

Services Committee 15th March
Community, Health and Housing 21st March
Chiltern District Council

SUBJECT:	<i>Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee Update</i>
REPORT OF:	<i>Cllr Graham Harris (Healthy Communities Portfolio Holder)</i> <i>AND Cllr Johnathan Rush (Lead CDC Member on the BSFMC)</i>
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WARD/S AFFECTED	<i>All</i>

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Member discussion as to the activities of the Bucks Strategic Flood Management Committee (BSFMC).

RECOMMENDATION

Members to note this update and discuss any implications of the ongoing work of the Committee.

2. Content of Report

Buckinghamshire County Council and the district councils work in partnership with the Environment Agency, water companies (Anglian Water and Thames Water) and others to manage various aspects of flood risk. BCC, as the lead partner, is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA). The Committee is member led with a nominated Councillor from each authority. Officers provide support and additional input through the technical subgroup. Further details are available at:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/strategic-flood-management/working-in-partnership/>

More than 2,000 properties in Chesham are at risk of flooding from surface water runoff. It is estimated that 35 per cent of properties in the town are at risk from a combination of surface water, groundwater and river flooding. There have been several instances of properties flooding over the past 15 years as well as incidents of extensive road flooding. Chesham has therefore been identified by DEFRA as the highest risk area in the district.

However, localised flooding will also occur in other areas of the District and has occurred in Old Amersham, Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles.

In terms of responding to flooding, the Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for main river flooding, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Buckinghamshire County Council is responsible for surface water and groundwater flooding, water on the roads is the responsibility of the highway authority and water in sewers or treatment works is the responsibility of private water companies.

In addition, it should also be noted that individual property owners are responsible for protecting their own property from flood risk. Chiltern District Council will work with these agencies in the event of a flooding incident in line with its emergency plan.

A contact list of who to contact in the event of flooding has been prepared by the group and is available at:

http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3610672/bcc-flood-flowchart_public.pdf

A number of distinct partnership work packages have already been delivered and an overview of current work strands is presented below:

Review of the Bucks Flood Management Strategy

The original Local Flood Risk Management Strategy was adopted in 2013 and set out how BCC and other agencies (including the Districts) would work together to improve management of local flood risk. This strategy is now being reviewed and updated to provide a simpler and more focused document. It will also reflect on lessons learnt since 2013 and include updates to legislation and national guidance.

In late 2015, a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed by each member of the BSFMC to ensure the continuation of the partnership approach that has developed.

Collation of a Buckinghamshire Wide Asset Register

A flood risk asset register is a database of structures or features that are considered likely to have a significant effect on flood risk, and includes information about location, ownership and state of repair. A map-based register of flood assets in Buckinghamshire is currently being populated. There will be two versions – a public site and a local authority accessible version. The data will be centrally stored and managed with periodic updates every six months. The system is due to be tested in March 2016.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Changes and Implementation of an Updated Developer's Pack

The NPPF was changed in April 2015 which has had an impact on how local flood risk management is considered, as it requires Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) to comment on Major developments as a statutory consultee. This places a requirement on developers to demonstrate that flood risk has been a consideration in all planning processes and, where development is necessary, that flood risk is managed in an effective and sustainable manner.

New information, procedures and training sessions have been undertaken across Buckinghamshire and this will be used to assist the planning approval in relation to Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SUDS).

Temporary Flood Defences – Chesham.

These have now been procured by BCC and a logistics plan including deployment criteria are now being developed. Transport for Bucks and key officers have attended a training exercise on how these would work. Primary responsibility rests with the

County Council for their deployment. Following a further risk assessment, an exercise is planned for later in the year to test the system. The defences are already used by the Environment Agency and others in the event of major emergencies and it is feasible that at a later date, it could be utilised in other areas of the District if required (subject to forward planning and risk assessment).

Development of Aquaprint

Aquaprint has been produced as part of the FloodSmart projects third work package, focussing on the influence of planning policies on flood management. It seeks to examine how the town planning process, particularly local planning policies of district councils, can be used to improve flood management and identify barriers which may prevent or restrict development of flood management schemes. Full details are available in the following report:

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/media/3321851/aquaprint-summary-report-final-rev2.pdf>

Section 19 Flood Investigations

BCC have a duty to formally investigate flood events that meet certain criteria, as set out in the strategy. These Section 19 investigations enable a greater understanding of the locations where flooding has happened, to inform future responses and try to prevent re-occurrence where feasible.

Reports in the Chiltern District have been produced for Chalfont St Giles (March to April 2014), Chalfont St Peter (January – March 2014) and Old Amersham (January – February 2014)

<http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/strategic-flood-management/flood-investigations/>

Examples of Current Interventions:

Chesham Flood Alleviation Scheme (Environment Agency Project)

The two main elements are to investigate the surface water drainage network in the centre of Chesham and its connections with the Vale Brook culvert and identify potential specifications and costs for emergency works for different sections of the Vale Brook culvert.

