

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Friday, 13th May, 2016 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item	
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1.	Apologies	
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Interests	
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda.

3.	Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 April 2016	(Pages 1 - 10)
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4.	EP&R and FRM Joint Report Winter Floods 2015	(Pages 11 - 28)
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5.	Work Plan and Task Group Update	(Pages 29 - 34)
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6.	Urgent Business	
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

7.	Date of Next Meeting	
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The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held on Friday, 17 June at 10:00am at the County Hall, Preston.

I Young
Director of Governance,
Finance and Public Services

County Hall
Preston

Agenda Item 3

Lancashire County Council

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 8th April, 2016 at 10.00 am in Cabinet Room 'B' - The Diamond Jubilee Room, County Hall, Preston

Present:

County Councillor Bill Winlow (Chair)

County Councillors

A Barnes	C Pritchard
L Beavers	J Shedwick
Mrs F Craig-Wilson	V Taylor
C Crompton	D Watts
S Holgate	G Wilkins
Mrs L Oades	

County Councillor Lorraine Beavers replaced County Councillor Ron Shewan, County Councillor Fabian Craig-Wilson replaced County Councillor David O'Toole and County Councillor Stephen Holgate replaced County Councillor Miles Parkinson for this meeting.

1. Apologies

None were received.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February 2016

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

4. Cabinet Member response to the Fire Suppression Measures Task Group

The Chair welcomed County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools, Martin Cooper, Property Asset Manager (Capital Programme), and County Councillor Jackie Oakes, Chair of the Fire Suppression Measures Task Group, to the table.

The final report of the Fire Suppression Measures Task Group was presented to the Scrutiny Committee on 13 November 2015. Following the meeting the report was provided to County Councillor Tomlinson to respond to the recommendations.

County Councillor Tomlinson informed the Committee that he had discussed the recommendations with officers and about two dozen head teachers. These two dozen head teachers would not want to have a sprinkler system in their school and would be more interested in other methods of fire suppression. These head teachers were concerned about three elements:

- Cost of a sprinkler system
- Risk of sprinkler system being accidentally set off
- Maintenance of sprinkler systems

He asked the Committee to agree to two minor amendments to the report so as he could accept the report in full. His problem with the report was the element of compulsion. He felt it compelled LCC, head teachers and governors to agree to the fitting of sprinkler systems. These decisions he felt should be taken on a case to case basis taking into account the risk and cost.

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) had stated there would not be any money in the fund for sprinkler systems because it did not see it as a priority.

County Councillor Tomlinson's amendments were regarding Recommendation 1 of the Task Group's report. His suggested alteration was:

"All brand new schools developed by LCC shall have a sprinkler system *considered* (rather than "installed") as part of their safety strategy. With regard to the extension of an existing school, where the capacity of a school is to increase by 50% or more, based on pupil numbers, then a sprinkler system shall be *considered for* (rather than "installed into") the resultant new facility (both the new and existing elements).

County Councillor Jackie Oakes stated that the report was completed with the evidence that the Task Group had been provided with and with the principal that the LCC standard should be the one aspired to and that a majority of the Task Group did not agree with the amendments.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- Members enquired if when circumstances merited a sprinkler system then one would be fitted. If the amendments were made to the report then it would give Members reassurance that the fitting of a sprinkler system would be considered.

- The Task Group felt that if the fitting of sprinkler systems was considered then the financial consideration became very important. The Task Group was concerned that finances should not be the important element of a decision of this nature.
- The question of are fire drills was raised. Were fire drills being done at schools and was there a register of these drills? There was no central log of fire drills but each school should have their own register. County Councillor Tomlinson informed the Committee he would speak to governors about putting general information and updates on fire drills into the Yellow Book which was issued after every term.
- Members were informed that finance was not the final arbiter in whether a sprinkler system should be installed or not. If it was deemed necessary to fit a sprinkler system on a health and safety risk assessment then one would be installed.

Resolved: That

1. The Committee note and comment on the response provided by the Cabinet Member
2. The Committee accept the Task Group report with amendments.

5. Supporting Young People

The Chair welcomed Pam Goulding, Head of Service for Skills, Learning and Development, and, Sue Procter, Director for Programmes and Project Management to the table.

A report was presented to the Scrutiny Committee providing an update and overview of the support provided to young people by the Employment Support Team within Skills, Learning and Development. This enabled and assisted young people on their pathway in to further education/employment and also promoted sustainable employment for young people.

The report gave a review of the support that had been provided through the Professional Apprentices Programme, the mentoring programme and the work LCC did towards its internal apprentice programme.

Since July 2015 the service had provided support to Children's Services, specifically to support Children Looked After and Care Leavers, where they and their social workers opt in to the services available. There is a current case load of 47 young people of which 16 are actively engaged on an employment programme and 31 working towards being placement ready.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- Members enquired when the initial programme was expanded from years 9 – 11 to include years 7 – 8 and what benefits they had gained from it. To include years 7 – 8 had been a request from the schools because they felt there were some children in these years that needed mentoring and guidance to prevent them heading down the wrong path.
- Regarding the charge the Government put on employers last year for apprenticeships, Members enquired how this had impacted on LCC and its budget. They were informed that the apprenticeship levy would come in to effect in April 2017 and the Skills, Learning and Development Team would be coming back to Management Team with a clear view of how they saw this working. In the public sector the expectation was there would be up to 2.3% expected of LCC to bring in apprenticeships. A further report was requested when this levy came in.
- Apprenticeships had been relatively successful with a majority of apprentices gaining full time employment with LCC.
- Councillors were concerned about the downward trend of apprenticeships over the last few years. One of the reasons for this was the transformation process within LCC. The budget situation at LCC had also had an effect. Hopefully with the introduction of the apprenticeship levy in April 2017 there would be a rise in apprenticeships.
- Members enquired about the employment prospects of children leaving care from private homes. They were informed that the Employment Support Team looked after children leaving LCC care homes. Members were reassured that their concerns would be taken back to Children's Services.

