

# Scrutiny Committee

## Agenda

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**Date:** Thursday, 14th March, 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields, Middlewich Road,  
Sandbach CW11 1HZ

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

It should be noted that Part 1 items of Cheshire East Council decision making meetings are audio recorded and the recordings will be uploaded to the Council's website

### **PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT**

1. **Apologies for Absence**

To receive any apologies from Members.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, other registerable interests, and non-registerable interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** (Pages 3 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 December 2023.

4. **Public Speaking/Open Session**

There is no facility to allow questions by members of the public at meetings of the Scrutiny Committee. However, a period of 10 minutes will be provided at the beginning of such meetings to allow members of the public to make a statement on any matter that falls within the remit of the committee, subject to individual speakers being restricted to 3 minutes.

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For requests for further information

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5. **Update on Flood Risk Management** (Pages 11 - 18)

To receive presentations from partner agencies on flood risk management.

6. **Work Programme** (Pages 19 - 20)

To consider the Work Programme and determine any required amendments.

**Membership:** Councillors L Anderson, S Adams, J Bratherton, D Brown, B Drake, H Moss, H Seddon, M Simon, J Smith, J Smith, R Vernon (Vice-Chair) and L Wardlaw (Chair)

**CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Scrutiny Committee**  
held on Thursday, 14th December, 2023 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

**PRESENT**

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chair)

Councillors L Anderson, S Adams, D Brown, B Drake, H Moss, H Seddon,  
J Smith and J Snowball

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jill Broomhall, Director of Adult Social Care and Operations  
Sandra Murphy, Head of Adult Safeguarding  
Katie Small, Democratic Services Manager

**External Representatives**

Joanne Clauge - Area Director, North West Ambulance Service  
John Collins - Consultant Paramedic, North West Ambulance Service  
Caroline Lloyd - Operations Manager, North West Ambulance Service  
Richard Macmahon - Home Office Channel Lead  
Moner Ahmed - Home Office Prevent Adviser  
Maddy Lowry – Associate Director, Cheshire and Partnership NHS  
Foundation  
Simon Goff - Chief Operating Officer, East Cheshire NHS Trust  
Dean Grice - Thriving and Prevention Programme Lead, NHS Cheshire and  
Merseyside

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors J Bratherton, M Simon, Julie Smith and R Vernon. Councillor J Snowball attended as a substitute for Councillor Vernon.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In the interest of openness, in relation to agenda item 8 – Community Services Accommodation, Cllr S Adams declared that she was a patient at Schoolhouse Surgery, Disley and was a member of the Patient Participation Group at the surgery.

In the interest of openness, Councillor H Seddon declared that she worked in an office-based role for AstraZeneca, a pharmaceutical company based in Cheshire East.

In the interest of openness, Councillor L Wardlaw declared that she occasionally worked for the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust as a nurse and that she was a member of the Cheshire Vaccination Team.

In the interest of openness, in relation to agenda item 8 – Community Services Accommodation, Cllr J Snowball declared that she was the chair of the Bollington Patient Participation Group.

### **3 PUBLIC SPEAKING/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public registered to speak.

### **4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### **5 NORTH WEST AMBULANCE SERVICE UPDATE**

Joanne Clauge - Area Director, John Collins - Consultant Paramedic and Caroline Lloyd - Operations Manager, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation which provided an overview of the performance of the North-West Ambulance Services NHS Trust to date in 2023.

The Committee sought clarification on the performance times and handover delays at hospitals. In response it was stated the Service was working with the Integrated Care Boards to address the handover delays and were looking at options such as providing additional stretchers for use in A&E to allow the patients to be unloaded, and also initiatives where extra patients could be moved from A&E onto wards even when they were full. The hospitals could open corridors for patients to wait and when they cannot staff them one ambulance crew would stay at the hospital and look after several patients allowing other ambulance crews to go back out on the road. The Service had previously had many vacancies and recruitment had been undertaken to reduce these which had made a significant difference to the number of resources available. They were also looking at provision of an alternative pathway for people who need medical attention but do not need to go to A&E.

Reference was made to the fact that stroke cases were category 2. It was reported that additional clinicians were being introduced into the call centre to enable a secondary triage on stroke calls to enable a more comprehensive assessment and, if required, make it a priority category 2 case. This helps the Service get stroke patients quicker to hospital.

