

NORTHERN EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP COASTAL FLOOD PLAN	6th December 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	The ability to respond in the event of Coastal Flooding
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	Not Applicable

The Northern Emergency Preparedness Group (NEPG) has completed a Coastal Flood Plan for the Coastline in the Borough Council areas of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Mid and East Antrim and Causeway Coast and Glens. Coastal flooding differs from surface water or river related flooding due to the rate of water inundation and subsequent risk to life. Due to this risk to life the PSNI coordinate the multi-agency response. This response is usually large scale due to the areas likely to be affected and involves a significant amount of organisations.

Significant parts of the Northern area Coastline are subject to a coastal flooding risk starting from the shoreline at Newtownabbey through to Larne, the Glens of Antrim, Portrush and Portstewart right up to Benone. The likelihood of coastal flooding in the Northern area is assessed as unlikely (less than 0.5% likelihood of occurring) but the potential impact has been assessed as being moderate leading to an overall assessment of the risk of coastal flooding in this area as high.

The most recent incident of coastal flooding occurred in the Northern coastline in January 2014 where there was significant damage to the shoreline around Northern Ireland and some local areas experienced flooding and/or damage to the coastal infrastructure namely, Cushendun, Cushendall, Waterfoot and Carnlough. There have also been a number of near misses in recent years in December 2013 and 2014 there were smaller tidal surges with high winds affecting parts of the North Coast.

The NEPG Coastal Flood Emergency Response plans includes:

- Alert and Escalation procedures.
- Identification of areas of impact.

- Sections of concern to facilitate PSNI operations.
- Critical infrastructure impact mitigation.
- Vulnerable people considerations.
- Recovery / Stand down linkages.

It is recognised that the size and nature of certain flood events will necessitate regional co-ordination and potentially escalation to the strategic level. In order to ensure all multi agencies are prepared the NEPG are exercising the Multi Agency Coastal Flood Response Plan on the 17th January 2017.

The NEPG Coastal Flood Plan provides a level of reassurance that all Multi Agencies have considered the risks and are prepared to co-ordinate an effective multi -agency response should a Coastal flooding event occur in our area.