

From: Joel Cook - Democratic Services Manager

To: County Council – 16 November 2023

Subject: Kent Flood Risk Management Committee: Terms of Reference Review

Past Pathway of Report: Selection and Member Services Committee
– 19 October 2023

Future Pathway of Report: None

Summary: This report proposes changes to the name and Terms of Reference of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee.

Recommendations:

County Council is asked to agree that the:

- a) name of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee be changed to Kent Flood Risk and Water Management Committee; and
 - b) amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee as set out in this report be made.
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1. Introduction

1. KCC is required by the Local Government Act 2000 to make provision for a committee with the responsibility for reviewing and scrutinising the exercise of flood and coastal erosion risk management functions by risk management authorities in Kent.
2. County Council agreed to establish the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee at its meeting on 10 December 2009. The Committee exercises these statutory functions.
3. The Committee's Terms of Reference were last reviewed following the enactment of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, which amended the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Proposed changes

1. Owing to developments in flood risk management, climate and the time passed since the last review, the Committee's Chairman commissioned a review of the Terms of Reference to ensure that they fully reflected the Committee's work and codified its investigation of water quality issues in Kent.

2. Following a review by Democratic Services, in consultation with the Committee's Chairman, Members of the Committee were given the opportunity to input and consider changes which were incorporated into the proposal, detailed in Appendix 1. For comparison, the Committee's current Terms of Reference are detailed in Appendix 2.
3. The proposed changes have been made to clarify:
 - a. the Committee's role as a flood risk management overview and scrutiny committee;
 - b. the risk management authorities it holds to account; and
 - c. the additional non-statutory overview and scrutiny functions it exercises.
4. In addition, Members suggested that the Committee be renamed to the Kent Flood Risk and Water Management Committee to reflect its additional responsibilities.
5. It is acknowledged that many of the additional non-statutory functions proposed are already exercised by the Committee, in its efforts to provide Members with sufficient information to exercise their overview and scrutiny role in a complex and constantly changing area.
6. At its meeting on 19 October 2023, Selection and Member Services Committee agreed to recommend the relevant changes to County Council as detailed in the Recommendations.

3. Recommendations

County Council is asked to agree that the:

- a) name of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee be changed to Kent Flood Risk and Water Management Committee; and
- b) amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Kent Flood Risk Management Committee as set out in this report be made.

4. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Proposed Terms of Reference
Appendix 2 – Current Terms of Reference

5. Contact details

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