

GREATER MANCHESTER PLANNING AND HOUSING COMMISSION

Date: **5th February 2025**

Subject: **Greater Manchester Flooding Incident 31 December 2024/ 1 January 2025**

Report of: **JILL HOLDEN, GREATER MANCHESTER FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME MANAGER**

Purpose of the report

- To provide an overview of Greater Manchester Flooding Incident 31 December 2024/ 1 January 2025, please note the report is a point in time and will be updated once incident reports from the event are validated.
- The report is supported by a slide deck that will be presented at PHC by Jill Holden.

Recommendations

- PHC members are asked to note the content of the report.

Contact Officers

Jill Holden, GM Flood and Water Management Programme Manager

Jill.holden@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

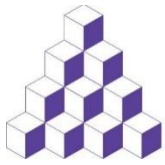
BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN



GREATER MANCHESTER FLOODING INCIDENT 31 DECEMBER 2024 - 1 JANUARY 2025

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.2 170 millimetres of rain fall in 18 hours and the River Mersey recorded its highest ever levels, leading to significant flooding and a Major incident was declared on 1/1/2025 at 4 am.
- 1.3 The main areas affected from flooding included Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Stockport and Wigan but there were smaller impacts to other districts. Properties both residential and businesses and key infrastructure was impacted. There were also secondary impacts to communities from power outages.
- 1.4 Major roads closed from flooding included the A555 Manchester Airport relief road and the A58 through Platt Bridge, in Wigan and the M56 westbound between junctions six and seven was shut throughout the day.
- 1.5 Whilst ~11,974 properties were protected by flood defences in Wigan and Greater Manchester, due to the volume of rainfall and scale of flooding, the design standard for many flood defences was exceeded, leading to widespread overtopping collapse of some flood embankments.
- 1.6 Locations directly affected are listed in section 2.0 but please note investigations are ongoing and the figures/information may change as reports are validated.

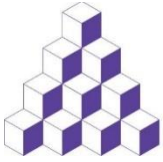
BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN



2.0 IMPACT TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

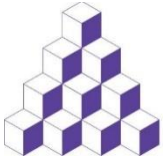
2.1 Manchester

- Didsbury Flood basin was operated.
- Properties evacuated in Didsbury included the Britannia Hotel which currently houses refugees – people affected ~445
- Most significant impacts on Palatine Road and Stenner Lane in Didsbury where properties flooded at ground floor level with contaminated water.
- River Mersey embankment compromised in several locations resulting in significant flooding across Merseybank, Millgate and Parrswood areas. Impact to highway and footways causing issues for residents of Ford Lane in Northenden.
- Other impacts experienced across Manchester, including issues in Harpurhey and in the city centre. Additional flood damage on a smaller scale affected properties in Northenden and Brooklands due to flooding on smaller water courses.
- Businesses affected Northenden, Withington and Didsbury Golf Clubs, Didsbury Sports Ground, Britannia Hotel (445 asylum seekers evacuated by Serco), Waterside Hotel & Leisure Club, Bradley Fold Garden Centre, Factory Nightclub, Joshua Brooks Bar Princess Street, Y Club Castlefield, Harpurhey Lancaster Works.
- Power outages.
- Numbers of properties flooded internally to be confirmed.

2.2 Bolton

- Locations affected included Radcliffe, Lostock and Horwich
- ~14 properties affected.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>BOLTON</u> | <u>MANCHESTER</u> | <u>ROCHDALE</u> | <u>STOCKPORT</u> | <u>TRAFFORD</u> |
| <u>BURY</u> | <u>OLDHAM</u> | <u>SALFORD</u> | <u>TAMESIDE</u> | <u>WIGAN</u> |



2.3 Bury

- ~40 properties affected, less than 10 with internal flooding to both residential and commercial properties.
- Key locations affected included Bury, Radcliffe, Ramsbottom, Summerseat, Whitefield and Tottington.
- Flood sources included river, surface water and sewer problems exacerbated with culvert blockages.

2.4 Wigan

- Key locations affected Platt Bridge, Bickershaw, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Standish/Shevington, Leigh, Hindley, Bryn. Worsley Mesnes and Norley Hall reports unconfirmed.
- Mainly residential properties affected, Platt Bridge, Leigh and Ashton-in-Makerfield were impacted internally, the greatest with reports of up to ~190 properties across the 3 areas and another ~30 across the other areas.
- Flood source from river, brook and basin overtopping and surface water.

