

REPORT TO CABINET

Title: **FLOOD MONITORING**

Date: 27 November 2008

Member Reporting: Councillor C Rayner

Contact Officer(s): David Perkins, Head of Streetcare & Operations
Tel: 01628 686860

Wards Affected: All

1. SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update on actions taken in regard to flooding since the last Flood Monitoring Report at May 2008 Cabinet, including Flood Awareness Month, work programmes, the Pitt Report and work undertaken by Thames Water.

- The Borough Generic Flood Plan has now been published on the Council's Website.
- The Borough is leading for Berkshire on the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Multi Agency Flooding Sub Group, developing a Thames Valley wide Flood Response Strategy.
- 14 Streetcare staff attended a Flood Awareness course.
- The Council is participating in the Met Office early warning advisory pilot scheme.
- The Council has joined the newly formed Local Government Flood Forum and attended the inaugural meeting on 14th October 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That the flooding actions be noted.

What will be different for residents as a result of this decision?
--

Residents will be made aware of the Council's actions on all aspects of flooding.

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

3.1 Since the last Flood Monitoring Report in May 2008 there have been no major flooding incidents. A number of Severe Weather Warnings were received during this period relating to storms. As a result the Streetcare Team put enhanced standby arrangements in place and on a number of occasions the Streetcare team responded to flash flooding on the highways however no flooding to habitable property occurred.

3. 2 The most significant national development relating to flooding is the outcome of the Pitt Report. During August 2007, Sir Michael Pitt was asked by ministers to carry out a review of the flood-related emergencies that occurred during the summer of 2007. The interim conclusions of this review were published in December 2007 with the Final Report being published on 25th June 2008 that makes 92 recommendations. Many of these recommendations will have an impact on Local Authorities, and are likely to require a significant increase in funding and resources to implement.
3. 3 Following on from the publication of the Pitt Report, and the Government's Water Strategy, "Future Water", Government has said that it intends to publish a draft Floods and Water Bill for consultation in 2009. While the detailed provisions of this Bill are still being scoped it is intended that it will reflect the recommendations of the Pitt Report and will allow current complex and outdated legislation relating to flood and coastal erosion risk management to be simplified and streamlined. It is also intended that the Bill will amend some areas of legislation relating to the Water supply industry. Members will be updated on progress on this matter once further information is made available.
3. 4 The Council in conjunction with the Environment Agency and the National Flood Forum promoted October as a dedicated Flood Awareness Month. The main purpose was to provide information and advice on how to prepare for flooding by demonstrating practical ways of minimising damage to property and learning how to stay safe. As part of Flood Awareness Month the Council offered a subsidy to residents living in high risk flood areas towards the cost of a "flood pack". These are available from suppliers and include useful items that can be used in times of flooding. Three events held in the borough with a main flood fair held at the Thames Valley Athletics Centre on Wednesday October 8. Mini flood fairs were held in Wraysbury Village Hall on Monday October 13 and in the Pinder Hall Cookham on Wednesday October 15. Approximately 300 residents attended these events and they found the events helpful. Residents particularly welcomed the opportunity to discuss issues relating to their properties with the various organisations in attendance. Many of the exhibitors said that residents were impressed with the range of flood prevention products on display. The events received good coverage in the local media.
3. 5 Work started in October on the Clare Road flood alleviation scheme approved by Cabinet in November 2007. This should be completed by Christmas. Phase 1 of the Pines flood alleviation scheme is also running in parallel and should also be completed by Christmas with Phase 2 being undertaken in Spring 2009.
3. 6 Regular liaison between the Council and Thames Water has continued. Thames Water has undertaken over 900 pro-active jobs in the borough since the flooding in July 2007. These have included 5 Kilometers of CCTV surveys, 15 Kilometers of sewer cleaning and repairs to collapses and blockages. Specific problems at Pierson Road Windsor and Oaken Grove have been addressed. Over 650 meters of foul and surface water drains have been cleaned in the Wootton Way area with investigation of the problem ongoing.
- 3.7 The planned annual meeting of the Thames Flood Forum hosted by the Borough on 4th November 2008 has been postponed at the request of the Environment Agency

due to number of their key staff being unavailable. It is anticipated that the event will be rescheduled early in the New Year.

3.8 Since the last Flood Monitoring report the following actions have been progressed:

- The Borough Generic Flood Plan has now been published on the Council's Website.
- The Borough is leading for Berkshire on the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Multi Agency Flooding Sub Group, developing a Thames Valley wide Flood Response Strategy.
- 14 Streetcare staff attended a Flood Awareness course.
- The Council is participating in the Met Office early warning advisory pilot scheme.
- The Council has joined the newly formed Local Government Flood Forum and attended the inaugural meeting on 14th October 2007.

4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 Options

The report is for information only.

4.2 Risk assessment

4.2.1 There are no risks associated with this report however there is a general risk of flooding.

5. CONSULTATIONS CARRIED OUT

5.1 None

6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

6.1 That the report be recommended to Cabinet for approval.

7. IMPLICATIONS

The following implications have been addressed where indicated below.

Financial	Legal	Human Rights Act	Planning	Sustainable Development	Diversity & Equality
✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Background Papers: None