

Executive Member for Environment Decision
Session

11 March 2019

Report of the Director of Economy & Place

York 13 August 2018 Section 19 Surface Water Flood Investigation

Summary

1. The city of York was impacted by an intense summer rainstorm on the 13th August 2018, rainfall intensities in excess of 100mm per hour were recorded at a number of locations in the city.
2. 123 locations of flooding were recorded ranging from flooded roads, flooded gardens and in a small number of cases flooding of property.
3. With rainfall intensities such as this flooding of roads and possibly property would be expected in any urban environment, all locations have been investigated by CYC and partners as necessary.
4. The formal investigation is included as Annex 1 of this report.

Recommendations

5. The Executive Member for the Environment is asked to note the report at Annex 1, the key recommendations are detailed below, the Executive Member is asked to support the recommendations and where necessary make amendments or recommend further actions:
 - i. CYC to work with all partners to develop an increased understanding of flood resilience through the update of the Local Flood Risk Strategy and the communications around the York FAS
 - ii. CYC to support the findings of the ongoing gully management review
 - iii. CYC to raise awareness of surface water management techniques with planning partners and internal highways design teams

- iv. CYC Flood Risk Management team to prepare a report for CYC Executive recommending the need to develop and fund a network of digital rain gauges in the city
- v. Many investigations and remedial works have been completed by CYC and partners, all ongoing investigations and works detailed in the report are to be completed
- vi. CYC will take a lead to ensure the ownership, management, operation and maintenance of Westfield Beck Pumping Station is clarified as this played an important role during the event, all partners are working well to achieve this

Background

- 6. The forecast for 13th August 2018 highlighted the potential for thundery downpours, the Flood Guidance Statement indicated a low likelihood of a significant impact occurring. Two bands of rain were forecast with the earlier band of rain at 1pm leading to visibly heavy rainfall and an expected disruption to pedestrians and road users but no further impacts were recorded.
- 7. The forecast detailed that a further intense band of rain would hit the city during the late afternoon, although the intensity of the rainfall >32mm/hr was accurate the duration was longer than expected. Further details of the forecasting of the event is included in Annex 1.
- 8. 123 locations of flooding were collated through the assessment of direct reports to the council, emergency services incident logs and reports across a range of online and social media outlets.
- 9. Due to the severity of the impacts of the storm a formal investigation under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) was commenced by the CYC Flood Risk Management team, all partner organisations have been consulted and have cooperated with CYC in all investigations and the agreed recommendations in the report at Annex 1.

Consultation

- 10. A public consultation event has been requested in the Haxby/Wigginton ward, this meeting will be held on the 26th February 2019. Individual consultation and discussions have been held with individual ward or

parish members and further events will be organised and attended as necessary.

Options

11. The principal options open to the Executive Member for Environment are to comment on and review the Investigation in Annex 1 of this report and its recommendations – a summary of which are reproduced in paragraph 5 of this report, further reporting and tracking recommendations will be brought to future decision sessions as necessary.

Analysis

12. The full report included at Annex 1 details the 13th August 2018 event from the forecasting phase through to the location of the 123 flooded areas, their individual investigation findings, actions in each case and resultant recommendations.

Council Plan

13. Delivery of flood risk management activities in York supports a prosperous city for all through safer communities for residents, businesses and visitors.

Implications

14. **Financial** – A number of investigations and resultant actions have required funding from CYC flood risk management revenue and capital budgets to be directed to resolve issues. Recommendations require further funding to be allocated to a number of local schemes, officers will work with wider funders to identify relevant funds. Wider strategic recommendations will require further funding to be developed.

15. Property – No Implications

Human Resources (HR) – No implications

One Planet Council/Equalities – No implications

Legal – No implications

Crime and Disorder – No implications

Information Technology (IT) – No implication

Risk Management

16. No known risks are identified at this time, ongoing investigations and schemes will be developed appropriately to identify and manage all risks.

Contact Details

Author:

Steve Wragg
Flood Risk Manager
Highways
01904 553401

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Neil Ferris
Director of Economy & Place

Report **Date** 28/2/19
Approved

Wards Affected: List wards or tick box to indicate all **All**

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes: Annex 1 York 13th August 2018 Section 19 Surface Water Flood Investigation March19