

Report of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to the meeting to be held on Thursday 29 September 2016

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Subject:

Flooding Scrutiny Review.

Summary statement:

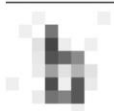
The attached draft report contains the findings from the Flooding Scrutiny Review.

Cllr Arshad Hussain
Chair – Corporate Overview and Scrutiny
Committee.

Portfolio:

**Corporate.
Safer and Stronger Communities.**

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1. SUMMARY

1.1 The attached draft report contains the findings from the Flooding Scrutiny Review.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 At its meeting on Tuesday 19 January 2016, Council agreed that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake an in-depth Scrutiny Review, into the effectiveness of Bradford Council and its Partners in dealing with the floods across the District in December 2015.

2.2 As part of this Scrutiny Review, members looked to explore how we can learn from the approaches taken during the Winter 2015 floods, to assist the Council and its Partners to better deal with future floods.

2.3 It was also agreed that the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee would receive the final review report, prior to its submission to full Council.

2.4 The Environment and Waste Management Overview Scrutiny Committee is undertaking a wider scrutiny review into Water Management across the District. Information gathering sessions for this review will take place in September 2016 and October 2016.

2.5 The DRAFT Scrutiny Review report is attached as Appendix 1.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Throughout the course of the information gathering phase, members were made aware of various issues and concerns. Some of these focused specifically on flood prevention by looking into river dredging, drainage management, clearing debris from the River Aire, maintaining flood plains, rivers and reservoirs and upland management through tree planting.

3.2 Areas such as these will be referred to the Environment and Waste Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for those members to consider as part of their wider Scrutiny Review into Water Management across the District. The Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee will keep an Overview of this.

3.2 Residents, Businesses and Voluntary Groups made repeated concerns to members about the lack of communication and co-ordination by key agencies during and after the floods.

4. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Residents, businesses and voluntary groups did say that there needed to be greater understanding of the use of the flood resilience grants.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

The safety of those who were affected by the floods was raised during the course of the information gathering sessions.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There were none arising from this Scrutiny Review.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The winter 2015 floods affected several areas and communities across the District, which include:

- Bingley;
- Bingley Rural;
- Craven;
- Ilkley;
- Wharfedale;
- Shipley;
- Baildon;
- Idle and Thackley;
- Keighley East.
- Worth Valley.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

In considering how to progress this issue the Committee may wish to:

- adopt or amend the findings and recommendations contained within the draft report;
- forward their recommendations to the Executive, Council and / or other appropriate bodies.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee adopts the findings and recommendations contained within the draft Flooding Scrutiny Review Report.

10.2 The Flooding Scrutiny Review Report be submitted to Council for consideration.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Flooding Scrutiny Review Draft Report.