Resolved: That the Scrutiny Committee note the report.

6. The Superfast Broadband Lancashire Programme - Phase 1 and Phase 2 (Extension) Update

The Chair welcomed Gemma Johnson, Superfast Lancashire Project Manager, and, Richard Hothersall, Head of Service Programme Office, to the meeting.

The report outlined the outcome of Phase 1 delivery and the planned implementation of the Superfast Broadband Extension Programme (SEP)

Phase 1 would address 21% and SEP would now go on to address a further 2%, leaving 1% as the hardest to reach areas that had no Superfast Broadband (SFBB) plans. Phase 1 had been funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), BT, LCC and Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK).

Coverage of SFBB would have reached 136,051 premises by completion, and provided access to over 9,000 ERDF eligible SMEs. Over 900 structures had been built to deliver the SFBB across the white areas of Lancashire. The contract with BT measured speeds of over 24mbps to be deemed 'Superfast Broadband'. Various technologies had been deployed to provide value for money.

One hundred plus priority business sites now had access to SFBB including enhanced connectivity at the Enterprise Zone sites. The £3m Business Support Programme targeted 355 SMEs to receive minimum of 12hours intensive business support. This target had been exceeded to 507 businesses.

The Superfast Extension Programme (SEP) would be worth a maximum of £7.68m and would be funded on a 50:50 basis by BDUK and LCC. There were three phases of delivery, each lasting 12 months, staggered to commence at 6 monthly intervals. Address level coverage would only be known once build was completed. The website management was to move from BT to LCC. A communications plan was also being developed.

The Satellite Broadband Subsidy Scheme was managed by BDUK and LCC to fund those premises which could not access an affordable broadband service (at least 2Mbps) and were unlikely to benefit from the current plans. Applicants applied online, and if eligible, once accessed by LCC, were awarded the subsidy towards the cost of equipment and installation of a satellite broadband connection. The purpose of the scheme was to keep customers costs below £400 for the first year of service. The customer would have a choice of ten Satellite providers (approved by BDUK for the scheme) to choose a service from, and would take out a minimum twelve month contract.

Regarding future activity, Superfast Lancashire was building on the success of Phase 1 and learning from it. It was exploring European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-20 and European Agricultural, Farming and Rural Development Fund funding options, and, cross programme working with Lancashire Growth Hub. As part of the publically funded rollout BT had signed up to a Gainshare mechanism whereby, an element of their revenues from Superfast Broadband take up could be invested in the white areas in Lancashire to further improve coverage.

Superfast Lancashire had been exploring options to deliver to the final 1% and had been in contact with the Independent Network Cooperative Association (INCA) whose members supported the development of independent digital

networks and infrastructure, specifically that which is shared by different operators and providers, was open for use by competing operators or service providers or was owned by the communities or businesses that use it.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- Regarding Enterprise Zones councillors enquired what the timescale was for Superfast rollout. They were informed that the deployment plan was still being worked on with BT. There were some priority sites one of which was Hillhouse Enterprise Zone. As soon as the plan was available Scrutiny Committee would be updated.
- The Committee was informed there had been some damage caused by the recent floods. The flooding had caused a delay to the project. This was twofold. Some of the ducts that had been built had been saturated by the water. There had also been a delay in receiving power as Electricity North West had been involved in other flood damaged areas.
- BDUK and LCC had invested £8m in the scheme. Barring the satellite option, which was £400, it was put to the Superfast Lancashire Team if this fully covered the installation costs. The cost for the customer should not exceed £400. The subsidy cost of £100 should cover the installation.
- Members were informed that the 1% who had not got any build plans at the moment were the very rural elements but they were in the programme. There were about 7000 of these premises. More and more providers had come forward offering wireless or satellite functions. The Team were now looking at doing smaller bite size tender packages.
- It was noted by the Committee that the Government had made a commitment to provide every home and business in the UK with access to a basic broadband service, at least 2Mbps download speed. Of the 1% who had not any build plans Members enquired how many were businesses. They felt we had to focus on the opportunities for businesses. They also felt that maybe it would be cheaper for these businesses to relocate. There were about 9000 ERDF eligible businesses. There were also another 3000 eligible businesses that were not on the footprint when the ERDF money was available. A quarter of these were now in the final percent. The Superfast Lancashire Team could only target ERDF eligible businesses because of the funding at the time. The Team promised to come back to the Scrutiny Committee with more details on the businesses.
- Members were informed that all County Councillors were invited to the INCA event in October which might be held at County Hall. Details would be provided for them.

Resolved: The Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the contents of the report.

7. Report of the Planning Matters Task Group

The Chair welcomed Andrew Mullaney, Head of Planning and Environment, to the meeting.

The Task Group had presented an interim report to the Scrutiny Committee in February. The Task Group had been formed at the request of County Councillor Liz Oades after concerns had been expressed by some district councils regarding the scope, content and timeliness of Lancashire County council consultation responses particularly regarding education, highways and flood risk management.

The scope of this review was limited to the County Council's consultation responses to district councils and did not include wider planning matters.

The Task Group had undertaken a review and had prepared a series of recommendations. District Councils were consulted on the draft recommendations, which had been subsequently modified following feedback.

The Task Group's recommendations were now presented for the Committee's consideration.

