

# Flood Webinar

Tuesday 2 March  
6.30pm

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Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

# Agenda

- **Opening remarks:** Cllr Louise Gittins
- **Video:** The impact of the floods
- **Presentations**
  - Emergency response and recovery: *Chris Samuel, Sean Traynor and partners*
  - Communities and business support: *Rachel Foster and Catherine Walker*
- **Q&A Session**
- **Closing remarks:** Cllr Karen Shore

# Opening remarks

Cllr Louise Gittins

Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council

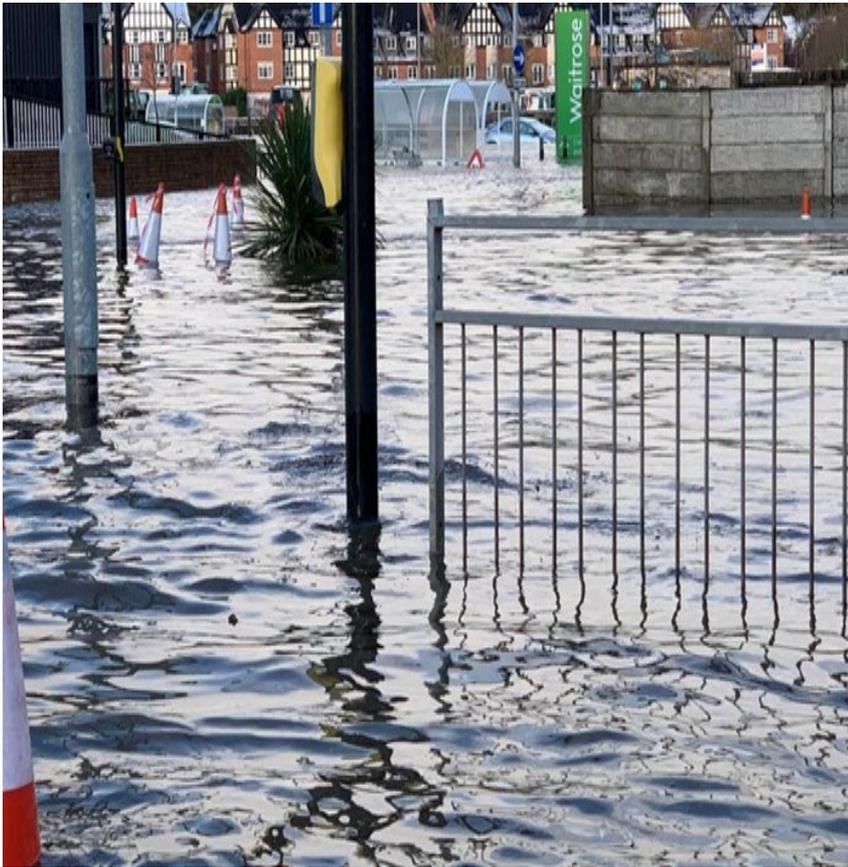
# Video

# Storm 'Christoph' - Emergency Response and Recovery

Chris Samuel, Sean Traynor and  
partners

# Storm 'Christoph'

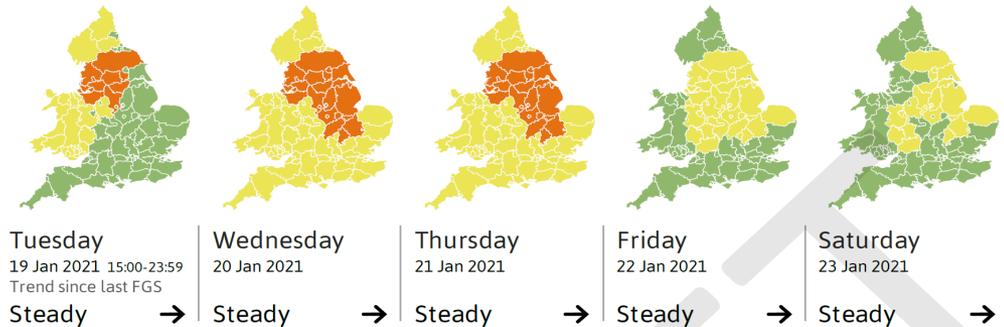
## - Emergency Response and Recovery



- Weather situation: key points
- How did we respond?
- What have we been doing since, and next steps ?

