
- 4.4.6 Taking account of the spending to date, expected property level resilience spend prior to scheme closure and additional initiatives, the following table outlines the expected total spend on the Communities and Business Recovery Scheme:

Communities & Business Recovery Scheme

	£	£
Grant Received		3,435,042
Community Support grant (£500) paid out to date (grant scheme closed for applications)	354,000	
Business Support grant (£2,500) paid out to date (grant scheme closed for applications)	467,116	
Property Level Resilience (£5,000) paid out to date (grant scheme open for applications until 31/12/16)	1,047,333	
Expected additional PLR grants for households prior to scheme closure 31/12/16 (including resilience measures for flats and raising meters on Kirkstall Road)	365,000	
Expected additional PLR grants for businesses prior to scheme closure 31/12/16 (including £50,000 technical assistance for up to 100 businesses)	365,000	
Extension to Business Recovery Grant (open for applications)	400,000	
Other additional initiatives paid (volunteer coordination support, River Aire clean up phase 1)	60,000	
Other proposed additional initiatives (River Aire clean up phase 2, business growth projects)	250,000	
Total estimated final spend		3,308,449
Remaining funding		126,593

4.4.7 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.

4.4.8 In addition to the above, the recommendations of the lessons learned review have resource implications for the relevant council services and have and will need to be considered as part of ongoing resource planning, as will regeneration activity.

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 a regular basis and those related to flooding will be updated again in response to recent events. The lessons learned activity which is detailed in section 3.7 above and in annex 2 has been done within the framework of the council risks related to flooding and will be drawn upon in reviewing these risks and delivering actions to mitigate them.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The response and recovery to Storm Eva and the work of the Council, partners and volunteers has been a credit to the City. Whilst some work continues to support a small number residents and a number of businesses in recovery, much of the recovery work has now been completed and therefore it has been proposed in this paper that ongoing work now be fully passed into business as usual operations.

5.2 Progress on the lessons learned recommendations has been recorded and a number of changes and improvements have already been put in place. A number of recommendations are still to be fully implemented but will be taken forward as part of business as usual, with a number being considered through the emerging Leeds Flood Resilience Programme Board governance.

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members of Executive Board are recommended to:

- a) note the updates in the report, including on the progress of the Strategic Recovery Plan,
- b) note the progress on recommendations from the lessons learned review,
- c) support the decision to formally close the Council's recovery phase of work and for remaining issues to now be allocated to business as usual projects and programmes or service delivery, and
- d) agree the additional Communities and Business Recovery Scheme initiative of £100,000 for phase two of the River Aire clean-up activity, subject to the Director of City Development consulting with the Local Enterprise Partnership, and
- e) agree the additional Communities and Business Recovery Scheme initiative of £150,000 to introduce a business growth scheme specifically to support Business Growth projects in affected areas, subject to the Director of City Development consulting with the Local Enterprise Partnership.

7 **Background documents**¹

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: Leeds Strategic Recovery Plan – Storm Eva 26 December 2015 **Updated progress 5th October 2016**

Key:	
	Complete/business as usual
	Ongoing/near completion
	Needing further work

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	Schemes run and formalised closing arrangements in place. Spend records and reporting to Government updated. PLR – ongoing push until December deadline
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	Completed
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/Shaid Mahmood	Complete and update provided in June Exec Board report. Focus group established to direct allocation of remaining funding.
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	Look to assess, educate and build upon existing capacity within communities in relation to flood resistance and resilience starting with	LCC / Environment Agency	Ongoing commitment as part of business as usual to support Community Flood groups to be self-

	Eva.	community engagement events in affected wards and ongoing including other risk areas in Leeds, timeframes to be developed.	Shaid Mahmood	sufficient, in collaboration with the Third Sector and Environment Agency.
1.5		Ensure appropriate advise and support is given to residents regarding insurance, coordinating with insurance companies where appropriate	LCC Steve Carey	Completed
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	Schemes run and formalised closing arrangements in place. Extension to the business support scheme agreed. Spend records and reporting to Government updated. PLR – ongoing push until December deadline.
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	Completed
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 for large companies.	LCC (Tom Bridges) / LEP?	Complete and ongoing as business as usual. Regeneration proposal included in June Exec Board update report
2.4		Run business engagement events in affected wards	LCC / Environment Agency	Completed
2.5		Work with other WY councils and the LEP to develop and implement a business support scheme on the right	LCC Tom Bridges / LEP	Completed LEP Business Flood Recovery Fund closed on

		scale to respond to the incident.		30 th September 2016
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	Report work completed and Executive Summary discussed and agreed with Leeds City Region Chief Executives, to be published by end of 2016
2.7		Linked to 1.5 Ensure appropriate advise and support is given to businesses regarding insurance, coordinating with insurance companies where appropriate	LCC Tom Bridges	Completed with ongoing support to some businesses still not fully operational
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	Completed and specific update included in Linton bridge June Exec Board report. Linton Bridge works contract at tendering stage.
3.2		Carry out repairs taking into consideration priority and urgency	LCC / Environment Agency	Completed and updated included in Linton bridge June Exec Board report
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	Update included in Linton bridge June Exec Board report. Full cost of Linton Bridge repairs uncertain until tendering process complete and may exceed government funding received.
3.4	EB6: Require the Director of City Development to work with the Environment Agency to bring a	Progress to the next stage of the Leeds Flood Alleviation Scheme (River Aire)	LCC / Leeds MPs / Environment	Completed and included in April Exec Board report

