

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2015
Subject:	Flood Risk Management Group Monitoring Report
Report of:	Val Garside, Environmental and Housing Services Group Manager
Corporate Lead:	Rachel North, Deputy Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Councillor J R Mason
Number of Appendices:	1

Executive Summary:

This report contains an update on progress of the Flood Risk Management Group Action Plan.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to CONSIDER progress against the Flood Risk Management Group Action Plan.

Reasons for Recommendation:

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on 25 March 2015, it was agreed that the Flood Risk Management Group Action Plan progress be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

Resource Implications:

Included in the report; met from existing allocated resources (the Council employs a Flood Risk Management Engineer).

Legal Implications:

The Council has powers under Section 14A of the Land Drainage Act 1991 to undertake flood risk management work where it considers that the work is desirable having regard to the local flood risk management strategy for its area and where the purpose of the work is to manage a flood risk in the Council's area from an ordinary watercourse. The works that the Council is permitted to do under this section is wide-ranging and includes the construction or maintenance of existing works (which include buildings, structures, watercourses, drainage works and machinery).

Where the works are to be carried out on land not owned by the Council, agreements should be put in place to cover consent of the owner for the works to be carried out and responsibilities for maintenance.

The Council's contract rules will need to be followed when appointing contractors.

Where there are joint projects, such as with the Environment Agency, the Council should enter into agreements which set out each party's obligations and responsibilities in relation to these

projects, including ongoing maintenance of the works.

Gloucestershire County Council has made funding available to the District Councils to give grants to residents affected by flooding.

Risk Management Implications:

Care must be exercised to ensure that no ongoing liability is attached to the Council for work on watercourses for which the Council has no direct responsibility through making a financial contribution or carrying out of works on a one-off basis. This will be achieved as part of the project management process.

Performance Management Follow-up:

The recommendation is that performance will be monitored through regular reports to the Flood Risk Management Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Environmental Implications:

Any work involving natural watercourses or the cutting back of trees or hedges will be carried out at the time of year that has least impact on wildlife and habitat (e.g. bird nesting season). Where necessary the appropriate licences will be applied for.

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 At a meeting of the Executive Committee on 25 March 2015, it was agreed that the Flood Risk Management Group Action Plan progress be monitored by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a quarterly basis.

2.0 FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT GROUP ACTION PLAN

2.1 The Action Plan at Appendix 1 is based on land drainage projects monitored by the Flood Risk Management Group. The Action Plan is 'living' document to which funding or partnership opportunities can be added as and when they arise.

2.2 Tewkesbury Borough Council owns various parcels of land across the Borough and some of these have watercourses either running through them or adjacent to them. This means that Tewkesbury Borough Council is a 'riparian owner' with responsibilities to maintain these watercourses in good condition. In 2010 Tewkesbury Borough Council agreed to increase the land drainage revenue budget in order to allow for routine maintenance work to be carried out.

2.3 The Flood Risk Management Group last met on 22 June 2015. The Action Plan at Appendix 1 represents the report that was presented at that meeting. The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for 28 September 2015. At the meeting Members discussed presenting the information in the Action Plan a slightly different way to reflect more significant works of repair and improvement that was otherwise presented in the list of Tewkesbury Borough Council-owned watercourse maintenance work to be carried out. Therefore Table 4 is included as a 'Forward Plan' of such issues.

2.4 At their June meeting, the Group made no comments regarding the Terms of Reference and, as such, they will remain unchanged.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 None

4.0 CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Funding opportunities are applied for and realised with the agreement of local communities, partners such as Gloucestershire County Council and the Environment Agency, and the Flood Risk Management Group.

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

- 5.1 The Council Plan 2012-16 contains the following priority within the section “Improve recycling and care for the environment”;

5. Continued work with partners to provide flood resilience measures;
- a) Work with partners to deliver flood alleviation projects funded by Gloucestershire County Council
 - b) Advise and signpost local communities when applying for external funding for flood resilience measures.

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

- 6.1 National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England (available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flood-and-coastal-erosion-risk-management-strategy-for-england>).

Gloucestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (available from <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/LFRMS>).

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

- 7.1 Tewkesbury Borough Council employs a Flood Risk Management Engineer. Part of the post holder’s responsibilities is to identify flood risk management funding opportunities and submit bids, as well as to monitor progress on the Action Plan.

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

- 8.1 Flood risk management reduces the likelihood that local residents and businesses will have flood water entering their properties and the consequential impact that such an event would have on the health, welfare and finances of those affected.

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

- 9.1 None

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

- 10.1 Flood Risk Management Group Terms of Reference and Action Plan - Annual Review

(Meeting of Executive, 25 March 2015)

Background Papers: None

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Appendices: Appendix 1 - Flood Risk Management Group Action Plan