

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF TECHNICAL SERVICES	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE	7 MARCH 2023	6

### FLOOD AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP – CLOSURE REPORT

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

The current term of office for the Council will end in May 2023 with the Borough elections and the return of a new group of elected members. The Boundary Commission Review means that there will be a reduction in the number of elected members from 51 to 37 and the governance review, undertaken in response to the reduced membership of the Council, will see the creation of an Executive Policy Committee and scrutiny arrangements. From May 2023 the Council will have new governance that will require different working arrangements. At the final meeting of each committee for the current term of office, the working groups and boards that have been established and appointed by the committee will be formally closed and disbanded where appropriate to create the opportunity for the new Council to review and determine the most appropriate arrangements under the new governance structure.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee disband the Flood & Surface Water Management Working Group and acknowledges that the members of the Group appointed by the Committee have fulfilled the intended objectives and aims set by the Committee in delivering the budget for the Authority.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment Health and Housing Committee established the Flood & Surface Water Management Working Group at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 and appointed members to review flood risk and surface water management.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	√
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	√

#### REPORT

1. The Objectives of the review proposed and agreed by members of the working group were:

- a. To review the roles and responsibilities of the various organisations involved in the management of surface water in Fylde, to ensure greater coordination and effectiveness of resources to reduce flooding in the future.
  - b. To ensure that arrangements for dealing and responding to emergency flood incidents in Fylde are robust and effective to provide reassurance to members, residents, and landowners.
  - c. To understand how the Development Plan System, strategic flood risk assessments and planning decisions taken by Fylde Council impact on surface water management in the borough and make any observations or recommendations how the council, as an LPA, along with statutory consultees can improve the imposition, assessment, monitoring and enforcement of conditions to mitigate the impacts of flooding from new development.
2. The Methodology of the review proposed and agreed by members of the working group are:
    - a. Identify where we need to be to match the best innovative practice in surface water management
    - b. Take evidence to identify where we are now in Fylde to that best innovative practice required.
    - c. Make recommendations on how we can get to where we need to be to reduce flooding and the impacts of it
  3. The above is an indication only of the some of the stages and further meetings of the working group were necessary to ensure the review fully covers the agreed objectives.
  4. The working group produced a report on Flood Risk and Surface Water Management with several recommendations, including increasing resources to be able to better investigate and resolve incidents of flooding concern, develop projects for addressing surface water management in the longer term and provide support to the Development Management service to help monitor and enforce compliance.
  5. A Further update report has been presented to the Environment Health and Housing Committee in January 2023 identifying progress with the recommendations within the Flood Risk and surface water management review report.
  6. The Flood & Surface Water Management Working Group has fulfilled the remit set by this committee and members of the group over the last 2 years are thanked for their hard work, dedication, and contribution. Programme committees including the Environment Health and Housing committee will not be part of the new committee governance arrangements from May 2023. It is therefore recommended that the Flood & Surface Water Management Working Group is disbanded and that arrangements to review the Council's strategy and approach to Flood & Surface Water Management under the new governance arrangements are determined by the new Council.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equalities implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications

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## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Operational Management Committee	Various dates / most meetings	<a href="http://www.fylde.gov.uk">www.fylde.gov.uk</a>