

Lancashire County Council

External Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 4th June, 2018 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 'B' (The Diamond Jubilee Room) - County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Edward Nash psc (Chair)

County Councillors

D Stansfield	G Oliver
A Ali	M Salter
C Crompton	J Shedwick
D Foxcroft	P Steen
T Martin	C Towneley
Mrs L Oades	

County Councillors Matthew Salter and Peter Steen replaced County Councillors Anne Cheetham and Jayne Rear respectively.

County Councillor Erica Lewis attended the meeting under Standing Order D13(1).

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Constitution: Membership; Chair and Deputy Chair; and Terms of Reference of the External Scrutiny Committee

The report presented set out the constitution, membership, Chair and Deputy Chair and Terms of Reference of the External Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

Resolved: That;

- i. The appointment of County Councillors Edward Nash psc and David Stansfield as Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2018/19 be noted;
- ii. The Membership of the Committee following the County Council's Annual Meeting on 24 May 2018 be noted; and
- iii. The Terms of Reference of the Committee be noted.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

4. Minutes of the Meetings held on 6 March 2018 and 10 October 2017

Resolved: That the minutes from the meetings held on 6 March 2018 and 10 October 2017 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

5. Flood Risk Management Partnership working

The Chair welcomed Rachel Crompton, LCC Flood Risk Manager; Tony Griffiths, United Utilities plc; and Tim Armour, United Utilities plc; to the meeting. A copy of the presentation delivered at the meeting is set out in the minutes.

The report gave a particular focus to the partnership working with United Utilities plc, the water company providing services to the majority of Lancashire's residents. During consideration of the item, it was noted that local water companies were not statutory consultees in regard to planning applications. Members felt that water companies should be at the forefront in regard to planning applications. United Utilities were the only Risk Management Authority who were not a statutory consultee but did work closely with local planning authorities and the lead local flood authority to identify what their requirements were. United Utilities recognised the need to work much earlier with property developers. The committee was informed that LCC would assess the flood risk assessments that accompanied planning applications.

It was expected that all Flood Risk Management Authorities maintain their asset base to reduce flood risk and make sufficient provision for this to be achieved.

It was noted that United Utilities were proposing, subject to approval from Ofwat, to more than treble their current levels of spend on flooding. United Utilities was also one of the water companies leading the way in the adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).

It was noted that United Utilities offered domestic support for people affected by floods. They also publicised information, advice and guidance on their website and mobile app to assist residents.

The committee was informed that when investigating a reported flood, the council applied a triage process. If the flooding had been caused by a river the council relied on the Environment Agency to respond. If it was in relation to sewers then the council relied on United Utilities to respond. If there was too much water in an area that was not designed to take it, the council would work with the community and where a flood action group would be beneficial in bridging the communication gap.

Members enquired about the efficiency of unblocking of culverts. It was reported that responsibility for cleaning the culverts depended on who owned the land where the culverts were. The Council's powers were limited by the Land Drainage Act and the responsibility was with the landowners for maintaining and repairing

culverts. The council would need considerable evidence that there was a serious problem and flood was a real risk before it could intervene.

Members enquired how reliant United Utilities were on European funding and whether Brexit would affect existing projects. It was reported that there were some projects in place such as Natural Course (<http://naturalcourse.co.uk/>). A partnership project between Environment Agency, The Canal and Rivers Trust, Natural England and United Utilities building capacity to protect and improve the North West's water environment. This was a ten year project for which funding had already been agreed for this project.

On developing opportunities for natural flood risk management, members noted that the council as lead local flood authority would need to be more engaged with organisations for which the council had good but remote relationships with. It was suggested that natural flood risk management be added to the Committee's work programme for 2018/19.

Resolved: That;

- i. The report be noted;
- ii. The External Scrutiny Committee writes to the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to reconsider making water companies a statutory consultee on all planning applications; and
- iii. Natural flood risk management be added to the External Scrutiny Committee's work programme for 2018/19.

6. External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19

The report presented set out the External Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for the municipal year 2018/19.

Resolved: That;

- i. The External Scrutiny Work Programme 2018/19 be noted;
- ii. County Councillor Azhar Ali be appointed as a rapporteur on the issue of unlocking brownfield sites across Lancashire; and
- iii. County Councillor Carl Crompton be appointed as a rapporteur on the impact of Brexit and advanced manufacturing.

