

REVIEW TITLE: Scrutinising flooding

SCOPE OF ITEM / TERMS OF REFERENCE

This review will focus on:

Understanding which agencies are involved and their roles

The difference between prevention and response/recovery

Consider the draft LLFA Flood Risk Management Strategy

Co-ordination and interaction with agencies

- Police
- Leicestershire County Council as lead Flood Authority
- Leicestershire County Council as highways authority
- Canals and Rivers Trust
- Water and Sewerage Companies
- Environment Agency
- Town and Parish Councils
- Severn Trent

Flood Preparedness

- Alerts and Warnings

Communication

- Did we communicate sufficiently with affected residents and businesses?
- Are the methods of communication right?
- Were the communications with elected members effective?

Flood risk management

- EA maintenance of existing defences
- EA/Gov investment in new/improved defences
- Flood risk management and sustainable development

Property Flood Resilience Measures

- Review the information available to private homeowners on how to protect their homes from flooding
- How can we make our own Council properties flood resilient?

Lessons learned

- What lessons have been learned from recent incidents of flooding?
- A 'light touch' review of the Charnwood Borough Council Scrutiny Panel findings from 2014

REASON FOR SCRUTINY

It is likely that extreme weather events will become more frequent in future and therefore the borough may suffer more regular, significant flooding events which will have a harmful impact on our communities.

Preventing and responding to flooding is the responsibility of many different agencies. The Council, along with other partners and agencies, can learn from the flooding affect in Leicestershire in January 2024 and help plan for the future to help better protect local people and businesses.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP

Councillor Harper-Davies (Chair)
Councillors Bottomley, Goode, Haynes, Matthews, Maynard

WHAT WILL BE INCLUDED

The Panel will consider the roles of Leicestershire County Council as the lead local flood authority, the Environment agency and other agencies as listed above. The Panel will focus on the partnership working between all agencies involved in the Local Resilience Forum and will focus predominately on flood protection.

WHAT WILL BE EXCLUDED

Investigating why the floods occurred. The Panel may suggest that the LLFA should investigate in line with their remit and powers.

KEY TASKS * * including consideration of efficiency savings

- To receive a multi-agency briefing setting out the approach to responding to flooding events
- To obtain targeted evidence from those affected by flooding

STAKEHOLDERS, OUTSIDE AGENCIES, OTHER ORGANISATIONS *

- Charnwood Borough Council officers with responsibility for preparing for and responding to flooding events.

Key agencies:

- Police
- Leicestershire County Council as lead Flood Authority
- Leicestershire County Council as highways authority
- Canals and Rivers Trust
- Water and Sewerage Companies
- Environment Agency
- Town and Parish Councils
- Severn Trent
- Representatives from affected communities including Town and Parish Councils

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Equality / Diversity issues relating to this review will be considered as part of any work undertaken.

An impact needs assessment will be considered at the Panels penultimate meeting.

LINKS/OVERLAPS TO OTHER REVIEWS

None

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

The Panel will require the co-operation of the external agencies described above.

Support from Democratic Services can be accommodated.

Anticipate 7/8 meetings.

REPORT REQUIREMENTS (Officer information)

None (at this stage)

REVIEW COMMENCEMENT DATE

March 2024

COMPLETION DATE FOR DRAFT REPORT

August 2024

* Key tasks and stakeholders may be subject to change as the review progresses.

PROGRESS OF PANEL WORK

MEETING DATE	PROGRESS TO DATE
12 March 2024	<p>The Panel reviewed its scoping document and agreed to note it. It received an update from the Head of Contracts: Leisure, Waste and Environment on the roles of different agencies.</p> <p>In considering its work programme the Panel agreed to receive an update at its next meeting on lessons learned from the previous flooding scrutiny panel, a report providing details of the difference between prevention and response/recovery in relation to flooding and to discuss possible questions it may wish to ask the Environment Agency and Leicestershire County Council who would be invited to its 3rd meeting.</p>
16 April 2024	
21 May 2024	
9 July 2024	
20 August 2024	
<p>NOTE: To facilitate witness attendance, it is anticipated that times of the meetings will be a mix of daytime and early evening.</p> <p>Meetings can be held</p>	

online/hybrid.

The final
recommendation
formulisation meeting
must be held in person

REPORT SUBMITTED TO SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Feb 2024