

Corporate Governance Committee 16 September 2024

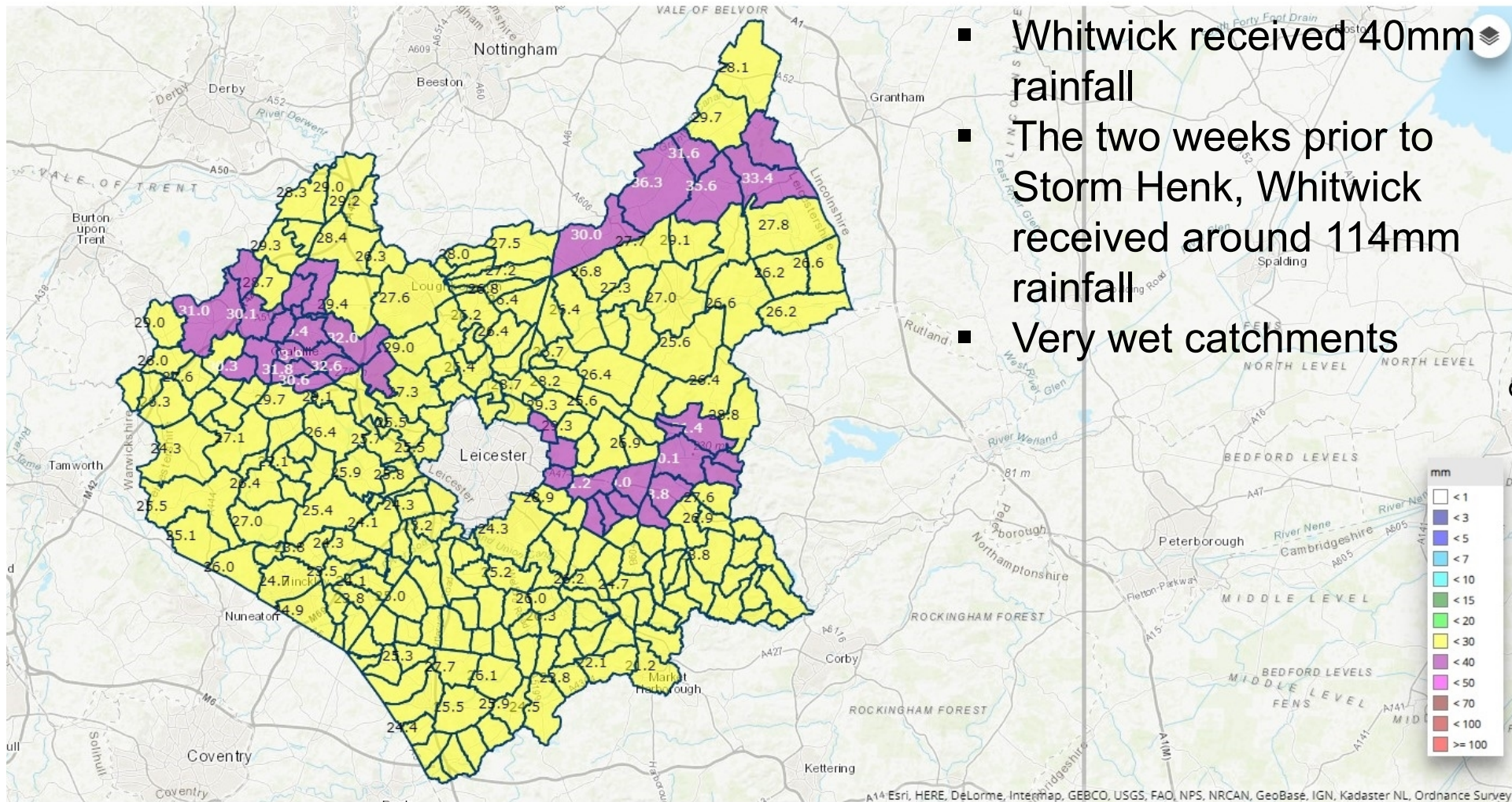
**Improving flood resilience using lessons learned from
'Storm Henk'**

Department of Environment & Transport

Aligns to Corporate Risk 9.4 - If services do not take into account current and future climate change in their planning, they may be unable to respond adequately to the predicted impacts, leading to significantly higher financial implications and service disruption, as well as making future adaptation more costly.

- ❑ Storm Henk started on Tuesday 2 January 2024 tracking across the County resulting in prolonged rainfall all day on ground which was already saturated, and rivers and watercourses were already high.
- ❑ It followed a period of high winds with significant numbers of trees having blown down obstructing roads and watercourses and came on the back of one of the wettest Decembers the County has seen as well as Storm Babet in October.
- ❑ Tactical Coordination Group and Strategic Coordination Group, that coordinate Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland multi-agency response to incidents, were established.