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

8. Date of Next Meeting and Future Meetings

The next meeting of the External Scrutiny Committee would take place on Tuesday 17 July 2018 at 10.30am in Cabinet Room B (The Diamond Jubilee Room) at the County Hall, Preston.

Future meetings of the Committee for 2018/19 municipal year were as follows:

- 16 October 2018
- 22 January 2019
- 16 April 2019

All meetings would commence at 10:30am

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston



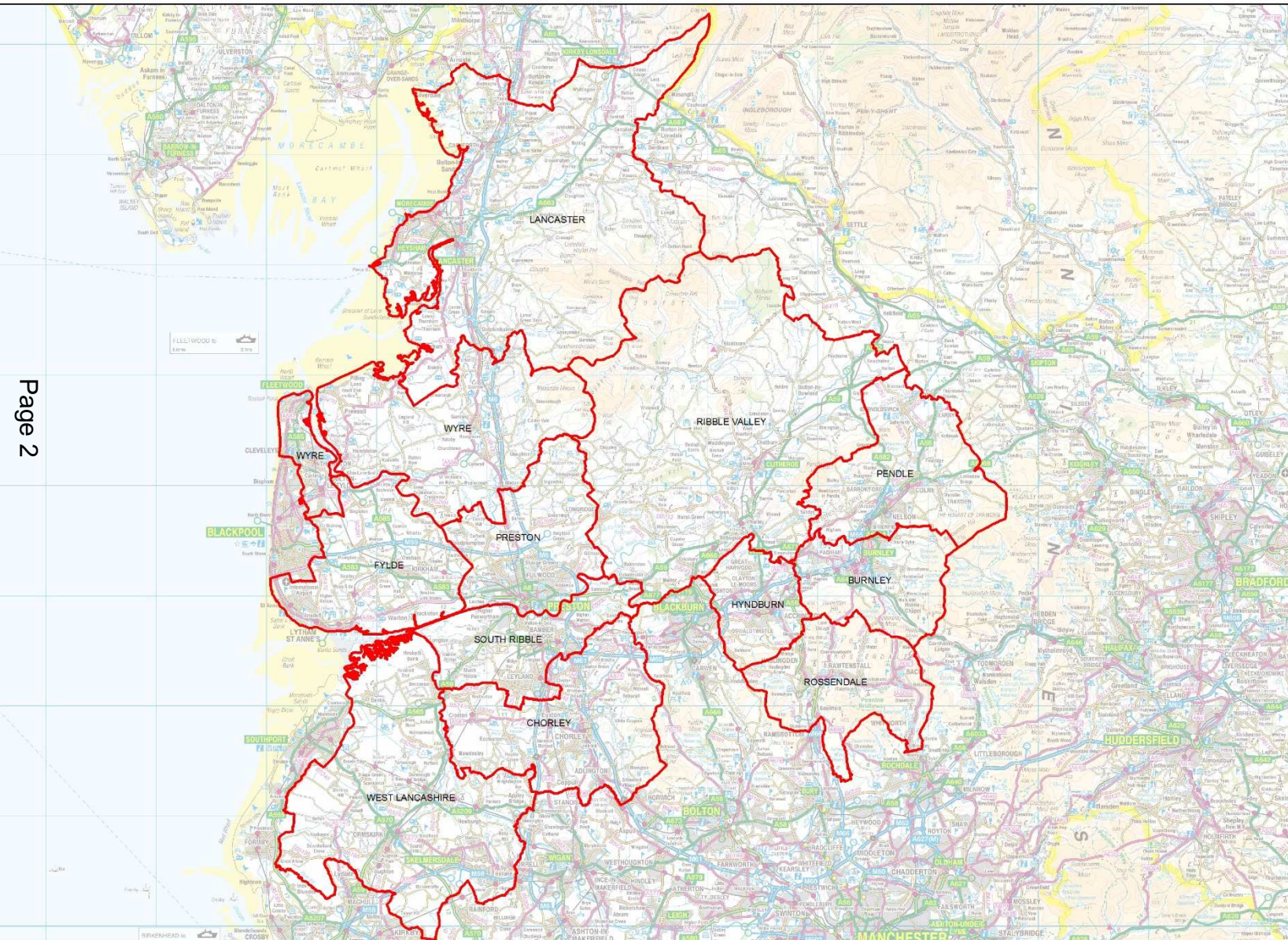
Wastewater services

Wastewater network operations

Lancashire County Council Area







Lancashire County LLFA District Council areas



- Lancaster
- Ribble Valley
- Wyre
- Fylde
- Preston
- Pendle
- Burnley
- Hyndburn
- Rossendale
- South Ribble
- Chorley
- West Lancs

