

**DIVISIONAL RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY TASK GROUP REPORT ON
LEICESTER'S FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND ALLEVIATION ARRANGEMENTS.**

1. The Regeneration, Highways and Transportation Division fully support the recommendations of the Flood Management and Alleviation Task Group. The Task Group has received various relevant reports from internal and external groups that, together with the subsequent discussions, will benefit the Council in how it moves forward on this important issue. The exchange of information and liaison within the Council and with external bodies has been a key success of the Task Group especially for the future development of Flood Management in the City, County and the region.

2. The Environment Agency's latest mapping issued on 14/12/2010 to help Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFAs) with the production of their Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments (PFRAs) has identified Leicester as one of only ten areas in the country that meet the criteria for an "Indicative Flood Risk Area" from surface water flooding on a national level. We can therefore expect a lot of interest from Government on how we develop our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to manage this risk and the recommendations of the Task group stands us in good stead.

3. The Task Group has produced an impetus for flood risk management that, aided by Defra funding, has meant that the authority as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) is considered at the moment an 'exemplar authority' by the Environment Agency. The responsibilities of a LLFA are considerable for the authority. Therefore it is hoped that the current progress can be continued in the future by the forming of a corporate Flood Risk Management Board, chaired by the Director of Corporate Governance and reporting to the Reducing Carbon Footprint Priority Board. In the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment report guidance, one of the actions/requirements is that we have to report on is our flood risk management governance arrangements and partnership development. The forming of the corporate Flood Risk Management Board will provide this. It can also take forward the development of a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for the City for the long term taking into account the risk from all forms of flooding, and surface water flooding in-particular.

4. We have recently been informed that the City Council has been given an Area Based Grant by Defra of £137,900 for 20011/12 and £235,900 for 20012/13 and thereafter to fund carrying out its duties as a LLFA as detailed in the main OSMB report. This is to be welcomed but the grant is not ringfenced for these duties. Therefore the Division would support the recommendation of OSMB that this funding is ringfenced for carrying out its duties as a LLFA.

5. The Planning and Economic Development Division also support the findings of the Task Group and will work with R,H&T and other Divisions to implement them. Recommendations relating to building skills and knowledge of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems in the Planning Service are already being taken forward internally and the Information Services Team are liaising with others regarding the provision of electronic flooding data to support the PFRA and other issues. The Task Group has

led to closer working that can be continued in the future and coordinated through the corporate Flood Risk Management Board.

6. One of the recommendations of the Pitt Report was that local authorities should prepare an annual report to their Scrutiny Committees on flood risk management and any associated issues. This Task Group report hopefully sets the scene for these annual reports and will enable the authority to mitigate the high risk of flooding within the City.

7. A key part of the success of Task Group was the enthusiasm and involvement of members and Committee Secretariat officers in preparing documents, arranging visits and visitors and preparing the final report – all 20 pages of it plus appendices.

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