# Preparedness ahead of Storm...

## Flood Guidance Statement 15:00hrs Tuesday 19 January 2021



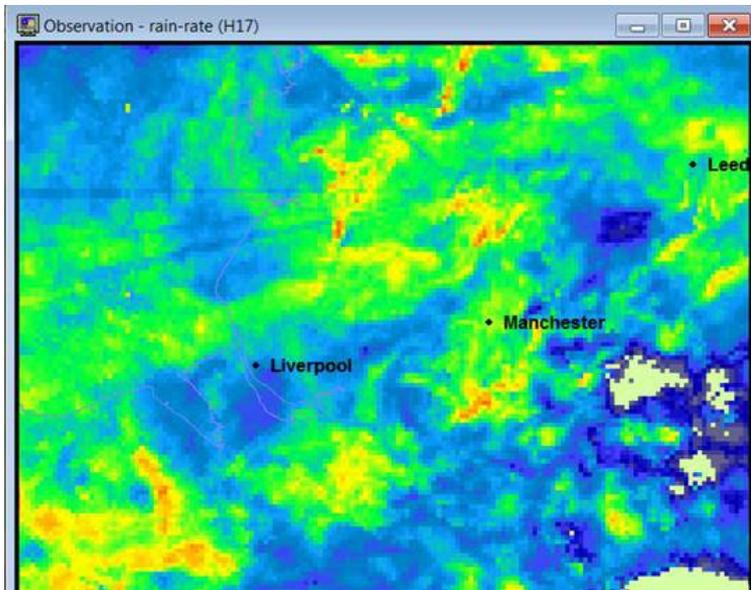
Significant inland flooding impacts are probable today (Tuesday) through to Thursday for parts of northern, central and eastern England. The overall flood risk is MEDIUM.

## FLOODFORECASTINGCENTRE

a working partnership between Environment Agency | Met Office

Met office issued amber warning for rain across Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire

The Environment Agency held Flood Advisory telecons with Partners on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January



Storm Christoph brought some exceptionally wet weather to GMMC from 18 to 20 January. This was one of the wettest 3 day periods on record.

# Rainfall

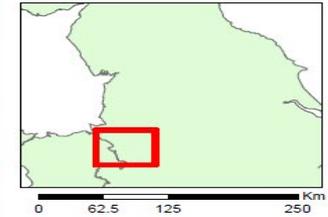
Site	Catchment	Met Office January Long Term Average mm	Rainfall 18th to 20th Jan mm	% of the Long Term Average
Cholmondeley	Weaver	55.7	64.7	116.16
Audlem	Weaver	60.1	59.6	99.17
Worleston	Weaver	54.2	59.6	109.96
Mow Cop	Weaver	66.5	47.6	71.58
Hug Bridge	Weaver	88.6	53.8	60.72

# River levels

Site Name	Catchment	River	Old Max m	New Max Level m
Ashbrook	Weaver and Dane	River Weaver	4.298	4.384
Congleton Park	Weaver and Dane	River Dane	0.854	1.352
Hayhurst Bridge	Weaver and Dane	River Weaver	2.826	3.58
Lostock Gralam	Weaver and Dane	Wincham Brk	2.981	3.126
Rudheath	Weaver and Dane	River Dane	4.162	4.204