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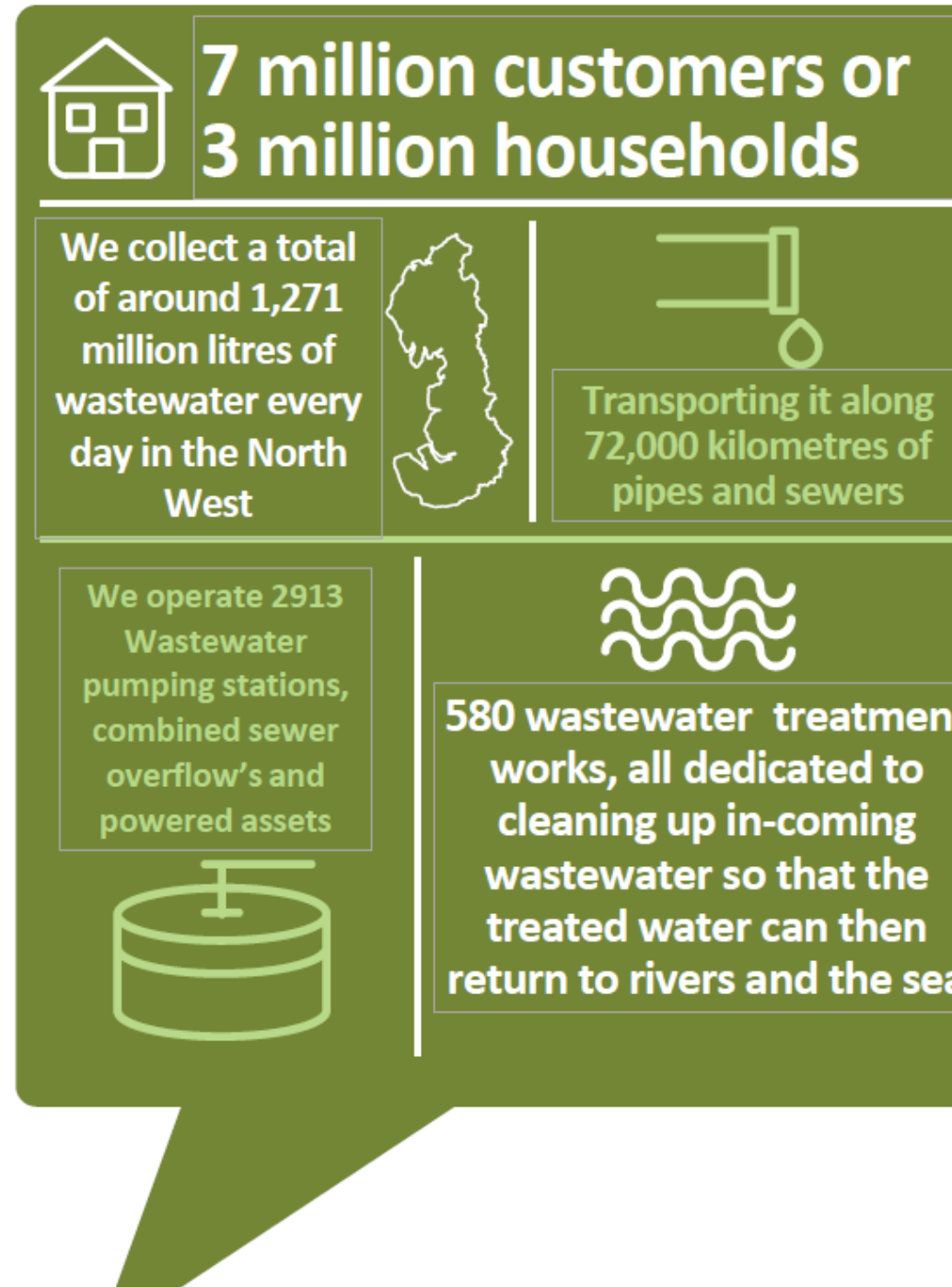
Managing Flood Risk – who's responsible for what

