ZURICH
Municipal

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Thurrock Council's flood management upgrade

Case study

Flooding in the UK

The UK Government considers flood risks to have a 'significant' impact on people, the environment, infrastructure, and the economy

This is the second-highest impact rating possible for any risk. The latest UK State of the Climate report signals that the UK's climate is becoming wetter.

A **research paper sponsored by the National Trust** warned the UK is underprepared for the forecasted flooding risk posed by climate change. It found that too many organisations only act after a flood happens.

Better flood mangement plans are needed

On an organisational, community, and individual level, we must make changes to improve our resilience to flooding events and invest in adaptation and preparation rather than living with the costs of clean-ups.

The impact of flooding on communities and individuals can be significant, especially on those areas hit again and again. Local Authorities are the epicentre of communities and they play a vital role in helping adapt and prepare for floods. Their ability to assess and action a flood risk management plan is crucial to how well people and businesses can deal with flooding.

At Zurich Municipal, we to support our customers tackle the growing issue of flooding. To help we've partnered with Previsico, whose mission is to prevent pluvial flooding. Previsico have developed a tool to help prepare and take action to prevent flood impacts.

Thurrock's flood risk challenge

Thurrock Council is the local authority for the borough of Thurrock in Essex. Based in Grays, it is part of the East of England Local Government Association.

With the River Thames nearby and a local reservoir, Thurrock has faced river floods throughout its history.

Managing floods in Thurrock

Adewale Adesina is the Lead Officer for Emergency Planning and Response. Adewale ensures that homes and businesses in Thurrock are safe for the future, with a key focus on human health.

During volatile weather, Adewale and his team need the right data to create a Flood Risk Plan. The problem is getting specific, local information on potential flooding. Generic weather data isn't detailed enough to target the Flood Risk Plan to a precise area.

Getting an early warning about a specific area or street being at risk of flooding could help focus resources better. For example, help get people to safety or move depot stock in advance if it's going to flood.

Previsico's early warning system

Zurich Municipal introduced Adewale to Previsico's innovative solution. Previsico's flood warning software alerts insured property managers about upcoming flood risks in specific areas including roads and parks.

Developed at Loughborough University over 20 years, the live software runs 24/7. It looks at rainfall nowcasts and forecasts to predict when and where flooding will happen. This includes surface water flooding which isn't predicted by other weather systems.

Improving flood resilience

Pinpointing areas at risk

Adewale and his team now receive early warnings about the timing and severity of incoming floods at specific locations. This allows them to:

- Divert roads
- Evacuate homes and businesses
- Set up other flood defences

Mobilising emergency teams

The team can wisely mobilise emergency response activity, which is crucial when dealing with tight budgets (a common issue for many Local Authorities).

They can also share advanced warning to other community groups and agencies who don't have access to such precise data.

Protecting lives and health

Most importantly, Previsico's flood warning software helps Adewale fulfil his top responsibility to protect people's lives and health.

> "Having protocol and procedure in place to manage flooding incident at Thurrock, in addition with the Previsico dashboard through our Zurich Insurance has enhanced our resilience and preparedness for any flooding incident."
>
> **Adewale Adesina, Thurrock Council Lead Officer - Emergency Planning and Response**

For more information

Speak to Previsico to find out how they can help your organisation. Also take a look at our useful resources

> Flood risk guide

> Climate resilience