2.5 Stockport

- Area affected include Meadow Hall, Bramhall (numbers to be confirmed).
- 400 residents evacuated from Meadow Mill, Stockport town centre
- Major roads affected A34 and A555 Manchester relief road.

2.6 Trafford

- Areas affected include Flixton, Urmston, Bollington Mill, Timperley and Altrincham
- ~20 properties and ~10 businesses, numbers to be confirmed.

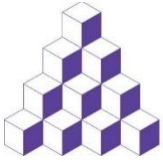
BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN



3.0 River Mersey Flood Defences

- 3.1 Due volume of rainfall and scale of flooding from this flood event, the design standard for many flood defences was exceeded, leading to widespread overtopping collapse of some flood embankments.
- 3.2 Numerous properties, infrastructure, and amenities are now at increased risk of flooding whilst there are breaches in the flood embankments, until repairs are complete.
- 3.3 Flood warning thresholds have been amended to ensure people at risk of flooding are warned appropriately.
- 3.4 Environment Agency pumped water from Didsbury Flood Storage Reservoir and other surrounding flood plains, to reduce water levels and allow recovery works to take place.
- 3.5 EA are carrying out rapid inspections to all flood defences to ensure the extent of damage is fully understood, whilst planning emergency works. This has included drone footage, visual inspections and surveying. In areas of concern, multiple footpath closure signs have been put up to warn the public.
- 3.6 EA are working with partner organisations through the Local Resilience Forum to manage the situation.
- 3.7 Emergency works have started to form protection to the locations where embankments have collapsed. Following this, detailed designs will be undertaken to determine the most appropriate permanent fix.

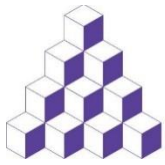
BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN



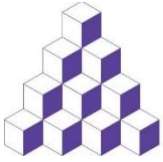
4.0 FUTURE PLANS TO MANAGE FLOOD RISK.

4.1 Managing water and making places resilient to climate change are cross cutting of all programmes and strategies that collectively deliver flood and water management as part of the wider catchment approach. Fluvial upstream measures will make space for surface water downstream, allowing natural flow into rivers. Disconnection from the drainage system will provide more capacity and reduce spills and Place for Everyone sets new higher drainage SuDS standards that must be implemented in all new developments.

4.2 Work to identify risk areas and scope possible risk reduction solutions are being taken forward through programme and strategies across GM and include:

- The Living Integrated Opportunity Programme is part of the Integrated Water Management Plan and will look at funding opportunities through WINEP and Brownfield Development fund. Reducing surface water flood risk through realising disconnection opportunities, within regeneration and new development sites.
- FCERM 6-year programme delivers projects managing fluvial, surface water and combined flood risk through GiA/partnership funding and enable both EA and LA led projects.
- The Upper Irwell Strategy is reviewing flood risk and looking at a catchment approach. NFM measures in the upper catchment will help manage fluvial flood risk and there will be some benefits for surface water risk in that reducing flood levels in watercourses allows surface to drain more effectively. These measures will complement local projects such as highways SuDS and smaller capital schemes aimed at residential property especially where repeatedly flooded.
- Catchment partnership pipelines. Working with Irwell and Mersey Catchment Partnership groups to identify commonalities with their pipeline of projects and IWM/flood risk management.

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| <u>BOLTON</u> | <u>MANCHESTER</u> | <u>ROCHDALE</u> | <u>STOCKPORT</u> | <u>TRAFFORD</u> |
| <u>BURY</u> | <u>OLDHAM</u> | <u>SALFORD</u> | <u>TAMESIDE</u> | <u>WIGAN</u> |



- The River Mersey South Manchester Strategy is currently reviewing how flood risk is managed in this area and effectively into the future. This will take several years to implement.
- SuDS/highway programme manages risk to highways reducing or slowing down the flow of surface water into drainage systems. Makes highways and infrastructure more resilient but unlikely to directly reduce residential properties at risk.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 Whilst there are many initiatives being scoped to manage future flood risk as outline in the previous section it must be acknowledged the challenges we have in funding and delivering these strategies and programme and address the issue of reduced funding to the FCERM programme.
- 5.2 The FCERM programme will be impacted by reduced funding and timeline to the remainder of this current 6-year programme. The impact on GM projects and delivery will only be understood once Local Choices process has been carried out. This is due 14th February.
- 5.3 The impact of funding to flood risk management will only be known once the current government spending review is complete.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN