

---

## **Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Environmental Well-Being)**

**Report of the meeting held on 19th June 2012**

---

---

### **Matters for Information**

---

#### **1. ST. NEOTS SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Panel has received a presentation by the County Council's Flood and Water Manager on the management of surface water in St. Neots and possible ways of reducing the occurrence of surface water flooding. The Surface Water Management Plan Study has been undertaken to produce a long-term Surface Water Management 'Action Plan' for St. Neots. Data for the Plan has been obtained from a variety of sources including historical flooding information from stakeholders and members of the public. Four 'wetspot' areas in St. Neots have been identified along with measures to help reduce surface water flood risk in these 'wetspots'. The Panel has been advised that funding to implement the Action Plan will be sought from the Environment Agency who administer the "Medium Term Plan Grant in Aid".

Members have discussed instances of sewage flooding in the District and have been advised that the DG5 Register is the official register of properties at risk of sewage flooding. Anglian Water is only allocated funding to investigate and, where necessary, carry out remediation works for the areas that appear on this register. All other flooding matters fall under the Maintenance Plan, which has limited resources for conducting investigations and undertaking works.

Members have questioned why steps are only being taken to alleviate the flood risk in St. Neots when other areas of the District also suffer from significant flooding. It has been explained that the Surface Water Management Plan for the whole of Cambridgeshire contains a prioritised list of areas that have been identified as being susceptible to surface water flooding through a multi-factor analysis. St. Neots is the highest priority area on the list and therefore most in need of flood alleviation measures. Members have been assured that other areas will be dealt with in due course.

The Panel has supported the approach being taken through the St. Neots Surface Water Management Plan.

## **2. REMIT AND WORK PROGRAMME**

The Panel has reviewed its programme of studies and considered its work programme for the forthcoming year. Members have been reminded that they can scrutinise external matters as they have a wide remit to examine any issues affecting the environmental well-being of the District by conducting in-depth studies.

The Panel has reviewed the progress and Membership of its Working Groups relating to the Tree Strategy, Design Principles for Future Developments and Land Use for Agricultural Purposes in the Context of Planning Policies and its Contribution to the Local Economy. With regard to the delayed Waste Collection Study, a Member has emphasised the need for the Council to educate residents as to what can be placed in recycling bins. Despite letters having been sent to residents, problems in this area have been exacerbated by a change in the Council's policy on emptying "contaminated" bins. Having acknowledged that waste contamination incurs cost for the Council it has been suggested that residents ought to be encouraged to recycle and educated as to what can be recycled. A meeting of the Working Group will be arranged so that these matters can be discussed in more detail.

Further to their discussion on the St. Neots Surface Water Management Plan, the Panel has decided that as drainage problems within the District are widespread, a working group should be convened to engage with Anglian Water in order to establish their general powers, responsibilities and the limitations on its ability to prevent flooding.

The Panel has noted the studies being undertaken by the other Overview and Scrutiny Panels.

## **3. SCRUTINY**

The Panel has considered the latest edition of the Decision Digest and discussed the matters contained therein. The latest position on the 2010/2011 final accounts has been noted.

D Harty  
Chairman