Councillors were invited to ask questions and raise any comments in relation to the report, a summary of which is provided below:

- Regarding the changing roles in the Environment Agency at LCC and the reporting back on flood risk, the Committee was informed that a lot of the responsibility had transferred to LCC's Flood Risk Authority. LCC's main role now was as a statutory consultee to district councils to provide advice on local flood matters.
- The question of whether LCC was a statutory consultee regarding education contributions was raised. It was a statutory consultee where education contributions had been agreed as part of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (CIL), and amendments. It was Government policy to encourage LPAs to participate in CIL but in Lancashire the take up was fragmented.
- Members were informed that where the education contributions were part of CIL, then the LPA should consult the Education Authority to help it discharge CIL. In other areas where CIL did not apply, consultation with the Education Authority was discretionary.

- As it was not always clear that the LPA should consult the education Authority, LCC scanned the weekly lists of planning applications in all districts for schemes involving 10 or more dwellings. These were then brought to the attention of education colleagues who then decided whether to seek a developer contribution using their school provision model.
- On the subject of phased development the Committee was informed that the Authority could only consider the application brought before it, not what it might become.
- The Committee was not satisfied with the planning system as it was and Members felt that LCC should work along with the Planning Authority for a better infrastructure and there should be full infrastructure surveys. There should be better master planning and better infrastructure planning. There was no funding from developers to put an infrastructure in place. This was having an adverse effect on communities.
- It was felt that something should be put in writing for the Committee to approve and send off to Government.
- Regarding the response from Chorley Council: "Supportive of proposal to send comments to LCC Councillors and standardised conditions, provided they had been drafted in conjunction with LPAs." Members enquired what exactly the statement meant. Standardised conditions would streamline and free up officer time. Chorley planners wanted to proof check the conditions before they were standardised and did they meet the 3 tests in the National Guide.
- The Committee enquired if the County Council was trying to get a blueprint in place for infrastructure planning. The ultimate solution for this was to get much better joined up and timely land use planning and transport planning. There needed to be a strategic planned approach to housing provision, business provision and transport provision.
- LCC needed to be encouraged to look into enforcement and provide the resources to put into practice the restrictions that the developments should have. Maybe there should be ring fencing on housing application fees.
- Members would be updated on the process of the County Council and district councils working together regarding the Section 38 agreements at a later date.
- A lot of district councils did not have local plans in place and inappropriate development was taking place.

Resolved:

1. The Scrutiny Committee approve the recommendations of the Task Group
2. Request a response from the appropriate Cabinet Members for the July meeting of the Scrutiny Committee
3. Prepare a letter for the Scrutiny Committee to approve and send to the DCLG.

8. Work Plan and Task Group Update

The Work Plan was presented to the Committee regarding upcoming topics and future topics not yet scheduled as well as an update on ongoing Task Groups and Task Groups that had recently been established.

County Councillor Crompton requested that counter terrorism be included with the Community Safety item to be discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 22nd July.

Wendy Broadley, Scrutiny Officer, had sent out a meeting request to Scrutiny Committee Members for a work planning session taking place after the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13th May.

Resolved: That the Scrutiny Committee note the Work Plan and Task Group Update report.

9. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will take place on Friday 13th May 2016 at 10.00 in Cabinet Room B (The Diamond Jubilee Room) at the County Hall, Preston.

I Young
Director of Governance, Finance
and Public Services

County Hall
Preston

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 13 May 2016

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

EP&R and FRM Joint Report Winter Floods 2015

(Appendices A - C refer)

Contact for further information:

Alan Wilton, (01772) 538877, Head of Emergency Planning & Resilience,

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Rachel Crompton, (01772) 530150, Flood Risk Manager,

rachel.crompton@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The report outlines the County Council's involvement in response and recovery, and the subsequent flood risk management activities, to the wide-spread floods in December 2015. The report includes reference to the engagement with affected parties, organisational partners, central government and the Environment Agency; and the longer-term measures that might be required to improve flood risk management.

Recommendation

That the response to date be noted and the Committee's advice on further appropriate response activities be expressed.

Background

Severe Weather November/December 2015

Severe weather impacted Lancashire over the weekend of 14/15 November 2015 resulting in a number of flood warnings being issued in respect of Ribchester and Whalley in the Ribble Valley, Padiham in Burnley and Samlesbury and Walton-le-Dale, South Ribble.

In respect of Ribble Valley, temporary flood defences were deployed around Ribchester and Whalley by the Environment Agency and the Military, and rest centres (Longridge Civic Hall - Ribchester residents and Roefield Leisure Centre - Whalley residents) were activated in preparation for residents needing to be evacuated from the affected areas, see summary report – Appendix A.

Fortunately the weather dissipated and the temporary flood defences proved successful in mitigating any serious flood damage to property.

From Friday 4 to Sunday 6 December, **Storm Desmond** brought heavy rain to Lancashire which led to flooding at St Michaels on Wyre and parts of Lancaster. On Sunday evening a Severe Flood Warning was issued for the River Wyre at St. Michaels.

In Lancaster, the majority of the flooding was confined in and around Lancaster City Centre leading to the closure of Greyhound Bridge and Skerton Bridge across the River Lune. There were also many roads closed in the area due to the flooding and travel between Morecambe and Lancaster was seriously affected as was the West Coast Main Line (including Lancaster Railway Station).

The flooding also severely affected an electrical sub-station near Garstang causing a loss of power to approximately 64,000 properties in the Lancaster and Garstang areas.