# Areas affected across Cheshire West

## Storm Christoph: Cheshire West & Chester Flooded Property Locations

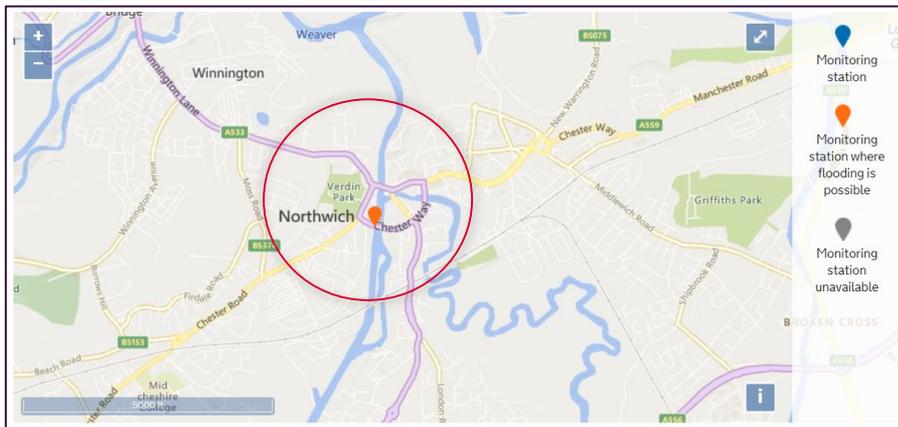
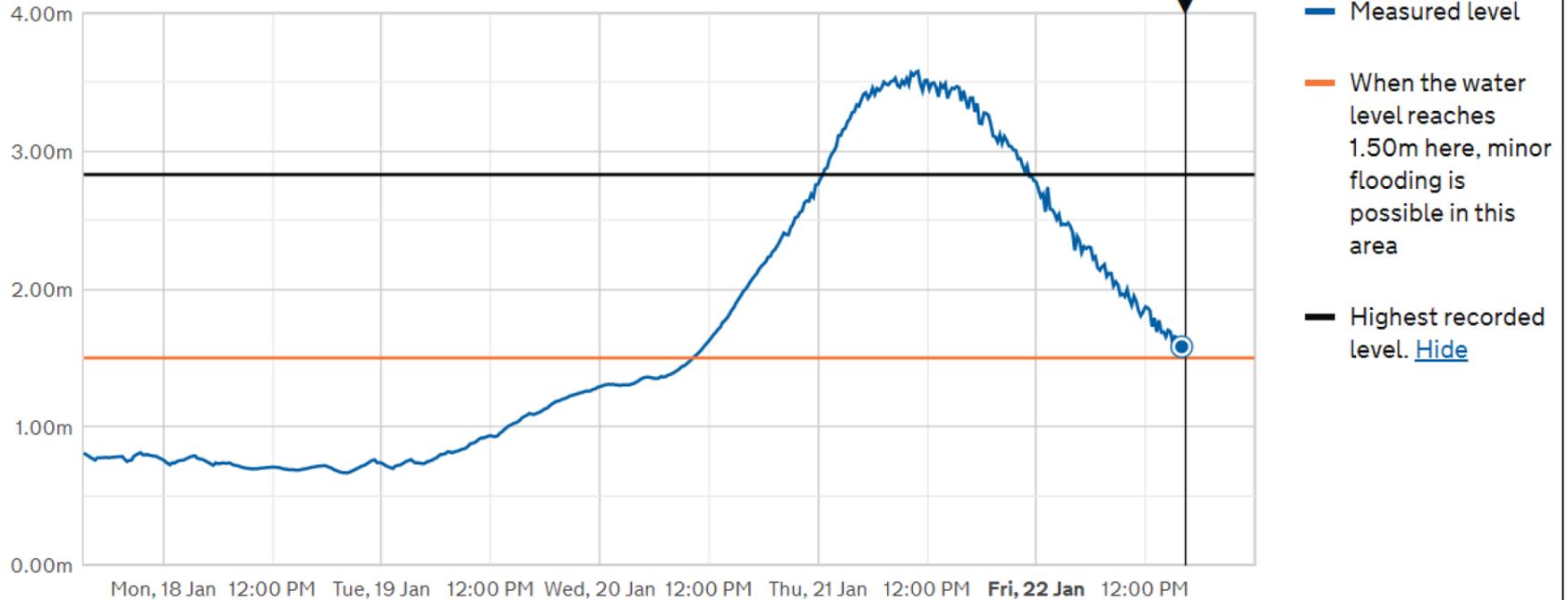


