

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**OVERVIEW BOARD AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

**2ND DECEMBER 2008**

**JOINT COUNTYWIDE FLOODING REPORT**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Councillors Mrs. J. M. L. A. Griffiths and P. J. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	Executive Director – Partnerships and Projects Head of Street Scene and Community Head of Planning and Environment Services
Task Group Chairman	Councillor M. King (Wychavon District Council)
Our Representatives	Councillors P. M. McDonald and D. L. Pardoe

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider the findings and recommendations made by the Joint Countywide Flooding Task Group which are contained within the attached report at Appendix 1.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- (a) Consider the attached Joint Countywide Report on flooding, including the recommendations contained within it;
- (b) Request relevant officers to consider the financial and other implications (to the District Council) in relation to the recommendations being put forward and report back their findings to the Scrutiny Board on 27th January 2009 and Overview Board on 3rd February 2009; and
- (c) Request Cabinet to consider the following at its meeting scheduled to be held on 4th February 2009:
  - the attached report;
  - the financial and other implications relating to the recommendations being put forward; and
  - the views of the Overview Board and Scrutiny Board.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the end of 2007, Chairmen of Overview and Scrutiny Committees from all local authorities in Worcestershire agreed, in principle, to the suggestion of undertaking a joint countywide scrutiny.
- 3.2 In January 2008, the former Scrutiny Steering Board agreed to take part in a joint countywide scrutiny on flooding in Worcestershire. Details of the scrutiny proposal (including terms of reference) and the working arrangements were also considered at the same meeting.
- 3.3 A representative from each local Council in Worcestershire was nominated and membership was agreed in February 2008 together with a work programme for the Task Group for March 2008 onwards.
- 3.4 In brief, the Joint Task Group was expected to:
  - Review the immediate response to the floods by local/public agencies and the recovery since;
  - Consider what action needs to be taken to ensure there is a clear approach to dealing with any future emergency;
  - Send comments to the national Pitt Review; and
  - Make recommendations to County Council, District and Borough Councils, and other agencies and individuals as appropriate.
- 3.5 The investigation is now complete and the final meeting of the Task Group took place on 6th November 2008. The final report became available late on Wednesday 19th November 2008 and the next step is for all relevant organisations involved, to consider the findings and recommendations.
- 3.6 It is usual for all Overview and Scrutiny Reports to include financial implications before being submitted to Cabinet as without this information, it is difficult for Members to approve the recommendations. Therefore, it is being recommended (in paragraph 2.2 of this report) that officers be requested to investigate all the implications to the recommendations contained within the attached report. This information would then be reported back to each of the Boards before being considered by the Cabinet.

### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including financial implications, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known.

**5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including any legal implications, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known.

**6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

6.1 The attached report relates to Council Objectives 'Improvement' and 'Environment' and relates to the new Council Priority 'Climate Change'.

**7. RISK MANAGEMENT**

7.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including risk management, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known.

**8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including any customer implications, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known.

**9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There appears to be no implications directly relating to this report for the Council's Equalities and Diversity Policies. However, as stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including any equalities and diversity implications, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known.

**10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications, including any value for money implications, are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known

**11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 As stated within the paragraph 2.2, it is recommended that all implications are reported back to the Boards as soon as they are known

Procurement Issues – Unknown
Personnel Implications – Unknown
Governance/Performance Management – Unknown

Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – Unknown
Policy – Unknown
Environmental – Unknown

## 12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

12.1 There has been insufficient time to properly consult officers, hence the reason for the recommendation stated in paragraph 2.2 of this report.

Portfolio Holders	No
Chief Executive	Yes
Executive Director - Partnerships and Projects	Yes
Executive Director - Services	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	No
Head of Financial Services	No
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	No
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

## 13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards.

## 14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Joint Countywide Flooding Scrutiny Report with its 3 appendices

## 15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

### CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Della McCarthy, Scrutiny Officer  
E Mail: [d.mccarthy@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:d.mccarthy@bromsgrove.gov.uk)  
Tel: (01527) 881407