Lead Local Flood Authority	Public body	Highway Authorities	District Councils	Water and sewerage companies
 Lancashire County Council	 Environment Agency	 Lancashire County Council	Lancashire CC's 12 District Councils (see map)	 United Utilities <i>helping life flow smoothly</i>
<p>Developing, maintaining and applying a strategy for local flood risk management</p> <p>Managing the risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses</p>	<p>Responsible for taking a strategic overview of all sources of flooding</p> <p>Managing the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea.</p>	<p>Providing and maintaining highway drainage such as road gullies / grids</p>	<p>Managing the risk of flooding from ordinary watercourses</p> <p>Approving planning applications and ensuring it's drained in a sustainable way</p>	<p>Managing the risk of flooding from surface water, foul and combined sewer systems that provide drainage from buildings and yards</p>

Wastewater network+

Overview

At Wastewater Network Plus, we have teams responsible for running the whole of our wastewater system - from the sewers to the pumping stations all the way through to the treatment works and how we handle our sludge afterwards.



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Lancashire County Council Drainage area (excl Blackburn and Blackpool, who both head their own LLF duty)

the Lancashire County Council (LLFA area) we maintain and operate:

722

Wastewater
pumping stations

508

Critical assets incl.
storm overflows
and pipe bridges

89

Wastewater
treatment works



1817

Surface water
outfalls

rying out in the Lancashire County Area:

Over 4,700 **inspections** and
planned maintenance visits
each year on our assets

Undertake regular cleaning of
over **200km of sewers** every
year.

Wastewater network+

Performance

spend circa £701m/year (Totex) on operating, maintaining and financing the wastewater network

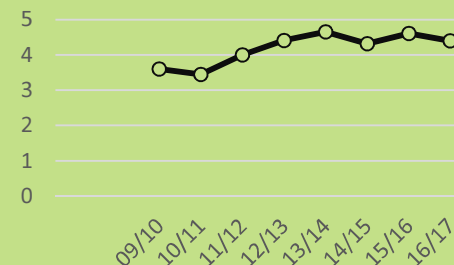
£473 million per year on operating, maintaining and upgrading our treatment works

£228 million per year on operating, maintaining and upgrading the sewer network

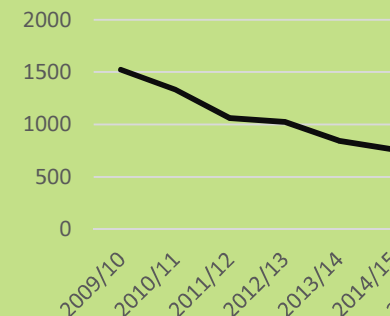
- £45m on operating our Wastewater Network
- £183m in capital investment, replacing and upgrading our entire Network

Year on year results

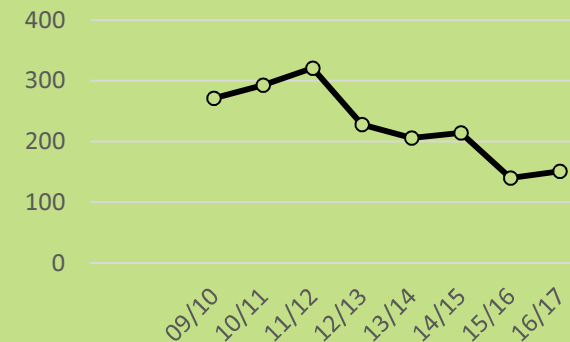
Customer Satisfaction
(SIM score)