The Service was using PRSIM for electronic patient records. The Committee asked about data protection. It was reported that the system

allowed for a NHS number to be entered and this retrieved data about the NHS number and medical history of the individual, which was displayed in a webpage. Once the inquiry had been made the page was closed and no information retained.

Body worn cameras had been introduced to tackle violence and aggression towards staff, with the main benefit of this being prevention. The staff member could either activate it when required and record or have it continuously recording. The recordings on the camera were downloaded with the data transferred onto the Ambulance Trust system. If there had been an occurrence of violence or aggression the Camera Team were notified, and the relevant footage retained so that it could be used for prosecution.

The Committee asked if the statistics relating to the number of dropped calls could be included on future performance reports.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the update provided be noted.

## **6 PREVENT AND CHANNEL GUIDANCE 2023**

Richard Macmahon, Home Office Channel Lead, Moner Ahmed, Home Office Prevent Adviser and Sandra Murphy, Head of Adult Safeguarding, attended the meeting and provided an update on the PREVENT and CHANNEL Guidance 2023.

PREVENT was an Early Intervention Programme which aimed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorists by tackling the ideological causes of terrorism and to intervene early to support people who were susceptible to radicalisation which was done through the CHANNEL safeguarding mechanism.

The updated PREVENT guidance had been laid before Parliament in September 2023 and came into force on 1 December 2023. The updated guidance reflected several recommendations of the independent review of PREVENT which took a couple of years to do and reported earlier in the year. The PREVENT objectives had been updated to clearly tackle the ideological causes of terrorism. The updated guidance did not give any functions to local authorities but set out key areas such as leadership, partnership working and mitigating risks. The guidance also provided more details on training and capabilities to help local authorities to understand the risks. A PREVENT duty toolkit had been developed for local authorities to support and provide practical information and guidance to put the PREVENT duty into action.

CHANNEL was a multi-agency programme for somebody who had been identified as being susceptible to radicalisation. The key change in the update guidance was in terms of language and a change from assessment

to someone's vulnerability to someone's susceptibility to being drawn into radicalisation. This recognised that not all people who are susceptible to radicalisation were by definition vulnerable. The current CHANNEL assessment would be replaced by the PREVENT assessment framework.

The Committee asked about the success of the intervention programme. In response it was explained that once a person is identified as being susceptible to radicalisation, the local authority would put support mechanisms in place, which could include children's social care, education, and probation, plus the work of an intervention provider working on that specific ideology, to hopefully guide them away.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update provided be noted.

**7 AUTISM STRATEGY**

Maddy Lowry – Associate Director Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation, attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership Autism Strategy.

The Committee was informed of the training being developed and required to be undertaken by NHS staff, which included the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism. All clinical services were required to have a level 3 autism specialist. A system of Autism Ambassadors and Autism Champions had been established. Working with stakeholders the Trust was developing an on-line training package which would be available to the police, criminal justice, and social care officers to help support them to better understand and recognise autism and learning-disabled people in the community. The Oliver McGowan training was being funded nationally for the on-line element and to train the trainers for the face-to-face training, but no finance was provided for the trainers to deliver the training, so was a significant cost pressure to the Trust.

The Committee asked how many had completed the Oliver McGowan training and it was reported that in the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership there was a 70-80% completion rate across the Trust, and that the ICB had been asked if they could collate training uptake across all the Trusts. The level one training was required to be repeated every three years.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update provided be noted.

*The meeting adjourned for a short break.*

## 8 COMMUNITY SERVICES ACCOMMODATION

Simon Goff, Chief Operating Officer East Cheshire NHS Trust, and Dean Grice, Thriving and Prevention Programme Lead NHS Cheshire and Merseyside attended the meeting and delivered a presentation on the changes to community services accommodation.

It was reported that interim solutions had been found for a number of community services being displaced from a GP practice in Poynton to allow for Primary Care expansion. Public engagement and consultation were being undertaken to find long term solution to the relocations of these services.

There as potential for some community services redesign in the Sandbach, Middlewich, Alsager, Scholar Green and Haslington (SMASH) area. The Ashfields Primary Care Centre in Sandbach currently reviewing their building arrangements but it was not felt that this would impact on any services.

