

Minutes of a meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 5 January 2017 in Committee Room 1 - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 5.30 pm
Concluded 6.30 pm

Present – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
BM Smith Rickard M Pollard	Arshad Hussain Duffy Green Watson Warburton	J Sunderland

Observers: Councillors Ellis, Dale Smith and Ross-Shaw (Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder)

Councillor Arshad Hussain in the Chair

72. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

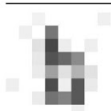
73. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meetings held on 1 and 14 December 2016 be signed as a correct record.

74. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents



75. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Resolved –

There were no referrals made to the Committee.

76. CALLED IN DECISION - BRADFORD DISTRICT LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

On 6 December 2016, the Executive considered a report of the Strategic Director Regeneration (**Executive Document “AP”**) which asked Members to adopt the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). As Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA), the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council is required under Section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act (FWMA) 2010, to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management – a “Local Flood Risk Management Strategy” (LFRMS). The Strategy must detail the risk management authorities and the functions that they can exercise within the Bradford Lead Local Flood Authority area, assess local flood risk, the objectives for managing that risk and measures proposed to implement those objectives.

The FWMA requires the LFRMS to demonstrate how it contributes to the achievement of wider environmental objectives. To fulfil legislative requirements a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the LFRMS was commissioned. The Draft SEA states that there are no negative environmental effects identified from the LFRMS objectives and that many of the proposed LFRMS objectives have the potential for both direct and indirect environmental benefits.

The LFRMS (attached as Appendix 1 to Document “AP”) is an all-encompassing or umbrella document for the implementation of the FWMA, which sets out how the LLFA intend to fulfil the requirements of the FWMA and who (within the Council) will be responsible for the different areas. It will therefore act as a tool to deliver the benefits of well managed and hence reduced flood risk to people, properties and the wider environment of Bradford district.

Executive resolved –

That the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) be adopted, and that delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director for Regeneration to amend the LFRMS as a result of the consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning and Transport.

The decision of the Executive had been called in. The reasons for the call in are set out below:

“I wish to call in this decision to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ensure that the actions and activities that flow from the implementation of this strategy do not adversely impact on recommendations made by Members in the Flood Review”.



In response to the Call-In, the Strategic Director Regeneration submitted **Document “AG** which cross referenced the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy objectives to the Flooding Scrutiny Review recommendations made by this Committee at its meeting on 29 September 2016.

The Assistant Director Transportation, Design and Planning gave a brief resume of the Strategy and stated that officers had cross referenced the Strategy to the Flooding Scrutiny recommendations made by this Committee at its meeting held in September. He stressed that the Strategy did not adversely affect the recommendations made by this Committee, adding that the majority of the Committees’ recommendations were resilience related measures and that the Strategy complimented them, or that they fell within the remit of the Emergency Planning Service. In addition many of the resilience measures were also being discussed by the Flood Programme Board, which included representatives from the Council, the Environment Agency, Yorkshire Water and local community groups.

During the discussion Members asked a number of questions, the questions together with the responses are detailed below:

The Chair stressed that Members should ensure that their questions and comments were kept within the confines of the reasons for the call-in.

The Member who had called in the item stated that in calling in the item she wanted to be sure that the Strategy would not hinder this Committee’s individual investigation into the floods. She also expressed concerns that the flood packs contained no information for people on ways to deal with the aftermath of the flooding on health matters, and asking residents to contact public health was inadequate. Whereas the information already provided by Yorkshire Water on flooding was more comprehensive, and therefore the pack should incorporate additional information and needed reviewing.

She added that it was the intention that the Emergency Planning Team would liaise with Town and Parish Councils in relation to the properties affected by flooding. In response the Planning Development Manager stated that this was work in progress and that the Emergency Planning Team was leading on this aspect and that their role was also highlighted within the Strategy.

A Member stated that the issues raised so far were not part of the Strategy, and hence the call –in, however it would form part of the delivery plan, which this Committee would be considering in six months time.

The Member who had called in the item stated that she had some strong reservations about the Strategy and its links with Yorkshire Water, and that local residents needed assurances and have confidence in the Strategy. In response the Assistant Director stated that in terms of the Strategy, the Council was working closely with Yorkshire Water and the Environment Agency.



