

Environment & Sustainable Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee



12 October 2015

Update: Flooding Scrutiny Review

Joint Report of Lorraine O'Donnell, Assistant Chief Executive and Terry Collins, Corporate Director of Neighbourhood Services

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of the report is to give a further update on the recommendations contained within the Flooding Scrutiny Review published in September 2014.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 June 2013 members as part of the refresh of the work programme for 2013-15 identified flooding as a future scrutiny review project. It was felt by the committee that flooding was a topical issue and that as a result of flooding incidents within County Durham causing damage in local communities and impacting on service delivery there was a need to examine whether policies and plans were 'fit for purpose' and minimised the impact of flooding within County Durham.
3. A review group was established and met on eight occasions which included site visits to view various flood mitigation schemes. The Flooding scrutiny review report was considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 10 September 2014. At the meeting Cabinet agreed the recommendations contained within the review report which included a recommendation for a six monthly update on progress made against the recommendations.
4. At its meeting on 4 February 2015 the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee members received a progress update on the recommendations and requested that a further update report be brought to a future meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Current Position

5. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee has received an update from the Flood Risk Management Authorities in accordance with the committee's statutory duty and received minutes from the Strategic Flood Group at regular intervals.

6. The latest update on the recommendations is attached to this report at appendix two together with the original report recommendations and previous progress update.

Next Steps

7. The Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the systematic review process will receive a further update of progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the review report at a future meeting of the Committee.

Recommendation

8. Members of the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment upon the progress made in relation to the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report.
9. That the Environment and Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report detailing progress made against the recommendations contained in the Scrutiny Review report at a future meeting of the Committee.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance – None

Staffing – None

Risk – As Lead Local Flood Authority Durham County Council has responsibility for preparing a strategy for local flood risk management.

Equality and Diversity Public Sector Equality Duty – None

Accommodation – None

Crime and Disorder – None

Human Rights – None

Consultation – None

Procurement – None

Disability Issues – None

Legal Implications - None