

Report to:	TOURISM, ECONOMY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Clare Nolan- Barnes, Head of Coastal and Environmental Partnership Investments
Date of Meeting	14 November 2018

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To provide a basis for the Committee to consider the delivery of the Council's statutory duties in respect of the draft section 19 investigation report into the flooding in Blackpool on the 22 November 2017.

The report provides a summary of findings and actions required in respect of the investigation into the flooding event in Blackpool on the 22 November 2017.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To scrutinise the delivery of the Council's statutory duties, in respect of the Council's duty to investigate, note the findings of the Section 19 report and publish the report in accordance with the Council's policy on investigating and in accordance with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To ensure constructive and robust scrutiny of the report and provide confirmation that the Council is delivering its statutory duties in respect of flood risk management.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

- 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Council has statutory duties as set out in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the Flood Risk Management Overview and Scrutiny (England) Regulations 2011.

5.2 Following attendance at the Tourism, Economy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 25 April 2018, a further report was requested incorporating the details of United Utilities findings of the investigation into the flooding in Blackpool on the 22 November 2017.

5.3 The Flood and Water Management Act has been enacted at various times through secondary legislation since receiving royal assent in 2010. Part of the Act is a duty to cooperate with other risk management authorities and to share information. The flood event of the 22 November 2017 required Blackpool and other risk management authorities such as United Utilities, Environment Agency and Lancashire County to work together in cooperation to understand the effects the rainfall on that day had on the town and work together to provide future resilience. Blackpool is part of the Lancashire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership which reports on progress of the duties.

6.0 What is going well/What is not

6.1 Flood Risk Management duties

The requirement to work together in co-operation is working well and should enable Blackpool to benefit from Partnership schemes that deliver improvements in flood risk management.

7.0 Duty to investigate flood incidents

7.1 On becoming aware of a flood incident within Blackpool, the Council has a duty to investigate flooding incidents to the extent that it considers appropriate and necessary. A policy has been implemented on the criteria which would trigger a formal investigation. Other incidents of flooding are investigated when appropriate but results are not published. Since implementation in 2012, there have been 30 reports which have been investigated, although only three have reached the formal investigation criteria.

7.2 The policy for investigation has been developed in line with Lancashire County

Council to ensure a consistent approach throughout the County. However, Lancashire County Council has recently updated its policy and Blackpool Council's policy will be reviewed in 2018/19.

8.0 Investigation into the event of the 22 November 2017

- 8.1 A draft Section 19 report has been prepared which highlights the findings to date of the flood event on the 22 November 2017 and provides recommendations, in particular the formation of a flood forum for residents to better understand the reasons for flooding in particular areas and the resilience measures they can take in the event of a flooding incident. In particular the report highlights recommendations for future partnership working which is in line with the Defra 25 year plan and flood risk management best practice.
- 8.2 A separate joint document is appended to this report to provide a summary of the investigation and the actions required by United Utilities.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

9.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 4(a) - Draft Section 19 Report – Investigation into flooding on 22 November 2017

Appendix 4(b) – United Utilities Report on the flooding of 22/23 November 2018

10.0 Legal considerations:

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Human Resources considerations:

- 12.0 Blackpool Council needs to retain the expertise and resource to deliver the statutory duties in the Flood and Water Management Act.

13.0 Equalities considerations:

- 13.1 Flooding has the potential to impact on vulnerable residents to a greater extent and will need to be managed accordingly.

14.0 Financial considerations:

- 14.1 The Department for Environment Flood and Rural Affairs along with the Department

for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provide some funding to undertake flood risk projects and studies.

15.0 Risk management considerations:

15.1 Failure to implement the statutory duties could lead to unquantified and unmanaged flood risk to Blackpool.

16.0 Ethical considerations:

16.1 None.

17.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

17.1 Blackpool Council is part of the Lancashire Flood Risk Partnership and also chair the Fylde Peninsula Water Management Partnership, which review flood risk but also considers all aspects of water management in Blackpool

18.0 Background papers:

18.1 Summary report in respect of the flood event on the 22 November 2017.

18.2 United Utilities report in respect of the flood event on the 22 November 2017.