

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 JANUARY 2017**

**REPORT OF PLACE SELECT  
COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Environment and Housing – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Smith**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FLOODING RESILIENCE**

1. Summary

This review was undertaken to examine the Council and partner agencies response to the number and level of flooding incidents that were of increased concern to residents.

2. Recommendations

1. SBC expand the annual report currently produced on flooding to ensure all flooding activities are formally recorded.
2. SBC further develop the expertise of the operatives currently engaged in dealing with flooding issues.
3. SBC produce a formal programme of replacement for older style gullies within the Borough in line with the principals of asset management and routine maintenance.
4. SBC evaluate the available bespoke software systems which can assist with future cleansing and maintenance programmes in addition to providing an asset management based replacement programme of gullies to ascertain if they would be suitable to use in this area moving forward in terms of resources, equipment and potential costs.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

1. The Place Select Committee's Review of Flooding Resilience has examined the Council's resilience in terms of resources to deal with highway drainage, gully cleansing etc; the new statutory duty in relation to new development, the planning process, surface water discharge, sustainable drainage systems and resources; and the Council's emergency response and capacity to deal with flooding incidents and its equipment and resources.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a

member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

#### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FLOODING RESILIENCE**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report presents the Place Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of Flooding Resilience.

The Committee's report makes recommendations to assist the Council and partner agencies respond to the number and level of flooding incidents that were of increased concern to residents.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. SBC expand the annual report currently produced on flooding to ensure all flooding activities are formally recorded.
2. SBC further develop the expertise of the operatives currently engaged in dealing with flooding issues.
3. SBC produce a formal programme of replacement for older style gullies within the Borough in line with the principals of asset management and routine maintenance.
4. SBC evaluate the available bespoke software systems which can assist with future cleansing and maintenance programmes in addition to providing an asset management based replacement programme of gullies to ascertain if they would be suitable to use in this area moving forward in terms of resources, equipment and potential costs.

**DETAIL**

1. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires effective partnerships to be formed between partners responsible for flood risk management and encourages more sustainable forms of drainage in new developments. It also provides new statutory duties and powers to risk management authorities, including local authorities which became Lead Local Flood Authority's (LLFA) and therefore Stockton Borough Council has a statutory duty for managing local flood risk.
2. The Act also enables the EA to issue a levy (known as the Local Levy) to a LLFA in respect of flood and coastal risk management work undertaken in the respective area. Stockton has received significantly more than has been contributed for a number of flood mitigation schemes, with the most high profile being the Lustrum Beck flood alleviation scheme.
3. Other forms of funding were also identified as well as financial and partnership arrangements being shown to be working well through the flood defences at Port Clarence and Lustrum Beck.

4. On 21 April 2016 Cabinet approved the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and introduced a new statutory consultee role to the local Planning Authority as well as delivering on the sustainable urban drainage system remit.
5. To better understand the scale of work being undertaken for the provision of flood defences within Stockton a site visit was arranged to Lustrum Beck so Committee Members could see the works that were ongoing, including Londonderry Bridge, trash screen replacement works and flood defence improvements. Members were impressed by the level and scale of the flood defence works being undertaken and felt the site visit was of great benefit.
6. A concern was the resilience to deal with surface water issues. During winter months there is generally sufficient operational staff to deal with potential flooding issues however, during the summer months there is no official call-out procedure in place and therefore responses to flooding instances relies on staff goodwill. The Committee therefore felt that SBC would benefit from having a team of suitably trained operational officers with appropriate equipment to deal with flooding issues all year round.
7. It is estimated that 5,000 of the approximately 49,000 highway gullies are smaller than others within the Borough and are generally found in the older areas of the Borough which could potentially increase the risk of surface water flooding during extreme weather events.
8. In order to assist with the above there are a number of computerised software systems available which are able to provide a robust evidence base, assist with future cleansing and maintenance programmes in addition to providing an asset management based replacement programme of gullies which would ultimately assist in reducing surface water flood risk.

#### **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

9. The recommendations in this report will not have any implications impacting on any specific community group in the borough and does not seek approval for a new policy, strategy, or change in the delivery of a service.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There is a cost implication for the replacement of older gullies and the purchase of bespoke software.

#### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11. None

#### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

12. This review of flooding resilience is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

#### **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

13. A clean, green Stockton-on-Tees with appropriate housing provision: Improve resilience to extreme weather events.

#### **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

14. This report does not contain corporate parenting implications.

## CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

15. No consultation was undertaken for this review.

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Education related? No

Background Papers N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/A

Property N/A