The Senior Drainage office stressed that the Strategy document was a high level document and that it was a legal obligation, and in no way did it conflict with the recommendations made by this Committee in September.

The Regeneration, Planning and Transport Portfolio Holder reiterated that the recommendations of this Committee had been cross referenced with the Strategy, with a view to report back to this Committee on the actions arising.

A Member questioned the validity of the data used to inform the Strategy and the robustness of this data in identifying flood risk areas, and tackling future flooding. In addition he ascertained what the Council was doing to mitigate the risks as this was not implicitly addressed within the Strategy. In response the Senior Drainage officer stressed that it was important to understand the legislative framework behind the Strategy. That preliminary flood risk assessments had to be undertaken and the high risk areas were covered by the Strategy, however the majority of the flooding incidents related to water management measures. The Member stated that the people at risk of flooding were not reliant on a Strategy per se, but that it was important to have a Strategy that met the needs of local people.

A Member suggested that the raft of documents regarding flooding should be compiled into one composite document, which also addresses the issue of water run off on the Rombalds. The Assistant Director stated that the Strategy was not intended to be a prescriptive document, however implementation plans would address specific local issues.

In relation to a question on what the Council was doing in relation to the issue of groundwater, and if those affected had been sent a flood information pack, the Principal Drainage Engineer confirmed that the data was based on the information collected and that groundwater flooding of basements was a common problem throughout the district.

A Member expressed his concerns that the Scrutiny Review into Water Management had not been completed by the Environment and Waste Management, which would provide many of the answers to the questions that had been raised at today's meeting. He urged that the Chair of this Scrutiny should contact the Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to complete the Scrutiny as a matter of urgency in order to inform the delivery plan.

A Member stated that the Strategy was light on addressing issues relating to surface water and sewage flooding. In response the Portfolio Holder stated that outside of the Strategy specific issues could be addressed by contacting officers directly.

A Member stated that it was important to ensure that the Strategy was robust, had clear direction and was in line with the scrutiny recommendations as well as be able to address issues around planning applications and the suitability of those applications in relation to incidence of flooding. In response the Assistant Director



stressed that the Strategy would not necessarily refer to planning as planning development was covered by the whole host of planning guidance documents. In addition flooding issues on any given site would be dealt with in relation to the individual planning application.

In response to a number of questions regarding data, the Principal Drainage Engineer confirmed that the data relied upon in the Strategy was robust, adding that the strategy was a living document which, in line with government legislation, would be updated and amended on a six-year cycle and that the Council was working with other agencies, confirming that a huge amount of data from flood victims had already been collected.

A Member suggested that it was important that the background documents relating to the Strategy should be made available to the public; that the Strategy addresses the issue of surface water and that there is retro fitting of sustainable urban drainage in order to collect water upstream.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Executive decision on the Bradford District Local Flood Risk Management Strategy be released for implementation.**
- (2) That the Chair of this Committee contacts the Chair of the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a matter of urgency on the need to conclude the Water Management Scrutiny Review.**
- (3) That the background documents referred to in the Bradford District Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Document be published.**

ACTION: *City Solicitor (1), Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair / Overview and Scrutiny Lead (2)
Assistant Director, Transportation, Design and Planning (3)*

77. PROGRESS REPORT ON BRADFORD'S FAMILIES FIRST PROJECT PHASE 2 - INCLUDING COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Bradford's Families First Programme (Phase 2) aims to identify and deliver interventions to 5,990 families by March 2020. As part of phase two, there is a stronger national focus on gathering more information on the cost effectiveness of the programme. The Council and its partners will need to be provided with local evidence of benefits as we address longer term sustainability of the programme and an emphasis of 'think family' approaches.



The Strategic Director Children's Services submitted a report (**Document "AH"**) which provided an overview of national and local analysis of the Troubled Families Programme including cost benefit analysis work and a number of case studies to highlight the difference the approach is making to families living in Bradford.

Resolved –

That in the absence of officers, this item be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

ACTION: Overview and Scrutiny Lead

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER

