

By: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste
Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services and Local Leadership

To: Selection and Members Services Committee – 13 October 2009

Subject: Flood Risk Management Standing Committee

1. Background

One of the recommendations arising from the Flood Risk Select Committee report prepared in September 2007 and reviewed by the Select Committee in November 2008, was to take forward the recommendation to establish a Flood Risk Management Standing Committee.

2. Flood Risk Management Standing Committee

(1) This report proposes that a Standing Committee be established with the Terms of Reference set out in the Appendix to this report.

(2) The Committee will make an annual report to the relevant Policy Overview Committees and to the Cabinet.

(3) The Standing Committee will comprise of seven Members, six Conservative and one Liberal Democrat.

(4) The Standing Committee will be supported by the Flood Risk Management Officer based in the Environment, Highways and Waste Directorate.

3. Inaugural meeting of the Flood Risk Standing Committee

It is suggested that the inaugural meeting of the Standing Committee should take place later on this month and will meet on an as and when need basis. Reports will periodically be submitted to the relevant Policy Overview Committee and the Cabinet on an annual basis.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:-

- i. approve the establishment of the Flood Risk Management Standing Committee with 7 Members on the basis of 6 Conservatives and 1 Liberal Democrat; and
- ii. approve the Standing Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in the attached Appendix.

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FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Guide, and provide member scrutiny of, the preparation of a strategic action plan for flood risk management in Kent. The development of the action plan, and associated work, will be led by the Flood Risk Management Officer, taking into account the KCC Select Committee recommendations, the Pitt Review recommendations and relevant requirements emerging from the Flood and Water Bill (and Act in due course).
- Monitor, and oversee, the delivery by county partners of the strategic action plan, receiving reports from the Flood Risk Management Officer.
- Keep under review the strategic action plan, amending as appropriate and in line with subsequent Government recommendations and directives.
- Monitor, and oversee, KCC's action on flood risk management, receiving reports from the Flood Risk Management Officer.
- Review, and provide input to, any subsequent consultation on implementation of the Pitt Review Recommendations and future development of the Flood and Water Management Bill (and associated Act).
- Provide guidance to the Flood Risk Management Officer on the development of an elected members' conference on flood risk management.
- Receive reports from the South East Regional Flood Defence Committee and provide comment where appropriate.
- Delegate input to flood risk management activities that require member representation. This could include member fora for shoreline, or other, management plans.