

# Flooding Incidents in June & July 2012



*Lessons Identified & Future Resilience*



# Overview

- The first flood incident occurred on 22<sup>nd</sup> June with little warning about the severe rainfall actually experienced.
- This resulted in the flooding of major roads, residential properties, and commercial businesses mainly in the Darwen area causing evacuations and major traffic disruption.
- Flood waters left considerable contaminated sludge behind resulting in an extensive clearing and cleaning programme.
- Serious damage was inflicted on key drainage infrastructure, culverts, highways, properties, parks and pathways.



# Overview

- Two further flood events over the following two weeks occurred with different impact scales.
- On 28<sup>th</sup> June similar flooding was experienced to the first instance but was less severe and shorter lived.
- On the 6th July localised flooding was reported mainly in Darwen Town Centre and Lower Darwen Area.
- A private property on Railway Road, Darwen has suffered structural damage to rear of the building



# Overview

Within the Borough the main reasons for flooding were as follows;

- Drainage systems were inundated with excessive volume of water within short amount of timescale
- Blockages within underground culvert
- Surcharge of river Darwen
- Surcharge of United Utilities sewer system

# Overview

- Council's overall response was largely effective, timely, co-ordinated and:
  - provided leadership within the community
  - protected life and property
  - safeguarded the environment
  - Provided timely restorative, investigative and repairs works for affected infrastructure.
- A review of the response highlighted some emergency response issues concerning the three flood incident occurrences.
- New £1m reserve agreed for investment in flood prevention to reduce future impacts.



# Service Risk, Resources & Staff

- Council services and buildings to examine the risk posed to them by flooding.
- Council's Employment Agency to assist in providing trained staff during emergencies to support existing resources.
- Provision of additional training and equipment for operational emergency response staff.
- Mutual aid arrangements with other local authorities to be reviewed.





# Emergency Plan Reviews

- Council's Flood Plan to be reviewed, including:
  - Increasing sensitivity to weather/flood warnings.
  - Earlier communication of flooding to corporate level.
  - Re-clarification of team roles.
  - Focus of resource planning and staff rotas
  - Review of sandbag policy
- Humanitarian Assistance Plan to be completed to ensure arrangements for supporting those affected.
- Emergency Control Centre Plan to include clearer activation decision making.



# Multi-Agency Co-ordination & Tactical Officers

- Early establishment of multi-agency structures for flooding incidents.
- Initial multi-agency flood plan activation procedures to be reviewed.
- Tactical Officer numbers to be expanded to allow for a primary and secondary on-call role at all times.
- All high risk events to have a designated Tactical Officer.





# Communication

- Establishment of public helpline and routes for elected members communications to be established.
- Media protocols to be revisited to ensure standard procedures are followed.
- Commercial business engagement to be formalised for future emergency responses.
- Key internal team contacts to be shared on the intranet to assist in effective, timely and direct communications.



# Flood Prevention Investment



- To date the Council has spent £ 80 K on immediate response and investigation works.
- Permanent repair cost to highway resurfacing works is estimated around £ 150 K.
- Total repair cost of underground infrastructure at Knott St and Union St, Darwen is estimated around £ 130 K.
- Total repair cost of underground infrastructure across the Borough will be determined once we have completed all the investigation works, however it is estimated in region of £120 K.
- EA have spent £ 400 K on Clarence Street culvert repair work on A666 and have asked Council for a contribution.
- Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC) have approved £ 80 K for improvement on Bury Fold Brook culvert.