- Legend**
- Flooded Property Locations
  - ▭ Cheshire West & Chester LA Boundar

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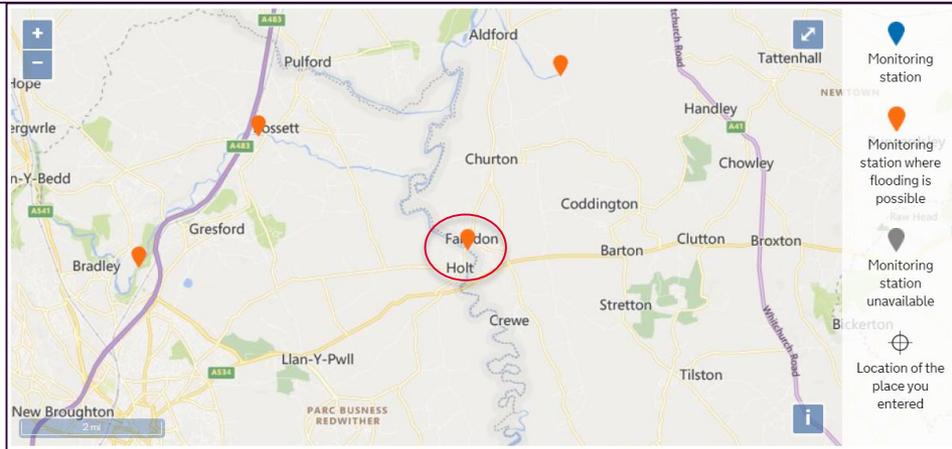
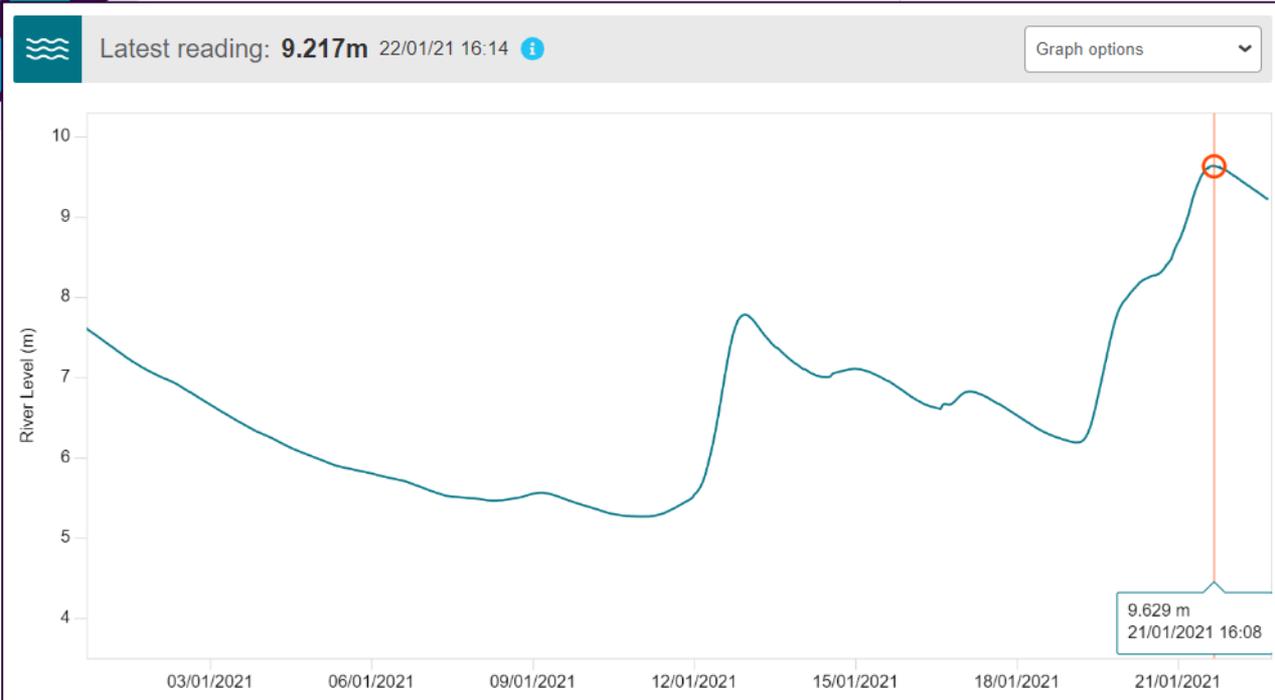
# River Levels: Northwich town centre

## River levels at this location



# River Levels: Farndon & Chester

Previous highest level on record was 9.36m in October 2000



# Hooton Green



## Finchets Gutter/Parkgate Road/Deva Link Chester



# How did we respond?



- Declarations: Major Incident Standby (18<sup>th</sup>) and Major Incident (20<sup>th</sup>)
- Partner agencies inc Emergency Services, Environment Agency, NHS, Public Health England, Canal and Rivers Trust, SP Energy Newtorks, United Utilities and voluntary agencies all working together operationally on the ground to mitigate the impacts from the flooding
- Flood defences deployed and operated in Northwich
- Gave out sandbags, operated pumps, cleared drains/ gullies
- Road and bridge closures put in place for safety reasons
- Emergency Services: rescued residents, attended flooded properties, assisted with traffic management, assisted with pumping operations and community liaison

