

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

CABINET

5TH DECEMBER 2007

FLOODING MATTERS

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillors Mrs. J. Dyer and P. J. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	Dave Hammond, Head of Planning & Environment Services

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To draw Members' attention to a letter received from Tewkesbury Borough Council seeking support for motions agreed by that authority with regard to flood defence funding and its call for the government to create a single organisation with overarching responsibility for flooding.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Cabinet are asked to consider whether they wish to endorse the motions agreed by Tewkesbury Borough Council (as shown at 1.a), 2.a) and 2.b) below) and, if so, to request officers to write to the appropriate Government Minister to convey such support.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Chief Executive of Tewkesbury Borough Council has written to all authorities affected by the recent floods to seek support for the following motions agreed by that Council on 23rd October 2007:

1. *a) That this Council calls upon the Government to substantially increase the funding for flood defence in line with the requirements of the Association of British Insurers to ensure that all properties in the Borough remain insurable and saleable.*

b) That the Council write to other Authorities affected by the floods asking that they pass similar Motions pressing for an increase in flood defence funding.
2. *a) That this Council calls upon the Government to create one single organisation responsible for overseeing all matters relating to flooding, drainage, culverts and sewers. This body to have powers of enforcement to ensure all rivers, ditches, gullies and drains are maintained and that adequate flood defences are created, maintained and deployed.*

b) That this organisation will be the statutory consultee for planning on matters relating to flooding and to have the statutory powers to refuse planning permission on the grounds of adverse affect of flooding.

c) That the Council write to other Authorities affected by this year's floods asking that they pass similar Motions pressing for the creation of a single organisation with overarching responsibility for flooding.

3.2 Tewkesbury Borough Council has requested that expressions of support be conveyed in writing to the appropriate Government Minister, The Rt Hon Hilary Benn.

3.3 Members may also wish to note that a suggestion has been made that a countywide joint scrutiny of flooding be undertaken by all districts within Worcestershire and the County Council. This suggestion will be considered at an informal meeting of Scrutiny Members from each authority to be held on 26th November 2007. A verbal update on the outcome of this meeting will be given at the Cabinet meeting.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications in connection with expressing support for the Tewkesbury motions.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications directly related to this report.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

6.1 This item links to the Council's objective in relation to the Environment.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 There are no direct risks arising from this report.

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no direct customer implications arising from this report.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct implications for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies arising from this report.

10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues	None
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Personnel Implications	None
Governance/Performance Management	None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998	None
Policy	None
Environmental	Support for the Tewkesbury motions would complement the Council's objective of ensuring the District offers a sustainable quality living environment

11. **OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder	Yes
Chief Executive	No
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

12. **APPENDICES**

None

13. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter from Tewkesbury Borough Council dated 25th October 2007

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Karen Firth
E Mail: k.firth@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 881625