	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	and a wider catchment approach to schemes across Leeds	Agency	
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	Work to be taken forward as part of the evolving Leeds Flood Resilience Programme Board through an infrastructure subgroup
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	Completed
4.2		Develop a communications plan to support recovery response, and a communications strategy regarding Flood Alleviation Scheme(s)	LCC/Dee Reid	Completed, with business as usual decision to take place on further FAS communications
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	Completed and reported to Exec Board, DCLG and Ministerial Recovery Group on a regular basis

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	Completed
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 update of alert system completed. Self-help access to be considered as part of ongoing business as usual for LCC.
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	Draft report concluded, with full report due to be reported to Executive Board by the end of 2016
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	Recommendation included as part of lessons learned and review completed of existing processes with services to consider improvements
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 (Citizens and Communities) to ensure experiences and impacts in Leeds are fed into the national review of flooding.	Draw up lessons learned related to 2/3 key risks to feed future plans and to test the Severe Weather Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City resilience - Council resilience 	LCC / Partners	Completed and findings and recommendations reported as part of June Exec Board report
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	LCC Nigel Street / Partners / WY Police	Under consideration as part of ongoing preparedness and resilience work

		progress with tasks)		
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Annex 2: Leeds City Council Storm Eva Lessons Learned Recommendations Progress – October 2016

No.	Recommendation	Owner	Progress
A. Flood prevention and preparation for emergencies			
1.	That work should be undertaken to map the key infrastructure in the city, utilising data from partner organisations where possible.	Director of City Development	Being taken forward as part of the Leeds Flood Resilience Board framework
2.	That consideration is given to how community resilience can be increased by building local flood groups, drawing best practice from existing groups such as Garforth.	Director of City Development / Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities)	Being taken forward as part of the Leeds Flood Resilience Board framework
3.	That the emergency handbook be revised, including the production of a 'quick guide', and testing to take place working with key stakeholders.	Director of Strategy and Resources	Revised version almost completed and in test phase. Work to support a digital version also in test phase.
4.	That out of hours arrangements be reviewed, including those for the Christmas closedown, with consideration given to more flexible arrangements for out of hours resourcing such as voluntary call lists.	Director of City Development / Director of Strategy and Resources	Review work being completed and recommendations made
B. Procedures for dealing with flooding incidents			
5.	That those teams with On Call arrangements reflect on their experience from Storm Eva and any improvements that can be made to existing procedures.	All Directors with on call services	Review work completed and recommendations being taken forward by Chief Officers
6.	That the responsibilities between Flood Risk Management	Director of City	Responsibilities discussed and

	and Resilience and Emergencies Team in relation to flood incidents be agreed and clearly communicated.	Development / Director of Strategy and Resources	further work being progressed on gaps identified
7.	That lessons learned from Storm Eva regarding the single point of contact with the Council be taken into ongoing improvements to the Contact Centre and related services.	Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities)	Changes made and further discussions as part of service review
C. Key provisions and resources			
8.	That the sandbag policy be reviewed to provide greater clarity to all on when the council will provide sandbags.	Director of City Development	Policy reviewed and update drafted, due shortly to be consulted on prior to implementation
9.	That guidance be produced on the circumstance in which sandbags are effective and on other measures that can be taken to protect properties safely.	Director of City Development	Guidance being rolled out and links available on council website
D. Public Awareness, engagement and communications			
10.	That the communications team consider how social media communication can be better coordinated during an emergency event.	Director of Strategy and Resources	Revisiting of the communications policy undertaken and opportunities to use technology being taken forward by the sustainable development lab
11.	That alternative communication channels arrangements for during an emergency incident be established, building on best practice examples.	Director of Strategy and Resources	WhatsApp communications group established as alternative channel
12.	That work takes place to look into what a strategic coordination approach to volunteering during a flooding	Assistant Chief Executive (Citizens & Communities)	Being taken forward as part of the Leeds Flood Resilience Board

