

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
PLANNING and TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

05 December 2017

Report of the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 MEDWAY FLOOD MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

This report outlines the direction of Medway Flood Action Plan prepared by the Medway Flood Partnership.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Members may be aware that the Medway Flood Partnership was formed at the beginning of this year. Its objective is, in summary, to consider in a rounded way approaches to mitigate and prevent flooding in the Medway catchment.
- 1.1.2 The partnership is based on collaborative working between various organisations all of whom have an influence on the subject one way or another. The focus of the partnership is not solely on supporting capital works to prevent flooding, although support for schemes such as the improvement of the Leigh Flood Storage Area and other key schemes are undoubtedly central to the Partnership's ambition. Rather, the Partnership also has an interest in land management, watercourse management, and sustainable solutions to flood mitigation.
- 1.1.3 The Partnership has promoted its work through the preparation of an Action Plan which was launched on 1st December. The Action Plan was not available at the time this agenda was prepared but will be made available to Members via various means as soon as possible.
- 1.1.4 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is the latest 'bulletin' from the Partnership which provides some useful background and a position statement.
- 1.1.5 The Council is represented on the Partnership's strategic group by the Director of Planning, Housing and Environmental Health and we have supported the project with some occasional technical assistance. Thus far the Partnership has fulfilled a valuable role in promoting schemes and good practice across the catchment area and it is hoped that further progress can be more readily made in various ways with the Partnership's support.

1.2 Legal Implications

1.2.1 There are none arising from this report

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.3.1 Our input to this initiative amounts to support in kind and is a worthwhile investment of effort to keep a high profile focus on an issue that is extremely important to various and significant parts of the Borough.

1.3.2 The Council has, of course, already committed £500,000 towards the project to improve of the Leigh Barrier and the linked flood defence works at Hildenborough.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The practical risks associated with flooding are of course catastrophic as has been experienced locally. Steps that can be made to reduce the risk of flooding must be welcome in whatever guise. The Partnership and it's Action Plan works towards raising awareness, lobbying and focussing on practical measures.

Background papers:

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The Medway Flood Action Plan – to be formally published 1st December 2017