

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 12 JANUARY 2018

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Summary

1. The Panel will receive the Annual Report on Flood Risk Management in Worcestershire from the County Council's Flood Risk & Highway Drainage Manager.
2. The Flood Risk Manager, the Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Officer and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Environment have been invited to attend, as well as representatives from Severn Trent and the Environment Agency.
3. For the benefit of new Panel members following the County Council elections in May, a brief overview will also be provided of the role of the County Council in flood risk management, and partnership working involved.

Background

4. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA) created a new lead role for the County Council in managing flood risk, as reported to Cabinet on 1 July 2010. It also extended the powers of overview and scrutiny committees in Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA), to allow for the scrutiny of Risk Management Authorities as to the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.
5. In 2007 Worcestershire suffered extensive flooding. Subsequently a joint scrutiny on flooding in Worcestershire (with the district councils) took place in 2008, which supported the findings of Pitt's national review of the lessons learned from the 2007 floods. These included a recommendation that overview and scrutiny committees should annually review arrangements for managing flood risk.
6. An Annual Report has been produced which summarises the flood risk management activities and progress over the last 12 months of Worcestershire County Council (as LLFA), and the other Risk Management Authorities. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix 1.
7. Scrutiny's discussion of flooding risk management last year on 23 November 2016 also looked at the role of external partners, including Severn Trent Water Ltd and the Environment Agency. The Minutes of this discussion can be accessed via the web-links in the background papers section of this report.
8. In addition, representatives from the Environment Agency and Severn Trent Water Ltd have been invited to provide the Panel with more information about the roles of these important Risk Management Authorities.

Purpose of the meeting

9. The Panel is asked to:
- consider and comment on the Annual Report
 - consider the information provided by external partners
 - determine any comments or recommendations to Cabinet.

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 – Flood Risk Management in Worcestershire 2017 Annual Report

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Emma James / Jo Weston, Overview and Scrutiny Officers, Tel: 01905 844964 / 844965

Email: scrutiny@worcestershire.gov.uk

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of:
 - Agenda and Minutes of Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23 November 2016 and 25 November 2015

Minutes and Agendas are available on the Council's website at

<http://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeed=388>