

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES**

**17 September 2014**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY**

**COMMITTEE – PLACES**

**PROGRESS REPORT OF THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

**WORKING GROUP**

**1. The Purpose of the Report**

To inform the Committee of the progress made by the Flood Risk Management Working Group.

**2. Information and Analysis**

The scrutiny of Flood Management is a requirement of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The I & S Committee – Places is responsible for ensuring the effective scrutiny of service provision in relation to flood management. To carry out this work the Committee appointed Members (Cllrs Lauro, Southerd, D. Williams, Spencer and Atkins) to a standing working group at its meeting on 3 July 2013. Cllr Lauro was appointed chair of the working group.

The first meeting of the working group was held on 28 August 2014. At this meeting James Biddlestone (Senior Project Engineer) and Victoria Raiment (Senior Technician) explained the statutory requirements placed on the Council, as the Lead Local Flood Authority, and provided an overview of the key objectives of the Flood Risk Management Strategy.

The following key points were noted:

- Under the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) Derbyshire County Council (DCC), as the lead local flood authority, is required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a local flood risk management strategy.
- This is a document containing an assessment of local flood risks faced in the county, the vision for how DCC intends to manage the risk of flooding and how plans will be implemented (for example plans for partnership working and community engagement).
- The local flood risk management strategy was prompted nationally by the flood events during the summer of 2007 which highlighted the importance of the planning system in avoiding or managing flood risk in the future.

- The document will serve to organise and coordinate actions in managing flood risk from ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater and clarify the role of partner organisations (district councils, utility companies, parish/town councils) in mitigating flood risk hazards.

### **Further work**

The working group is scheduled to meet on 7 October 2014 to consider the content of the Draft Flood Risk Management Strategy for Derbyshire which is currently being prepared by the Council's Flood Team in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. In particular, Members will focus on the proposed actions and timeframes set out in the Strategy. The timing of this meeting is such that Members' comments will be taken into account prior to the Draft Strategy going out to public consultation for a period of eight weeks (ending in December 2014).

Following the period of public consultation, the working group will meet on 19 January to consider the responses that have been received and to identify appropriate amendments to the Strategy.

Further working group meeting dates will be identified in due course to ensure the on-going scrutiny of the implementation of the Strategy and all flood risk management activities carried out within Derbyshire.

### **3. Considerations**

The relevance of the following factors has been considered in preparing this report; Finance, Human Relations, Legal and Human Rights, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Equality and Diversity, Environmental, Health, Property and Transport

### **4. Recommendations**

The Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Places is asked to note;

- (1) the work already undertaken by the working group to scrutinise the development of the Flood Risk Management Strategy,
- (2) the further work which the working group proposes to undertake to scrutinise the development and implementation of the Flood Risk Management Strategy and to monitor the full range of flood risk management activities carried out within Derbyshire.

**Councillor Kath Lauro**

**CHAIR, IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PLACES**