

By: Nick Chard, Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste
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To: Kent County Council – 10 December 2009

Subject: Establishment of a Flood Risk Management 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 Committee.

2. Flood Risk Management Committee

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

(2) The Committee should make an annual report to the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee and to the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder. If appropriate, it would also report to Cabinet.

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

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

3. Recommendations of the Selection and Member Services Committee

(1) The Selection and Member Services Committee considered a report on this matter at its meeting on 13 October 2009. It decided to recommend the course of action set out above to the County Council. In addition, it was prepared to recommend that the proportionality rules be varied to enable a Member of the Labour Group to join the Standing Committee. The Labour Group has, however, declined to take up this offer.

(2) The Selection and Member Services Committee also indicated that it would like the Committee to consider whether it had the capacity to also get to grips with the question of water resource management. The proposed Terms of Reference have been prepared accordingly.

4. Inaugural meeting of the Flood Risk Management Committee

I understand that the proposed date for the inaugural meeting of the Management Committee would be 14 January 2010. Should the Council formally approve the establishment of this Committee, it is expected to meet about twice a year, and more frequently if the need arises.

Recommendations

The County Council is asked to:-

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

Background documents; Report of the Flood Risk Select Committee, September 2007

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Appendix

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE

7 Members

Conservative: 6; Liberal Democrat: 1.

This Committee is responsible for:-

- the preparation, monitoring and review (in conjunction with the Flood Risk Management Officer) of a strategic action plan for flood risk management in Kent taking into account KCC Select Committee recommendations, the Pitt Review and relevant requirements of the Flood and Water Bill (and Act in due course);
- reporting annually (and more often if necessary) to the Environment, Highways and Waste Policy Overview Committee and to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Highways and Waste;
- reviewing and responding to any consultation on the implementation of the Pitt Review and the future development of the Flood and Water Bill (and associated Act);
- receiving reports from the South East Regional Flood Defence Committee and responding as appropriate; and
- the investigation of water resource management issues in Kent.