A further rainfall event on Saturday 12 December 2015, on top of still saturated land, meant that river levels, brooks, streams and water catchments rose extremely quickly which resulted in a number of river levels reaching their all-time level highs. 17 flood warnings were issued across the county for Ribble Valley, Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale and a Severe Flood Warning was issued again for the River Wyre at St Michaels. This event resulted in the flooding of a number of properties and businesses in Ribble Valley. (Following consultation/discussion by LCC with Central Government it was confirmed this was as a direct consequence of Storm Desmond, and those affected in Ribble Valley would qualify for grants and payments.)

The Christmas period was also unsettled, wet and mild. **Storm Eva** brought gales and heavy rain on Christmas Eve with another Atlantic depression bringing heavy rain and flooding to north-west England. These storms brought with them exceptionally high levels of rainfall (The rainfall total across Lancashire was 95mm/over 37" in 36 hours.) falling on already saturated ground, leading to numerous flooding situations.

At its height there were **54 Flood Warnings** in place across the County.

In Lancashire, record-breaking river levels were recorded during December 2015 by the Environment Agency at:

- River Ribble at Samlesbury (South Ribble district) – previous highest level: 5.97m; 26 December 2015 recorded 6.38m;
- River Lune at Caton (Lancaster district) – previous highest level: 5.83m/ 5 December 2015 recorded 7.06m.

To assist in understanding the relative scale of river flows, the Environment Agency's early estimates for the events in December 2015 are as follows:

- River Calder experienced 1 in 200 year flows
- River Douglas experienced 1 in 100 year flows
- Pendle Water experienced 1 in 100 year flows
- River Ribble experienced 1 in 100 year flows
- River Yarrow experienced 1 in 75 year flows
- River Lune experienced 1 in 250 year flows

Appendix B provides a graphical representation of river flows across the country (courtesy of the Environment Agency).

The effects of Storm Desmond and Storm Eva meant that all 12 Lancashire districts (and Blackburn with Darwen Council) were affected by the floods.

In summary:

- **1,791 household** and **532 business** had flooding to habitable internal rooms. (These businesses/households have successfully applied for flood grants but there were also numerous other premises that were flooded internally that have either not made applications or are awaiting confirmation of their application. Confirmation of these numbers is one of the priorities of the data assessment still underway.)
- In addition, it is estimated that over **7,031 businesses were directly affected** (but not flooded), due mainly to loss of electricity, predominantly in Lancaster during Storm Desmond, and denial of access due to flooded roads and closure of storm damaged bridges.
- Military Aid was deployed during both storms across Lancashire to assist with repairs to the breaches and support to the communities.

In addition many more properties were adversely affected by flooding to garages, porches, cellars, outbuildings and access roads (either obstructed by temporary flood water or by longer-term structural safety problems). In addition, many thousands lost power when transmission routes for gas and electricity were knocked out by flood water, and a number of water treatment plants were unable to function normally. Power losses also affected transmission of mobile telephone signals as base station's emergency power supplies failed to cope with the prolonged event.

The full scale of the flooding impact is still being collected by Lancashire County Council's flood risk management team from records made by organisational partners including LCC Highways, District Councils, the Environment Agency and United Utilities plc. However we can already advise on the basis of these statistics that the flooding of December 2015 has been unparalleled by any recent experience in the county.

LCC (Acute) Response to the Flood Events

The council's core role in the event of flooding emergencies is, in the first instance, to provide support and assistance to the emergency services in protecting life and property.

Our other responsibilities are to mitigate the consequences of the emergency on the community by:

- assisting people who have been evacuated through the provision of rest centres (eg. on Boxing Day 5 centres were opened across the county).
- lead on the identification of vulnerable people/premises and the assessment of their needs (eg. On New Year's Eve, LCC Emergency Planning worked in liaison with RVBC to access support from Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and British Red Cross to provide emotional support, both deployed resources into Whalley).
- responding to incidents on the public highway (Highways staff were out in force during all these events and over the Boxing Day weekend, including more than 70 people who were called in from leave.) and infrastructure (i.e. bridges)
- ensuring priority LCC services continue to be delivered
- informing the public as part of the multi-agency response

LCC responded to the incidents in November and December both on the ground through highways carrying out clearing operations, traffic management, flooding mitigation of key assets etc.; LCC Emergency Response Group and social (adult and children's) care support at rest centres and to communities; waste management during clean up operations; but also behind the scenes managing the response as part of the multi-agency effort to support the population and mitigate the effects of the multiple incidents through work in communications, strategic and tactical co-ordination, ensuring support to vulnerable people, arranging support to communities, working closely with districts, emergency services, military, EA, utility providers, health providers etc. and acting as a main conduit between the local response and central government. Alongside dealing with flooding issues to LCC premises themselves.

The storm incidents (Desmond and Eva) created large amounts of pressure on LCC as they impacted on every district within the County. A two-tiered tactical response was deployed by the multi-agency management structure due to the geographical spread of the impacts, with district councils taking the lead for their specific areas and LCC supporting the county wide emergency services response. All supported by an overarching strategic response with LCC representation by EP&R service and the Director On Call arrangements.

Though the ongoing debrief process will undoubtedly identify areas for improvement, it is generally felt that the emergency response phase was managed effectively given the unique nature of this incident, the time of year and available LCC resources. It should be noted that although there was a large impact on properties across the whole county, no lives were lost in Lancashire as a direct result of the flooding.

Flood Risk Management aspect of Response to flood events

As identified above, the flood risk management aspect of the Response was focused primarily on protecting people and property, and an essential subsidiary target was to maintain emergency access for those in need of this protection along the local road network.