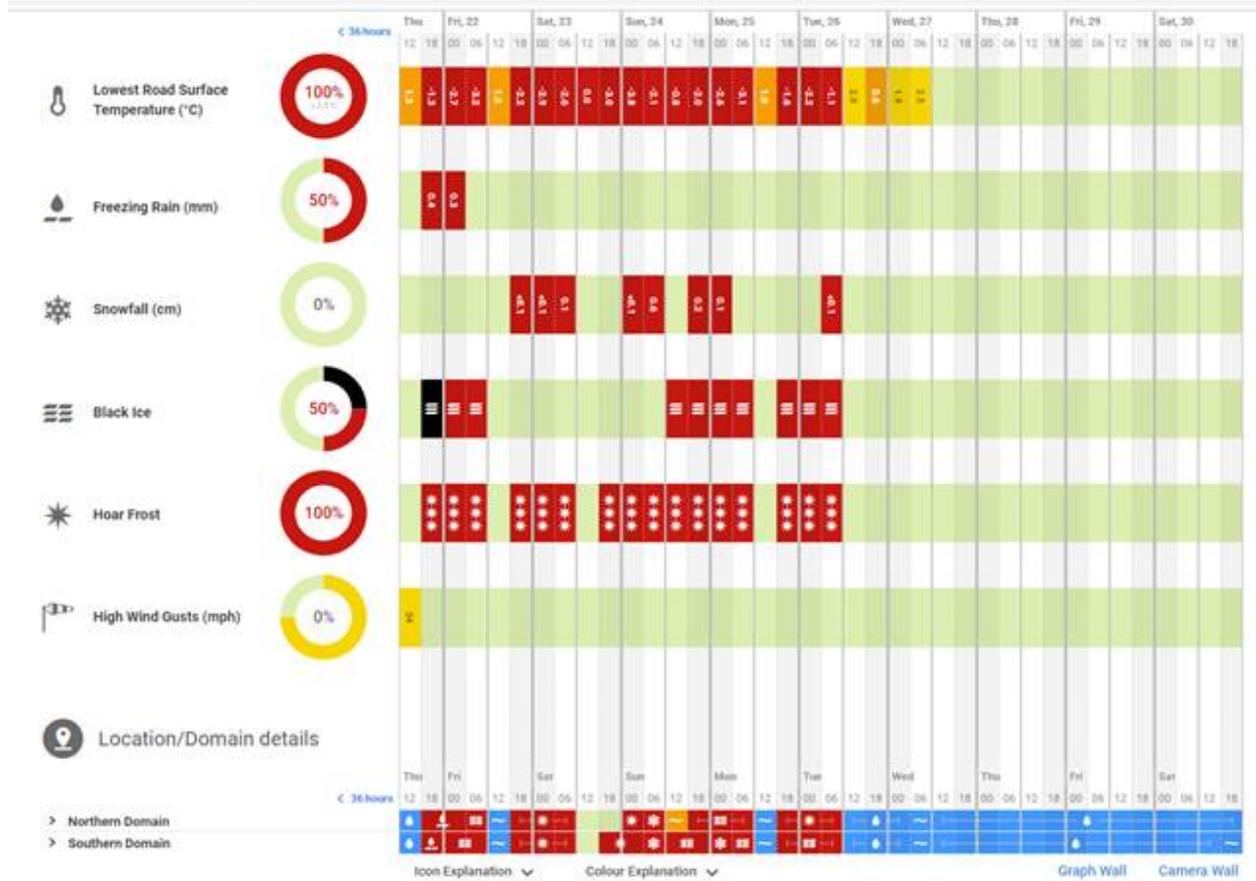
# How did we respond?



- Safe evacuation and transportation of residents from a number of locations
- Provision of emergency hotel accommodation, food, drinks and medication
- Establishment of evacuee reception centre in Northwich

# Service Demand

- During the week of Storm Christoph enquiries relating to flooding, gullies and drainage increased by 370%
- In excess of 30 emergency road closures introduced, which included a number of major routes such as the A41 and A540
- Snow and Ice immediately followed the rainfall event - several days of chilly, NW'ly airflow brought a mixture of scattered wintry showers, snow, hail and freezing conditions





\*\*\*\*THANK-YOU\*\*\*\*

to the guys from the council who have worked all night down Queen st in Northwich to clear the water so it wouldn't go into my Parents & all the other residents houses



