



Report sponsor: Richard Antcliff, Director of Public Protection and Streetpride
Report author: Mike Kay, Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity.

ITEM 05

Derby Flood Prevention

Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the Communities Scrutiny and Review Board with an overview of specific flood prevention measures and joined up agency working during extreme weather conditions.

Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note the information provided within the report providing officers with any comments for consideration, as appropriate.

Reason

- 3.1 The Board requested a report from officers on flood prevention measures and joined up agency working focussing on the following points: flood warning information, strategic management of flooding, contingency plans and the flood defence system.

Supporting information

- 4.1 *The flood warning information service published maps and various data. Within these maps two areas were identified. These were detailed in red and orange. Those two areas contained a significant amount of homes. What joined up measures were in place to alert the occupiers of those homes of a potential imminent flood risk?*

The Environment Agency (EA) hold all the relevant data with regard to flood risk, this information is available in the public domain via <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/warnings?location=derby>. This outline area is based upon their flood modelling programmes and provides an indication of where river flooding may occur. As a Flood Alert, Warning, or Severe Warning is issued these areas are indicated in orange and red on the EA website.

There is a Flood Contingency Plan that takes information from the Environment Agency which looks at communities that could possibly be

affected along the course of the river, this can be accessed via our Derbyshire Prepared website <https://www.derbyshireprepared.org.uk/risks-derbyshire/flooding/>. There is also a Derby City Annex which has pre-planned information for all River Derwent and brooks within the city. This document is not available in the public domain as it identifies key infrastructure and sensitive information for responders to consider, working alongside the emergency services and partner agencies. This plan contains the total number of properties for each affected area, in a worst case scenario.

The main focus of the flooding in Derby was related to the high levels on the River Derwent, this saw some of the highest recorded flow rates in a number of years. The Derwent Street bridge was monitored to ensure there was no compromise of the structural integrity from debris or fast flowing water. It should also be noted that due to the level of rainfall there was also surface water flooding affecting parts of the city.

The Environment Agency encourage all properties within these flood risk areas to sign up for flood alerts, this enables residents to be able to get early notification of any warnings at the same time that they are communicated out to partner agencies. In addition, there is a multi-agency Warning and Informing Group that would be established and utilise all media and social media avenues to provide information to communities. If an evacuation of an area was necessary, it would be led by the police and supported by other agencies (including Derby City Council) to ensure residents were safely evacuated and supported.

4.2 What strategic management 'chain of command' was in place to make follow and monitor the emerging and changing forecasts as they developed?

On Thursday 7th and Friday 8th November there was a number of multi-agency coordination meetings overnight to monitor the river levels and communities affected or at potential risk across Derbyshire. In the early hours the representation for Derby City Council was made up of the Highways Duty Officer and the Senior Emergency Planning Officer under the current Service Level Agreement.

During the course of early Friday morning senior staff at Derby City Council were made aware of the situation, including the Director for Public Protection and Streetpride and the Duty Director for that week. Additional strategic level officers were also involved during office and out of office hours as the river levels increased and contingency arrangements were made around the city. The Derby City Council response was co-ordinated from the Stores Road depot and representatives dialled in to the multi-agency Tactical Co-ordinating (TCG) meetings. A number of operational officers were also on the ground as the River Derwent reached peak level late Friday (8th) from the following teams: Network Management, Structures, Streetpride, Highways, Flood Risk Management, Emergency Planning and Communications.

A command structure was in place for internal response and also representation at the multi-agency meetings.

- 4.3 *Did Streetpride have contingency in place to manage the aftermath in the event of the red and orange zones having flooded? Given the aquifers are still largely the same, these specific zones will be at risk.*

There was a number of areas across the city that had been affected by flooding which Streetpride were made aware of. Following the initial response to protect properties at risk, they also followed up with regards to cleaning up of the affected areas; this took place over a number of days.

- 4.4 *The recent flood defence system was designed for an extreme weather event. Despite the hype, the date range around the Friday 8th November was not an extreme weather event. What assessment has been carried out to predict the effectiveness of the flood defence system in the event of an extreme event?*

Awaiting response from team.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 None related to this report

Other options

- 6.1 None applicable to this report

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None applicable to this report

Legal implications

- 8.1 Non applicable to this report

Other significant implications

- 9.1 Non applicable to this report

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		

Service Director(s)

Richard Antcliff

**Report sponsor
Other(s)**

**Background papers:
List of appendices:**