

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD: 5 MARCH 2012

TITLE: UPDATE TO SCRUTINY RE: FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT ACT

REPORT OF HIGHWAYS & ENGINEERING SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER

Introduction

Following the Flood and Water Management Act gaining Royal assent in 2010 a number of clauses have been commenced that affords substantial responsibility to the authority. *Appendix 1 highlights the impact that the flood and Water Management Act has on local authorities.*

Under the FWM Act Telford & Wrekin Council is designated as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) that must take responsibility for local flooding and lead action to combat incidents in the Borough.

Progress to date

Following the meeting of the Scrutiny board on the 23rd March 2011 a number of work streams have commenced in order to meet the requirements of the Act:

- 1 During 2011 it was confirmed that the Severn Trent Regional Flood and Coastal Committee would be split into 2 committees (Severn & Wye catchment and Trent Catchment) The committees come into being as of July 2012. Telford & Wrekin Council will be requested by Defra to apply for member representation on the Severn and Wye committee during March 2012. It is vital that we have representation on the committee in order that we contribute to the allocation of £3million in local levy flood schemes.
- 2 Highway & Engineering Services submitted Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRA) to the Environment Agency in 2011 as required under the European Floods directive. The PFRA is a high level strategic document summarising local flood risk within the borough. Telford & Wrekin Council's submission was deemed to be exemplary.
- 3 Telford & Wrekin Council LLFA Strategic Board was established in 2011 and is due to sit on the 26th April 2012 for the 3rd time. The 1st and 2nd meetings established the agenda and the terms of reference for the board. It also outlined the function of the operational board, which would report directly to the strategic board. Councillor Shaun Davies has replaced Councillor Hilda Rhodes as the Chair of the strategic board.(Please see Strategic Board attachment)
- 4 Highway and Engineering Services has commenced on the development of a strategy for local flood risk (as required under section 9 of the Act) The local strategy in combination with the national strategy will encourage more effective risk management by enabling people, communities, business and the authority to work together to ensure co-ordinated planning and sustainability.

- 5 As of October 2012 Telford & Wrekin Council (Highway and Engineering Services) is required to establish a Sustainable Drainage Approvals Board (SAB) The board will approve drainage systems for new developments or redevelopments. This is an additional function to that of the planning process. No work can commence on site without approval from the Board. National standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS).are expected to be published in April 2012. This new process will establish an income stream for the approval and maintenance of SuDS. Democratic Services will be advised of this new role when the full details are known. It is expected to be officer led as much of the approval will relate to detailed technical matters. However all proposals will be taken to the strategic board for final approval.
- 6 Telford & Wrekin Council is now required to administer applications for consenting to carry out works on ordinary watercourses. Any individual proposing to carry out work on or adjacent to a watercourse will have to make an application to the council's engineering team for consent. The proposal will be considered in both engineering and environmental terms and if necessary rejected, alternatively the authority may apply conditions on the proposed works.
- 7 Highway and Engineering Services have started to compile a register of structures and features that have an effect on flood risk (section 21). This is a substantial piece of work and is envisaged to take 18 months to complete.
- 8 Highway and Engineering Services is required under the Act to investigate all flooding incidents within the Borough and provide a report of the findings to the Environment Agency.
- 9 Highway and Engineering Services are currently working in partnership with Severn Trent Water Ltd to develop a flood alleviation scheme for the residents of Ketley Town, which will be subject to external funding.
- 10 Highway and Engineering Services successfully bid for £45k from the Environment Agency for a Property Level Protection Grant to 17 properties in Old Hall Close, Dawley Road and Holyhead Road, Wellington. This has involved community engagement via public meetings and surveys of properties. All properties will shortly be having flood doors and other bespoke protective measures fitted.
- 11 Highway and Engineering Services continue to manage the deployment of the Flood barriers along the Wharfage, Ironbridge in partnership with the Environment Agency.