Like

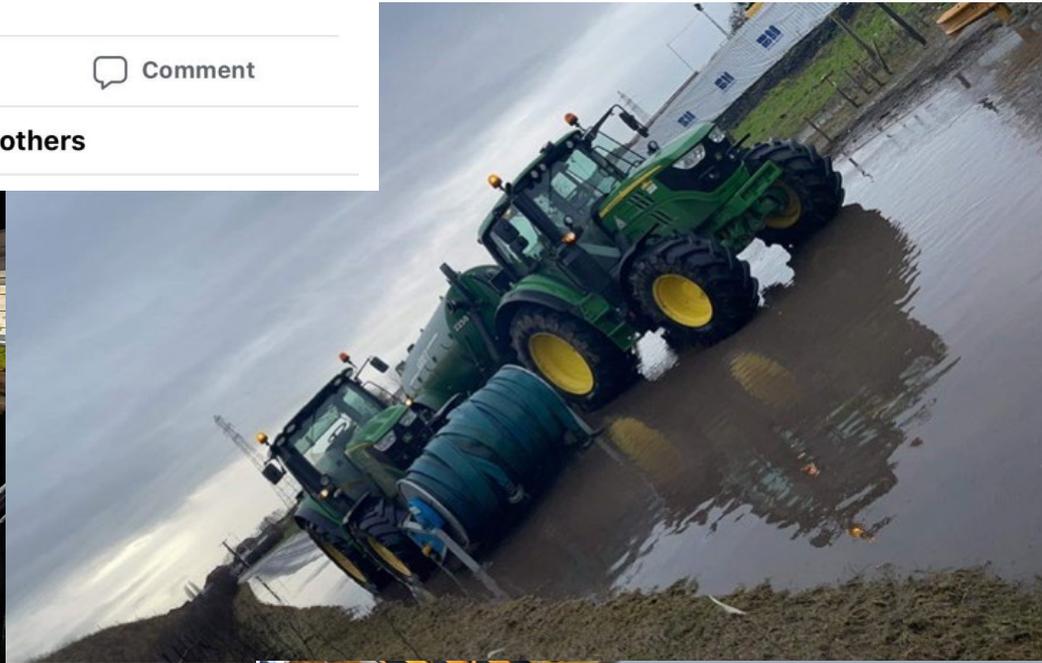


Comment



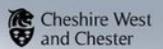
and 61 others

# Resources



## Gritting in West Cheshire

Find out more at:  
[cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/gritting](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/gritting)



# Response in action



**126 tonnes** of materials removed from businesses and property as a result of the floods

**22 properties** (business and residential) attended to support removal of flood damaged items – requests received through *Your Streets* inbox

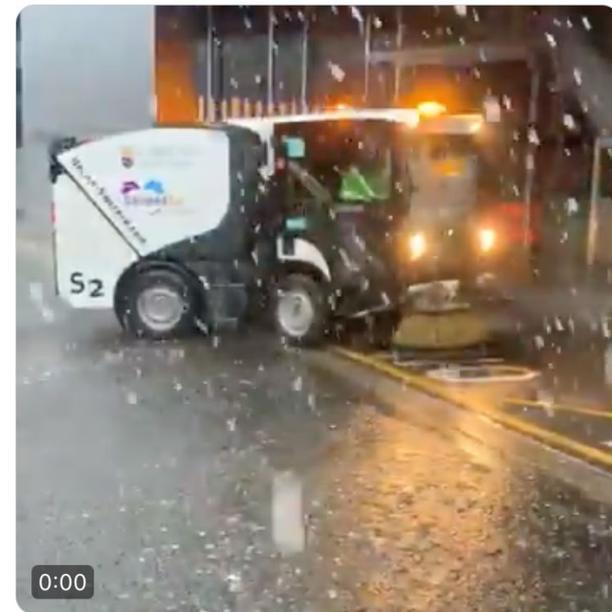
**£14,936.69 additional costs** in sweeping and cleaning staff costs, machine costs/fuel and tonnage to waste