Records made by affected parties and by the various responding organisations are proving extremely valuable resources for the investigation of the ways in which flooding has happened at various locations around Lancashire. They are leading to an understanding of how interventions might help to reduce future risk of flooding (either severity or frequency).

Recovery phase of response to flooding events

On Friday 01 January 2016, SCG (multi-agency Strategic Coordinating Group) announced that the events had moved to Recovery phase, and activities thereafter have been managed locally by the district authorities supported and coordinated through the Strategic Recovery Coordinating Group (SRCG) and its subgroups, supported and led by LCC services.

The recovery phase is still underway and may continue for some months.

The Recovery phase of managing the flooding events is focused on helping those individuals and households affected to return to 'normality' and impacted businesses to be able to trade again and return to their 'business as normal' status. The recovery phase provided LCC, together with organisational partners, new opportunities to engage with affected communities to raise awareness of flood risk management issues and explain the opportunities available to individuals and to communities to take control of their own risks and manage them.

The structures and functions of the strategic recovery process is outlined in the report presented to Management Team (14 March 2016) – Appendix C (since the production of this report the specific figures have and continue to change, this was the position at that time).

Learning

An internal (LCC) debrief of the acute phase of the Winter Floodings has taken place and the findings are being finalised for a report to LCC Management Team.

Findings which have a wider impact have been fed into the multi-agency pan Lancashire debrief conducted by the Local Resilience Forum and key issues will be taken from here to inform national discussions. The Emergency Planning & Resilience Service will also share these findings with other affected counties eg. Cumbria, to ensure learning from other areas experiences can be gained.

The recovery phase is still underway and once complete will be followed by various debriefs to capture lessons – many have already been incorporated into the ongoing process as the recovery phase develops and changes.

Learnings are and will be incorporated into future iterations of plans and operational practice, as is the norm, with the aim of continually improving the response to such incidents.

Consultations

n/a

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk implications in this report

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
n/a	n/a	n/a

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

Severe Weather Incident – November 2015

Introduction

Following notification on 12th November from the Met Office, the Emergency Planning & Resilience Service were involved in a severe weather incident over the weekend of 14th and 15th November. The Met Office issued an amber warning with a medium likelihood of significant river and surface water flooding impacts in parts of Lancashire.

Leading up to the weekend

Due to the likely impacts of the severe weather, the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) meeting on Friday 13th declared a major incident under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Declaring a major incident allows multi-agency partners including local authorities, emergency services and environment agency to coordinate their response together through the SCG. The top priorities for the SCG were to minimise risk to the public, maximise safety to the public and responders, work together to contain the emergency, warn and inform the public effectively and to ensure critical services to local communities are maintained.



One of the decisions from the SCG on Friday 13th was to set up a countywide Tactical Coordination Group (TCG) which would link to the SCG and into local TCG's in the most affected areas across Lancashire. Coordination at the local TCG was important, with the Districts, Police Flood Liaison Officers and LCC Highways Service working together to monitor the surrounding areas.

The LCC response had begun on the Friday 13th with coordination between Emergency Planning & Resilience, Highway Services, Flood Risk Management and Customer Contact Centre in preparation for the weekend to minimise the risk to local communities. Emergency Planning & Resilience had also given prior notice to the Emergency Response Group and the voluntary agencies regarding events over the weekend.

Saturday 14th November

As the weather conditions deteriorated on Saturday, the Environment Agency issued five flood warnings with the likelihood raising to severe flood warnings in Padiham, Ribchester and Whalley. Due to the uncertainty whether the flood warnings would rise to severe flood warnings, temporary flood defences were set up coordinated between the Environment Agency and the Military. The photographs above and below show the flood defences that were deployed around the affected areas in Ribble Valley.



With the uncertainty of the rising to severe flood warnings, it was agreed at the countywide TCG to begin putting plans in place in case there was a need to evacuate residents later on in the evening. The areas most affected by the severe weather were Padiham, Whalley and Ribchester collectively having over 900 properties.

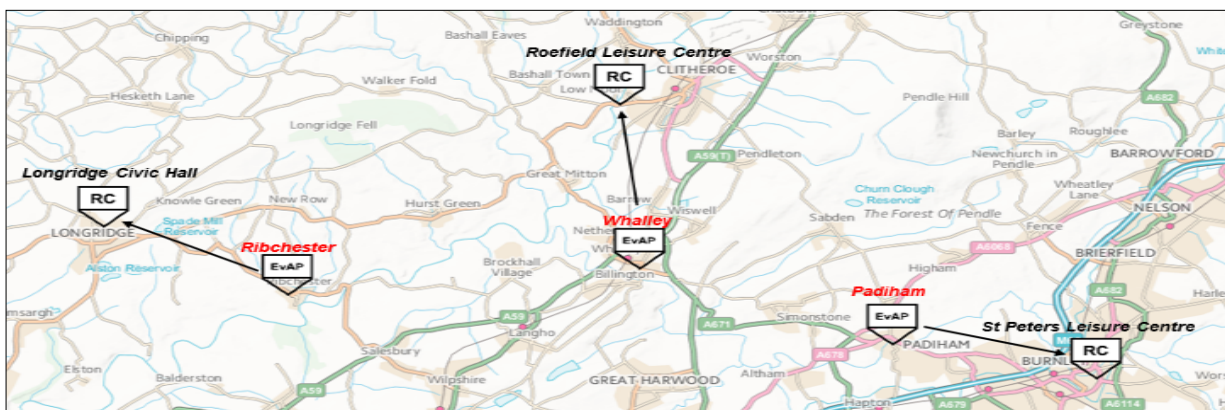
Coordination of the Rest Centres

This resulted in the coordination between Emergency Planning & Resilience and the local District Councils (Burnley and Ribble Valley Borough Council) to activate 3 emergency rest centres at St Peters Leisure Centre, Longridge Civic Hall and Roefield Leisure Centre. Activating the rest centres meant requiring the support of the Emergency Response Group (ERG) - Lancashire County Council staff who on a voluntary base are able to staff the rest centres.