The Committee asked about the wider estate strategy and in response it was stated that there was a need to understand what was required, the key issues relating to how community care was developing and the funding available.

It was asked how the temporary arrangements were working in Poynton and in response it was stated that it was early days as the change had commenced on 6 November, but they were working.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the update provided be noted.

## 9 RIGHT PERSON, RIGHT CARE

Jill Broomhall - Director of Adult Social Care and Operations, provided an overview of the Right Care Right Person national police initiative. Cheshire Constabulary was one of three early adopter forces with phase 1 commencing on 8 January 2024.

The main areas of current activity which the Police aimed to change the threshold for attending included welfare checks, AWOL mental health patients, people who leave health facilities, support to voluntary mental health patients and use of s135 and s136.

To prepare for the change officers had attended meetings and workshops with the Cheshire Constabulary and liaised with colleagues across the country where Right Care Right Person has been brought in to see what the implications had been for them. Briefing information was being prepared on what was a Police welfare check, when the Police would be asked to respond and when the local authority would attend.

The Committee raised concerns about staff responding to calls who could be faced with challenging behaviour without the support of the Police. In response it was stated that it could be that two members of staff would have to attend which would create additional pressures on the service. No additional funding was being provided.

The Committee noted that an urgent mental health care centre was being developed in Chester, which would be available in 2025, but there were no plans for a similar centre for Cheshire East.

It was agreed that a report would be brought to the next meeting to report on how phase 1 was working.

**RESOLVED:**

That the update provided be noted.

**10 WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to the Committee's Work Programme.

It was noted the item East Cheshire Trust Major Service Redesign had been renamed to Sustainable Hospital Services Programme – East Cheshire NHS Trust and would be presented to the Committee in June 2024.

The next meeting would be receiving an update on Flood Risk Management. When this had previously come to the Committee in March 2023, it had been a lengthy item with the Environment Agency taking away several questions for response, and it was suggested that the committee members email the Democratic Services Manager with their questions in advance of the meeting.

The Committee had recently received a briefing on Congleton Memorial Hospital, and it was asked if this item could be removed from the Work Programme. After discussion It was agreed that the item could be removed from the work programme.

Reference was made to the item on the Work Programme to receive a presentation on Fire Safety and possible hold a future meeting at the Fire Safety Centre at Warrington. It was agreed that officers would investigate whether it would be possible to use the venue for a meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Work Programme be noted.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 1.09 pm

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chair)

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# Environment Agency

## Roles and Responsibilities

The Environment Agency is responsible for taking a **strategic overview** of the management **of all sources of flooding** and coastal erosion and are responsible for managing the risk of flooding from main rivers, reservoirs estuaries and the sea

**Strategically:** this involves **working with partners** to assess and determine flood risk and to identify and deliver solutions to mitigate that risk.

We provide **information on areas at risk** of river, surface water and coastal flooding through flood risk maps.

Operationally: We issue **flood warnings** for main river flooding, our operations team **maintain assets** and clear blockages.

We conduct post-flood investigations to understand what occurred..

Our Resilience team **work with the community** to help the community respond to the event.