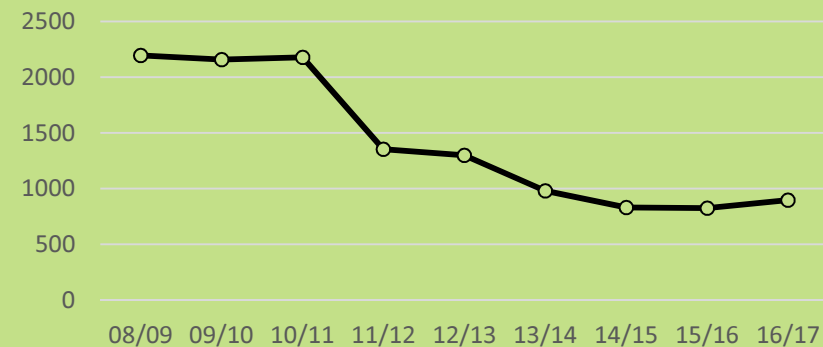
FOC Internal flooding



Pollution Incidents



Written Customer Contacts

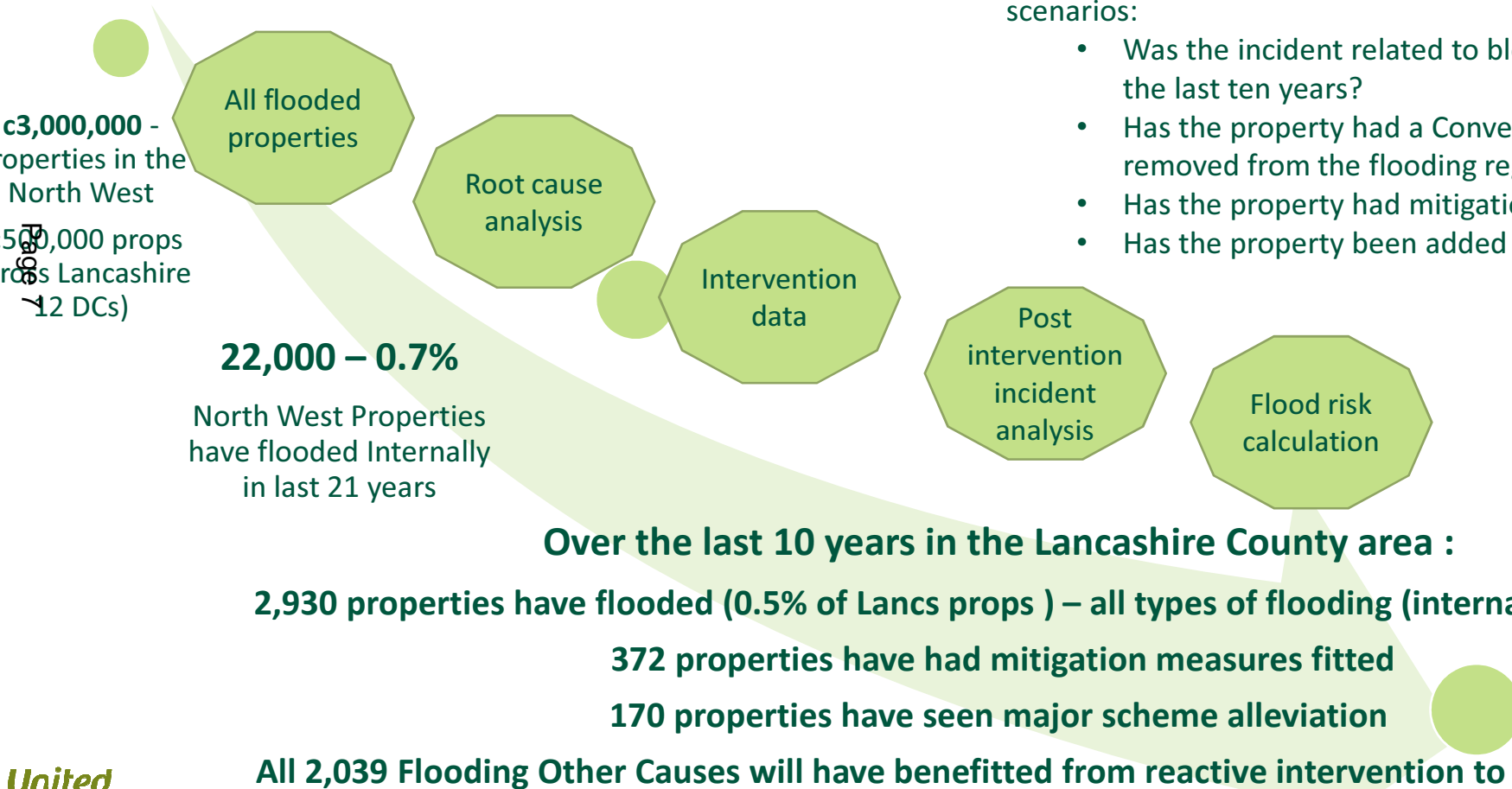


Wastewater network sewer flooding strategy

We have adopted a targeted approach that focuses on reducing flooding and providing mitigation to properties where applicable