The ERG out of hours on call team leader was able to activate a core team of members to each of the rest centres, while Emergency Planning & Resilience activated the Emergency Support Unit (ESU) Vehicle which has key equipment for the ERG to use in the rest centre. The coordination of the rest centres went via the Emergency Planning & Resilience team to the out of hours on call team leader to the ERG members at the rest centre.

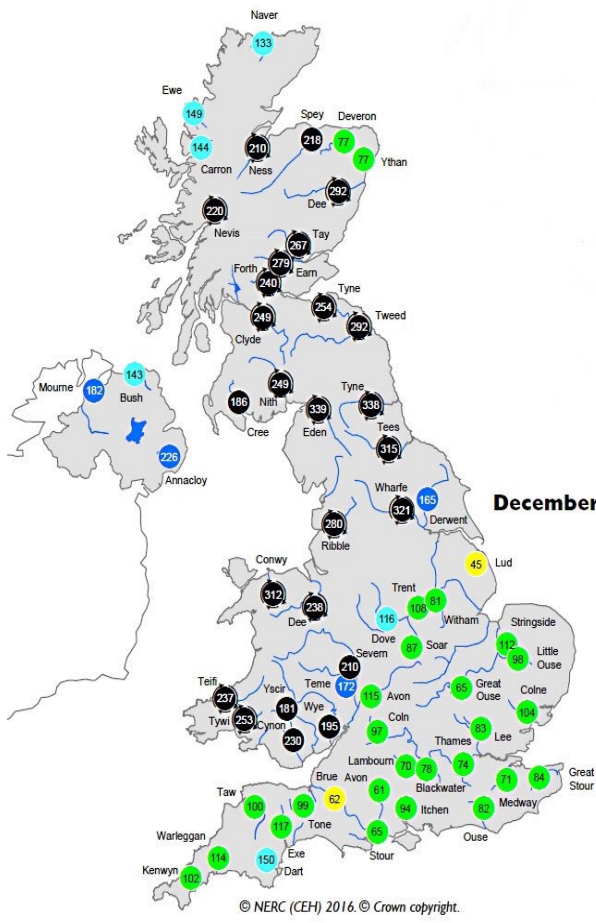
The activation of the rest centres also meant calls being made to eight different voluntary agencies for example such as British Red Cross and Salvation Army. The voluntary agencies were put on standby in case the rest centres needed support due to the volume of evacuees.

One of the decisions to be made was how to get the potential evacuees to the rest centres. This involved coordination between LCC Emergency Planning & Resilience and LCC Public Integrated Transport. Passing over the key details of what was required, the Public Integrated Transport team were able to put 7 x 52 seater coaches on standby in readiness of any evacuees that would be required to go to the rest centres. Discussions were also ongoing within regards to vulnerable persons and Public Integrated Transport had the potential to access Travelcare buses with wheel chair access. The picture below highlights the operation between Lancashire County Council services, Burnley Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council by establishing which evacuees from the affected areas would go to which rest centre allowing for the transport to be divided between the three areas effectively.



Conclusion

Even though the flood warnings did not escalate to severe flood warnings, and the evacuation of residents from their homes was not required, to prepare for such an event needs to be coordinated and effective as services from all different organisations came together to plan and to minimise disruption to the local communities. The work done internally at LCC was well received and continued into Sunday and Monday where Emergency Planning & Resilience were liaising with LCC Highways and partner agencies in continuing to minimise the disruption on local communities.



River flows



per second was the maximum recorded river flow on the Lune - the equivalent of filling an Olympic size swimming pool in 2 seconds! The highest flow of any river ever recorded in England!

Flooding – Transfer from Acute to Recovery & Current Position

Introduction

A Strategic Recovery Coordinating Group (SRCG) had already been established, 14 December 2015 following the impacts from Storm Desmond. Discussions took place and it was agreed to combine recovery for both storms and official handover from response to recovery for Storm Eva took place on 01 January 2016.

As the flooding had affected more than one local authority, Lancashire County Council (LCC) took the chair of the Strategic Recovery Coordinating Group (SRCG). All twelve of the Lancashire districts and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council were affected.

Overview of Groups and current position

<p>Strategic Recovery Coordinating Group Chair (up to 29/02/2016): George Graham, Director - LCC Pension Fund Chair (from 29/02/2016): Mike Kirby , Director of Commissioning Support: Emergency Planning and Resilience Service</p>
<p>Membership: SRCG subgroup chairs, LCC Emergency Planning and Resilience, LCC Flood Risk Management, LCC District Authorities, Environment Agency, Lancashire Community Foundation, Regenerate Pennine Lancashire (BOOST), BIS (Cities and Local Growth) and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maintain a strategic overview of the recovery response within Lancashire; ▪ To co-ordinate any overarching issues; and ▪ Establish a sub groups to provide overarching support and leadership to the affected districts' Recovery Groups. <p>A number of important areas of recovery work were identified and the following subgroups were established to address these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business and Economy; ▪ Communications; ▪ Community Resilience; ▪ Finance and Legal; and ▪ Infrastructure. <p>Ministerial Recovery Group and Bilateral teleconferences The SRCG chair or nominated representative dials into the weekly Government Ministerial Recovery Group (MRG) chaired by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Greg Clark, MP.</p>

Standing MRG agenda items include:

- Property Level Flood Resilience Grant;
- Community Grant (£500 household payment);
- Business Support Grant; and
- Update of local infrastructure recovery programmes.

