

## External Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 31 July 2020

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### **Strengthening flood risk management and preparedness - Cabinet member responses to the recommendations of the scrutiny task and finish group** (Appendices A and B refer)

Contact for further information:

Gary Halsall, Tel: (01772) 536989, Senior Democratic Services Officer (Overview and Scrutiny), gary.halsall@lancashire.gov.uk

#### **Executive Summary**

In January 2020, the External Scrutiny Committee published a task and finish group report on strengthening flood risk management and preparedness.

In accordance with agreed protocols, the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Rural Affairs and Waste Management had been asked to provide a response to the task and finish group's report. Responses have now been received and are set out at Appendix A. A copy of the task and finish group's final report is set out Appendix B. The 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 is available on the county council's website.

#### **Recommendation**

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive and comment on the responses by the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Rural Affairs and Waste Management.

#### **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.

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 report from this session is available on the county council's website<sup>1</sup>.

The task and finish group's report (Appendix B) was approved by the External Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 21 January 2020.

In accordance with statutory requirements, responses have been provided by the Cabinet Member for Technical Services, Rural Affairs and Waste Management. The responses are set out at Appendix A.

The External Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive and comment on the responses.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

This report has no significant risk implications. The task and finish group's report reflected the views and recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny. It did not necessarily reflect the views of the county council. In many cases, suggestions were made for further consideration to be given to issues, and this may need to include an appropriate assessment of the legal and financial risks and implications. The response from the Cabinet Member does not necessarily equate to an assessment of the legal and financial risks and implications at this stage, merely that a commitment will or won't be pursued by them in relation to each recommendation.

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate - N/A

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<sup>1</sup> External Scrutiny Committee agenda 21 January 2020 (Item 4 – Appendix B):  
<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1396&MId=9487&Ver=4>