

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting24th April 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Flood Investigation

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the floods that had taken place on 5th December 2013.

On Thursday 5th December 2013, the Borough of Stockton on Tees was again subject to severe flooding. A high spring tide was forecast; the tide at Teesport was due to peak at 1704hrs, at a height of 2.85m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum). The forecast metrological conditions on that day were a strong off shore wind, with a deep area of low pressure forming in the North Sea; it was this low pressure system that caused the positive surge, on top of the already high tide. The positive surge measured 1.24m above the spring tide, giving a total tide height of 4.09m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum), which exceeded previous historical events.

Flooding could occur from various sources which were outlined in the report. The main source of flooding from this particular weather event was tidal flooding as described above, seeing defences overtopped and a major breach of the flood defence at Greatham Creek.

The incident caused damage and disruption, with up to 32 residential properties recorded as being internally flooded in Port Clarence, along with 20 businesses both large and small, in Port Clarence, Billingham Reach Industrial Estate and Seal Sands. There was also the additional issue of severe transport disruption due to three major highways being flooded.

At the peak of the event approximately 250 residents were evacuated from Port Clarence and taken by bus to Billingham Forum, which had been set up as a rest centre, where they were given food and other essential items. The majority of the residents returned to their properties when it was safe to do so, although up to 20 residents chose to stay for the night at the rest centre.

Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, required Stockton on Tees Borough Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), to investigate flooding incidents within its area.

The Environment Agency had been allocated accelerated funding to build a flood defence scheme at Port Clarence and Greatham South. The scheme was being designed and would start on site in March 2015.

The Flood Investigation Report contained 6 recommendations for review of processes and advised residents to sign up to the Environment Agency FloodLine to receive future flood warnings.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The duty and responsibilities on Stockton Borough Council under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 – Section 19, Flood Investigation be noted.
2. The report for publication, as required by statute under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

Stockton Borough Council is required to discharge the statutory duties of Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Rose declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11 – Flood Investigation Report as he was a member of the Environment Agency's Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, and its Programming and Investment Group and the Chair of Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit Joint Committee.

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 11 – Flood Investigation Report as she was the Chair of High Clarence School Board of Governors and a house owned by her son was flooded on 5th December 2013.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 2nd May 2014

Proper Officer
28 April 2014