

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th May 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Flood & Water Management - Lead Authority Arrangements

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that sought approval on the intention to create a new shared services agreement for Flood Risk Management (led by Stockton Borough Council) with Darlington Borough Council. This would allow Stockton to support Darlington on their delivery of the new duties on local authorities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

A large proportion of the new statutory duties were commenced in April 2011 however some areas of the legislation were still emerging and to be enacted over the next 12 months. Since the responsibilities of the Act came into force Stockton had developed its own internal resources in order to discharge the duties placed upon the Authority.

The new duties place an additional burden on already stretched resources in each of the Boroughs, it was therefore proposed to add to and develop Stockton's existing Flood Risk Management team, which would then have sufficient collective resources to undertake a significant part of the strategic work required for the area as a whole. Darlington Borough Council would retain functions to facilitate local communications and member liaison as well as retaining responsibility for emergency response and general maintenance and inspection duties.

The duties to be executed by Stockton would be detailed in the proposed Shared Services Agreement and would include strategic policy, statutory duties and an advisory service.

The resources would be delivered by Stockton. Each Authority had received additional grant funding to cover the anticipated workload resulting from the new duties and responsibilities. It was proposed that each authority contributed to the funding of the new group through a proportion of the grant. In the first year the proposal was for each authority to contribute circa £89,000 a year from this grant.

Members were informed that the Council would take over the discharge of Darlington Borough Council's functions in relation to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 be carried out by Stockton – on – Tees Borough Council pursuant to section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972, Regulation 7 of the Local Authority (Arrangements for Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2000 and Section 13 and 19 of the Local Government Act 2000.

RESOLVED that the Head of Technical Services, in consultation with the Director of Law & Democracy, be authorised to formalise the proposed shared services arrangements for Flood Risk Management, with Stockton as Lead Authority.

3. Reasons for the Decision

1. The arrangement would allow each Authority greater flexibility and ability to resource the new duties required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. A specialist team would be able to deliver the services for each Authority to minimise the need for procuring goods and services externally, which are required for compliance with the new statutory duties.

2. The approach would lead to consistency across the Boroughs and is supported by other risk management authorities.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

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

By no later than midnight on Friday 25 May 2012

Proper Officer
21 May 2012