# Environment Agency



Over 88,000 properties at flood risk from rivers and sea. 1,392 in Cheshire East



Over 300 incident response staff



13 Flood Alert Areas  
4 in Cheshire East



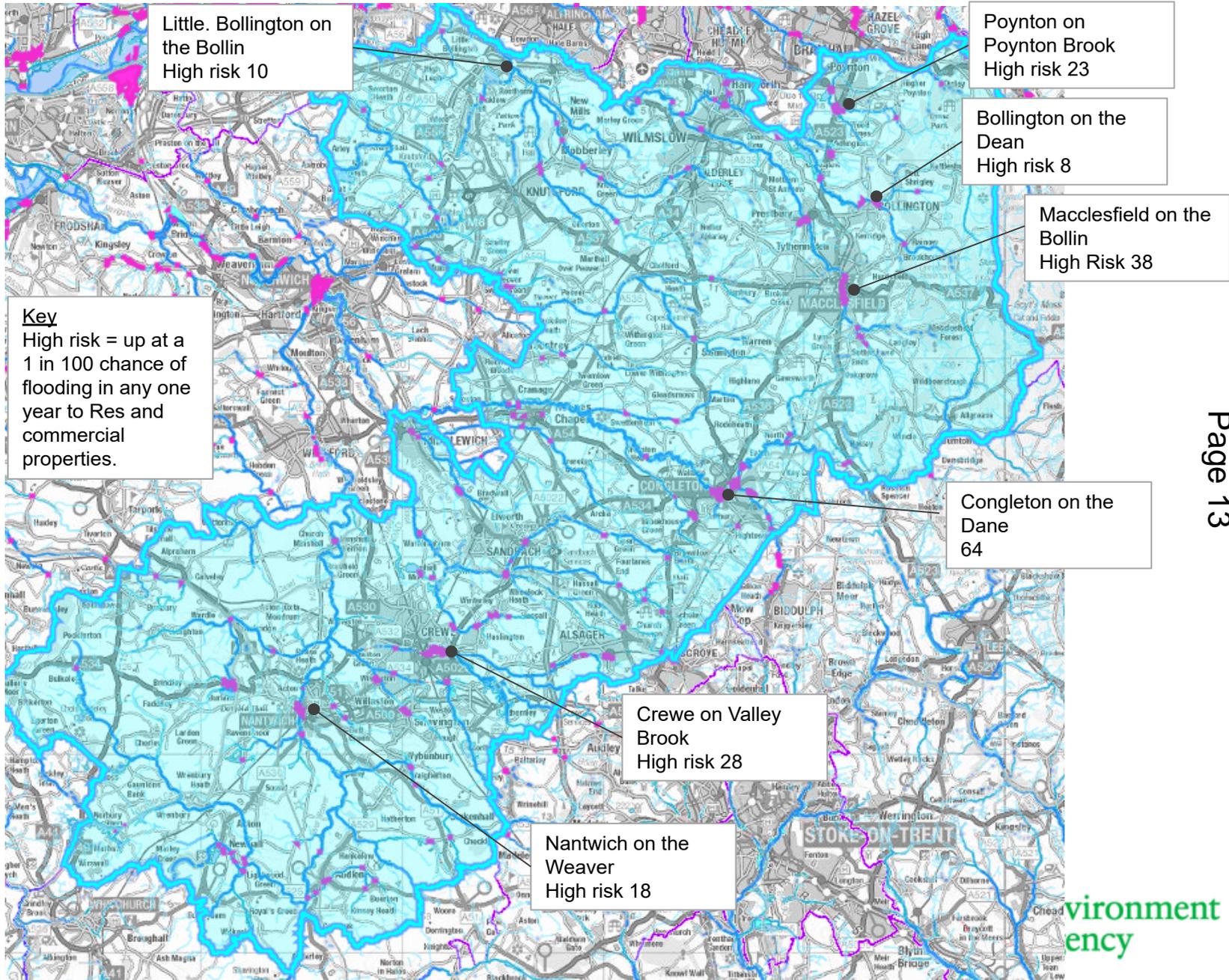
180 Flood Warning Areas- 15 in Cheshire East

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Working with 50 Communities at risk

