

APPENDIX A

SECTION 19 REPORT – BEESTON & CHILWELL – JUNE 2020

Introduction

1. Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 states:
2. 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 (RMAs) have relevant flood risk management functions.
 - (b) Whether each of those Risk Management Authorities has exercised, or is proposing to exercise, those functions in response to the flood.
3. Where an authority carries out an investigation under subsection (1) of Section 19 it must:
 - (a) Publish the results of its investigation.
 - (b) Notify any relevant Risk Management Authorities.
4. The objective of this report is to investigate which Risk Management Authorities had relevant flood risk management functions during the flooding in June 2020 and whether the relevant Risk Management Authorities have exercised, or propose to exercise, their risk management functions (as per section 19 (1) of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010).
5. The Risk Management Authorities with a duty to respond to this flooding incident are Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) as Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and Broxtowe Borough Council (BBC).
6. It should be noted that this duty to investigate does not guarantee that flooding problems will be resolved and cannot force others into action.

Background

7. On the 17th June 2020 the Met Office issued a yellow weather warning for thunderstorms and heavy rain. Torrential downpours ensued during late afternoon, which resulted in localised flooding.

During the storms Via East Midlands Ltd, (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) distributed sandbags to 5 different communities who were suffering from reports of internal flooding.

The torrential storm delivered over half a months' worth of rain in just over one hour. This overwhelmed the ability of the drainage infrastructure to accommodate this type of a rainfall event.

8. On the 17th June 2020 several communities faced extensive flooding this included Beeston (Figure 1), a town with a population of approximately 37,000 at the 2011 Census.



Figure 1. Location Plan

Following the torrential downpour, 32 business and 57 residential properties throughout Beeston suffered internal flooding.

Businesses

9. 32 businesses reported to the Flood Risk Management Team are recorded as suffering internal flooding damage. Figure 2 shows the location of the flooded properties on High Road and Wollaton Road. Figure 3 illustrates the properties flooded at Chilwell Retail Park.



Figure 2. Location Plan – High Road and Wollaton Road



Figure 3. Location Plan – Chilwell Retail Park

Residential

- 57 residential properties throughout Beeston suffered internal property flooding. Boundary Road and Ullswater Crescent and Eastcote Avenue were the worst affected locations, many other locations suffered minor flooding events where only 1 or 2 properties were affected internally. Figure 4 identifies the affected locations.

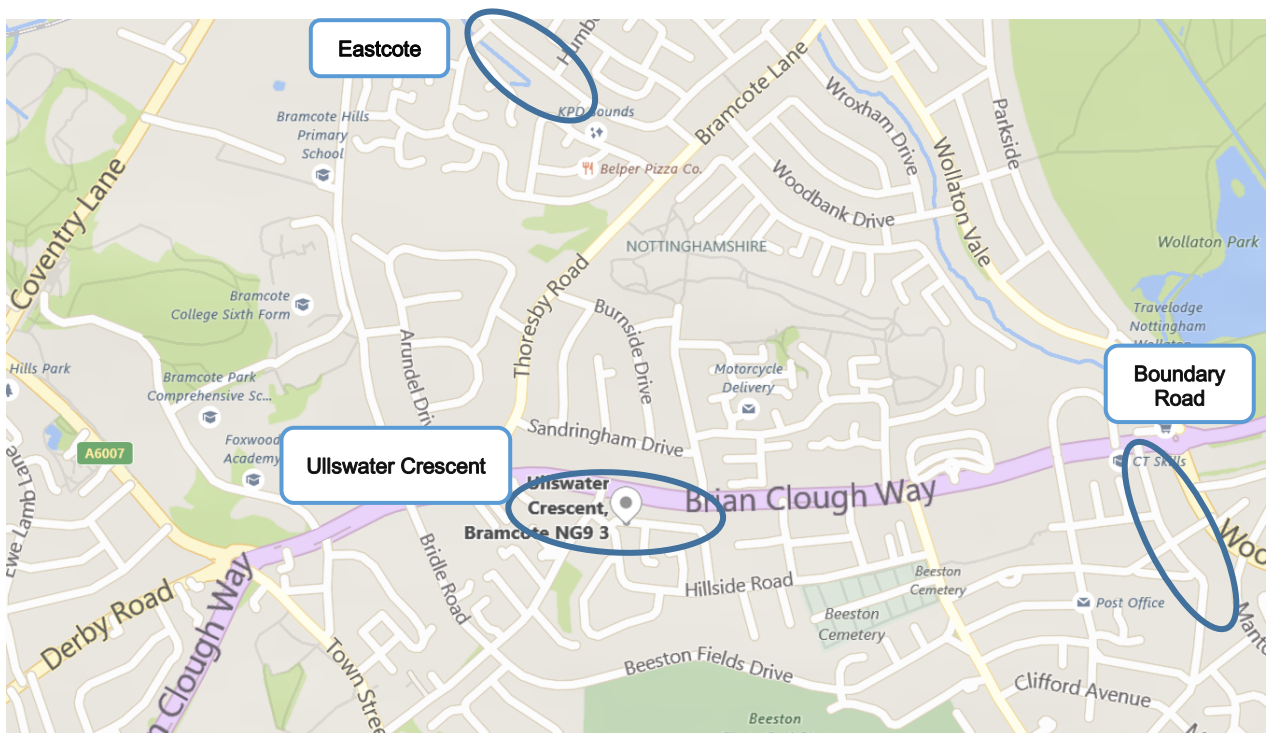


Figure 4. Location Plan – Flooded Residential Properties

Summary of flooding and its causes:

High Road and Wollaton Road

- Several businesses on High Road and Wollaton Road suffered flooding due to an excessive amount of rainfall in the catchment and directing towards the low point on the

highway. The drainage system in the vicinity was overwhelmed due to the sheer amount of rainfall falling within a short timeframe.

Talking with local business owners has identified that during the storm event the water levels within the highway rose to threshold level, with some of the lower lying properties suffering flooding due to the amount of water within the highway.

Eyewitness accounts suggest that some of the internal flooding was caused / worsened by bow waves resulting from drivers continuing to drive through flooded sections of the highway.

Chilwell Retail Park

12. Businesses at Chilwell Retail Park suffered internal flooding from the front of the properties due to excessive water running off the hard-standing car park at the front.

During the rainfall event additional flows are understood to have entered the car park due to water on the highway being displaced due to bow waves from vehicular traffic. This is believed to have worsened the problem in the vicinity.

Boundary Road, Ullswater Crescent and Eastcote Avenue

13. Boundary Road, Ullswater Crescent and Eastcote Avenue were all affected by the rainfall event to varying degrees. Some properties only suffered minor internal flooding due to seepage through airbricks, whereas others suffered much greater due to water ingress through integral garages to the property.

All 3 of these locations suffered flooding due to an excessive amount of rainfall falling in the catchment and ultimately all ending up on the highway. The drainage system in the area was overloaded due to the sheer amount of rainfall falling within a short timeframe.

These properties are all situated lower than the carriageway and as such as soon as the capacity of the carriageway was exceeded the water naturally found its way to the lowest points, in this case the properties.

Risk Management Authorities and their responsibilities

14. Nottinghamshire County Council
 - a) Lead Local Flood Authority
 - i. Investigate significant local flooding incidents and publish the results of such investigations.
 - ii. Play a lead role in emergency planning and recovery after a flood event.
 - iii. Lead Local Flood Authorities also have a duty to determine which risk management authorities have relevant powers to investigate flood incidents to help understand how they happened, and whether those authorities have or intend to exercise their powers.
 - iv. By working in partnership with communities, Lead Local Flood Authorities can raise awareness of flood risks.
 - v. Lead Local Flood Authorities should encourage local communities to participate in local flood risk management.

b) Emergency Planning

- i. If a flood happens, all local authorities are 'category one responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

c) Highway Authority (Via East Midlands Ltd. on behalf of The Nottinghamshire County Council)

- i. Maintenance of the public highways including highway drainage assets.
- ii. Provided site-based presence and investigations immediately following the event.

15. Broxtowe Borough Council

- a) Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act. This means they must have plans in place to respond to emergencies and control or reduce the impact of an emergency.

Risk Management Authority Responses to Flood

16. The following lists the actions taken by each Risk Management Authority in response to the flooding both in the immediate aftermath as well as in the longer term:

a) Nottinghamshire County Council:

- i. Initiated and co-ordinated Emergency Planning procedures.
- ii. Administered the Flooding Hardship Fund.
- iii. Initiated and led the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

b) Broxtowe Borough Council

- i. Provided emergency response support in management of flooding event.
- ii. Delivered sandbags to affected residents.
- iii. Managed and continue to manage recovery in affected Broxtowe communities.
- iv. Actively engaged in the Section 19 Flood Investigation.

Additional information and future actions.

17. All the Risk Management Authorities involved in this event are committed to continuing the investigations into the causes of this incident. Those investigations may identify further actions not listed below.
18. The local community spirit and resilience during the flooding must be recognised as without their efforts the impacts of the flooding could have been worse.
19. Where appropriate Nottinghamshire County Council and the Environment Agency administer a Flood Warden scheme, including supporting the provision of local sandbag stores, and a Community Flood Signage Scheme in communities at risk of potential flooding. All equipment and training is provided for free should there be sufficient volunteer interest in the community. Further information on these services are available on Nottinghamshire County Council's website.

20. Via East Midlands Ltd, (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) will continue to undertake routine maintenance on the drainage assets in the vicinity to ensure they are working at intended capacity.
21. As the Lead Local Flood Authority, we have witnessed and have experience of how flooding devastates communities. The most vulnerable in the community will be our priority. Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to work closely with partners and communities to identify ways of proactively reducing the risk, likelihood and consequences of future flooding events.