



West  
Northamptonshire  
Council

# Flood and Water Management Service



# Flooding impacts

- Serious issue for communities and businesses
- Disruptive to home life, business continuity
- Difficulties with insurance (Flood Re)
- Impact on WNC activities:
  - Direct service impacts (e.g. waste)
  - Impacts via increased demand (e.g. social care)
  - Diversion of resources to deal with emergencies

# Flood types

- Types of flooding:
  - Fluvial (river)
  - Pluvial (surface runoff)
  - Groundwater
  - Coastal (not an issue for WNC)
- Type of 'river':
  - 'Main river' – Environment agency
  - 'Ordinary watercourse' – WNC
- WNC responsibilities:
  - Surface runoff
  - Ground water
  - Ordinary watercourse

# WNC flood and water duties

- WNC: Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and land drainage authority
- Main legislation: Flood and Water Management Act 2010, Flood Risk Regulations 2009 and Land Drainage Act 1991
- Duties:
  - Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan
  - Investigating flooding incidents (s19)
  - Statutory consultee on major planning applications
  - Consenting and enforcing flood defence issues (s23)
  - Register of flood risk management assets
  - Co-ordinating flood risk management
  - Flood Risk Regulations requirements
- Powers e.g. removal of obstructions in watercourses.

# Flood & Water Service

- Delivers WNC flood and water duties
- Works with Environment Agency
- Supports WNC Members at Regional Flood & Coastal Committees:
  - Anglian (Great Ouse)
  - Anglian Northern
  - English Severn and Wye
  - Thames
- Engages with partners
- Supports RAIN project

# Current Resources

- Entire team vacant posts
- Should comprise:
  - Flood & Water Manager
  - Senior Flood Risk Officer (Drainage)
  - Senior Flood Risk Officer (Investigations)
  - Flood Risk Officer
  - Flood and Water Support Officer
- Currently using consultancy, agency workers, Bedford Group of Land Drainage Boards to provide some service
- Ability to deliver proactive support very limited (RAIN only)
- £257k pa net budget



# Actions

- Appointment of new consultant
- Approval to recruit team
- Recruitment



# RAIN

- Resilience And Innovation in Northamptonshire
- Funded by EA grant
- Wootton Brook (WNC) and Harper's Brook (NNC) catchments
- Innovative ways of reducing the risk and harm of flooding, e.g.:
  - Natural flood management
  - Community flood wardens

# RAIN team

- In post
- Posts are:
  - RAIN Programme Manager
  - Project Officer
  - Project Support Officer

# Results

- More effective and efficient service
- Building up local knowledge
- Ability to redirect resources
- Build local partnership
- West Northamptonshire better prepared for flood risk
- Proposed partnership with University of Northampton