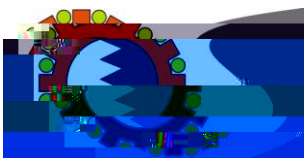
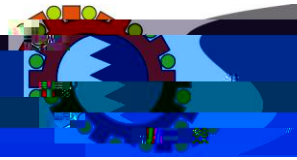


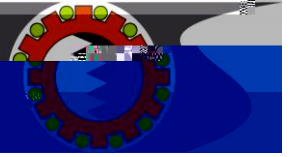
- 2.1 This review has been instigated in response to a very intense rainfall event, which was significantly larger than anything previously recorded which was experienced on the evening of 27th May 2018. In some areas of the city the highest rainfall totals ever recorded were seen in an incredibly short period of time. This resulted in a major flooding incident which had a devastating impact in certain areas of the city.
- 2.2 The main causes of the flooding were from rivers and watercourses, sewer surcharging and surface water flooding as a result of the extreme rainfall event. The Environment Agency is currently undertaking a detailed analysis of the event.
- 2.3 Where properties have flooded internally the City Council along with partners are undertaking a full investigation in accordance with the requirements of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. At the time of writing, 126 roads and up to 1,600 properties affected by flooding are in the process of being investigated. To date, 1,011 properties have been contacted for information and public consultations have taken place in Sparkhill and Selly Park. A detailed report will be published once these investigations have been completed.

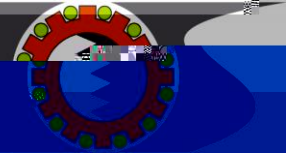


3.1 Subsequent to the flooding on 27th May, Councilors Jon Hunt and Roger Harmer took a motion for debate to the Birmingham City Council meeting on 12

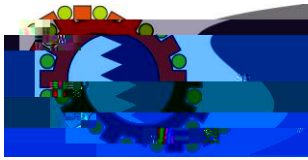


- 6.3 As the LLFA the City Council has a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to ensure that local flood risk is understood and managed in a coordinated way. The strategy, which was approved by Cabinet in October 2017, sets out seven objectives and 20 policies in relation to roles and responsibilities, the type and level of flood risk, how flood events are managed and investigated, how flood risk schemes are prioritised, reducing the impact of development, environmental considerations and sustainable drainage.
- 6.4 The FWMA also places a duty on Birmingham City Council as the LLFA to investigate incidents of flooding. The duty is to investigate the flood to determine the causes of the flooding and determine appropriate actions that may be undertaken by the relevant risk management authority.
- 6.5 Birmingham City Council is identified as a statutory "Category 1" responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This places a range of duties on the City Council, including response, treating the City Council equally to other "blue light" responders in the event of a major incident. Birmingham City Council will also be expected to lead the recovery from any major incident. The Act does require all partners to work with the City Council in the event of a major incident.
- 7.1 This duty is set out in Section 19 of the FWMA and the investigations are therefore typically referred to as '*Section 19 Reports*'. The FWMA states that:
1. On becoming aware of a flood in its area a LLFA must, to the extent that it considers it necessary or appropriate, investigate –
 - Which risk management authorities have relevant flood risk management functions, and
 2. Whether each of those risk management authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood. 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.
- 7.2 Not all flooding will require a formal investigation and report. Birmingham City Council has set out in its Local Flood Risk Management Strategy a three stage process comprising an initial assessment, a S19 investigation and S19 Report which is published. This process is used to determine to what extent it considers it 'necessary or appropriate' to investigate and what constitutes a significant flood event.
- 7.3 Birmingham City Council in partnership with the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water are committed to undertaking an investigation in accordance with the requirements of the FWMA in each area where internal property flooding was reported to determine the most likely cause of



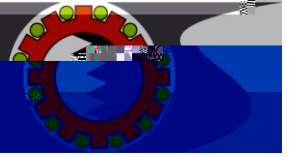


- 8.8 Whilst a major incident was not declared by any partner, following the storm event, a multi -agency group including the Environment Agency, the City Council and other partners was established through the Flood Advisory Service telecom on Monday 28th. The Environment Agency was in contact with the City Council during the event on Sunday and subsequently as work got underway on recovery.
- 8.9 There was acknowledgement that during the evening of the floodin g City Council Duty Officers were not made aware of the impact of the flooding outside of Selly Park North. Reconnaissance after the flood event has highlighted the wider extent of the flooding, including flooding in areas not previously known to the City Council such as in Kings Heath. Subsequently, the Environment Agency established a recovery group, with which the City Council worked closely as further situational updates highlighted the extent of the flooding.
- 8.10 The evidence highlighted a gap in terms of the strategic co-ordination, communication and collaborative working in responding to flooding events by the responsible partner agencies. Co-ordinated support needs to be provided for residents in a simple way, regardless of the cause of the flooding. People affected by flooding do not differentiate between surface water flooding, flooding from rivers, flooding from sewer infrastructure or flooding from highway drainage. They just need co-ordinated support to be provided in a simple and timely way.
- 8.11 One issue that emerged very clearly from the evidence presented to the Scrutiny Committee was that the process of recovering from a flood is unique due to the longevity of the process. The evidence from the National Flood Forum was that this extended period of time lasts on average 6-18 months and that people face a range of varied and complex issues during this time. The support provided to residents needs to recognise the impact on the lives and wellbeing of residents and be appropriate for what residents need at different stages in the recovery process. The needs change as the event moves from the initial response through to recovery and subsequently to longer-term resolution i.e. prevention and alleviation.
- 8.12 In terms of the human cost of this flood, Members were told by the Selly Park North Residents Association that some people in that area will have been out of their home for one year out of the last two and a half years. The evidence was that the City Council was not aware of the flooding in Sparkhill until three days after the event and the support provided at that late stage was not appropriate to what was needed by residents at that time . Support interventions need to be tailored to the specific needs at different stages in the recovery process and to take account of the longer-term impact on people affected to help to reduce the impact of t he stress and anxiety caused by the trauma of flooding .
- 8.13 The evidence émpact of t

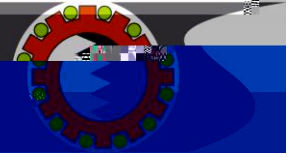


commitment from the full range of service areas which will in future ensure a wider breadth of support to those affected by flooding events both during and after the events.

