

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee:	Economy Transport & Environment Select Committee
Date of meeting:	8 July 2014
Report Title:	Flood Investigations Update
Reference:	5958
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. This report intends to give an overview of the work carried out by the team working on flood investigations and ordinary watercourse consents. This work is being carried out by Hampshire County Council under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and Land Drainage Act 1991.

2. Contextual Information

2.1. Hampshire County Council carry out formal flood investigations under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 which states:

19 Local authorities: investigations.

(1) On becoming aware of a flood in its area, a lead local flood authority must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate— .

(a) which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and .

(b) whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.

(2) Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) it must— .

(a) publish the results of its investigation, and .

(b) notify any relevant risk management authorities.

2.2. Following the flooding incidents in Hampshire over the 2013 - 2014 winter period Hampshire County Council instigated 4 Section 19 Investigations. Further, less formal, local investigations have also been carried out with a summary of progress to be found in this report.

3. Section 19 Investigations

3.1. Hampshire County Council undertook four investigations under section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These reports were carried out in the following areas:

- a) Romsey – comprising two phases covering flooding incidents from the 23 December 2013 to the end of February 2014. Phase 1 and 2 are complete and results published online in early June 2014. This report can be found on the following link:

http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding/hampshireflooding/floodinginvestigation_s.htm

Recommendations for flood defence schemes and follow up actions are being prepared for review and decision at HCC in coordination with partner organisations. The report concluded the following points:

1. Estimated total of 96 properties were flooded in December and January. Of which 34 were known to have flooded internally.
2. Sources of flooding were Fluvial, ground water, surface water and foul water flooding.
3. The Abbotswood development is not likely to have increased the flood risk at Cupernham Lane.
4. During the development more efforts could have been made to reduce offsite flood risk, which is a condition of the planning permission.
5. The Planning Authority could have been made to assess the impact of flooding to down stream receptors.
6. Sewer flooding resulted from:
 - a. Pumping station failure
 - b. Inundation of foul water system by surface water.
7. During the incident beginning the 14 February 2014 a total of 80 properties flooded, including 36 domestic and 44 commercial properties.
8. Source of flooding were primarily fluvial flooding, but which was influenced by high ground water levels and high volumes of surface runoff.
9. Flood defence work was undertaken on the river test in order to divert water from the town centre which was effective and did not place the down stream receptor at a higher risk of flooding.
10. Prior to the February flooding incident the catchment was highly charged leaving the area of Romsey vulnerable to heavy rainfall events.
11. The incident on 1 February significantly affected the businesses in Romsey particularly in the Budds Lane Industrial Estate.
12. Infrastructure affected included 7 major roads and the access to the main sewage pumping station servicing Romsey.

13. The sewage pumping station did not fail, however if it had for any reason, the foul flooding resulting from the failure would have exacerbated the flooding event and potentially resulted in a public health risk. Access to the infrastructure would have been prevented by the flood water.
 14. The Causeway and Mainstone should be considered high risk flood areas.
- b) Buckskin – investigation into the flood incident and sources of flooding and emergency response by the Risk Management Authorities. This review is still being carried out and due for completion in the next month. It will identify recommendations and actions to be taken up by the Risk Management Authorities.
 - c) North Gorley – investigation into the extent of flooding. This investigation is on-going and officers will be engaging risk management authorities on their intentions to prevent future flooding from unmaintained watercourses. This matter has been included as a Section 19 investigation as two Government Agencies apparently gave conflicting instructions to landowners.
 - d) Stubbings Meadow Caravan Park – investigation into the flood event and what action if any the Risk Management Authorities intend to carry out.

4. Flood Investigations

- 4.1 Hampshire County Council has instigated a standard investigation in 126 locations across Hampshire. Of these investigations 67 have been closed out and actions completed. The remaining are on-going investigations and closed investigations with enforcement actions outstanding.
- 4.2 The current rate of new cases has dropped to 1-2 per week and the team's main effort is tackling enforcement and advising the public on riparian duties.

5. Community Engagement

- 5.1 Having identified the need for wider engagement of the local communities and parishes, Hampshire County Council together with the Environment Agency (EA) and Emergency Planning (EP) team have embarked on a joint project to coordinate community and parish engagement with the EA and EP team in order to optimise officer time and provide a consistent message to the communities affected by flooding.
- 5.2 This new coordinated approach enables a higher number of communities to be reached with more efficient use of officer time. Communities are identified through analysis of data about reported flood incidents which is collated by the County Council and the Environment Agency. A map illustrating this information is attached as an appendix to this report. The incidents are split between the Environment Agency and Hampshire County Council according to which organisation received the complaint and does not reflect areas of responsibilities.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
Flood and Water Management Act		2010
Land Drainage Act		1991

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

- 1.1. It is considered that the issues covered by this report do entail any recommendations nor require equality impact assessments to be undertaken at this stage.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

- 2.1. N/A

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption? N/A
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

The purpose of flood investigations is to understand the cause and to identify what action should be taken in future in order to improve future resilience to the risk of future flooding.