Other recent agenda items have included updates on the impact on the tourism, communications and a Mystery Shopper Exercise.

The Lancashire Bilateral teleconferences chaired by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and Flood Envoy, Rory Stewart MP generally focus on the top 10 local infrastructure recovery programmes and the funding and support required to address these more rapidly.

More recently the emphasis has started to move towards tourism and business recovery with a focus on the funding grants and other schemes available and the reasons for the slow uptake.

Business and Economy

Chair: Martin Kelly, Director of Economic Development

Membership: LCC Business and Economy, LCC Emergency Planning and Resilience, District Authorities, Regenerate Pennine Lancashire (BOOST), BIS (Cities and Local Growth) and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Objectives:

- To maintain an overview of the impacts on local businesses and wider economy and the issues and support required for those businesses; and
- Provision of information for Central Government on progress on recovery and the uptake of the various flood recovery schemes made available to assist business.

Current Position

Flooded and Affected Businesses

In total, local authorities reported 539 businesses as being flooded and an additional 32 affected as a direct result of the floods.

Flood Recovery Grant Scheme

Boost Business Lancashire LEP Growth Hub were appointed by LCC to administer the Flood Recovery Grant Scheme which is funded by the Department for Business Innovation & Skills.

As at 04 March 16, 243 applications had been received, of which 139 were eligible, equating to £437,455 in approved grants. To-date 131 businesses have received a share of £415,465. A further 89 applications are pending and 15 have been rejected or withdrawn.

LCC and district authorities continue to work closely with affected businesses to offer advice and signpost to the various grants available to them.

Communications

Chair: Tim Seamans, Head of Service Communications

Membership: LCC Communications, District Authorities, Public Health England, Environment Agency, and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Objectives:

- to ensure co-ordinated, consistent communications around the recovery process
- To keep the Strategic Recovery Co-ordinating Group informed about communications activities
- To ensure the visibility of agencies through the recovery process

Current Position

The Communication subgroup continues to provide the mechanism for ensuring consistent messages are provided to the affected communities. Key messages have included:

- How to apply for the household and business funding made available by government www.lancsfloodappeal.org.uk for households and <http://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk> for businesses, and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-the-farming-recovery-fund-frf> for farming businesses.
- Updates on the work of Individual organisations who are working on 'flood recovery' work – taking measures to repair damage, minimise flood levels and investigate all measures which might reduce the likelihood of future flooding to property and reduce the damage that might occur if flooding does still happen.

Community Resilience

Chair: Alan Wilton, Head of Service Emergency Planning And Resilience

Membership: LCC Emergency Planning And Resilience, LCC Trading Standards, LCC Flood Risk Management, Communication subgroup Chair, District Authorities, Environment Agency, Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, Lancashire Community Foundation, HSE

Objectives:

The purpose of the group is to engage with communities throughout Lancashire and to coordinate the resources that are available to them.

Current Position

A list of the different community flood groups across Lancashire has been created. Ten multiagency roadshows were held across Lancashire to provide a drop-in resource for information to affected communities and businesses. Attendance typically included: District Authority, Environment Agency, LCC Trading Standards, LCC Emergency Planning And Resilience Service, Flood Advisory Service, LF&RS Community Fire Safety Practitioner and Newground.

Roadshow locations

District / location	Date	Venue
Pendle – Earby	Thursday, 21 st January	New Road Community Centre New Rd, Earby, Barnoldswick, BB18 6XA
West Lancashire – Parbold	Monday, 25 th January	Parbold Village Hall 2 The Green, Parbold, Wigan, WN8 7DN
Lancaster – City Centre	Tuesday, 26 th January	Our Lady's Catholic College Morecambe Rd, Lancaster, LA1 2RX

Wyre – St Michaels and Churchtown	Wednesday, 27 th January	The Grapes Public House, Garstang Road, St Michaels, PR3 0TJ
Chorley – Croston	Thursday, 28 th January	Chorley Town Hall, Lancastrian Suite Market Street, Chorley, PR7 1DP
West Lancashire – Ormskirk	Monday, 1 st February	Fiveways Pub, County Road, Ormskirk, L39 1NN
South Ribble – Leyland	Tuesday, 2 nd February	Civic Centre, West Paddock; Leyland; PR25 1DH
Burnley - Padiham	Wednesday, 3 rd February	St Leonard's Primary School, Moor Lane, Padiham, Burnley, Lancashire, BB12 8HT
Ribble Valley – Whalley/Billington Ribchester	Wednesday, 10 th February	Whalley Village Hall Accrington Road BB7 9TD
Rosendale – Irwell Vale	Wednesday, 10 th February	Irwell Vale Nursery, Milne Street, Irwell Vale, Rosendale BL0 0QP
<p>Next steps are to build on the momentum of the community resilience work already underway in response to the floods and to develop greater community resilience and cohesion. Group has agreed to hand over to LRF wide group to develop Community Resilience (wider remit than flooding) across communities in Lancashire.</p>		

Finance and Legal

Chair: Damon Lawrenson, Interim Director Of Financial Resources

Membership: LCC Head Of Service Exchequer Services, District Authorities.

Objectives:

- To maintain an overview of the financial aspects of recovery; and
- To provide advice and guidance to the district authorities on the application of the various financial grant schemes.

Current Position

As of the 16 February 16 1,970 households and 539 businesses were reported as being flooded.

