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## FORUM FOR SURFACE WATER FLOODING ISSUES

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 At Extraordinary Council on 28 January 2014 (Minute 1) it was agreed in principle to set up a local 'forum' for considering surface water flooding issues in the District.
- 1.2 This report sets out the proposed arrangements for a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group and terms of reference.

### 2 PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

- 2.1 The Council agreed to the principle of a 'forum' to enable a local focus on surface water flooding issues. Essex County Council is the responsible body for surface water management or the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).
- 2.2 The County Council, and indeed other key organisations and agencies, is keen to work closely with Rochford on local surface water management issues.
- 2.3 It is proposed that the most appropriate arrangement to enable Rochford to engage on local surface water flooding issues is to create a Portfolio Holder Advisory Group (FAG) working to the terms of reference set out below:
- 2.4 **Terms of Reference**
  1. To consider opportunities to develop and implement the principles set out in the South Essex Surface Water Management Plan in Rochford.
  2. To work closely with Essex County Council, the lead local flood authority and highway authority, and other key organisations, including the Environment Agency, Anglian Water and the Fire Authority, to find cost effective, innovative solutions to surface water flooding problems in the District.
  3. To consider engineering assessments of flood hot spots and prepare bids for funding from appropriate sources including, for example, flood and coastal erosion risk management grants.
  4. To lobby relevant organisations to deliver improvements to infrastructure designed to reduce the risk of flooding.
  5. To co-ordinate work with the local communities on small scale projects, involving land owners, volunteers and partner agencies.
  6. To authorise expenditure, following consultation and in accordance with the Council's financial standing orders, and to use all appropriate means to recover costs of works from landowners.

- 2.5 The responsible Portfolio Holder would be able to determine the need and frequency of meetings to discuss local issues and to invite representatives from the relevant organisations and bodies.

### **3 RISK**

- 3.1 There is a reputational risk for the Council resulting from inaction on surface water flooding issues given the confused and complicated responsibilities rested with different organisations.

### **4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The damage caused by surface water flooding is significant and it is important that all proportionate efforts are made to ensure property is protected and that disruption from flooding is minimised.

### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost of creating the Flood Advisory Group is minimal as this will not be a formally constituted committee of the Council. Nevertheless, there will be a requirement for an officer resource to advise the group and to input to the preparation of bids.
- 5.2 In order to provide some resources for the Group, £18,000 from earmarked reserves will be made available. This money has been set aside in previous years as a result of Anglian Water Authority taking over responsibility for household drainage. This money would be available to implement several small but essential flood alleviation schemes as identified by the FAG. Approval for any expenditure would be at the discretion of the nominated Portfolio Holder.

### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 It is proposed that a Portfolio Holder Flood Advisory Group be created with terms of reference as set out in the report and that Council determine the lead Portfolio Holder for the FAG.

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**Background Papers:-**

None.

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