

ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 25 NOVEMBER 2015

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Summary

1. The Head of Community and Environment, the Flood Risk Manager and the Strategic Planning and Environmental Policy Manager have been invited to provide an annual report on flood risk management in Worcestershire including an update on the development of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).

Background

2. 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, to allow for the scrutiny of risk management authorities as to the exercise of their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions.
3. The 2008 joint scrutiny on flooding in Worcestershire 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.
4. The 2015 Annual Report on Flood Risk Management in Worcestershire is attached as Appendix 1.

Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

5. One of the requirements of the FWMA is that a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) is to be produced, maintained and implemented by the Council. The Strategy will include how the Council plans to manage surface, ground water and local watercourse flooding for which it is responsible as Lead Local Flood Authority.
6. Over the last 12 months the draft Strategy has been completed and an informal consultation exercise held with stakeholders and key partners. Feedback has been fed into a further draft which will undergo the statutory 12 week public consultation period during the Autumn/Winter of 2015/16 as outlined in section 6 of Appendix 1.

Previous Scrutiny

7. Following the 2008 scrutiny, the Task Group published a 2010 Progress Report and the previous Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered an Annual Report in December 2011, had a further update on 13 July 2012 and this Panel has since received an annual report every year.

8. Last year, in relation to the development and adoption of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), the original intention (of schedule 3 of the FWMA) was that in addition to the normal planning process, the County Council would need to approve all drainage systems (for all developments of more than 10 houses). This plan was dropped following revised legislation and, instead, SuDS would be encouraged via the existing planning process. The automatic right to connect to the existing sewer system would not now be removed. Members had asked whether any more could be done to minimise the risk of flooding on future developments and it was explained that it would be useful to refresh local guidelines following this revision.

9. In addition, in response to previous concerns, the Panel was assured that:

- contacts for the public to resolve flooding/drainage issues would be clarified on the WCC website
- riparian responsibilities would be promoted

Purpose of the meeting

10. The Panel is asked to:

a) consider and comment on the annual report, the development of the draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and response to its previous concerns

b) determine if it wishes to pass on any comments to the relevant Cabinet Members with Responsibility, and if so, agree those comments.

11. In addition Members are invited to comment on the draft LFRMS when it is published on the WCC website for public consultation in due course.

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Flood Risk Management in Worcestershire Annual Report 2015

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

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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 the Economy, Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 4 December 2014, 9 May 2014, 3 December 2013, and the Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Panel of 13 July 2012, 6 December 2011 and 1 June 2011
- Agenda and Minutes of Cabinet on 1 July 2010
- 2010 Progress Report by the re-convened Worcestershire Joint County and District Councils Scrutiny Task Group (Summer Floods 2007)
- Joint Worcestershire County and District Councils Scrutiny Report: Worcestershire Summer Floods 2007 (November 2008)

[All agendas and minutes can be found on the Council's website](#)