A calculation of ongoing risk has been developed using a set of intervention scenarios:

- Was the incident related to blockages/collapses and has it flooded in the last ten years?
- Has the property had a Conventional Hydraulic Solution and been removed from the flooding register?
- Has the property had mitigation installed?
- Has the property been added to a cyclic programme of works?



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Developers and development

We understand that both ongoing and proposed developments can put pressure on the existing sewerage infrastructure, however developers have:-

a legal right to connect both foul and surface water (from properties) to existing sewerage systems

- a legal right to choose the point of connection

Water Utilities work closely with Local Authority Planning Departments and the Lead Local Flood Authority to influence all aspects of the developments drainage including:-

- Mitigating and, or reducing the impact of new development on the existing sewers
- Limiting discharge rates from the developments into the existing sewerage network
- Ensuring Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are considered and prioritised
- One of the water companies leading the way in the adoption of SuDS

Wastewater Network+ Partnership working

Wastewater Network+ understands that as one of the Flood Risk Agencies in the North West we have our part to play in reducing and minimising flood risk and as such we:-

Regularly attend the **Making Space** for Water meetings along with the Flood and Local Flood Authority, Local Authorities, Highway agencies and the Environment Agency to resolve flood related matters

Work closely with **Local Authority Planning Departments and Developers** in developing local development plans

Provide **data on flooding mechanisms and provide drainage plans / models** to other agencies to assist in investigations into flooding problems



We meet with Flood Action Groups

such as the Whalley, Churchtown, Wyre, Lancaster, Burscough)

**Meet Councillors and
MPs on a regular basis**

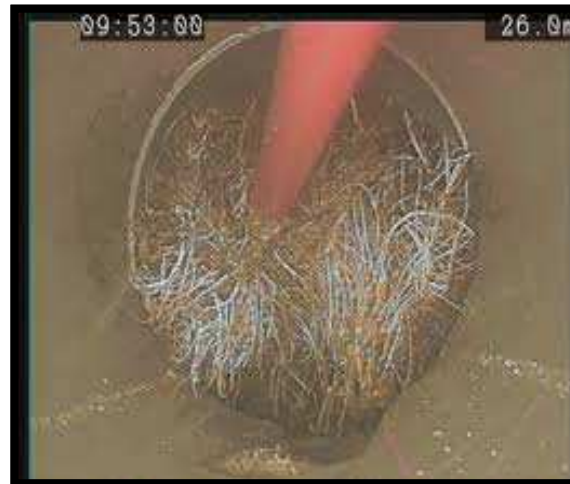
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2,930 properties Lancashire properties that have flooded, (in the last 10 years) 2,039 have been due to “Flooding Other Causes

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United
Utilities
flow smoothly

astewater Network+

ective resolution



- **83 Resolution units** deployed across region
wastewater network
- **Operational 24 hours a day**, 7 days a week,
weeks of the year
- We **cover a core day** (7 days a week) 8am to
and **emergency call out 10pm till 8am**
- Across the NW Region, in the last 3 years:
 - 44,270 flood incidents visited
 - 16,781 have been subsequently identified
“private drain issues”

Wastewater network+

What does this mean for United Utilities going forward with flooding the Lancashire County Council (LLFA)



Continue the campaign of “what not to flush” to reduce flooding (69% of flood property has been due to other causes)

Continue to support flooded customers with Resolution Units interaction and seek to prevent re-occurrence of such flooding through Investigations

Continue to work with Authorities in respect of new Development and collaborative working and enhance the wastewater network where developments has a high risk of generating new flooding

Seek to get support from Ofwat for a capital budget to deal with properties at most risk from repeat hydraulic flooding

Consider the future adoption of SUDs solutions to support the development of good surface water management plans for development

Continue to support and share communications at “Making Space for Water”, “Flood Forum meetings” and Councillor and P meetings

Support the work of Lancashire County Council in their role as Lead Local Flood Authority

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Thank you for listening