- Preparation of strategic outline case completed
- Review/ Appraisal by March 2016
- Potential Detailed design and procurement 2017/18
- Potential Construction 2018/19

Broad Street Temporary Defences

- BCC have now procured temporary defences
- BCC/Jacobs are producing a logistics and deployment plan, ready early in 2016
- Incorporate flood action group in consultation

Pednormead End

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- Modelling results available in March 2016
- Set up working group with Chesham Flood Action Group and other interested stakeholders
- Results of modelling work at Queens Head pub to be shared with Transport for Bucks.
- Investigate funding opportunities through the use of further flood grants.

River Misbourne (Environment Agency Project)

- Site visits complete
- Potential to set up a water group
- need to co-ordinate funding streams

3. Consultation

Consultation has occurred through web, video reports, direct communication, interactive tools, development of flood action groups and updates to the media (Example appendix 1).

4. Corporate Implications

The partnership work of the BSFMC aims to reduce flood risk in Buckinghamshire.

5 Links to Council Policy Objectives

The work of the Committee relates directly to the Joint Business Plan 2015-2020 through working towards safe, healthy and cohesive communities and conserving the environment and promoting sustainability.

Background Papers:	Information from the Chesham Pathfinder project http://www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Floodsmart_Legacy-Leaflet-Final.pdf http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk/media/1861424/RunOff_Brochure_web.pdf http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/environment/flooding/community-action/floodsmart-in-chesham/
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Appendix 1- Example joint agency update for Residents (Jan 2016)

Chesham Flood Resilience Update

January 2016

The Environment Agency, Buckinghamshire County Council and Chiltern District Council have all carried out various works in response to the flooding experienced in Chesham in September 2014. This newsletter provides an update on what we have been doing and a number of ways you can start preparing now before another flood happens.

What has the Environment Agency been doing?

- We have checked the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- We have created the Chesham Water Group in collaboration with various community groups, agencies and water companies that work on water-related issues in Chesham. Through this group, we work in better partnership with each other and we want to deliver real benefits for the residents of Chesham and the environment.
- We have been continuously supporting the Chesham Flood Action Group.
- We are developing options for a Chesham flood alleviation scheme, with contributions sought from partners including Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. We are working with the Chesham Water Group to ensure we achieve multiple benefits.
- We have been supporting the 'Pednormead End' project that is lead by Bucks County Council which is looking into the possible options to alleviate flood risk in the Pednormead area.
- We informed Thames Water there has been an ongoing issue of wet weather causing sewers to overflow within Chesham in recent years. As a result, they created the Chesham Drainage Strategy which is currently at stage 1 (initialise/prepare).

What has Buckinghamshire County Council been doing?

- We have 100 metres of temporary flood defences for Broad Street which will be deployed when required. These will help protect residential properties and commercial properties from internal flooding.
- We have been carrying out the 'Pednormead End' fluvial, groundwater and surface water flood risk reduction project. This project will reduce flood risk to 12 residential properties. This project is likely to include re-profiling of the river, surface water swales and retention ponds along the Missenden Road which help to manage surface water runoff, and wetland creation within the farmland. This is anticipated to be completed during 2016 to 2017.

What has Chiltern District Council been doing?

- We have been supporting the investigations into the vale brook culvert in Chesham.
- We have carried out regular checks on the river Chess at Church Street (Missenden Road) and at Germain Street to ensure that any weed growth does not restrict high flows.
- Our environmental protection team has been working with our waste team to highlight the risk that illegal waste dumping in streams and ditches has on flooding.
- We have been supporting both the Chesham Water Group and the Chesham Flood Action Group.

What can you do?

1. Find out if you are at risk and where in your community is at risk:

- Visit www.gov.uk/check-if-youre-at-risk-of-flooding
- E-mail enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Call Floodline on **0345 988 1188**

2. If you are at risk sign up to Floodline Warnings Direct

- Floodline Warnings Direct is a completely free 24-hour service which gives you an advance flood warning in your area by telephone, mobile, fax, pager, text or email.
- Register for this service by calling **0345 988 1188** or by visiting www.gov.uk/floodline.

3. Know your flood warning codes



FLOOD ALERT

Flooding is possible.
Be prepared.



FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is expected.
Immediate action required.



SEVERE FLOOD WARNING

Severe flooding.
Danger to life.

4. Be prepared for a flood:

- Create a personal flood plan
- Prepare your home in case there is a flood
- Check your insurance cover
- Find out how you can help your local community to be prepared
- For further information on how to carry out preparatory actions please visit www.gov.uk/prepare-for-a-flood

Useful Contacts

Contact Floodline on 0345 9881188 for up to date flood warning information or advice.

Contact the Environment Agency incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 to report flooding, blockages in rivers or any other environmental incident.

To find out more about the Chesham Flood Action Group and how you can get involved, email chair.cheshamfloodactiongroup@outlook.com

