

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD**

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

### **REVIEW OF SERVICES TO PREVENT FLOODING TASK GROUP**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Sherrey
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service for Overview and Scrutiny	Claire Felton – Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services
Wards Affected	<b>All</b>
Ward Councillor Consulted	All Ward Councillors were invited to join the Task Group
Non-Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 At the previous meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Review of Services to Prevent Flooding Task Group was established, with Councillor R. Hunter being appointed as Chairman.
- 1.2 As agreed Members (with the exception of Members of the Cabinet) were contacted, requesting that anyone who had an interest in becoming a Member of the Task Group contact the relevant officer within a set timescale.
- 1.3 Group Leaders were also informed of the establishment of the new Task Group.
- 1.4 Three Councillors have shown an interest in joining the Task Group; Councillor S. Colella, Councillor H. Rone-Clarke and Councillor C. Spencer. The Overview and Scrutiny Board Inquiry/Task Group Guidelines (approved by the Board at its meeting held on 1st March 2011) recommend that task groups must be at least 4 but no more than 7 Members (including the Chairman). It is at the Board's discretion as to whether the three Councillors who have shown interest in the Task Group are appointed Members or alternatively, agree which of the following Members be appointed.

#### *Councillors*

- 1.5 It should be noted that with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 and in line with the Members' Allowances Scheme, the Chairman of a Task Group is paid a special allowance of £1,331 pro rata for the length of a Task Group, upon completion of the work. A special allowance is no longer paid to Task Group Members.
- 1.6 Members are requested to consider in detail the terms of reference (see Appendix 1 'Possible Key Objectives') in order to ensure the

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Board is clear as to what they expect the Task Group to achieve. The Board can make amendments to the terms of reference if it wishes. Please note that the Task Group members, at the first meeting, will also be given the opportunity to discuss the terms of reference. However, should they wish to make any significant changes, these would need to be approved by the Board.

- 1.7 Members are reminded that when setting a timescale for a Task Group, it is usually expected that a Task Group will conclude its investigations within four to six months from the date of the first Task Group meeting. However, the Board can decide that certain topics require more time to ensure complex issues are properly scrutinised.
- 1.8 It is vital that appropriate officer support is provided to help ensure an effective investigation is undertaken leading to strong recommendations. Taking this into consideration, it is suggested that the Task Group commences its investigation as soon as officer support is available

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **2.1 Members are requested to:**

- (a) **consider and agree the terms of reference of Review of Services to Prevent Flooding Task Group (see attached Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist at Appendix 2);**
- (b) **consider and agree the membership of the Task Group;**
- (c) **decide upon the length of time the Task Group will have to carry out its investigations (Task Groups are normally expected to conclude their investigations within six months from the date of the first meeting); and**
- (d) **request the Task Group to commence its investigation as soon as possible.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

#### **Financial Implications**

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly relating to this report.

#### **Legal Implications**

- 3.2 There are no legal implications directly relating to this report.

#### **Service/Operation Implications**

- 3.3 None for the purpose of this report.

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**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

3.4 There are no implications directly relating to customer/equality and diversity within this report.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

4.1 None for the purpose of this report.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Review of Services to Prevent Flooding Task Group  
Topic Proposal

Appendix 2 - Overview and Scrutiny Exercise Scoping Checklist

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**7. KEY**

None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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### APPENDIX 1

#### **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY TOPIC PROPOSAL**

This form can be used for either a Task Group or a Short Sharp Review topic proposal.

Completed forms should be returned to [scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@bromsgrove.gov.uk) – Democratic Services, Bromsgrove District Council.

<b>Name of Proposer: Rob Hunter</b>	
Tel No:01527 332 336	Email:r.hunter@bromsgrove.gov.uk
Date:16/01/2020	

<b>Title of Proposed Topic</b>  (including specific subject areas to be investigate)	Review of services to prevent flooding
<b>Background to the Proposal</b>  (Including reasons why this topic should be investigated and evidence to support the need for the investigation.)	Many areas across Bromsgrove experienced severe flooding during Autumn 2019. Anecdotally there is evidence to suggest the problems were exacerbated by a lack of prevention work such as keeping brooks, drains and culverts clear. Furthermore, as flood prevention transcends the remit of a number of authorities it can be difficult to establish which agency is responsible for remedying problems.
<b>Links to national, regional and local priorities</b>  (including the Council's strategic purposes)	Bromsgrove District Council Plan strategic purpose:  'Communities which are safe, well-maintained and green'
<b>Possible Key Objectives</b>  (these should be SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timely)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Review key incidents of flooding in the district, their causes and the effectiveness of responses</li><li>- Assess whether sufficient work is being undertaken to prevent flooding</li><li>- Assess whether sufficient resources are made available for this work</li><li>- Assess whether there is sufficient transparency over responsibilities for managing and preventing flooding</li></ul>
Anticipated Timescale for	One year

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completion of the work.				
Would it be appropriate to hold a Short Sharp Inquiry or a Task Group? (please tick relevant box)	Task Group	Possibly	Short Sharp Inquiry	No

**OFFICE USE ONLY - TO BE COMPLETED WHEN THE TOPIC PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED**

<b>Evidence</b>	
Key documents, data, reports	
Possible Site Visits	
Is a general press release required asking for general comments/suggestions from the public?	
Is a period of public consultation required?	
<b>Witnesses</b>	
Officers	
Councillors (including Portfolio Holder)	
Any External Witnesses	