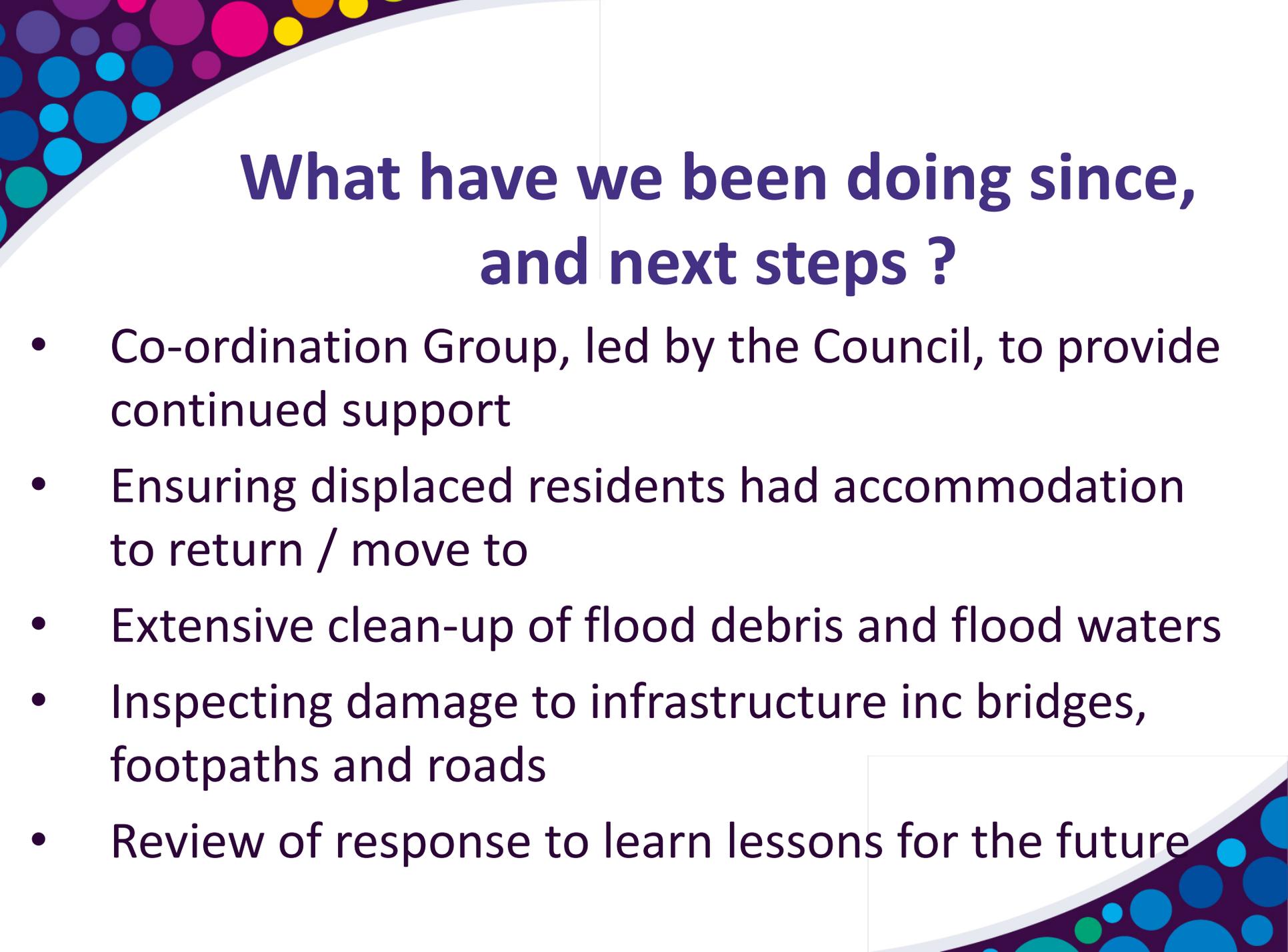


Northwich Town Council  
@NorthwichTC

A major clean up operation has begun in [#Northwich](#)

Working in partnership with [@Go\\_CheshireWest](#) and [@EnvAgencyNW](#)





# What have we been doing since, and next steps ?

- Co-ordination Group, led by the Council, to provide continued support
- Ensuring displaced residents had accommodation to return / move to
- Extensive clean-up of flood debris and flood waters
- Inspecting damage to infrastructure inc bridges, footpaths and roads
- Review of response to learn lessons for the future

# Managing Flooding – the Legal Framework

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer.

Under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, as the Lead Local Flood Authority the Council is also required to implement these provisions and has a duty to prepare a number of documents, which include:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment;
  - Flood hazard and risk maps; and
  - Flood Risk Management Plans
- 
- Serious flooding **can happen at any time**.
  - Climate projections suggest that extreme weather **will happen more frequently** in the future.
  - The 2010 Act aims to **reduce** the **flood risk** associated with extreme weather.
  - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-management-information-for-flood-risk-management-authorities-asset-owners-and-local-authorities>

# Section 19 Flood Investigation Criteria/Remit

It would not be practical or possible to investigate every reported incident.

Reports are investigated if it has one or more of the following impacts:

- caused internal flooding to a property used for residential or commercial purposes
- resulted in major disruption to the flow of traffic
- posed, or could have posed, a risk to human health
- adversely affected the functioning of critical infrastructure
- caused harmful impacts to environmentally or socially important assets

The purpose of an investigation is to:

- investigate the what, when, why, and how the incident took place; and
- act as a means of identifying potential future recommendations for actions to minimise the risk or impact of future flooding

These investigations (Section 19 reports) outline recommendations and actions that various organisations and authorities can do to minimise flood risk in affected areas.

# Section 19 Flood Investigations: Storm Christoph

No	Area	Internal Flooding	External Flooding	Highway Flooding
1	Northwich Town Centre	45	81	All
2	Acton Bridge and Weaverham	20	20	All
3	Ashton Hayes	7	4	All
4	Farndon	3	21	All
5	Tattenhall	18	2	All
6	Winsford	8	3	No
7	Ellesmere Port	16	14	Yes
8	Willaston	3	0	Yes
9	Hooton	12	26	All
10	Saughall	2	6	All
11	Blacon	26	3	All
12	Sproston	1		Yes
13	Antrobus	1		
14	Mickle Trafford	1		
15	Davenham	6		

\*Note: there are many other places that suffered excess water which will be considered as part of routine service operations.

It can be seen from just some of the visual examples that follow later in the presentation that Storm Christoph had an impact right across the Borough.

This table provides an indication (albeit not finalised) of the areas that will be subject of formal Section 19 Investigations in accordance with criteria.

The process has already commenced and it is currently envisaged that Interim Reports will be available in 3-4 months.

Affected businesses and properties will make important contributions, with regular updates provided by the Council.

# What Next? Investigations Underway

- The Council has already commenced survey work
- Additional resources have been commissioned in to expedite the process
- Regular liaison meetings are taking between the Risk Management Authorities and other stakeholders – they are all ready and willing to work with local community and business groups, MP's, elected members, and Town and Parish Councils to reduce flood risk
- Residents are providing valuable historic and local knowledge of drainage systems to aid the process
- Please continue to Play Your Part and keep up to date with the latest news and information about the Council at:  
[www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk) where we have a special flooding-related page.
- You can also keep up to date by following the Council's social media feeds on twitter @Go\_CheshireWest and Facebook: facebook.com/cheshirewest.



# Environment Agency

David Brown  
Senior Flood Risk Officer

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Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

# United Utilities

Samantha Sloan

Wastewater Drainage Area Manager

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Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)

# Canal & River Trust

Daniel Greenhalgh  
Director

# Communities and Business Support

Rachel Foster and  
Catherine Walker

# Communities Together

- Significant practical assistance provided by Councillors and Town and Parish Councils
- Local residents and businesses offering emergency assistance where possible (and safe)
- Overwhelming response from hotels, B&B's and local businesses providing and supporting accommodation for those evacuated
- Many offers of mutual aid from local Community and Voluntary Organisations and Businesses across the borough supplying affected residents with food and support packages
- Maintained regular contact with those displaced into emergency temporary accommodation
- Support from Housing Services, Adult Social Care and HELP scheme for residents
- Teams deployed to affected sites across Cheshire West to enable support to residents and businesses

 **CheshireFoodHub**  
@cheshire\_hub

Supporting the **flooding** response caused by Storm Christoph, across **Cheshire West** and Chester...  
[chesterva.org.uk/supporting-the...](https://chesterva.org.uk/supporting-the...)  
[#CareInTheCommunity](#) [#HereForYou](#)  
[#InThisTogether](#) [#CommunitySpirit](#)



Supporting the flooding response in Cheshire West and Chester - CWVA

 **Crossroads Community Hub**  
@crossroads\_hub

We are here to help...  
👉👉👉👉

 **Taste Cheshire** @TasteCh... · 21/01/2021

If you've been or know anyone affected by the flooding & need any food support & toiletries in Chester please give @crossroads\_hub a ring on 07958536904. Open as usual for food parcel deliveries where road access allows! Soul Kitchen also providing hot meal support with partners

**FOOD PARCELS**

**Need help? We're in this together!**  
We are working together to support people in Chester who are in financial crisis during COVID-19. Working with West Cheshire Foodbank, we have food available and can deliver it to your home.

T: 07598 536 904  
E: [hello@hbc.org.uk](mailto:hello@hbc.org.uk)

# Communities Together

- 👤👤👤 **Posted, emailed or hand delivered in excess of 400 letters to many of those affected signposting to support and providing key contact details**
- 👤👤👤 **Ongoing liaison with Councillors, Town and Parish councils and Voluntary organisations who supported initial response**
- 👤👤👤 **Working across agencies to capture details from affected areas to fully reflect scale of flooding**
- 👤👤👤 **Debriefing to ensure lessons learned**
- 👤👤👤 **Welcome feedback from Communities affected – Please continue to Play Your Part and let us know how we can support communities in recovery and in future incidents on this scale at - [FloodRecovery@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](mailto:FloodRecovery@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)**



# Supporting Businesses



Worked across departments and with key partner agencies such as the Business Improvement Districts to mobilise support for businesses.



Onsite presence in Northwich as a point of contact for business; online guidance and mobile support in place during and following flood incident. Physical company visits and/or calls to all affected businesses to understand impact and support needed.



Lobbied Government to release financial support to businesses and residents.



Created and launched a £100k business resilience fund for flood-impacted businesses, in partnership with the LEP, as Government lobbying unsuccessful.



Held 2 events with Northwich businesses, including a multi-agency meeting with Councillor and MP involvement



# Next steps

- Further investigation and dialogue with communities and business into the event and lessons learnt
- Short term actions to fix any immediate actions required
- Identifying actions and funding to mitigate flooding issues in the future
- Exploring ways of supporting businesses and communities to become resilient to flooding
- Continue to work with all partner organisations
- Regular communication and updates on progress

# Q&A

# Closing remarks

Cllr Karen Shore

Deputy Leader of Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Strategic Transport