

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Cabinet Feedback: Overview and Scrutiny
Flooding Task and Finish Study

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and
Partnerships) – 2nd September 2021

Executive Portfolio: Councillor J Neish, Executive Councillor for
Strategic Planning

Report by: Cabinet

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

To provide feedback to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) on the outcome of Cabinet's deliberations on the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study.

Recommendation:

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) is

RECOMMENDED

to note the contents of this report.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Cabinet considered the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study at its meeting on 15th July 2021. This report provides feedback on the Cabinet's deliberations.

2. THE CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS

- 2.1 In the absence of the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) whom had previously confirmed his attendance to present the report, the Cabinet agreed to consider the findings of the study rather than to delay its consideration in September. The Chairman of the Panel arrived shortly after the conclusion of the Cabinet's meeting.

- 2.2 The Cabinet endorsed the following recommendations:

- a) to agree to publicise links to flooding advice through the District Council's own communication channels and forward the advice to all Town and Parish Councils;
- b) to support the principle that the Council works with the County Council to support the establishment of local flood groups as a means to develop community resilience against future flooding and as an important additional source of information for forecasting flooding;
- c) to endorse the suggestion for a study to be undertaken by a group of technical experts to understand fully the causes of floods linked to climate change, to look at the issue of cumulative impacts and to make a series of recommendations to feed into the next SPD document review, ensuring the refreshed document responds to changing realities and technology;
- d) to work with Cambridgeshire County Council and other partners to create a case conference system to evaluate technical advice on flood mitigation on those most complex applications,
- e) to collaborate with partners on the development of a joint drainage and waste water management plan, and
- f) to endorse the Council's support in assisting the County Council in its project to map local water courses and call for this mapping activity to begin with Huntingdonshire.

3. COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING

- 3.1 On behalf of the Cabinet, the Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning, wishes to convey his thanks to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for the report.

3.2 He has also requested the Panel to be mindful of having realistic expectations from the report on what the Council can achieve and influence in respect of the recommendations approved by the Cabinet. As portfolio holder for Emergency Planning he will continue to exert influence on those agencies and authorities who have specific responsibilities for reducing the effects of flooding within the District.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

4.1 There is a constitutional requirement for the relevant Executive Councillor to provide a written response to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study - Cabinet, 15th July 2021.](#)

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