

External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 21 January 2020

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Report of the Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness Task and Finish Group

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Provided at Appendix 'A' is the report of the Strengthening Flood Risk Management and Preparedness Task and Finish Group. Appendix 'B' is a findings report from the scrutiny inquiry session on the future of flood action groups in Lancashire which was held on 8 July 2019 as part of the review. The findings from this report have led to a number of recommendations being formulated which are contained within Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Support the recommendations of the task and finish group, as set out in the report at Appendix A.
2. Consider the appropriate mechanism for reviewing the Cabinet Members' responses to the task and finish group's recommendations.
3. Determine who the report should be circulated to outside of the County Council.

Background and Advice

At its meeting on 16 October 2018, the External Scrutiny Committee made a request to the Internal Scrutiny Committee to establish a task and finish group to review flood risk management and preparedness. This request was subsequently agreed.

The purpose of this task and finish group was to bring together the expertise of all flood risk management authorities, local flood and emergency response groups, and residents to better understand how the County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority and all other flood risk management authorities can better support residents to:

- Be prepared for flooding;
- Respond to flooding;
- Recover from flooding; and
- Understand what we can do together to reduce flood risk.

A scrutiny inquiry session was organised for representatives of local flood action groups across Lancashire to attend and respond to key lines of enquiry as part of the review. This event was held on 8 July 2019 and was facilitated with the help of representatives from the Newground Community Interest Company flood team. The findings from this event have been compiled into a report which is set out at Appendix 'B', and have helped to shape some of the recommendations contained within the task and finish group's report set out at Appendix 'A'.

Membership of the task and finish group

The task and finish group was made up of the following County Councillors:

- Stephen Clarke
- Nikki Hennessy
- Erica Lewis
- Eddie Pope
- Matthew Salter (Chair)
- Cosima Towneley
- David Whipp

County Councillor David Foxcroft was a member of the group between January and June 2019. County Councillor Stephen Clarke replaced County Councillor David Foxcroft on the group thereafter.

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to support the recommendations of the task and finish group; consider the appropriate mechanisms for reviewing the Cabinet Members' responses and to determine who to circulate the report to outside of the County Council.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal and finance

Recommendations are made for further consideration to be given to issues and this would need to include a full assessment of the legal and financial risk and implications.

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A