	response would look like, involving partners from the third sector and community flood groups.		framework
13.	That a pro forma be developed to assist in the production of internal communication updates during an emergency response.	Director of Strategy and Resources	Pro forma produced and agreed
E. Partnership working and cooperation			
14.	That further consideration be given to the collection, collation and use of data and intelligence from the council and partners to assist in flood response and recovery.	Director of City Development / Director of Strategy and Resources	Being taken forward as part of the Leeds Flood Resilience Board framework and also internally with options on data collation for emergencies under discussion with relevant teams
15.	That lessons learned from the multiagency West Yorkshire Resilience Forum debrief be used to improve the cooperation between partners in future emergencies.	Director of Strategy and Resources	Completed and improvements being taken forward by WYRF as part of ongoing developments
16.	That feedback be provided to central government departments on the onerous nature of reporting required of local authorities during the response and recovery phases of Storm Eva, and the inadequacy of their guidelines in relation to a major urban area such as Leeds.	Chief Executive	Feedback to various lessons learned exercises and directly to Government departments completed

Annex 3: Case studies of Flood Affected Businesses receiving significant Council Assistance

The following case studies are just two examples of a number where Leeds City Council has offered significant assistance to a business following the impact of Storm Eva flooding. The company names & specific locations have been removed from the report to reflect the sensitive nature of the information.

1 Company A

1.1 Background

1.2 Major high tech manufacturer based in Leeds operating from four industrial /office units located in the Storm Eva flood affected areas.

1.3 On the 26th December 2015, three of the four units were flooded. The business lost two months of production and significant damage was incurred through the loss of essential production machinery, work in progress and business stock. The business was insured for flood damage and a multi-million pound claim was submitted by the company to their insurers to compensate for the loss of equipment, stock and business interruption.

1.4 The company faces a 460% increase in insurance premiums at their current Leeds sites and a significant excess for flood related damage for any future claims. The company is a large business (in excess of 250 employees) and owned by outside shareholders. Local management are under significant pressure from shareholders to relocate the business out of Leeds to a site away from the flood plain. Flood insurance cover was obtained on a temporary basis while relocation options were considered.

1.5 The company approached the Council in January 2016 to help with relocation. The brief was to find a site which met Company A's requirements and enable relocation to take place within the next 12 months.

1.6 The Council Response

1.7 The Council's Economic Development Service allocated a senior officer to manage the council's interactions with the business as part of the Key Account Management (KAM) programme. The Council identified a number of potential sites – three in Leeds and one in the wider city region.

1.8 Two of the sites in Leeds were private sector owned land which would require a developer to come forward swiftly with a new development meeting the requirements of Company A. The Council intervened on behalf of Company A to encourage the developers to come forward with potential development options. The Council brokered an introduction to a neighbouring authority to enable Company A to consider the site outside of the Leeds District. Company A also pursued a fourth option, a vacant leasehold site which had recently come on to the market.

1.9 Throughout the last nine months the Council 's Economic Development Service has worked proactively supporting Company A – identifying possible relocation sites, advocating on behalf of Company A with local developers, advocating internally in the Council with regulatory services such as Planning and Environment. The Council has also worked with Company A on a six figure financial assistance package funded through the Local Enterprise Partnership and is considering providing business rate relief to secure this investment in Leeds.

1.10 Company A has identified a relocation option in Leeds which meets its requirements. Support provided by the Council has safeguarded over 200 good quality jobs in Leeds and helped to secure a multi-million investment which brings a vacant 50,000 sq ft industrial unit on the Leeds flood plain back into use.

2. Company B

2.1 Background

2.2 Small online distribution business operating in Leeds based in the Storm Eva affected areas. On the 26th December 2015 Company B's premises were flooded up to a depth of 4ft. The business incurred a significant loss of stock and damage to equipment. The business was under insured and suffered a large uninsured loss.

2.3 Company B was up & running within a week of the flood but severe reputational damage was incurred due to the impact on deliveries, particularly to a key customer (one of the UK's leading supermarkets).

2.4 Company B is unable to obtain Flood insurance at their current premises. The business is unable to put in place robust recovery plans at its current location and is therefore seeking to relocate to new premises.

2.5 Company B approached the Council in January 2016 for financial assistance.

2.6 The Council Response

2.7 The Council's Economic Development Service provided a £2,500 recovery grant to help with clean-up costs and 100% rates relief was provided for an initial three months. The Economic Development Service followed up with a resilience grant of £5,000 to help the business install a new racking system which was above the Storm Eva flood levels. The Council helped the business to apply for a total of £99,000 from the LEP Flood grant to help the business relocate to new premises in Leeds within 3 miles of its current premises.

2.8 The Council is currently considering a request for rates relief to help the business with a significant increase in overheads associated with the new premises.

2.9 Support provided by the Council has enabled Company B to continue to trade, safeguarding 28 jobs, and the Council's support has been critical in enabling the business to relocate to secure its long term future. The business has ambitious plans to grow with the potential of up to 30 new jobs to be created over the next three years.