- 8.14 This commitment will principally focus on the attendance of officers at the locations affected to ensure that those affected by the flooding have direct access to the relevant and correct organisations and services to support their particular needs. Those needs will inevitably change as the event moves from the initial response through to recovery. There was an offer from the National Flood Forum to work with the City Council in developing this approach and in putting appropriate measures in place to support local communities over the months ahead.
- 8.15 The impact of flooding on local businesses should not be forgotten. Members heard evidence about the response to the flooding in Sparkhill from Brian Norton from the Indestructible Paint Company, a business based at Pentos Drive in the area. The Committee were told that the impact of the flood cost his paint making business in the region of £500,000 after already having invested £50,000 on a flood defence wall that was quickly overwhelmed.
- 8.16 Measures to mitigate against future risk to businesses, such as working more closely with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership to see what can be done to protect businesses in affected areas, need to be

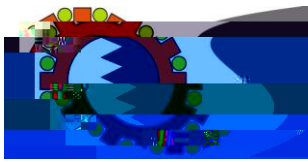


a model constitution or model template which can be developed and made available as a resource



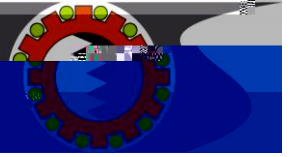
route buses away from flooded areas during a flooding incident. This will need to be followed up with National Express West Midlands and other bus operators to ensure that buses can be diverted away from areas affected by flood during a major incident.

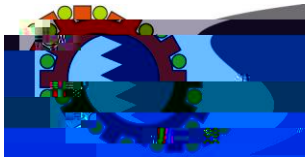
- 8.34 Some areas of the city, such as Hall Green North, Hall Green South and Sparkhill, suffered as a consequence of flooding from the River Cole. Evidence was presented at the meeting including a map showing that there is a considerable area surrounding the River Cole which has been designated by the Environment Agency as 'Flood Zone 3' which means that the land and property in the area has a high probability of flooding.
- 8.35 The point was made that, in comparison to flood alleviation measures already completed or in progress along the Rivers Rea and Tame, there is a dearth of flood alleviation or defence measures along the River Cole Valley and it was suggested that the poor level of maintenance and management of the Cole Valley corridor and Cole Valley walkway may have exacerbated the situation and made the area more susceptible to flooding.
- 8.36 The River Rea Partnership, led by the Environment Agency is delivering or has completed two flood risk management schemes in the city. They are working with Calthorpe Estates, Birmingham City Council and other organisations to develop the Selly Park North Flood Risk Management Scheme and have completed the Selly Park South Flood Risk Management Scheme. There is also a Strategy for the River Tame with a Perry Barr and Witton Scheme being delivered over two phases.
- 8.37 In contrast, there are no formal flood prevention or alleviation measures for the River Cole Valley. A similar type of partnership arrangement needs to be established through the Environment Agency for the River Cole and its tributaries to facilitate the development of similar schemes.
- 8.38 It is important to give consideration at the outset of any development, as part of the planning process, to what green infrastructure measures (such as living walls, tree planting, balancing pools etc.) which are also flood defence measures and have a positive effect on the environment, should be incorporated into development plans.
- 8.39 The Birmingham Development Plan (BDP) which was adopted in January 2017 is the main strategic planning document for Birmingham and is what is known as a Development Planning Document. The main policy within this document is policy TP6 'Management of flood risk and water resources' which sets out the requirements for managing flood risk in new developments. It was suggested that the pursuit of planning contributions towards the cost and implementation of flood alleviation schemes should be continued.
- 8.40 In addition it was suggested that a885h3ifAtggestcontrtionsaTJ ET cTJ ET Bd(s)-3ish



Sustainable Drainage: Guide to Design, Maintenance and Adoption which is currently guidance and is managed by the Flood Risk Management Team. It is important to note that this document states that the City Council, as both Lead Local Flood Authority and Local Planning Authority, expect it to be used for all types of commercial and industrial development. The degree of weight attached to guidance is a matter for the decision maker which would be either Planning Committee or Officers under delegated authority, depending on the nature of the proposal. Nevertheless, significant weight is attached to this guidance in the planning decision making process. More generally the relevant statutory policy in the BDP TP6 requires all development proposals to manage surface water through Sustainable Development Systems (SuDS) to minimise flood risk. Guidance then provides specific detailed advice on how this should be done. As such, translating existing planning guidance into planning policy is unlikely to have an impact on the implementation of SuDS, particularly as the National Planning Policy Framework requires that local statutory policies do not make development unviable.

- 8.41 Other possible measures were also raised, such as increased levels of planning enforcement in cases where construction has taken place without planning consent and the adoption of SuDS where developers can sometimes be relucta





Management Annual Report is already scheduled to be presented to the January 2019 meeting.
This will provide Committee Members