

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**CUSTOMER, COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5
DECEMBER 2016****UPDATE ON DRAINAGE AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD
MANAGEMENT**

The purpose of this briefing note is to update the Committee on activity to minimise the risk and impact of flooding on residents and businesses in the borough.

1. The total amount of rainfall during the winter season 2016 (October 2015 to March 2016) has been 422mm.
2. The average rainfall for the area is 256mm.
3. The total amount rainfall for the year so far is 643mm (January 2016 to October 2016)
4. The Ironbridge Flood Barriers have been deployed once this year (Feb 2016) and proved to be successful. We have improved communications with businesses and local residents which has received a very positive response.
5. A new flood alert system for the Coalbrookdale Watercourse has been implemented (the Coalbrookdale Watercourse is identified as a rapid response catchment area) which is the result of partnership working with the National Flood Forum and the Environment Agency. Automated messages are sent to residents issuing a flood warning.
6. This season we have trialled supplying Floodsax to those properties that are vulnerable to flash flooding. Usually during flood events when there are requests for sand bags it is too late by the time the sandbags arrive. Providing the Floodsax prior to the flood season gives the occupier some assurance. The benefit of the Floodsax is that they are vacuum packed and have a 5 year shelf life. They are proving to be a huge success.
7. The Council is currently working with the Environment Agency to modify existing funding bids to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). These bids relate to properties in Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge which are currently not defended by the Ironbridge Flood Barriers. The installation of Individual Property Resilience products, such as flood resistant doors and airbrick covers, will ensure that the damage caused during a flood event will be limited, and each property will be made more resilient to future flood events. This partnership project will also investigate the potential for natural flood management in the upper catchment.

8. This year we are trialling a new rainfall weather forecasting service. This enables the Council to give early warning to those properties and businesses susceptible to flooding and also enables us to manage surface water flooding incidents better. The forecasting is specific to Telford and Wrekin and provides dedicated forecasting 24hrs a day. It is extremely accurate.
9. Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the drainage team is now a statutory consultee in the planning process (April 2015) on drainage to promote the adoption of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and ensure new developments are sustainable and not at risk from surface water flooding.
10. We are currently working with 9 other local authorities on a developers' guidance manual for sustainable drainage which is due to be published in early 2017.
11. Highway drainage maintenance continues through the year, with 36,000 gullies in the borough. Within current budgets we are able to cleanse approximately 16,000 gullies per annum.