

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Community Development Committee**  
**Thursday 26 November 2024**  
**Decision Report**

**1. Blyth Flood Resilience Plan**

**Recommendation:**

**The Community Development Committee agree to work with the Environment Agency to create the Blyth Flood Resilience Plan.**

**Ward**

Not ward specific.

**Risk Management**

There are no budgetary requirements for this plan.

**Objective**

To promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community.

**Report**

The Environment Agency (EA) recently gave a presentation to the Town Council on flooding, this was arranged following the October floods that had a devastating impact on many in the local community.

The presentation outlined the responsibilities of stakeholders including:

- Environment Agency – Fluvial flooding,
- Northumberland County Council – Surface water flooding, and
- Northumbria Water – Sewerage flooding.

The flooding on 8 October was highlighted by EA as a significant event that is rare with a 1% chance of it occurring in a year. This was explained as being due to a massive volume of rainwater occurring when the fluvial water was at a highpoint, it was linked to climate change.

This was not the first instance of flooding in Blyth, the EA reflected on the April 2024 flooding as well as the 2013 flooding that led to the Flood Defence Wall being constructed at Crawford Street. There was a perception that the draining gulleys not being cleared were the cause of the flooding, the EA highlighted that even if they had been cleared an hour before the rain commenced, much of the surface water flooding would have still occurred.

## **Agenda Item 8**

The EA highlighted the Northumbrian Water £4m improvement scheme to the sewer network at Bates Avenue.

The EA spoke of creating a Blyth Flood Resilience Plan, a standalone plan that can also fit into the Civic Contingencies Emergency Plan. The benefits of the Flood Plan would include the advantage of earlier warnings, direct communication links for the council and the community, and maintaining records of vulnerable residents that may need assistance. The EA had a desire to work with the Town Council to create a plan for the community. The EA would write the plan and update it on an annual basis, they would work with smaller residential groups within the community.

**Elaine Brown**  
**Deputy Town Clerk**

**15 November 2024**