

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 11 July 2014 at 11.30 am**

Present:

Councillor B Graham (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Armstrong, E Bell, J Clare, J Clark, D Hall, G Holland, I Jewell, P May, P Stradling and L Taylor

Co-opted Members:

Mr T Bolton and Mrs P Spurrell

Also Present:

Mr D Kinch

1 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Gray, O Milburn, S Morrison and S Zair.

2 Substitute Members.

There were no substitutes.

3 Declarations of Interest, if any

There were no declarations of interest.

4 Any items from Co-opted Members or interested parties.

There were no items from Co-opted Members or interested parties.

5 Flooding Scrutiny Review Report

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which presented the findings and recommendations of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Review (for copy see file of minutes).

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer proceeded to detail the recommendations of the report.

With regard to recommendation 3 of the report, Councillor J Armstrong commented that he felt that this needed fleshing out to ensure that it provided more direction in relation to working with private land owners.

Councillor Jewell commented that he felt that this recommendation was reactive and not proactive. In response Councillor Clare commented that by necessity, this recommendation was reactive due to the nature and timing of receipt of the minutes from the Northumbria Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (NRFCC).

Further discussion took place regarding Civic Contingencies Officers and their involvement with AAPs and Parish Councils. The Overview and Scrutiny officer agreed to follow this up after the meeting.

Moving on, Councillor J Armstrong commented on recommendation 5 of the report suggested that the wording be amended to ensure that a flooding hotline was introduced, to read as follows:

*'That Durham County Council as part of the Customer First Strategy **introduces** a flooding hotline number for use during flooding emergencies'*

Councillor Holland commented that the report was excellent however suggested that if the committee felt relevant add a further recommendation which would endorse Policy 46 of the emerging County Plan in relation to flood risk.

Following discussion regarding his suggestion it was agreed that in order to not interfere with the quasi-judicial role of the Planning Committee the following recommendation should be added:-

'That the importance of Policy 46 of the emerging County Durham Plan in relation to flood risk be highlighted'

In conclusion Councillor Graham added her sincere thanks to all officers who had been involved in the review and also extended her thanks to those members who had taken part in and for their excellent questions which had been put forward throughout the course of the review.

Resolved:

That the recommendations contained in the report be agreed with the inclusion of the comments as agreed above and forwarded to Cabinet approval.