Property Level Flood Resilience Grant (PLFRG)

Individual districts authorities are responsible for administering the Property Level Flood Resilience Grant (PLFRG) set up to fund measures which improve a property's resilience or resistance to damage from flooding, over and above repairs that would normally be covered by insurance. This grant is available to both eligible

households and businesses.

Government Ministers are particularly interested on increasing the uptake of the PLFRG. Discussions have taken place at the weekly MRG to establish the exact issues that District Councils have in relation to resources required to deliver the schemes. The national guidance has now been updated to allow district authorities to charge the cost of surveys, including aborted ones, against the grant. As of the 29th February, 157 applications had been received and only 3 payments awarded.

Community Support Payments (£500 householder grant)

Under the Communities and Business Recovery Scheme the Government provided local authorities with funding worth over £500 for every household flooded by the storms. This funding is intended to help with recovery costs, such as clean up and temporary accommodation. These are administered directly by the district authorities. Of the 1,969 households eligible on the 16th February to receive the payment, 1,961 have received payments totalling £812,900 and 3 have declined the grant.

Council tax and business rate relief

Other schemes are in place such as the suspension of council tax and business rate relief for eligible households and those business flooded or indirectly affected where a loss of business can be directly attributed to the storms. These are administered directly by the district authorities.

Bellwin Scheme

All districts have been advised to register for the Bellwin Scheme.

Infrastructure

Chair: Mike Kirby, Director Corporate Commissioning

Membership: LCC Highways Asset Management, LCC Emergency Planning And Resilience, District Authorities, Environment Agency, and Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Objectives:

- The purpose of the group is to capture the full picture throughout the county and to coordinate actions by all agencies.

Current Position

A large number of bridges, highways and river embankments were affected by the severe weather. A list of damaged infrastructure has been produced in conjunction with LCC Highways Asset Management, district authorities and the Environment Agency. This list includes information on damage to minor roads, bridges, public rights of way, footpaths, school premises and countryside.

Ministers requested a top 10 priority list to detail that infrastructure (highways, bridges and breaches), deemed to have the most significant impact on the communities. The Department of Transport have provided £5m funding to assist in

the recovery.

Other areas of work

Commonly Recognised Information Picture (CRIP)

The LCC Emergency Planning and Resilience service provides support to deliver weekly data and information updates into the Commonly Recognised Information Picture (CRIP) that the Cabinet Office use to provide Ministers and Whitehall departments with the data impacts and progress. At the start of the recovery process, this was achieved by obtaining and collating information from district authorities on a daily basis.

The long awaited DCLG Flood Recovery and Funding Portal finally went live on the 08 February 16, this allows the district to enter and submit their information directly to DCLG. The Emergency Planning and Resilience service continues to share updates on the Flood Recovery Grant Scheme and Community Flood Appeal, detailed below.

The Community Flood Appeal

The Community Foundation for Lancashire is administering the Community Flood Appeal on behalf of Lancashire County Council. This scheme offers eligible individuals and families in greater need to access further financial support.

Position as at 04 March 2016:

Funding received	Totals
Lancashire County Council	£123,500
General donations	£469,247
Government match funding	£100,000
Total Funds	£692,747
Costs deducted	£43,962
Number of grants approved	212
Value of grants approved	£438,206
Balance available	£210,579

Donations

Information on a number of individual and corporate donations were received into LCC Emergency Planning and Resilience service. Donations included household cleaning products and small domestic appliances from YPO, and a quantity of LEGO items, toys, PJs and water bottles from LEGO. These were kindly housed by the depot at Cuerden until they could be distributed.

Recommendation

Item for Management team information – no action required

Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 13 May 2016

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Work Plan and Task Group Update

Appendix A refers

Contact for further information:

Wendy Broadley, Principal Overview & Scrutiny Officer, 07825 584684
wendy.broadley@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The plan set out at Appendix 'A' summarises the work to be undertaken by the Committee in the coming months, including an update on Task Group work. The information will be updated and presented to each meeting of the Committee for information

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note the report

Background and Advice

Information on the current status of work being undertaken by the Committee and Task Groups is presented to each meeting for information

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no significant risk management implications

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
n/a	n/a	n/a
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		

Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2016

13.5.16

26 February 2016		Interim Report of the Planning Matters Task Group	Andrew Mullaney	
		Syrian Family Settlement	Saulo Cwerner	
8 April 2016		Supporting Young People	Sue Procter/Pam Goulding	
		Superfast Broadband Roll Out - Update	Sean McGrath	
		Cabinet Member Response to the report of the Fire Suppression Measures Task Group	CC Matthew Tomlinson	
		Planning Matters Task Group – final report	Andrew Mullaney	

13 May 2016		Emergency Planning Response to Flooding in Lancashire	Alan Wilton & Jim Walker (EA)	
17 June 2016		Transforming Social Care	Tony Pounder	
		Lancashire Enterprise Partnership - Update	Martin Kelly	
22 July 2016		Community Safety Update	TBC	
		Commissioning Update	Steve Browne	
		Highways & related services	Karen Cassar	

Future Topics: not yet scheduled

- Bus Services and Subsidies
- Rail Travel – Update on developments since Task Group
- Property Strategy

Scrutiny Committee Work Plan 2016

- Community Assets
- United Utilities –Report on the Water Contamination Issue

Task Groups

The following task and finish groups are ongoing or have recently been established:

- Planning Matters – final report agreed awaiting response from Cabinet Member
- Fire Prevention Measures in Schools - concluded
- Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) & Sub-Committee involving Districts

Committee Sub-Groups

- Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
 - SEND
 - YOT

Briefing notes

- Combined Authority – updated to be provided by Chief Executive