Storm Henk – Prolonged Rainfall



Cumulative totals of rainfall that fell across the County from 12:00hrs on 1 January 2024 to 00:00hrs on 3 January 2024. Rainfall fell on already saturated catchments.

- ❑ For context - England had its sixth wettest year on record (series from 1836), with 1045.4mm, or 20% more than average. Some parts of the UK recorded a third more rainfall than usual.
- ❑ The average monthly rainfall for December in the Midlands is approx. 80mm; some areas received half of the monthly average in one day during Storm Henk (on 2 January). ➤

- ❑ Countywide flooding caused severe impact on highway network and internal flooding affected businesses and residential dwellings.
- ❑ Ambulance station in Loughborough had its access restricted due to highway flooding.
- ❑ By 9 January, highways team alone had received nearly 500 calls, over 250 jobs were raised, and 70 roads were closed.
- ❑ River catchments in Leicestershire reached record levels.
- ❑ 767 residential and commercial properties were reported to be affected across Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland.
- ❑ 453 residential and commercial properties were reported internally flooded in Leicestershire and 128 externally impacted.

- ❑ Many vulnerable residents were negatively impacted.
- ❑ In Loughborough and Zouch, residents were evacuated by Fire and Rescue Service to temporary accommodations.
- ❑ The worst affected areas were:
 - Charnwood (252 homes and businesses internally impacted) – Loughborough (worst), Quorn and Sileby/Syston.
 - Blaby (78 homes and businesses internally impacted) - including Whetstone, Countesthorpe and Braunstone.
 - Melton (45 homes and businesses internally impacted) - including Frisby on the Wreake, Rearsby and Long Clawson.
 - North West (41 homes and businesses internally impacted) - including Appleby Magna, Breedon on the Hill and Long Whatton .

- ❑ Co-ordinated many multi-agency virtual and on site* meetings working with all responsible agencies (Environment Agency, water companies, district councils, Local Resilience Forum). Some of those communities are detailed below:
 - Whetstone
 - Frisby-on-the-Wreake
 - Twyford
 - Syston
 - Sileby
 - Cossington
 - Barwell
 - Fenny Drayton
 - Quorn
 - Glooston
 - Fleckney
 - Countesthorpe
 - Cavendish Bridge
 - Oakthorpe
 - Appleby
 - Breedon
- ❑ Highways teams assisted with clear up operations and additional gully cleansing crews were commissioned – even where highway drainage was operating as it should, storm water will have left detritus.

- ❑ The Government enacted the National Flood Recovery Framework for Storm Henk.
- ❑ The County Council worked with district authorities to collate data for submission to DLUHC to enable Leicestershire to qualify for this framework of grants.
- ❑ Affected residents* were able to claim:
 - £500 to assist with their recovery;
 - A grant of up to £5000 to help become more resilient to flooding by helping to pay for a range of property improvements (National Property Flood Resilience Repair grant);
 - 100% council tax relief for a minimum of three months. ∞
- ❑ There were also grants and council tax relief available for affected businesses.
- ❑ The County Council opened up applications for the National Property Flood Resilience Repair grant on 26 April 2024.
- ❑ To date** the County Council has received 103 applications.
- ❑ Leicestershire also qualified for the Storm Babet Recovery Grant and a similar process for applications is in place for claiming for that storm (October 2023).

- ❑ Five multi-agency meetings in worst affected parts of the County.
- ❑ Key Risk Management Authorities were represented including:
 - Canal and River Trust,
 - Lead Local Flood Authority,
 - Severn Trent Water,
 - Environment Agency,
 - District councils.
- ❑ Very positively received. Customers appreciated face-to-face discussions.
- ❑ Some customers stayed for around two hours.
- ❑ Some lessons learnt including requests for riparian responsibilities guidance and imagery and some demonstrable products for property flood resilience.

- ❑ Where flooding meets locally agreed threshold, the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) has a duty to carry out an investigation (Section 19) of that flooding in partnership with other flood risk management authorities (Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water, riparian owners, Highways etc).
- ❑ The LLFA is still establishing how many formal investigations have been triggered from Storm Henk; this can take a while as data is analysed and compared against the Council's Formal Flood Investigation Policy. Such investigations involve various agencies, can be very complex and will take some time to complete.
- ❑ The LLFA does not have the powers to make other agencies implement solutions where it is their responsibility.
- ❑ In some instances, there may not be a realistic or affordable solution for flood prevention.
- ❑ Additional temporary resource has been obtained to help with the formal investigations.

