

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Report**

<b>Committee:</b>	Environment and Transportation Select Committee
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	11 June 2013
<b>Report Title:</b>	Future Scrutiny of Flood Risk Management
<b>Reference:</b>	4956
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1. The purpose of this report is:

- a) To set out the general plans for a dedicated scrutiny event focusing on flood risk management in Hampshire;
- b) To obtain the select committee's agreement for the development of such an event under the direction of the scrutiny chair;
- c) To obtain a steer from the committee on the event's format and content.

**2. Contextual Information**

2.1. Committee members will recall receipt of a [report](#) on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 which outlined the committee's powers and responsibilities with respect to scrutiny of flood risk management in Hampshire under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

2.2. During discussion of the report, the committee agreed that officers should explore the possibility of the County Council's hosting a dedicated scrutiny event, attended by partners, to focus on flood risk management in Hampshire. It was proposed that September 2013 would be an appropriate time for such an event, since it seemed likely that by then the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy would have been scrutinised by this committee and subsequently adopted by the County Council. It could thereby be used as a central point of reference, and a framework by which to scrutinise the activities of flood risk management authorities in Hampshire.

2.3. If such timing is still considered favourable, then over the next few weeks commitment to the event would need to be secured and detailed planning would need to commence.

### **3. Format**

3.1. In November, the Committee favoured a proposal to dedicate a day to the event. It was further proposed that this could be divided into a morning “seminar”, to which district councils would be invited to send representatives, and an afternoon scrutiny session, which the morning’s delegates would be invited to remain for and witness.

3.2. The purpose of the morning session would be to raise awareness of the respective roles of the flood risk management authorities in Hampshire, the main challenges confronting those authorities, and the opportunities for collaboration. It would also be intended to encourage discussion of flood risk in Hampshire, and provide members with an opportunity to ask questions, and to raise concerns and other matters of importance to themselves and their residents.

### **4. Content**

#### ***Morning***

4.1 The morning session could be organised around a series of presentations and discussions. These could be made by Hampshire County Council officers, Environment Agency colleagues, and representatives of the water companies. Guest speakers could also be invited, such as from the LGA or from Defra.

4.2 The subjects covered by these discussions could include:

- The respective roles and responsibilities of the various flood risk management authorities;
- The nature of flood risk in various parts of Hampshire and the county as a whole;
- The content of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy;
- Intended schemes and associated funding.

#### ***Afternoon***

4.3 The agenda for the afternoon’s scrutiny session is best set nearer the time. However, it is likely that further use of and reference to the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be necessary, as might be contributions from the Environment Agency.

4.4 For the purposes of this session, the committee may wish to consider co-opting a number of district members in order to give a voice to the other democratic flood risk management authorities in Hampshire.

4.5 The committee might consider focusing on the areas of overlap between the functions of the various flood risk management authorities. The list below, which is not exhaustive, contains some of these:

- Management of flood risk arising from ordinary water courses;
- Planning, and sustainable drainage;
- Bidding for funds for capital works;
- Sharing of information, particularly for the statutory register and record of significant features;
- Use of the power to designate flood risk features and thereby make them land charges;
- The overlap of flood causes, e.g. the interplay of fluvial flooding and surface water.

4.6 Scrutinising such issues would give the committee the opportunity to develop recommendations for all the flood risk management authorities in Hampshire on how best to improve partnership working in the spirit of the Pitt Review and the legislation, and in the interests of all the County's residents.

## **5. Conclusions**

3.3. This paper has outlined a proposed format for a dedicated, day-long scrutiny event to focus on issues of flood risk management. The first part would consist of briefings and discussion. The second would consist of a scrutiny session, and it is suggested that this might lay particular emphasis upon the joint working of the various statutory flood risk management authorities in Hampshire.

3.4. The committee are asked to consider these proposals and give views on whether this is acceptable to committee members, and how the proposals might be improved. The committee is also asked to give its approval to the more detailed planning of this event under the direction of the committee chair.

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

**IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

**1. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

1.1. Not applicable.

**2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. Not applicable.

**3. Climate Change:**

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

Not applicable.

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

Not applicable.