# Environment Agency Main River risk map



# Environment Agency

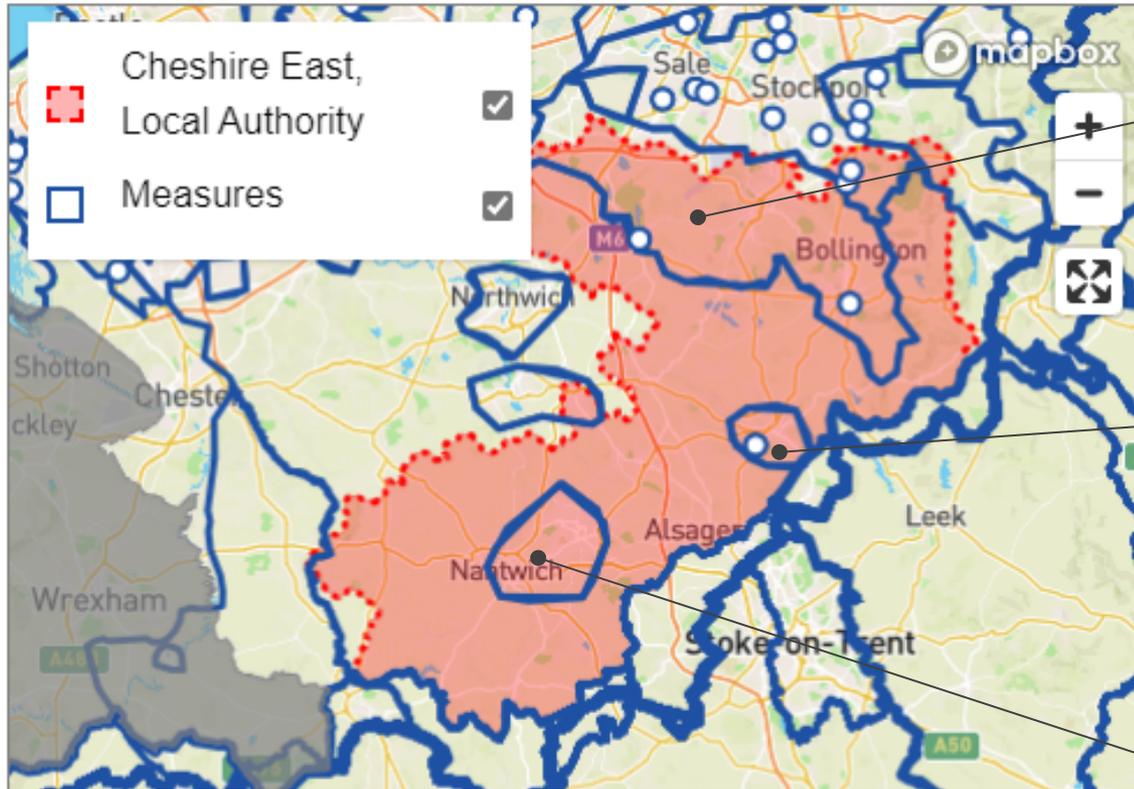
## Flood Risk Management Plan 2

National EA strategy

EA: area based strategy, with measures in FRMP2 (second cycle)

Available on Gov.uk

- Key messages: climate change mitigation
- work together
- reduce Carbon
- invest in flood risk assets
- provide planning advice
- monitor weather
- forecast flooding



Click on a feature below to view further details.

Close

[Work together at places and communities that will be exposed to significantly increased flood risk as a result of climate change in the North West of England](#)

Work together on Climate Change Mitigation

Take further action where the case is most compelling in identified areas in the North West of England

Work together on Climate Change Mitigation

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# Environment Agency

Investigate main river flood risk solutions. Strategically, EA administer Defra Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) Schemes, and Local Levy funding for the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. This means advising on schemes, and providing QA on business cases to turn indicative allocations into signed off business cases and deliverable schemes.



# Environment Agency

During a Flood Event, we:

Receive Weather Warnings from the Met Office.

Run Forecast weather through Hydrological flood models to determine Best Estimate and Reasonable Worse case forecast scenarios

Hold Flood Advisory Service (FAS) Telecoms with Resilience forum to disseminate intelligence

Attend command structures and give technical advice on Flood Warnings and operational response and potential impacts

Issue Flood Alerts & Warnings using Flood Warning System - telephone system, text and internet, partners, media etc

Operate flood control structures and pumping stations

Clear debris from channels, screens and culverts on main rivers and monitor/repair stressed defences

**Met Office** National Severe Weather Warning Service

**Yellow warning**  
**Wind**

Between  
**05:00 Fri 17 Feb 2023** and  
**14:00 Fri 17 Feb 2023**

**Very strong winds developing through Friday morning associated with Storm Otto may bring disruption to travel.**

**What to expect**

- Road, rail, air and ferry services may be affected, with longer journey times and cancellations possible. High-sided vehicles may be particularly prone in this set-up.
- Some roads and bridges may close
- Power cuts may occur, with the potential to affect other services, such as mobile phone coverage
- Some damage to buildings, such as tiles blown from roofs, could happen
- Injuries and danger to life from flying debris are possible

**Further details**

A spell of very strong winds is expected during Friday morning, easing from the west during the afternoon.

Winds will be strongest over, and immediately to the east of high ground, with gusts of 55-65 mph. Gusts as high as 75 mph are possible, particularly for some of the more exposed trans-Pennine routes.

High-sided vehicles may be particularly impacted.

