

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting5th March 2009

1. Title of Item/Report

Flood Risk Management - Pitt Review

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report relating to Flood Risk Management – Pitt Review.

It was explained that in August 2007 Sir Michael Pitt was asked by Ministers to carry out a review of the flood related emergencies, which occurred during the Summer of 2007. The Pitt Review -"Learning Lessons from 2007 Floods" was released on 25 June 2008. Overall it contained 92 recommendations addressing physical, institutional, co-operative and political aspects of flood risk management.

In December 2008 the Government published its response to the Pitt Review in the form of an action plan for Government, local authorities and others to implement the 92 recommendations within the review. Cabinet was given details of the implications for the Council, the next steps to be taken and the long-term implications. In particular, recommendations 14-20 and 90-91 set out the roles that local authorities were expected to play in the future. Cabinet was presented with these recommendations with the Governments response, implementation, funding and specifically the action to be taken by Stockton Council.

It was recognised that the cross cutting agenda associated with the Floods & Water Bill would generate across all service areas, Cabinet therefore agreed to recommended to Council that the lead responsibility should lie within the portfolio for Corporate Management and Finance

RESOLVED that:-

1. The report be noted.
2. Officers produce a further report when the Floods and Water bill is published and the impact that will have upon the authority is clear.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Finance be the lead for flood risk management.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. One of the key recommendations within the Pitt Review is that local authorities take on the leadership role in flood risk management.
2. Whilst Stockton, thankfully, was not particularly affected by the excessive rainfall of Summer 2007 there is a need to review existing procedures and to respond to measures anticipated from the Review and the impending Floods and Water Bill expected to be published in Spring 2009.
3. There is a need to not only respond to emergencies arising from flooding incidents but to have in place adequate systems to identify and prioritise risk from flooding and to develop measures to mitigate that risk.
4. Whilst the Floods and Water Bill will set out the legislative framework to implement some of the recommendations within the Pitt Review there is a need to consider the implementation of those recommendations that require little or no additional resources.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

In respect of resolution 1 and 2 only - Midnight on Friday 13th March 2009

Proper Officer
09 October 2009