

Report for the Scrutiny Leadership Board Special Interest Meeting, Surface Water Drainage

- The Surface Water Drainage Special Interest Meeting was held on 30th July 2009. The meeting was to review how the expanding population and climate change impact on the drainage of water, and how system capacity is planned to cope with future demands. (The original scrutiny suggestion also suggested looking at the supply of water, but this was not covered at the meeting.)
- At the end of the meeting the members agreed that they would like to undertake an In-depth review on flooding and surface water drainage matters and that this should be put to the Scrutiny Leadership Board to agree its inclusion in the Scrutiny Work Programme. It was noted that one of the recommendations of the Pitt Review following the 2007 floods was to strengthen overview and scrutiny by local authorities in this area. The Pitt recommendation indicates that the working environment is complex and that flooding issues are not of a 'task and finish' nature. It was suggested that with the range of issues within Telford & Wrekin and the growth expectations that this would be a sensible approach.
- The members agreed a number of areas that an In-depth review would cover, including the strategic planning of surface water drainage across the Council, the cost implications of additional responsibility placed on local authorities by the Flood and Water Management Bill/Act, the relationship with key partners including Severn Trent and the Environment Agency, opportunities for joint working with Shropshire Council, the fee-earning potential of the engineering unit, and the results of the national Integrated Urban Drainage pilot that Telford & Wrekin participated in and how the Council can influence the national agenda.
- The scrutiny suggestion was originally 6th on the priority list for Special Interest Meetings, as shown in the table below. The meeting was brought forward to coincide with early consultation on the Surface Water Drainage Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will become part of the Local Development Framework. The original suggestion attracted 4 members, although when an e-mail about the meeting was sent out in June, 10 members signed-up. On the day, only four were able to attend, but there was a high level of interest in the topic.

Issue	Score	Number of Votes
Waste Management including Bulk Collection	21	10
Helping Residents Access Benefits	20	12
Cluster Arrangements and Locality Working	19	12
Child Protection & Child Protection Plans	18	9
End of Life Choices	16	7
Developing future skills for business	15	7
Extended Schools and Healthy Communities	19	13
Bringing together Health Related Agencies	19	11
Highways Infrastructure	17	8
Services to Young People Outside School	15	7
Accessibility for people with disabilities/older people/mobility issues	15	6
Keeping elected members informed	15	9
Domestic Violence		
Supporting Local Business	13	5
Customer Contact Centre	13	5
Development Projects	12	4
Transport for Tourism	11	6
Supply and Drainage of Water to T&W	10	4

- The Scrutiny Leadership Board will need to consider whether this should be included in the Work Programme as an In-depth Review, and if so how this should be prioritised against the reviews already agreed.