

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 06 October 2020

**Report Title:** Section 19 Flood Investigation Report – July 2019 Flood Event

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Laura Crane – Portfolio Holder for Highways & Waste

**Senior Officer:** Frank Jordan – Executive Director - Place

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report reviews the flood event in the catchments of Poynton Brook, River Dean, River Bollin, Harrop Brook and tributary of Todd Brook experienced in July 2019.
- 1.2 The Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a statutory duty under Section 19 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010, to investigate and produce a report on significant flood events and publish it.
- 1.3 The report attached as Appendix 1, has therefore been prepared by the Council for the specific purpose of meeting the requirements of Section 19 (1) and (2) of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010). The report will be published on the Council's website.
- 1.4 The report provides some background information, including existing risk and antecedent weather conditions, and provides a summary of the nature of the weather event that caused flooding. It goes on to provide a summary of the timeline for the event, including responses from the Risk Management Authorities involved. Known responses are listed, both during and shortly after the event.
- 1.5 The report splits each catchment into sub-catchment areas to ensure that no individual properties are identified or blighted. Site-specific recommendations

are made for each catchment area for all the Risk Management Authorities and homeowners as appropriate.

- 1.6 The recommendations of the report have been shared with the Risk Management Authorities, so that there was no delay in actioning the investigations, flood recovery works and capital works in affected communities required.
- 1.7 Cheshire East has already completed many of the recommendations from the report independently or in conjunction with the other Risk Management Authorities and the affected communities have been made aware of the works and outcomes.
- 1.8 The outcomes and actions from the Section 19 report will be disseminated to affected communities and town/parish councils by the Council, in conjunction with the other Risk Management Authorities, via a number of different engagement methods which will include public meetings and newsletters.
- 1.9 The Council will monitor the response of the Risk Management Authorities in relation to the recommendations of the Section 19 report.
- 1.10 In areas identified at risk of flooding, the risk of flooding will remain, despite the best efforts of the Risk Management Authorities (RMAs). The Section 19 report identifies the actions that each Risk Management Authority has exercised or is proposing to exercise as part of their function to reduce this future risk. The Council as Lead Local Flood Authority will monitor these as part of its responsibilities and work with the Risk Management Authorities to ensure these actions are delivered.

## **2. Recommendations**

That Cabinet:

- 2.1. Approves the Section 19 report as a factual report on the significant flood event that occurred in the catchments of Poynton Brook, River Dean, River Bollin, Harrop Brook and tributary of Todd Brook in July 2019.
- 2.2. Approves that the Section 19 report can be published on the Council's website in compliance with the statutory requirements placed on the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. The report has been prepared using a common template that has been developed and agreed in conjunction with the Cheshire Mid-Mersey Regional Sub Group. This ensures a consistent approach to flood risk management across the sub-regional catchment areas.
- 3.2. The report has been reviewed internally and by Environment Agency and United Utilities to ensure accuracy of the reported data.

### **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1. No other options are available. The Council, as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a statutory duty under Section 19 of the Flood Water Management Act 2010, to investigate and produce a report on significant flood events and publish it.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area, the Council, as a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate which Risk Management Authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and whether each of those authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
- 5.2. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must; (a) publish the results of an investigation, and (b) notify any relevant Risk Management Authorities.
- 5.3. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Cheshire East sets out how the Council intends to manage risk from local sources of flooding. This includes how the Council will implement the number of legal duties and responsibilities placed upon them under the Act, including the duty to investigate and report on flooding incidents that occur in their area.

#### **Earlier Flood Events in June and September 2016**

- 5.4. Based on the number of properties which suffered internal flooding and the impact on critical infrastructure (e.g. A roads, rail links, bridges), the flooding events in Poynton of June and September 2016 were classified as 'significant' under local policy and required a full investigation and the publication of a Section 19 Report.

- 5.5. The approved Section 19 Flood Investigation Report for the Poynton flooding events in June and September 2016 was published on the Council website in February 2019.
- 5.6. In response to the flood event in June 2016 the Council's highway service undertook flood recovery works to highway assets in the Poynton including gulley and trash screen clearance.
- 5.7. In addition, as a Lead Local Flood Authority it has undertaken the following works:
- Higher Poynton:
    - Defect on culvert identified by June 2016 Flood
    - •Riparian owner approached by LLFA, survey undertaken and fault repaired
    - Walkover of CEC assets undertaken June 2017
    - Syphon under Middlewood Way inspected, was functioning
    - Riparian owners downstream of Middlewood Way was approached by LLFA, river cleared by riparian owners to expose structure
  - Willow Close/Park Lane
    - Vegetation and silt from the channel cleaned December 2018
    - Culvert under the highway cleared April 2019
    - From this confined space, a number of substantial tree stumps, bin lids, and a traffic cone, were removed
- 5.8. In addition, a Business Case has been submitted to the Environment Agency seeking capital Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA) funding for capital improvements in Poynton
- 5.9. The council has also undertaken engagement and communication with residents and Town Council, including public meetings in Poynton at the Civic Centre. The last public event was May 2019.
- July 2019 Flood Event**
- 5.10. In response to the flood event in July 2019 the Council's highway service has undertaken flood recovery works to highway assets in the affected catchments including:

- >14,000 gullies cleared,
- >290 Ironwork repairs,
- >270 additional jetting jobs,
- 111 drainage issues investigated and completed
- Major structural repairs to culvert on Ingersley Road, Bollington completed with Moggie Lane retaining wall, Poynton and culvert repairs/headwall and drainage/retaining wall reconstruction at two locations on Macclesfield Road, Kettlethulme due to be completed July 2020.

5.11. The Council's highway service has also undertaken flood recovery works without prejudice on riparian owned drainage systems in the affected catchments at Melrose Crescent, Mayfair Close, Vicarage Lane, Glastonbury Drive, Covell Road and Tulworth Road in Poynton.

5.12. An update on the works the Council and other external Risk Management Authorities have undertaken to date in response to the 2016 and 2019 adverse weather events will form part of the next Flood Risk Management presentation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee and representatives from the other Risk Management Authorities will be invited to attend.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

The preparation and publication of a report into significant flood events is a statutory requirement to comply with Section 19 (1) and (2) of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010).

### **6.2. Finance Implications**

6.2.1. The preparation of Section 19 reports is part of the role and responsibilities of the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority. This function is currently delivered by the Highway Service Flood Risk Management team and staff costs for the preparation and publication of the Section 19 report are funded from within the Highway Service base budget.

6.2.2. Section 19 reports are subject to further review by the Environment Agency, the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs with a view to identify options for potential future investment projects and schemes suitable for funding.

- 6.2.3. As a supporting partner to the Cheshire and Mid-Mersey Flood Partnership Group, the Council works with partners to prioritise future schemes and projects as part of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee Capital and Local Levy Investment Programmes.
- 6.2.4. The Section 19 report helps develop bids for other sources of external funding from central government as and when these are accessible. (eg Natural Flood Management project initiatives).
- 6.2.5. The Highway Service develops and delivers annual programme of revenue and capital drainage works subject to available funding. These are prioritised on a risk based approach with risk of flooding to property an important factor in determining the programme. The 2020/21 programme includes works in the catchment areas identified in the Section 19 report.

### 6.3. **Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1. None

### 6.4. **Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1. None

### 6.5. **Human Resources Implications**

- 6.5.1. None

### 6.6. **Risk Management Implications**

- 6.6.1. Risk Management Authorities have all been found to be correctly exercising their flood risk functions in accordance with Statutory requirements.
- 6.6.2. In areas identified at risk of flooding, the risk of flooding will remain, despite the best efforts of the risk management authorities. The Section 19 report assesses that each risk management authority has exercised or is proposing to exercise its function.
- 6.6.3. The Section 19 document may provide the evidence required to attract national funding by the risk management authorities.

### 6.7. **Rural Communities Implications**

Rural communities sit within the catchment areas impacted by the flood event in July 2019. While the report will not remove the flood risk in these

communities, any capital works to mitigate flood risk would result in benefits by minimising interaction between them and floodwater.

#### **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

#### **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. While the report will not remove the flood risk in these communities, any capital works to mitigate flood risk would result in public health benefits where the interaction between residents and floodwater is reduced.

#### **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. The Council has committed to becoming Carbon neutral by 2025; and to encourage all businesses, residents and organisations in Cheshire East to reduce their carbon footprint.

6.10.2. Natural flood management and 'slow the flow' schemes aid carbon capture by increasing creation of wetland.

#### **6.11. Ward Members Affected**

6.11.1. Ward Members for the catchment areas affected by the July 2019 flood event are those within the affected hydrological catchments of Poynton Brook, River Dean, River Bollin, Harrop Brook and tributary of Todd Brook.

6.11.2. Residential areas impacted: Poynton, Wilmslow, Prestbury, Kettlethulme, Pott Shrigley, Rainow, Bollington, Handforth.

### **7. Consultation & Engagement**

7.1. Public consultation events were held in the communities of Poynton, Wilmslow and Bollington and attended by approximately 390 flood affected residents.

7.2. A series of multi-agency meetings were held following the event chaired by the Strategic Recovery Co-ordination Group (SRCG).

7.3. A series of multi-agency flood incident response meetings were held to discuss flood recovery works and the further works/recommendations within the Section 19 report.

- 7.4. The report was shared with the Environment Agency and United Utilities for review and comments in December 2019 and was shared with Stockport Borough Council and the Canal and River Trust for review in June 2020.

## **8. Access to Information**

- 8.1. The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.
- 8.2. Any information relating directly to residential properties remains confidential.

## **9. Contact Information**

- 9.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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