

# Information

for County Councillors

Sheet Number:  
2022-27/48



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| From:                                    | Katherine Schollar – Intelligence Project Officer |  |  |
| Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date: | Doug Bamsey<br>15/03/2023                         |  |  |
| Date:                                    | 13/03/2023  |  |  |
| To:                                      | All District and County Members                   |  |  |

## Subject Line

### **Situation Report**

The flooding situation was flagged by the Environment Agency following a period of persistent rain. On the 18.01.23, a major incident was declared by the EA and the Local Authorities, primarily due to the flooding on Curry Moor, Salt Moor and North Moor. The Major incident was stood down on the 24.01.23.

A total of 7 houses affected, as well as several businesses (Basketworks, The Levels Store and Café at Burrowbridge, the King Alfred Inn as well as Agricultural land).

15 million cubic metres of water has been pumped to the sea and all Moors are back to normal winter levels. The smaller pumps have returned to the EA’s national supply, currently the larger pumps are still in the area, and will be kept through Feb/March as long as they aren’t required elsewhere.

The immediate risk of flooding is now greatly reduced. There are no flood warning or alerts in place.

## **Flood Recovery Aims and Objectives**

The following Flood Recovery Aim and Objectives were agreed and signed off by the Strategic Recovery Coordination Group.

### **The Aim:**

To co-ordinate an effective recovery across Somerset.

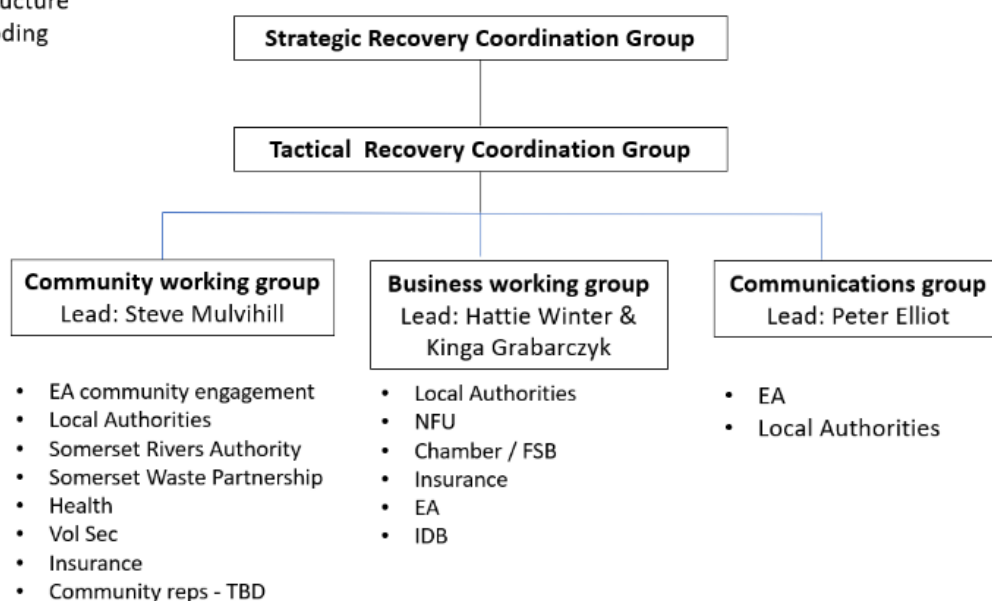
### **The Objectives:**

1. Engage with affected residents and communities to capture impact assessments.
2. Provide support to residents and communities to stay safe.
3. Ensure businesses are supported in their recovery (including Agriculture/Land-based).
4. Support the EA in their strategy to ensure the flood water subsides but maintain readiness to return to response if required.
5. Restore and improve infrastructure (road, rail, IT, water provision and sewerage, waste management).
6. Support the mental health of the wider area by sign-posting available support.
7. Ensure lessons are learned for the future and to support individual and Community Resilience and sustainable strategies.

## **Recovery Structure**

The following Recovery structure has been approved by the Strategic Recovery Coordination Group.

Proposed structure  
for 2023 flooding



## **Community Working Group**

Group members:

- Lead- Stephen Mulvihill
- EA Community Engagement
- Local Authorities – SCC/SWT/SDC/MDC/SSDC
- Somerset Rivers Authority
- Somerset Waste Partnership
- Somerset Integrated Care Board
- SEVAG Co-ordinator
- Community Flood Wardens

Group aim:

- Identify current community engagement processes.
- Develop further community engagement opportunities.
- Be a point of contact for community interest groups.

The community working group first met on 13/02/23 and will continue to meet on a regular basis, feeding back into the Tactical recovery group. Two multi-agency community engagement events have been arranged with the first (Moorland) taking place on Monday 20 March commencing at 1600 for 3.5 hours and the second (Burrowbridge) on Monday 27 March for the same time period. Community feedback will be reported to the Tactical recovery working group to advise further engagement opportunities.

## **Business Working Group**

Group members:

- Leads- Hattie Winter/ Kinga Grabarczyk
  - LA's- SWT/SDC
  - NFU
  - Chambers- Somerset/ Bridgwater/ Taunton
  - FSB
  - Environment Agency
  - IDB
  - Parish Council/ Cllrs
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Group aim:

- Identify businesses both directly and indirectly affected by the flooding.
- Ensure businesses are informed and supported in their recovery (including Agriculture/Land-based/ Home working).
- Be a point of contact for business.

The business working group first met on the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> March. The group will be sending representative to the multi-agency community engagement events. Work is underway, with an information gathering exercise on the affected businesses occurring and as well as producing an information sheet with useful contacts in case of an emergency which can be shared with wider groups. A discussion is underway whether a one-stop point of contact to be made for a future flood event.

### **Communications Working Group**

The group will be led by Peter Elliot and will include reps from the communications teams of the district councils and the EA. One area of work will include compiling a list of FAQs and list of who to contact for help, this will be produced following an initial period of public engagement.

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