

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	14 OCTOBER 2021	4

### REVIEW OF FLOOD RISK AND SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT IN FYLDE

#### PUBLIC ITEM

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

#### SUMMARY

Attached is the report of the member working group established by the committee to review flood risk and surface water management at Fylde. The working group have made a number of recommendations for change to the council and other risk management authorities. The committee is asked to consider the report and the recommendations made.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

That the committee:

1. considers the report of the flood risk and surface water management working group and adopts its findings and recommendations.
2. notes that a further report will be presented to the committee on the recommendation for increased resources following a corporate review of the management arrangements that is currently being carried out by senior officers.
3. agrees to an annual report being presented to monitor progress with implementation and delivery of the recommendations.

#### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Environment, Health and Housing Committee – 5 January 2021 - Review of Flood Risk/Surface Water Management in Fylde

It was RESOLVED to agree to the terms of reference, methodology and work plan of the flood risk and surface water management working group, as detailed in the report.

Environment Health and Housing Committee - 3 November 2020 – Review of Flooding/Surface Water Management in Fylde

It was RESOLVED that a member working group be established, made up of Councillors Threlfall, Lloyd, Singleton, Dixon, Anthony and Mulholland, 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

### BACKGROUND

1. The committee at its meeting in November 2020 agreed that a member working group be established to review flood risk and surface water management. The committee then subsequently agreed the terms of reference, methodology and work plan for the review at its meeting in January 2021.
2. An information report was brought to committee in June 2021 on progress to date.

### REVIEW REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3. The member working group has met on several occasions since November 2020 taking evidence from several risk management authorities (RMA's) and other external organisations involved with flood risk management within Fylde Council's administrative boundary. The review also heard from residents impacted by flooding, community groups and undertook a borough wide survey of concerns and perceptions on flooding.
4. The responsibility for surface water management and its impacts rests with several bodies and organisations as flooding is no respecter of boundaries and responsibilities. A key objective of the review was to better understand the interface that exists between these different roles and to establish what the borough council can and should be doing in the future to help improve the situation and minimise the negative effects that flooding can have on residents and communities in Fylde.
5. The review covers the history and legislation of drainage, the roles of the RMA's along with the different statutory and enabling roles the borough council has on the subject. The working group identified a number of issues of concern. From this the report proposes a number of recommendations directed to the borough council, other RMA's and partnership groups for change. Central to this is the borough council taking on a greater role to act as community leader on flooding and surface water management in Fylde including adoption of natural flood management techniques.
6. Recommendation 3 of the working group states;
 

*Fylde Council to consider 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.*
7. The working group consider the appointment of additional staffing resources is essential to achieving many of the remaining recommendations of the review for the borough council to deliver. In particular to:
  - Act as community leader in addressing flooding and surface water management issues in Fylde
  - Investigate, inspect and survey local flooding problems
  - Work up projects, submitting funding bids and managing schemes to alleviate flooding and improve surface water management
  - Assist with enforcement of surface water matters to ensure correct implementation of planning conditions
  - Advise local landowners on flooding and surface water management issues
  - Liaise with other risk management authorities over local issues
8. The Chairman has discussed this recommendation with officers and the Leadership Board, the resource request from the working group will be included in a corporate review of the management arrangements that is

currently being carried out by senior officers. The review will be considering post COVID requirements that include the responsibilities of new and existing posts in the organisation. The outcome will be reported back to the committee.

9. It is suggested that progress with implementation the recommendations be monitored on an annual basis by reporting back to members.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	No implications arising from this report.
Legal	No implications arising from this report.
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Agendas, Presentations and minutes of the working group	From November 2020	Democratic Services

Attached Documents

Appendix 1 - A Review of Flood Risk and Surface Water Management in Fylde Borough