

## QUESTION BY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC



Please return your completed question form to Democratic Support, Plymouth City Council, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth, PL1 3BJ or email: [democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk)

Question to be submitted no later than 5 clear working days before the meeting.

**Question submitted by:** Emma Clarkson

**To the Cabinet Member or Chair for:** Councillor John Stephens, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning and Transport

To be asked at the next Council meeting.

**Date:** 15 September 2025

**Question (to be no longer than 50 words):**

In the flash floods on Friday 29th August 2025, I lost my home, my belongings and have been displaced as a result of PCCs complete disregard for maintaining and updating infrastructure.

What is PCC planning to do to effectively manage surface water damage throughout Plymouth and prevent loss to residents?

**Will you be attending the meeting in person to ask your question?**

No

**Response:** ( for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members / Chairs)

We are sorry to hear about the experience of residents at this location, and others across the City, during the recent extreme rainfall event. On a general point the rainfall on 29 August was very significant, we saw more than 50 per cent expected rainfall in just 60 minutes and 70 per cent in four hours. It was the second wettest August day on record in Plymouth.

The drainage and sewerage system in Plymouth, a huge amount of which being South West Water's (SWW) responsibility, was not designed to be able to cope with that amount of water.

Additionally, we are aware that SWW have a damaged Surface Water Sewer at this location which is currently being surveyed by their contractor.

The Council regularly inspect the gullies at this location as it is at a known flooding hot spot.

Across the city the Council are leading on a series of schemes to help reduce flooding incidents through more effective surface water management, these include:

**Trefusis Park Flood Relief Scheme-** This SUDS project, designed to store surface water during heavy rainfall, is currently on site and on programme to complete in April 2026. This project together with SWW's upstream improvements will reduce the risk of flooding in Lipson Vale.

**Weston Mill Village Property Flood Protection project-** this project will provide flood doors and flood gates to 4 properties in Weston Mill village- property surveys have been completed and the protective works are on track to be installed in October this year.

**St. Levan Flood relief project-** Ward Cllrs have been briefed on outline design options, including rain garden kerb buildouts, for this SUDS project, designed to store water during heavy rainfall and a Public Consultation is programmed to take place in Oct/Nov this year, ahead of a Business case being submitted to the EA for project funding in 26/27.

**Stonehouse Tidal Flood Study-** this study aims to assess the increased risk from tidal flooding and climate change impacts and will complete this November, providing evidence for future works and funding.

**Arnolds Point Tidal Flood Alleviation scheme Phase 2-** this project to provide a new tidal flood defence wall along the Embankment is currently preparing to submit to Planning , with construction programmed to start in Spring 2026.