

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

STORM BABET – FLOODING RESPONSE1. Purpose of Report

To provide Members with details of the Council's response to the flooding caused by Storm Babet.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to NOTE the contents of the report.

3. Detail

Following Storm Babet on 19 and 20 October 2023, 243 properties, both domestic and commercial, that experienced flooding across the Broxtowe area. As part of the Flood Response, Nottinghamshire County Council became the lead authority with Broxtowe supplying support where appropriate.

In the four-week period following the storm, the Council has supported residents and businesses with the clear up. At the time of writing, over 80 tonnes of flood damaged waste and 70 fridges have been collected from households. The Council has also provided a number of skips to affected businesses, collecting 30 tonnes of waste.

Collections from affected households are expected to continue on an ad hoc basis until the beginning of December. This is to ensure that residents still waiting for an insurance assessor visit, still has access to the collection service.

In addition to the Council's support, the government announced several initiatives that would be administered by Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council. These schemes are similar to those offered after Storm Ciara and Storm Dennis in 2020. These schemes are:

- **Council Tax Relief:** Broxtowe Borough Council are administering a 100% Council Tax discount for those properties that were affected as a result of internal flooding following Storm Babet, for at least three months. Applications for this scheme are online and as of 16 November 2023, relief had been awarded to 187 properties in the borough.
- **Community Grant:** Broxtowe Borough Council are administering a grant of £500 to support domestic properties that were flooded as a result of Storm Babet. As of 16 November 2023, grants totalling £95,000 to 190 households have been awarded.
- **Business Rates Relief:** Similar to the Council Tax relief, this will be awarded to businesses that were flooded as a result of Storm Babet and pay Business Rates. They will be provided with a minimum of three months of 100% Business Rates Discount. Broxtowe Borough Council have received 17 applications for this scheme as of 16 November 2023.

- Business Grants: This is the award of £2,500 for any business that was flooded following Storm Babet. Initially, this was going to be administered by Nottinghamshire County Council. However, on 16 November 2023, it was decided that District Councils would take responsibility for awarding these grants. Appropriate application forms will be developed and made available for businesses to apply.
- Cabinet is asked to also note the exercise of the Chief Executives urgency powers to enable the provision of skips free of charge for affected businesses to help them dispose of flood damaged items. The cost of this was £3,500.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The additional cost of the immediate and practical support provided by the Council will have to be met from existing budgets unless further financial support is made available by central government. A management report will be produced for consideration at a later date to highlight the financial aspects when all the schemes and clean up are completed.

The cost of the government grants and reliefs initiatives being administered by Broxtowe Borough Council and Nottinghamshire County Council will be met from central government grant funding, although the cost of administering these schemes will be borne by the Council.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments from the Human Resources Manager.

7. Union Comments

There were no Unison comments in relation to this report.

8. Climate Change Implications

The comments from the Head of Environment were as follows:

This report highlights the need to address the recent flooding events across the Borough. It is expected that these will only increase in frequency due to the impact of climate change. Proactive collaboration with stakeholders must be undertaken to implement effective mitigation strategies, to safeguard the Borough's communities and ensure long term resilience against future flood risks.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL Sensitive information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Background Papers

Nil.