

Executive

28 January 2016

Report of the Chief Executive

Portfolio of the Leader of the Council

Inquiry into the Flooding in York over the Christmas period

Background

1. As is well known York suffered significant flooding over the Christmas period of 2015. It is important that the City has the opportunity to understand what contributed to the extent of that flooding, what went wrong and what worked well in managing the situation which arose. It was also important that the public received a clear and early statement as to how the Council would take a lead in establishing that level of understanding. In light of that circumstance the Leader and Deputy Leader, allowing for consultation with all Group Leaders, have announced that an independent inquiry will be held.
2. Draft terms of reference for the inquiry have been prepared and appear at Annex A to this report. Subject to Members' agreement it is anticipated that these will be finalised once a Chair for the Inquiry has been appointed.
3. The Council is currently seeking applications for the role of Chair of the Inquiry. A role description appears at Annex B. Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee will be responsible for appointing to that position.

Recommendations

4. The Executive is asked to:
 - a) Confirm the decision to hold an inquiry
 - b) Approve the draft terms of reference and delegate to the Chief Executive after consultation with the Inquiry Chair the power to make amendments which he considers to be minor.

Reason

To allow appropriate lessons to be learned to inform future planning.

Council Plan

5. The report has no specific implications for Council plan priorities

Implications

6. The implications are:
 - Financial – The financial implications are difficult to determine at this stage and will be largely dependent on the need to pay any professional fees. A budget of £50,000 will, however, be set aside.
 - Equalities - None
 - Legal - The Council as a lead local flood authority has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to investigate flooding in its area. The Council also has a duty under the Civic Contingencies Act 2004 to plan for emergencies. Learning lessons from past events will assist with such planning.

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Report
Approved



Date 27 January
2016

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex A – Draft Terms of Reference

Annex B – Role description for the Inquiry Chair