**Likelihood**

**Impact**

Low likelihood of medium impacts

## Environment Agency Flood Alerts/Warnings Floodline 0345 9881188

<b>Severity level</b> ↓	 <b>FLOOD ALERT</b>	<p><b>What it means:</b> flooding could occur to low-lying land and roads. Flooding is not expected to affect homes and businesses at this stage.</p> <p>Don't panic but keep an eye on the situation—stay alert and check weather forecasts.</p> <p>Flood alerts can occur quite often and do not necessarily lead to flooding of homes and businesses so please do not be alarmed.</p>
	 <b>FLOOD WARNING</b>	<p><b>What it means: Flooding is expected. Immediate action required.</b> We mainly target Flood Warnings at specific communities that are at risk from flooding. Some Flood Warnings may apply to stretches of coast and river. It will indicate that flooding is expected and that people should take more direct impact actions e.g. move belongings upstairs.</p>
	 <b>SEVERE FLOOD WARNING</b>	<p><b>What it means: Severe Flooding. Danger to life.</b> All customers who receive a Flood Warning will receive a Severe Flood Warning if conditions are met. It will be used in extreme circumstances to tell people that flooding is posing significant risk to life or significant disruption to communities which could also cause risk to life. Depending on the circumstances it would indicate that people should evacuate the area or take shelter within safe buildings.</p>
	<b>Warning No Longer In Force</b>	<p>We issue a message to tell people that the flood threat has passed and includes useful advice on what to do next.</p>

# Environment Agency

Post-Flood, we:

Undertake post-flood data collections.  
Community Support Officers advise communities on how to proceed, closely liaising with Local Authorities.  
Support Multi Agency Flood Drop-ins following flooding

We have supported communities across Poynton, Little Bollington, Bollington, Wilmslow, Church Minshull and Nantwich

Advice ranges from insurance requests, possibly grants from Government, future flood risk, potential short-term mitigation.

Input to LLFA's section 19 Reports

Working collaboratively with partners on potential solutions



# Environment Agency Macclesfield focus

Macclesfield is identified as a Flood Risk Area. It has specific actions in the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP2). Specific actions include:

- Increase the uptake of the Flood Warning Service by 20%, in the Macclesfield Area.
- Partner Authorities map where culverts could be opened and sustainable drainage Systems implemented.
- Investigate culverted watercourse risk and produce a surface water management plan
- NFM opportunity maps produced.
  
- Working with colleagues on the Hobson St./Ryle St. culverted watercourses issues.

## Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Report Reference	Scrutiny Committee	Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Consultation	Equality Impact Assessment	Corporate Plan Priority	Part of Budget and Policy Framework	Exempt Item
SC/01/2022-23	14/03/24	Update on Flood Risk Management	To receive an update on flood risk management from the LLFA and external agencies including the Fire Authority, United Utilities and the Environment Agency.	Head of Highways	No	No	Open; Fair, Green	No	No
SC/06/2023-24	26/06/24	Macclesfield District General Hospital Intrapartum Maternity Services: Post Implementation Review	To receive the findings of the post implementation review of the return of intrapartum maternity services to Macclesfield District General Hospital.	Director of Public Health	No	No	Open; Fair	No	No
SC/06/23-24	26/06/24	Sustainable Hospital Services Programme - East Cheshire NHS Trust	To update the Committee on the proposed major service redesign at East Cheshire Trust.	Director of Public Health	No	No	Open; Fair	No	No
SC/01/24-25	26/06/24	East Cheshire Trust Quality Account 2023-24	To receive the East Cheshire NHS Trust Quality Account 2023-24.	Director of Public Health	No	No	Open	No	No
SC/01/24-25	05/09/24	Knife Crime Update	For the Committee to receive an update on knife crime following the hosting of the Knife Angel in Crewe.	Director of Adult Social Care	No	No	Open; Fair	No	No

## Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

SC/02/24-25	05/09/24	Review of Prevent and Channel Guidance	To receive an update following the implementation of the new Prevent and Channel Guidance.	Director of Adult Social Care	No	No	Open; Fair	No	No
SC/14/2022-23	05/09/24	Fire Safety Presentation	To receive a presentation on fire safety across Cheshire East. # meeting to be held at Safety Central.	Director of Adult Social Care	No	No	Open; Fair	No	No