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Ms E Richardson BsC (Hons)

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Kendal experienced a 1 in 400 year storm event on 5 December. The severity of the storm overwhelmed the surface water drainage and sewer systems in the area. No public sewer or drainage system could have coped with the sheer volume of water falling in such a short period of time.

The Sandylands estate is also in close proximity to the River Kent which burst its banks in numerous locations. This resulted in a lack of free discharge into the river for any surface water flows. Therefore, the Highways drainage systems were not able to release excess water back into the river as they would do normally which meant that they continued to back up.

Question 9

Which properties were affected by water coming up into them from underground? For example, properties on Lound Street, Queen Katherine Street and Aynam Road have flooded three times within 11 years (2004, 2009 and 2015), with water coming up through the floors. (Prior to this period there was very little indication of this sort of flooding.) Even tanked out properties have suffered. The survey in 2009 indicated that the size of the waste water pipes was inadequate. When will this situation be reviewed? And who is liable for ensuring that such pipes are adequate?

We are still verifying the results from the flooding that occurred on Aynam Road. As explained at the meeting, we will input into the Section 19 report being prepared by the Environment Agency which should provide greater clarity and understanding of the specific events and timings.

During 5/6 December we had no incidents of sewer flooding reported in the Aynam Road, Lound Street or Queen Katherine Street areas. As you are aware, the properties in the Aynam Road area have cellars and which are directly across the road from the River Kent. These properties are likely to have been susceptible to ground water infiltration due to the exceptionally high water table and which would have resulted in flooding into the substructures of the properties.

Question 11

Why was so much of the flood water contaminated with foul waste?

It is usual for flood water to contain waste material - be that diluted sewage, silt from river water or other material. During Storm Desmond, this waste came from many sources such as public sewers, private drainage systems, fuel storage facilities, industrial waste areas and septic tanks.