

Summer 2015 – Anglian Water flood alleviation update

Last November Anglian Water set-out an action plan detailing the steps it was taking to alleviate flooding in Southend.

The plan continues the work from the Southend Flood Partnership, made up of Southend Borough Council, Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.

The action plan highlighted five areas of work, all of which are now either complete or well underway:

1. Build on the £275,000 we have invested since 2011 on foul, surface water and combined sewer network models for Southend. This data will be shared with the other members of the Flood Partnership to help build a unified model of the town's different drainage networks.
2. Survey our equipment along the seafront and City Beach, plus, in the interests of working more closely, to incorporate the Council and Highways drains too. This will support the Council's own modelling of Marine Parade.
3. Make a funding pot of more than £8 million available over five years for flood partnership projects across the East Anglian region. This will enable councils and other organisations across the region to bid for funds to deliver improvements that will prevent flooding inside people's homes, and is in addition to Anglian Water's existing planned programme of investment. This pot of money has been set aside specifically to overcome the challenges presented by the complex, interconnected drainage network that exists in every town and city.
4. Invest hundreds of thousands of pounds for regular jetting and maintenance of Anglian Water's sewers in Southend, including regular cleaning of grilles and screens, wet wells and other equipment, to keep them clear of debris and blockages.
5. Install a stand-by pump at Eastern Esplanade and refurbish the pumps at Chalkwell Pumping Station.

Jonathan Glerum, Anglian Water's Flood Risk Manager, said: "All of the work detailed in our action plan for Southend is complete or in progress. For example, jetting and sewer maintenance is an ongoing job without an end date.

"The hydraulic modelling of the entire drainage network is also ongoing because it's very complex and does take time. This information will be analysed by the Flood Partnership to see what options we need to consider and take forward as a group.

"More investment and work is planned by Anglian Water too. We're committing millions of pounds to survey and refurbish even more of Southend's sewer network. Extensive camera surveys will start later this year and continue until 2017, with the teams following up and refurbishing any sections of sewer that need it. We're in the final project planning stages at the moment and more information on the start date and plan of work will be available shortly.

"We're continuing with regular high pressure jetting of the sewers that is needed to keep them clear of fats, wipes and other debris. These items should not be in the sewers in the

first place and bind to the pipe, restricting flows or causing blockages that can lead to flooding. Fats and wipes are a big problem for the sewer network right across our region and the UK, and we urge everyone to dispose of them responsibly in the bin, and not down the sink or toilet. To help raise awareness of the damage fats and wipes cause, we're launching our successful Keep It Clear campaign in Southend very soon.

"Every agency responsible for drainage needs to work together to reduce the risk of flooding, and the Flood Partnership with Southend Borough Council and the Environment Agency continues to be an excellent way of sharing information, resolving local issues, and delivering improvements."