

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

12 March 2013

Report of the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR KENT

Summary

Kent County Council (KCC) has consulted upon its countywide plan for managing the risks from local flooding. Members are invited to endorse the Borough Council's initial response.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 implemented recommendations from Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the 2007 floods in the UK. Under the Act KCC became a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and was given a series of new responsibilities to coordinate the management of local flood risk.
- 1.1.2 As LLFA for Kent, the County Council needs to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The LFRMS will focus on local flood risk due to flooding from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses and will identify opportunities for a range of organisations, including the Environment Agency and the Borough Council, to work together to improve the management of local flood risk. It does not, however, focus on less localised flooding from rivers and the sea which are managed through other strategies and plans.
- 1.1.3 Local flooding has a significant impact on the people and economy of Kent and is predicted to increase due to climate change, increasing development and changing land use practices that affect the way the land is able to naturally respond to rainfall.
- 1.1.4 Other plans currently being developed jointly with KCC are the Surface Water Management Plans (SWMPs) covering the Borough, with the Maidstone & Malling SWMP nearing completion.
- 1.1.5 The draft LFRMS and its separate annexes and diagrams can be found KCC's website at
<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/localflooderisk/consultationHome>

1.1.6 The online consultation closed on 28 February and the Borough Council's initial response is reproduced at **Annex 1**. The Board is asked to endorse this response and is invited to add any further comments which will be forwarded to KCC.

1.1.7 The results of the consultation will be published by 1 May 2013.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 None arising from the consultation

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 None

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 Not required

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 That the Cabinet be recommended **TO ENDORSE** the response to this consultation.

The Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Steve Medlock

Nil

Steve Humphrey

Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	Flood risk management is non-discriminatory.

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	No	As above.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.