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Cllr. Roger Blaney, Leader of the Council  
Cllr. David Payne, Chairman of the Planning Committee

Newark & Sherwood District Council  
Kelham Hall,  
Kelham,  
Newark,  
Notts. NG23 5QX.

5 February 2015

Dear Cllr. Blaney and Cllr. Payne,

### **Southwell Flood Alleviation**

My apologies for the delay in responding to your letter dated 21 January 2015 concerning the above. I thought it better to share our response face to face at the Leaders meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> February as well as sending a hard copy.

We are pleased that through working closely with partners, the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority has successfully brought the Southwell Flood Alleviation scheme into the government supported 6 year National Programme. This is a very positive result and a credit to Southwell representatives as many communities throughout the County with proposals for flood alleviation are not as advanced. As you well know this also includes other areas in the district of Newark and Sherwood. There is a perception that the project is behind schedule, however I can confirm the project is on target to achieve the proposed start date as indicated in the national programme.

We are sorry to hear of Matt Lamb's illness. The email dated 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014 mentioned in your letter has been responded to through a detailed phone conversation with Matt, with the outcome being that Matt would be writing formally to the County Council regarding the Beckett's Field planning application.

It is intended that the hydraulic modelling will be completed by February 2015. Whilst Southwell is a relatively small catchment, there is a significant level of hydraulic complexity and interaction and it is important that the model is robust and fit for purpose. The model is owned by the County Council but is managed by our consultants. Please note that each run of the model takes about 36 hours in computer time and costs a minimum of £1000, in addition as you know there may be an extra cost of several thousand pounds in altering the model for each planning application.

The primary purpose of the model is to allow the development of options, and whilst we have identified some potential flood alleviation measures, they are not yet sufficiently robust to go out to consultation. As you are aware, the issue of flooding Southwell is very emotive and this coupled with the hydraulic complexity are the reasons why we are seeking a peer review of the model. We need to ensure that we are confident in any proposals we put forward for public comment.

In answer to your specific questions I would comment as follows:

1. Consultants to carry out a peer review are in the process of being appointed with the peer review and option development work expected to be complete by May 2015
2. The current plan is that flood alleviation options will be consulted on in summer 2015 (subject to satisfactory peer review). The options will be determined from the model and these could be a range of measures including upstream storage, diversion channels or individual property protection measures.
3. The model has progressed sufficiently such that it is available now to assist the local planning authority, (albeit without peer review) but the use of it has a cost and we would expect potential developers to pay for use of the model as part of their scheme development.
4. The flood mitigation plan is effectively the programme to achieve the targeted start of works date, through the 7 gateways required by Defra for government funding. For the public it is consultation on the initial scheme proposals that is important and this is planned to take place in summer 2015.

We recently met with several representatives from the Southwell flood forum with County Councillor Bruce Laughton and shared with them our position with regard to the modelling, this was I believe regarded as a productive and positive meeting with clarity on the issues raised.

The County Council has spent over £50,000 in developing the model which when coupled with the Grant in Aid bid has resulted in a total commitment of up to £600,000 being secured for the scheme. I understand that there is an ongoing commitment from Newark and Sherwood District Council for a financial contribution which would be most welcome.

Finally, please be assured that the County Council is making every effort to progress a sustainable scheme to protect Southwell from flooding whilst assisting the district council in their local planning role. I have asked colleagues here to ensure that regular partner updates are provided during the course of the project.

Yours sincerely,

**MICK BURROWS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

cc: Andrew Muter, Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council  
Andrew Warrington, Service Director, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Andy Wallace, Flood Risk Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Gary Wood, Group Manager, Nottinghamshire County Council  
Cllr. Julian Hamilton, Southwell East Ward  
Cllr. Paul Handley, Southwell North Ward  
Cllr. Peter Harris, Southwell West Ward  
Cllr. Bruce Laughton, Chairman, Homes and Communities Committee