

**MANAGING THE RISK AND RESPONSE TO FLOODING IN BIRMINGHAM –
ISSUES ARISING FROM MAY 2018 MAJOR FLOODING EVENT**

SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL – 11th SEPTEMBER 2018

Executive Response from the Deputy Leader and the Cabinet Member for Transport and Sustainability

The major flooding experienced in parts of Birmingham on the evening of 27th May 2018 was devastating to the people directly affected, because of the speed and severity of the incident. While great efforts were made to address this major flooding event, there are lessons that can be learned.

This report provides a welcome examination of the actions needed to improve resilience and effectively co-ordinate responses to major flooding in the City. It makes helpful observations on areas for improvement, some of which have already been acted upon. It also identifies ways for better partnership working.

We have already initiated a review of the Council's emergency planning procedures and the response to the situation on 27th May. The Council will be looking to achieve a clear commitment from all partners responsible for the full range of services relating to flood management.

Officers will work closely with West Midlands Police, National Express, other bus operators and transport partners to effectively manage traffic during flood events. Efforts will also be made to support residents in the Selly Oak area to prepare for and cope with possible flooding incidents through the establishment of local flood action groups.

We will act to establish a partnership to facilitate the provision of flood defence and alleviation measures along the River Cole, similar to that in place for the rivers Rea and Tame. We will also look to strengthen, where possible, local planning guidance to better manage flood risk in relation to new developments.

We are grateful to Councillor Clements and her colleagues on the Sustainability and Transport Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the work undertaken to produce this report and the constructive advice offered to the Executive, to our partners and to the people affected who shared their experiences at a very difficult time to inform this response.

Councillor Brigid Jones, Deputy Leader of the Council
Councillor Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transport and Sustainability