Storm Henk Formal Investigation - Impacts by Community

- Orange:**
 - Meet threshold as cause of flooding unknown / unclear
 - Detailed chapter




- White:**
 - Shorter summary

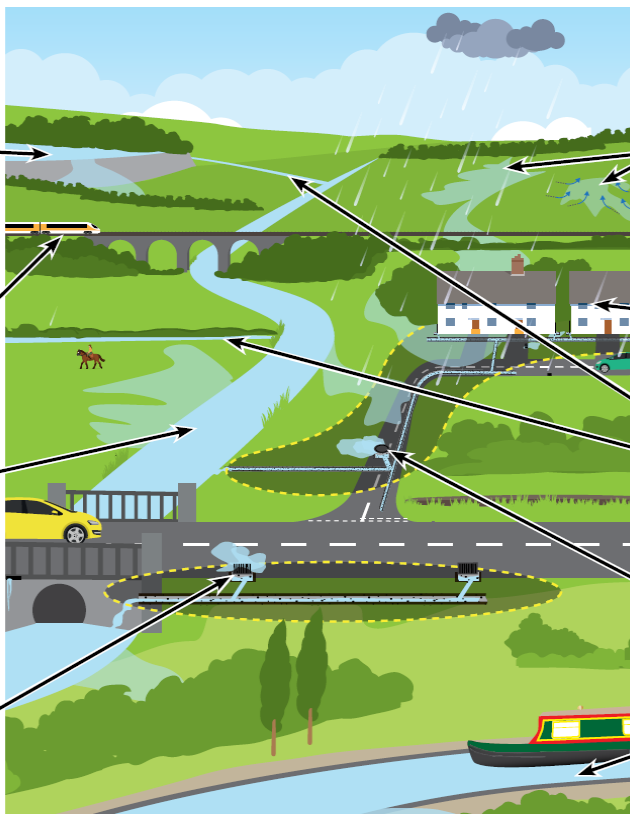
- Grey:**
 - Watchlist
 - Some properties still coming forward e.g. through PFR Grants

Loughborough	141	Twyford	6
Syston	48	Glooston	5
Whetstone	25	Cavendish Bridge	5
Quorn	20	Fleckney	4
Braunstone Town	16	Packington	4
Sharnford	12	Great Glen	4
Frisby on the Wreake	11	Cosby	4
Mountsorrel	10	Blaby	4
Sileby	9	Croft	3
Countesthorpe	8	Redmile	3
Long Whatton	8	Allexton	3
Appleby Magna	7	Lubenham	3
Cossington	7	Blackfordby	3
Long Clawson	7	Asfordby	3
Newtown Linford	6	Wymondham	3
Breedon on the Hill	6		

Guidance Leaflets

- Produced 'Who to Contact' leaflet.
- Working on updated Riparian Landownership Guidance Notes using the Environment Agency's 'Your watercourse: rights and roles' as a guide.

<p>Reservoir: Environment Agency EA Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours) Floodline 0345 988 1188 (Flood Warning Information) Check for Flood Warnings: check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Railway: Network Rail 03457 11 41 41 (24 hours)</p>	
<p>Main Rivers: Environment Agency EA Incident Hotline 0800 80 70 60 (24 hours) Floodline 0345 988 1188 (Flood Warning Information) Check for Flood Warnings: check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk</p>	
<p>Public Highway: Leicestershire County Council Highways Report a road problem online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk /report-a-road-problem or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)</p>	



<p>Surface Water and Groundwater: Leicestershire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority Report a Flood online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/ report-a-flood or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours) Check for Flood Warnings: check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk</p>	 
<p>Private Residence or Business: Private owner responsible for the property</p>	
<p>Ordinary Watercourses: Leicestershire County Council Lead Local Flood Authority Report a Flood online: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/ report-a-flood or 0116 305 0001 (Not out of hours)</p>	
<p>Mains Sewer & Wastewater Sewer: Sewer Trent: 0800 782 4444 (24 hours) Anglian Water: 03457 145 145 (24 hours)</p>	
<p>Canal: Canal and River Trust 0303 040 40 40 (Office hours) 0800 479 9947 (24 hours)</p>	



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If a river or watercourse runs through your land you may be a riparian landowner. For more information visit www.gov.uk/guidance/owning-a-watercourse

- ❑ With changing climate meaning more rainfall and greater intensity when it rains, there is a greater need to move communities towards resilience via property protection and community action.
- ❑ Autumn 2024 drop-in meetings (locations to be confirmed).
- ❑ Website update with focus on self-resilience and self-help.
- ❑ Further development of guidance notes and circulation/promotion of these.
- ❑ Publication of formal investigations in 2025 and push for progression of identified actions; no date yet for publication.
- ❑ Continue to deliver the actions from the Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

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