

**COUNTY COUNCIL – 5 DECEMBER 2012**

**POSITION STATEMENT BY THE LEAD MEMBER  
FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT**

As a result of the heavy rain particularly experienced between Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November and Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November, highways officers received telephone calls about 6 fallen trees, 50 blocked gullies and 192 drainage or flooding issues. This rain meant that rivers and other watercourses were either running at full capacity or overflowing – there were 20 flood warnings and 14 flood alerts issued by the Environment Agency.

With many surface water sewers unable to discharge into those watercourses, rainwater was therefore equally unable to enter the drainage system at road gullies and, for a while, at least 40 roads had to close to traffic. Through its duty officers and working with the Local Resilience Forum, Leicestershire Highways Operations deployed its supervisors, out-of-hours emergency gangs, gritter crews and gully emptiers to provide as comprehensive a response as possible across the entire County.

Whilst Leicestershire did not experience some of the more extreme flooding as elsewhere in the country, what we did witness reflected a continuation of the poor weather that we have seen all year. There was flooding of a number of properties across Leicestershire at the likes of Zouch, Sharnford, Shenton and the Kingfisher estate in Loughborough, the location of highest flood risk in the County.

I am aware that the County Council continues to accumulate knowledge of historic flooding problems to sit alongside the flooding effect of this recent spell of extreme weather. With this information and the anticipated surface water management plan for Loughborough, the County Council can assemble its own Flood Risk Management Plan. Armed with this Plan, the County Council will be better able to fulfil its role as Local Lead Flood Authority in the future.

Whilst expressing sympathy to people whose property was subject to flooding I would like to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the officers in highways who were involved in the Council's response to this extreme weather – both those receiving and actioning the phone calls and those helping tackle our flooded roads around the County.