

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	10 June 2015

Report template revised June 2008



SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Response to Scrutiny Review of Drainage and Flooding	Regeneration and Leisure	Mark Gaffney	

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report details the proposed response to the Scrutiny Review of Drainage and Flooding and the seven recommendations identified by the review.

The report links directly to all of the Council’s corporate priorities but especially Clean, Green and Safe and Strong and Healthy Communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet welcomes the review of Drainage and Flooding completed by the Scrutiny Committee and proposes the responses to the recommendations identified by the review as outlined in the report.

DETAILS AND REASONING

The Scrutiny Committee received a report on its task group’s review of Drainage and Flooding on 10 March 2015. The committee endorsed the report and presented it to the meeting of the Council on 25 March 2015. Council received the report and resolved that the report’s recommendations be considered by the Cabinet.

The Scrutiny Task Group identified a total of seven recommendations which are detailed below along with the proposed response to each recommendation.

1. The County Council’s Flood Risk Management Team and Council’s Public Health Team be commended for their work preparing for and implementing the Flood and Water Management Act.

Agreed

2. The Council continues to provide a drainage service to residents and local communities even though it is a discretionary service.

Agreed – the service is valued by both members and residents.

3. There be improved liaison between the Council’s Planning Team and Lancashire County Council’s Drainage Team on planning applications to ensure drainage and flooding issues are fully considered, including encouraging the use of sustainable urban drainage systems.

Agreed – it may also be helpful for the Scrutiny Committee to consider further some of the issues impacting on drainage and flooding such as systems becoming overloaded and operating beyond capacity.

4. The Council take the lead and Chair the Making Space for Water Steering Group with the County Council so that local issues are picked up and tackled.

Not Agreed – Lancashire County Council as a statutory agency take the chair of this group and have dedicated officers working on drainage and flooding and are resourced to co-ordinate and chair the group. However, the Council does have officer representation on the group and is still well placed to raise and help tackle local issues.

5. Councillors are educated in roles and responsibilities as part of the councillor induction process following the elections and councillor learning hours organised so that they can more effectively deal with local resident issues.

Agreed – councillor learning hours will be helpful for members and help them to understand the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies involved in drainage and flooding issues.

6. An article on the role of the drainage team be included in a future issue of the FORWARD newspaper to educate residents about who is responsible for various aspects of drainage and flooding.

Agreed – this will be very helpful for residents.

7. The Council's website provide more information to educate residents on the services available from the Council and other partner organisations and how residents can help themselves.

Agreed – again it will be helpful for residents.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	There are no direct financial implications as a result of the proposals in this report. However, some officer time will be required to progress the recommendations.
LEGAL	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.
RISK	Expectations need to be managed around the delivery of the discretionary drainage service as there are limited resources available for delivery. It is important to influence statutory partners and agencies with regard to how they meet their responsibilities.
THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	An Equality Impact Assessment is in place for the Public Health service which includes drainage. There are no adverse equality impacts as a result of the proposals in this report.

OTHER (see below)			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report of the Drainage and Flooding Task Group (attached)