

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 28 SEPTEMBER 2011**

**POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER  
FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

**Flooding Issues**

1. As Lead Local Flood Authority, the County Council is responsible for managing the flood risk across the County. We are working closely with the Environment Agency who have responsibility for main rivers, water companies who are responsible for adopted sewers and district councils who have land drainage powers.
2. We have established a Flood Risk Management Board, which also covers Leicester City and Rutland.
3. In June, we completed our Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of the County. This identifies areas where the consequences of flooding are greatest – i.e. a significant number of houses or commercial premises would be affected, or an important facility such as a power station or a hospital could be impacted.
4. The next stage in our work is to develop a local Flood Risk Strategy. This will build on the recently published national strategy and will help us plan ahead to reduce the incidences and consequences of flooding.
5. Government funding has been provided to assist us in this relatively new role.
6. In order to build up as good a picture as we can of where the risk is greatest, we are drawing on existing information from a number of sources, but an important element of this is local information
7. We want to encourage local communities to contribute to this. We will be launching a new facility on the website to enable people to tell us what they know about past flooding – when, where, what caused it, what problems it caused etc. Members are asked to use their positions to help to publicise this within their electoral divisions and, indeed, to pass on their own local intelligence to the Department.
8. When we have a good picture across the County, we can complete our strategy and draw up investment plans
9. In the meantime, it is important that, with our Local Resilience Forum partners, we continue to raise awareness about how to prepare for flooding and what action to take in the event of floods. This will include publicising the LRF website, encouraging people to volunteer as Community Flood Wardens, and providing advice on products available to reduce the impact of flooding.

P C Osborne  
Lead Member