

**Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously Completed Community Resilience Scrutiny Review**

**Summary**

1. This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed scrutiny reviews which fall within the remit of this overview & scrutiny committee.

**Background**

2. Community Resilience Scrutiny Review  
At a meeting in September 2012, this Committee agreed they would like to carry out a review on adaptation to climate change. Their concerns centred on the increase in localised surface water flooding (not river flooding) and they questioned what plans the Council had in place to respond.
3. At a meeting in November 2012, the Committee received a presentation on the changing climate, flood risk and emergency planning in respect of flooding in general. They considered information on York's vulnerability to past events e.g. flooding, snow, wind and storms etc, and, the consequential disruption to Council and/or Partner organisations processes i.e. interference with day to day service delivery and normal operational regime. They also looked at the predicted changes in climate for the future and its potential impact.
4. In January 2013, the Committee received information on Surface Water Management and queried if there were ways in which communities could assist the council in identifying flood risks, and learnt that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy included consultation and engagement with the community. Also, that the council encouraged residents to notify them when persistent surface water problems occurred in order that they could be assessed.

5. Having considered all of the information provided, the committee agreed that a review of Surface Water Management was not required following Cabinet's approval of a new Surface Water Management Plan. However having learnt that the new plan was generic for across the whole city, this raised the question of community preparedness for any form of emergency, as the Committee perceived a gap in emergency preparedness at community level. They therefore agreed that the focus of their scrutiny review should be on the arrangements in place to enable communities to be more resilient in times of emergency.
6. Work on the review concluded in April 2013 and the Committee concluded that:
  - The approach taken by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to community resilience planning could be adapted and combined with current practices in York e.g. Snow Wardens, Flood Wardens etc, for introduction across the city.
  - The introduction of community emergency plans could be supported by the Council's Emergency Planning Unit and the Communities & Equalities Team, and the completed plans could lie beneath the Community Contracts currently being drawn up.
  - The council's partners e.g. North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Yorkshire Water would be willing to support and help fund the process of introducing community resilience plans.
  - It would also be useful to provide individual households with advice and guidance on emergency preparedness.
7. In May 2013 the review recommendations were approved by Cabinet, and a report presents the first update on their implementation was presented to this Committee at its last meeting in November 2013.
8. Ahead of the November meeting, having been made aware of the update information provided, the Chair of this Committee requested some additional information. The Chair's questions together with the additional information are shown in Annex A.

### **Consultation**

9. The Assistant Director of Housing & Community Safety has provided the update information contained within Annex A, and will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

## **Options**

10. In light of the additional information provided, Members may now agree:
  - a. The recommendations have been fully implemented and sign them off as completed.
  - b. The recommendations remain unimplemented and therefore:
    - i. Seek clarification on when the required work is to be undertaken
    - ii. Request a further update and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future scrutiny meeting

## **Council Plan 2011-15**

11. The Community Resilience Review supported the Council's priority to build strong communities and be a city full of active and self-reliant communities, where everyone has an effective voice in local issues and where there is a strong sense of belonging.

## **Implications**

12. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ITT or other implications associated with the recommendation made in this report.

## **Risk Management**

13. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

## **Recommendations**

14. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and
  - i. Sign off all recommendations from the Community Resilience Review that have been fully implemented.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

## Contact Details

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**Report Approved****Date**

3 January 2014

**Wards Affected:****All****For further information please contact the author of the report****Background Papers:** None**Annexes:**

Annex A – Update on Community Resilience Review Recommendations